

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
11:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

BILLS 180162, 180163, and 180164
RESOLUTION 180185

- - -

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. This is the public hearing of
4 the Committee of the Whole regarding
5 Bills No. 180162, 180163, 180164, and
6 Resolution No. 180185.

7 Mr. Stitt, please read the
8 titles of the bills and resolution.

9 THE CLERK: Bill No. 180162, an
10 ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for
11 the six Fiscal Years 2019 through 2024
12 inclusive.

13 Bill No. 180163, an ordinance
14 to adopt a Fiscal 2019 Capital Budget.

15 Bill No. 180164, an ordinance
16 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
17 Year 2019.

18 Resolution No. 180185,
19 resolution providing for the approval by
20 the Council of the City of Philadelphia
21 of a Revised Five Year Financial Plan for
22 the City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal
23 Years 2019 through 2023, and
24 incorporating proposed changes with
25 respect to Fiscal Year 2018, which is to

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2 be submitted by the Mayor to the
3 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
4 Cooperation Authority (the "Authority")
5 pursuant to the Intergovernmental
6 Cooperation Agreement, authorized by an
7 Ordinance of this Council approved by the
8 Mayor on January 3, 1992 (Bill No.
9 1563-A), by and between the City and the
10 Authority.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Mr. Stitt.

13 Today we continue the public
14 hearing of the Committee of the Whole to
15 consider the bills read by the Clerk that
16 constitute proposed operating and capital
17 spending measures for Fiscal 2019, a
18 Capital Program, and a forward-looking
19 Capital Plan for Fiscal 2019 through
20 2024.

21 Today we will hear testimony
22 from the following City departments:
23 Sheriff's Office, Parks and Recreation,
24 and City Commissioners. We do not have
25 any callbacks listed today.

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2 The first person to testify,
3 Mr. Stitt, is?

4 THE CLERK: Sheriff Williams.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you.

7 Good morning, sir.

8 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Good
9 morning --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Please proceed.

12 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: --

13 Mr. President.

14 President Clarke and members of
15 the Committee of the Whole, I am Jewell
16 Williams, Sheriff of the City and County
17 of Philadelphia.

18 We'll go right into with our
19 speaking points. You guys have already
20 been distributed our information.

21 In 2017, the Sheriff's Office
22 collected 61.3 million in delinquent
23 taxes and fees for the City of
24 Philadelphia, twice what we collected
25 before we took office. In five years, we

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2 have collected more than \$250 million in
3 delinquent taxes and fees. Part of that
4 money goes directly to the School
5 District.

6 The backlog of properties over
7 20,000 in the past has been reduced to
8 less than 7,000.

9 Time between getting a deed has
10 been reduced from 120 days to 21 days.

11 Seventy percent of the
12 properties that are sold at Sheriff Sale,
13 the taxpayers stay compliant.

14 We recovered \$3.3 million in
15 excess funds and returned that to folks
16 who lost their property as a result of a
17 Sheriff Sale.

18 We guard eight courthouses or
19 court facilities, including City Hall.
20 Over 87,000 prisoners we've transported
21 between jails and courts in 2017.

22 Our warrant arrest is over
23 5,100 felons. We served 4,400 warrants
24 and more than 300 protection from abuse
25 orders.

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2 The proposed FY 2019 budget
3 holds the line on the City expenses at
4 24.5 million. Ninety-three percent of
5 our budget is based on uniformed and
6 civilian personnels and about 7 percent
7 is the other costs we accumulate.

8 We collect and provide the City
9 with three times the money that it costs
10 to operate our office.

11 Some of the things that we do
12 in the community such as we've
13 distributed over 5,000 gunlocks to the
14 community.

15 And a word about our
16 advertising. State law requires that we
17 advertise in a paper of general
18 circulation and the Legal Intelligencer.
19 Our fee for advertising is lower than the
20 surrounding counties. Advertising help
21 us increase delinquent tax fees
22 collections from 2 -- I'm sorry; from \$27
23 million in 2012 to over 60 million by
24 expanding the amount of people who
25 participate in our sales.

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2 While including community
3 papers increases our outreach and expands
4 the number of people who participate in
5 the Sheriff Sales, the community
6 newspapers are important for other
7 reasons - diversity. Diversity is the
8 core value of our office. Our investment
9 in newspapers reaches out into the
10 African American community, Latino
11 community, the Asian community, and the
12 LGBT community, amongst others.

13 Mr. President, that's the
14 information on how we see the
15 Philadelphia Sheriff's Office, and we're
16 available for any questions you'd like to
17 take.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you, Sheriff.

20 First, I would like to thank
21 you publicly for the support you've given
22 our Council, particularly our Thursdays
23 when we have our Council session. More
24 often than not it's relatively calm, but
25 we do have incidences and times when it's

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2 a little spirited in here, and your
3 people have been extremely capable --

4 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --

6 in terms of making sure that we keep the
7 appropriate decorum in our Council
8 Chambers. So I want to thank you for
9 always providing assistance on pretty
10 much a daily basis whenever it's called
11 for. So thank you.

12 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
14 want to quick ask a question about our
15 favorite program. Can you give me an
16 update on our gunlock program?

17 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, the
18 gunlock program, as you know, we started
19 giving out gunlocks in and around the
20 community two years ago, and we believe
21 gun safety is important. We also know
22 that if we protect people from getting a
23 hold of illegal guns, that means the
24 person doesn't have to get arrested,
25 which means we don't have to transport

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2 them, which means they don't have to go
3 to court, and that's a savings for all of
4 us and particularly for City government.

5 We've had too many children in
6 the City of Philadelphia -- we joined
7 with the Philadelphia Inquirer in a
8 program to get information out about
9 gunlocks, and it was a very successful
10 program and, again, as in our testimony,
11 over 5,000 gunlocks has been distributed.
12 And we do this on a regular basis.

13 Whenever we go out and do even community
14 programs and outreach, we make sure that
15 we have gunlocks with us.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
17 yourself and some of your staff attended
18 a community meeting we had last week. It
19 was a housing seminar, and we talked
20 about some of the concerns and the things
21 that people should be concerned about as
22 it relates to a particular property,
23 particularly given the significant level
24 of fraud associated with properties, fake
25 deeds, stolen properties and all of the

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2 other things.

3 Can you just kind of talk about
4 a situation where a person may have had a
5 property and it either was scheduled for
6 Sheriff Sale or may have been scheduled
7 for Sheriff Sale or may have actually
8 gone to Sheriff Sale and the person that
9 was successful at Sheriff Sale, they
10 immediately came out and put another lock
11 on the door, and then the person doesn't
12 know who to call, because they literally,
13 they come home from work and they thought
14 they had some time and what do I do, it's
15 a new lock. What are they supposed to
16 do? Because most people, they call the
17 police or call a friend or something and
18 create some level of concern.

19 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: What we find
20 when there's been many instances where a
21 person lose their property as a result of
22 Sheriff Sale or mortgage foreclosure sale
23 and a person may put the required 10
24 percent down and the person who purchases
25 the property as a result of the sale

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2 would take their deposit slip and go to
3 the person who is in the home and tell
4 them that I just bought your home, you
5 have to leave right now, and they change
6 locks. And what we've been doing with
7 our officers, we go to the Philadelphia
8 Police Academy and we talk to the new
9 recruits about the process and how it is
10 the Sheriff who does the eviction and
11 it's not the police who tell you you
12 should leave as a result of someone
13 showing them a receipt. And we also go
14 when we get the complaints in our office,
15 we dispatch some of our deputies to that
16 house and explain to the person who
17 purchased the property at the Sheriff
18 Sale that this is an illegal lockout, and
19 then we make sure that the family gets
20 back in the house and we make sure that
21 the people take that lock off the door or
22 surrender the keys to the person who is
23 in the property until that deed is
24 distributed or until the full payment is
25 made. And we explain to the people, as

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2 we did in the community meeting, a person
3 has a right of redemption if it is a tax
4 foreclosure -- a tax sale.

5 So we give them all the
6 information. We bring in our experts,
7 and as you know when we do the community
8 forums, we make sure people have full
9 information on what that process is
10 about. And I will tell you that every
11 time that a sale is a tax sale or
12 foreclosure sale, mortgage foreclosure
13 sale, whenever there's posting, we also
14 put a brochure with that to tell people
15 how they can get help. No place in the
16 country does that than Philadelphia
17 County. And if there's a notice that
18 says that there's going to be a
19 foreclosure or a sale, then you get a
20 brochure on how to get help.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 You highlight in your testimony
24 that the properties sold in Sheriff Sale
25 between 2015 and 2016 remain compliant at

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2 a rate of about 70 percent; i.e., they
3 paid their taxes after the person at
4 Sheriff Sale. But that means there's 30
5 percent of people, I'm assuming,
6 immediately go delinquent. And of the --
7 two-part question. Of the 70 percent --
8 you may not know this, but you may.

9 Of the 70 percent of the
10 properties that went on Sheriff Sale,
11 we'd like to get a sense of, if you know
12 or may have some record, as to whether or
13 not those 70 percent that continue to be
14 compliant actually end up in productive
15 use; i.e., they're rehabbed or rented out
16 or sold or put to some particular use as
17 a follow-up to the purchase at Sheriff
18 Sale. One question.

19 And then if the properties
20 that -- the 30 percent that end up being
21 delinquent in pretty much the following
22 year after being purchased at Sheriff
23 Sale, if they go delinquent, should they
24 be prioritized to go back on Sheriff Sale
25 so we basically don't have people that

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2 are speculators go to Sheriff Sale, buy
3 the property on Sheriff Sale, just sit on
4 it and wait until the values go up and
5 say, I'll sit on it for about four or
6 five years before it comes up to Sheriff
7 Sale, and then when it's time, when I get
8 the notes for Sheriff Sale, I run out and
9 sell it, take the proceeds, pay off that
10 debt and then I make a hustle. And
11 essentially they never had any intention
12 of doing anything with that particular
13 property.

14 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, we
15 face that process. It's called flipping.
16 People flip houses and they use all kind
17 of surreptitious ways to do it. The 70
18 percent represents the people who bought
19 properties in the Sheriff Sale and they
20 understand the process and they become
21 good taxpayers because of the information
22 they get at the Sheriff Sale, at the
23 Sheriff Sale seminars. So it teaches
24 them to be good citizens.

25 The 30 percent would apply to

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2 the regular numbers of people who just
3 don't pay their taxes at all.

4 And your other question was?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Basically that 30 percent, they go there,
7 they buy the properties, never have any
8 intention of paying the taxes, they sit
9 on it, they flip it at a point in time
10 when -- particularly in a lot of
11 neighborhoods, you see them in the
12 Brewerytowns and the Francisvilles and
13 those areas that are hot.

14 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Like where I
15 live, North Philly.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Yeah, right. Thank you for saying that,
18 sir.

19 Should they be like prioritized
20 in terms of being listed again?

21 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: No. These
22 properties -- if the Revenue Department
23 brings them to sell and along with
24 Linebarger and GRB, when they bring those
25 properties to sell, it's most times when

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2 the agreements is not fulfilled, and then
3 you have additional monies that they
4 would have to pay. So they really can't
5 afford to pay that debt. So the property
6 would go back up and is forced to sell.

7 But there are a lot of
8 different ways that these speculators
9 come in and they try to change the
10 process in the Sheriff Sale. That's why
11 we have these seminars. We have seminars
12 and we have 80 to 90 percent
13 participation, sometime 100 or more
14 people at these seminars, and we teach
15 people how not to lose your property at a
16 sale, and if you want to purchase a
17 property, we show them the proper way.

18 The people who participate in
19 that process -- and we have over 20,000
20 or more people who has been through our
21 seminars, and we make sure they get full
22 information on how to buy at a sale so
23 they could prevent from having that
24 problem.

25 The more community people that

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2 come to these sales, and that's why we
3 advertise in these community newspapers,
4 because it helps stabilize the community.

5 And it's a partnership. So sometimes
6 when the community people are at those
7 sales, it stops those folks from trying
8 to do those flipping and those
9 surreptitious ways to get around the
10 system.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Sheriff.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Taubenberger.

15 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:

16 Council President, thank you very much.

17 And, Sheriff Williams, thank
18 you for all you do. Many times we do
19 hard work and it's not always recognized,
20 but I will have to share my thoughts with
21 the Council President in thanking you for
22 being here each Thursday. Most times
23 they're not needed, but there are times
24 when I am so delighted that you are here,
25 because you secure our safety. And you

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2 cannot have democracy without having the
3 ability to speak your mind, whether it be
4 protesters or even in Council, but you
5 can't disrupt the Council session, and
6 your men do it and women do it very, very
7 well and you have a lot of brave women
8 and men on your force, and we appreciate
9 them all.

10 I wanted to just talk a little
11 bit about your engagement with community
12 newspapers. I live in the Northeast, but
13 as Councilman at-large, I get to travel
14 all through the City. And I believe, in
15 my estimation, that people really like
16 the fact that you take the time to post
17 things in the community newspapers and
18 using it as a way to communicate with the
19 City entirely, and I think that's very
20 good. And if you want to add any
21 comments to that, I'd be delighted, but I
22 just wanted to let you know from this
23 Councilman, from my perspective, how
24 important I think that is to get your
25 voice and what goes on in your department

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2 out there in the community in these
3 newspapers.

4 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, we
5 thank you very much, because it's a part
6 of what we do. Since we've been elected,
7 when we first came in the office, over
8 \$27 million was being given to the City
9 of Philadelphia, over 27 million. We're
10 now up to about \$60 or \$61 million a
11 year. So since we've been in office,
12 this communication vehicle is getting to
13 the community. I mean, the Jewish
14 Exponent, Al Dia, the Chinese paper, the
15 Vietnamese paper, the Sunday Sun, the
16 Tribune, and many other community papers
17 get an opportunity to see these sales in
18 the paper. And sometimes it's a
19 conversation in the house and when they
20 look and they let a neighbor know that
21 their property is going to go up for
22 Sheriff Sale, because we get calls saying
23 that we saw it in the Scoop, we saw it in
24 the community paper, and that's why it's
25 important that we advertise in the

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2 community. We believe that the people in
3 the community are the people of general
4 circulation.

5 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
6 Correct.

7 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: On all parts
8 of this city, from the Northeast to South
9 Philadelphia, from Penrose Park to
10 Pennypack. That's what we do, and we do
11 it so we can get information out.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
13 think it's exceptionally helpful. I
14 mean, particularly at a time when tax
15 collection is very important, every
16 dollar counts, and your ability to bring
17 those dollars in, which you have on
18 board, I think, are important and the
19 fact that people can read about it and
20 discuss it and know the office is there
21 engaged. And Benjamin Franklin said it
22 well. The two things that are certain,
23 death and taxes. You help make sure that
24 those that should be paying their fair
25 share and don't do so, and I think that's

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2 important, and I like what I see.

3 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Over \$3
4 million was given back to the public who
5 lost their property as a result of a tax
6 sale this year. Since I've been elected,
7 over \$14 million have been given back to
8 the public.

9 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
10 That's a fantastic record.

11 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: You don't
12 read about that in the newspaper.

13 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
14 Right.

15 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: And the
16 people need to know. That's why we
17 advertise in the community papers.

18 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
19 That's a fantastic record and one you
20 should be very proud. I'm very glad to
21 hear that from you and particularly on
22 the public record in this Council.

23 So I appreciate what you're
24 doing -- and also, by the way, with all
25 deference to my friends with the Daily

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2 News and the Inquirer, I think the
3 circulation in the City, their
4 circulation is dwarfed by the culmination
5 of all the community newspapers together.
6 I think more people read those community
7 newspapers than are reading the Daily
8 News and the Inquirer. And if they have
9 facts to the contrary, they can come see
10 me, but I think I'm correct.

11 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
13 you, Sheriff.

14 Council President, thank you
15 very much.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you, Councilman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Squilla.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 Thank you, Sheriff, and thank
23 you for your help and assistance with
24 your staffing with questions that we
25 always have with our constituents.

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2 My question is something I
3 mentioned to you the other day. It seems
4 like the state has been pushing back with
5 clear titles on sales that have been done
6 through the City of Philadelphia through,
7 I guess, notification processes when
8 people who have passed, and now they're
9 saying that at this point, there will be
10 no way to clear the title of Sheriff
11 Sales moving forward because either they
12 believe that people weren't notified or
13 we would have to go through another
14 process.

15 Is that something that we're
16 dealing with? And will that affect the
17 Sheriff Sales moving forward?

18 MR. VIGNOLA: Good morning,
19 Councilman. My name is Joseph Vignola,
20 V-I-G-N-O-L-A. I'm the Undersheriff of
21 Philadelphia.

22 As you know, I've been in
23 communication with you and your office
24 staff as well as one of the title clerks
25 that you raised the question with, and I

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2 also know that you have brought in the
3 Law Department. Unfortunately for us,
4 we're not part of that beginning process.
5 All that process begins with the Law
6 Department. We're at the end.

7 The law is fairly
8 straightforward. The law says that if
9 you give notice to a lienholder or a
10 potential lienholder of the Sheriff Sale,
11 that when the property is sold at Sheriff
12 Sale, the Sheriff deed clears all liens.
13 It is my understanding that an attorney
14 for the Department of Revenue that deals
15 with inheritance taxes says that the
16 notice that the City lawyers and the
17 associated co-counsel firms send to the
18 state is inadequate because it
19 specifically does not target the
20 inheritance tax aspect of it, and that
21 has to be resolved by the Law Department,
22 the City Administration, and the
23 Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.
24 Because traditionally the notice that is
25 given does cause the Pennsylvania

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2 Department of Revenue to notify us at the
3 Sheriff Sale of any liens that are
4 outstanding, which we add to the opening
5 bid price and also notify the City of
6 that outstanding amount. But why this
7 attorney out of the clear blue decided to
8 say that the notice that the plaintiff,
9 the City of Philadelphia, gives to the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is
11 inadequate, we do not know.

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So
13 basically it's not a Sheriff Department
14 decision. At this point it's up for the
15 City Law Department to work with the
16 state?

17 MR. VIGNOLA: That is correct,
18 sir, yes.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Because it
20 could have an impact on future sales and
21 people do not believe they're going to
22 get a clear title at the end. I mean,
23 does that change the value of these
24 properties?

25 MR. VIGNOLA: Well, on the bid,

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2 it may not, but somewhere along the line,
3 that property is going to be resold, and
4 it's the attorney's position for the
5 Inheritance Tax Unit of the Department of
6 Revenue that that delinquency stays with
7 the property until it's paid off.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That could
9 be forever.

10 MR. VIGNOLA: Correct. And
11 from what I understand from the lawyers
12 for the City as well as the title company
13 association through Mr. Graff is that
14 this attorney has cited no authority in
15 state statute that says that is the case
16 or says that the notice that not only the
17 County of Philadelphia provides but other
18 counties that bring property to Sheriff
19 Sale is inadequate.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.
21 Well, thank you very much. I think that
22 clears -- I guess we have to work with
23 our City Law Department to try to figure
24 that out and hopefully do it sooner than
25 later so that people who do eventually

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2 want to sell these properties or do
3 something with them will not have an
4 encumbered title.

5 MR. VIGNOLA: Worse yet, get a
6 mortgage.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Or get a
8 mortgage.

9 MR. VIGNOLA: Get a mortgage to
10 fix it up, get a loan to fix it up.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: You won't
12 be able to do that either.

13 MR. VIGNOLA: Well, banks don't
14 want to be junior to anything else, so
15 that is correct, yeah.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I think
17 it's something we need to look into more
18 to make sure that we do that moving
19 forward, because I do think it would
20 eventually have an impact on Sheriff
21 Sales.

22 MR. VIGNOLA: And, Councilman,
23 we're all in the e-mail loop. You see
24 you get copied, I get copied, and we're
25 trying to work on it.

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2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
3 very much.

4 MR. VIGNOLA: You're quite
5 welcome.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you, Councilman.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilwoman Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 You're welcome.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
15 morning. And I just had one question for
16 you. And my question was around the
17 Sheriff Sale process and the disclosure
18 of what a property's zoning is when it
19 comes up for Sheriff Sale.

20 One of the problems that we've
21 been noticing is that people will
22 purchase a property through Sheriff Sale
23 and it may have been illegally converted,
24 let's say, from -- it may be zoned
25 single-family residential and they may

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2 have converted it to three-unit
3 apartments out of it, and then the buyer
4 will show up at ZBA and basically say,
5 Well, I didn't know, nobody told me, it
6 wasn't disclosed, which really triggers a
7 whole round of additional conversations,
8 meetings, RCO hearings and meetings,
9 conversations with the Council offices,
10 so forth. So I was wondering, is this
11 something that you currently do? And if
12 you do make people aware of the zoning of
13 a property, is that something that you
14 can do in a more pronounced fashion? If
15 not, is it something that you all could
16 do so that we can reduce the amount of
17 meetings and conversations around the
18 disclosure? It really does trigger a
19 whole other round of bureaucracy when we
20 have to go through like zoning and RCO
21 meetings and all that kind of stuff.

22 MR. VIGNOLA: Councilwoman,
23 again, Joseph Vignola, the Undersheriff.

24 It is not something that we
25 currently do and it's not something we

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2 can do, but here is something that we do
3 do. If you go on our site,
4 phillysheriff.com, one of the web pages
5 that comes up is the City web page, the
6 BRT. It has what the property zoning
7 district is in. We do not know if in
8 that zoning district if that property got
9 a variance. So it could be a
10 single-family residential that prior
11 owners went in and got a variance and now
12 it's a three-family dwelling. We don't
13 know that. We don't go into the L&I
14 records. And then it could be exactly
15 what you say, Councilwoman, is that it's
16 a single-family dwelling and someone took
17 advantage of the fact that no one is
18 going to check and they converted it to a
19 three-family.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Right.
21 Right.

22 MR. VIGNOLA: But the
23 Philadelphia City web page, if somebody
24 is a smart buyer, is going to do their
25 due diligence and they have all the

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 zoning classifications and the list and
3 all the permits.

4 We do say on our Sheriff's
5 disclaimer conditions of sale, it's
6 literally buyer beware. You buy the
7 property at your own risk.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Buyer
9 beware, that's pretty accurate.

10 But for those who are a little
11 less savvy and who are purchasing a
12 property at Sheriff Sale, is it possible
13 that we could try to find a way to make
14 sure that they are aware of what a
15 property's zoning is? Because as I said,
16 it really does trigger a whole other
17 level of conversation.

18 MR. VIGNOLA: It is something
19 that is doable, but, again, do you want
20 to burden the taxpayers with that
21 additional cost? I know the taxpayers
22 are burdened by the after-the-fact cost,
23 because even at our seminars, we
24 constantly inform the people, we tell
25 them when they're buying, check

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 everything, go to the City of
3 Philadelphia website, put the address in
4 and it will bring up all the permits and
5 all the zoning for that property. We try
6 to give them the notice.

7 I don't know if -- the Sheriff
8 will probably tell me when we get back to
9 check to see if our computer system can
10 link to that page to see if somebody
11 clicks on it. But, again, it's the buyer
12 that has to do the action.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
14 I understand that this is a
15 buy-at-your-own-risk kind of situation,
16 but I do think the more information that
17 we can give, the better. So if there is
18 a way -- and I also think that it's
19 probably cost efficient to give out the
20 information on the front end even though
21 it probably would slightly increase the
22 Sheriff Department's cost, but there's a
23 whole lot of other costs that happen as a
24 result of people not being aware. So I
25 certainly hope you all consider that.

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2 Thank you.

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you, Councilwoman.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Domb.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 Good morning.

11 (Good morning.)

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: A question on
13 the budget. Your budget shows a
14 reduction of just under one million for
15 Fiscal Year '19, and in Fiscal Year '17
16 your budget showed a reduction of one
17 million, and in Fiscal Year '18 the
18 budget showed a modest increase of
19 500,000. If the actuals for those two
20 years, the actuals exceeded the budget by
21 five million in '17, and in '18 two and a
22 half million, what are we going to do to
23 make sure that doesn't happen this coming
24 year?

25 MR. HAYLLAR: I believe the

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 reduction you're talking about -- I'm
3 sorry. Ben Hayllar, Deputy Chief for
4 Administration.

5 I believe the reduction is due
6 to the City's effort to reduce overtime,
7 so they reduce our projected overtime
8 cost. Overtime is an issue. We've
9 discussed it here a number of times. And
10 the answer to your second question is if
11 we can get a reduction in overtime, if we
12 can achieve that, that will result with
13 us staying within the budget. If not,
14 the overtime comes up. We'll continue to
15 exceed budget. That's the only area
16 where we have overage, and it's
17 consistent, and it's due to -- I'm sure
18 the Sheriff can speak to this, because I
19 can't see the print up there, but there
20 are many activities that are unscheduled
21 that happen all the time that --

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: How much is
23 the overtime? How much is the overtime?

24 MR. HAYLLAR: It's over about
25 \$2 to \$3 million in the last few years.

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me just
3 ask this question: If in '17 we were
4 over by five million, that's not all
5 overtime.

6 MR. HAYLLAR: Part of that was
7 it was under-budgeted. Part of it was
8 that events required overtime that
9 exceeded the budget.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: But it was
11 more than overtime, because five million
12 is a big off on that.

13 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes, it is.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And then the
15 last year, '18, was two and a half
16 million. Are you saying that's all
17 overtime?

18 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes.

19 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Majority.

20 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes. I don't
21 think we exceed budget. We've had
22 exceeded the budget in the now famous
23 sandwich (ph) account where the bids
24 exceeded what we had budgeted that year,
25 but it is predominantly overtime.

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And if
3 you know you're going to have overtime,
4 why wouldn't we put that in the budget?

5 MR. HAYLLAR: We submit it.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It gets
7 knocked off, it gets removed?

8 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Are we
10 hiring any new employees this year?

11 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: How many?

13 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: It's 35 new.

14 Councilman, if you can, that
15 board that we have there shows the
16 overtime. Every time there is a
17 demonstration or a civil demonstration,
18 the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office is
19 called to use our buses and use our
20 manpower in order to deal with any
21 demonstrations, such as the NFL, the
22 championship games. The Sheriff's Office
23 was called. The Eagles Super Bowl
24 victory night the Sheriffs was called.
25 You look at the Meek Mills demonstrations

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2 along with the security for the judge and
3 the threats that she allegedly said she
4 had. We respond to warrants in the
5 middle of the evenings or the middle of
6 the nights. It depends on the call. The
7 Philadelphia Sheriff's Office has been
8 backing up the Philadelphia Police
9 Department in just about every civil
10 unrest, and if there is a demonstration
11 that involves a building, it is the
12 Sheriff's Office who reads the order. So
13 we have to have enough manpower to be
14 there.

15 Also if you've seen over the
16 last several months, there's been a lot
17 of demonstrations in this city, and we
18 have to call -- the Philadelphia Police
19 call the Sheriffs up and we have to send
20 our buses out there.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay.

22 MR. HAYLLAR: One other point,
23 which we make every time this topic comes
24 up, is we get to pay the overtime and it
25 shows up as an overage in our account.

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2 The City very often gets reimbursed for
3 that, but we don't see the money. So
4 we're paying the debt. We don't get the
5 revenue from it. So that the \$5 million
6 may be considerably less than that
7 because somebody else paid it.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: You know what
9 I'd like you to do then? I'd like you to
10 tell me in the last three years how much
11 was reimbursed in overtime to the City
12 that you didn't receive.

13 MR. HAYLLAR: I have no idea.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: You can't ask
15 the City for the information?

16 MR. HAYLLAR: I can. I thought
17 you wanted the answer right now.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: No, not
19 today. But I'm saying I'd like to see
20 that information. Of the \$5 million that
21 we were over two years ago and the two
22 and a half that we're over this year, how
23 much of that came back to us from the
24 City that didn't go to your accounts?

25 MR. HAYLLAR: Okay. Some of

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 that would be things like the Democratic
3 Convention, the Pope --

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I understand.
5 I get it.

6 MR. HAYLLAR: There's a big
7 reimbursement that we don't ever see.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay.

9 MR. HAYLLAR: Labor strikes.
10 We have to --

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Just do the
12 analysis and get me the numbers. I'm
13 just curious to see what it is.

14 MR. HAYLLAR: Got it.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And how many
16 vacancies do we have right now?

17 MR. HAYLLAR: 35.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So that's
19 what we're filling basically, the
20 vacancies?

21 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So we're not
23 adding new people, we're just filling the
24 existing vacancies?

25 MR. HAYLLAR: No. Council

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 provided additional positions last year,
3 and we're still working to fill them.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And do
5 you have any idea what your fringe
6 benefit cost is?

7 MR. HAYLLAR: I get the number
8 from Finance. It's somewhere around 43
9 percent.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: 43?

11 MR. HAYLLAR: It's 42.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Does that
13 include the overhead of the City
14 overhead?

15 MR. HAYLLAR: No.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Does that
17 include the pension liability?

18 MR. HAYLLAR: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Including the
20 pension liability?

21 MR. HAYLLAR: Healthcare,
22 pension, insurance. There is no overhead
23 for the fact that we're in a City
24 building or --

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Are you sure

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 it's 43 percent?

3 MR. HAYLLAR: That's the number
4 we've been instructed to apply when we
5 are --

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm only
7 asking because for everyone else, it's
8 like 87 to 88 percent without the City
9 overhead. So you guys are half of
10 everybody else, which is phenomenal. I'm
11 not sure it's accurate.

12 MR. HAYLLAR: For salaries it's
13 42, 43 percent. That's the number that
14 the City Budget Office gives us. That's
15 the one we apply. I don't know what the
16 rest of it would be for --

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: You should
18 ask them if it's including the pension
19 liability that they allocate.

20 MR. HAYLLAR: I don't know.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Just in
22 general, can you explain -- well, let me
23 go down to this question. I know
24 Councilman Squilla was asking about some
25 of the issues with transferring

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 properties. We've run into some
3 problems, and so I have a question on
4 when a property goes to Sheriff Sale, is
5 there any notifications that are sent to
6 the next of kin in a Sheriff Sale?

7 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: I don't
8 believe we have that information on next
9 of kin. We use the information that we
10 get from the Revenue Department or from
11 the mortgage company.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Are there any
13 notifications for the filing of
14 inheritance tax?

15 MR. VIGNOLA: Councilman,
16 Joseph Vignola again.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You don't
18 have to keep identifying yourself. One
19 time works.

20 MR. VIGNOLA: Okay.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We know
22 you.

23 MR. VIGNOLA: Thank you.

24 It is the responsibility of the
25 plaintiff, be the plaintiff a bank or the

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2 City of Philadelphia, to notify all of
3 the defendants. To the extent that the
4 plaintiff knows the property is owned by
5 an estate, they will try to notify the
6 estate.

7 What we do in regard to the tax
8 sale properties that the Sheriff's Office
9 posts, and that's about 50 to 75, all we
10 do is post the property with the notice
11 of the sale and it is the City versus the
12 named defendant.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Here's my
14 concern: The Chief Counsel of the
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently
16 issued an opinion that states that
17 counties have not been filing the proper
18 notifications for inheritance tax, not
19 just Philadelphia, across the whole
20 state. There's probably a money grab by
21 the state to get more money, but it's
22 causing problems getting clear title,
23 which Councilman Squilla talked about,
24 and it's presenting a lot of issues. I
25 have one example that was brought to my

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2 attention where they sold the property in
3 1978. They sold the property in 1985,
4 and the state is coming after them for
5 the inheritance taxes on both of those
6 transactions. And so for a \$16,000
7 property, they're going to have to pay
8 like \$2,000 in taxes to the state. And
9 so my question is -- and this is
10 clogging -- this is going to be a real
11 problem for us, like the biggest problem
12 I think we're going to have to deal with,
13 because they can go back in time, which
14 is really like unfair, and my question
15 is, how do we fix this?

16 MR. VIGNOLA: Well, sir, as I
17 was responding to Councilman Squilla,
18 that's why I said unlike other taxes, the
19 counsel says it runs in perpetuity. The
20 only thing that I could say from my
21 conversation with Councilman Squilla's
22 office, with the lawyers for the City of
23 Philadelphia, be they co-counsel or Law
24 Department lawyers, and with
25 representatives of the title industry

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2 that have been involved with this,
3 they're trying to work it out.

4 I was informed by one of the
5 title companies that when they ask for
6 what authority in state statute that the
7 Inheritance Tax Department, General
8 Counsel for the Revenue Department could
9 do that, they still have not gotten an
10 answer. And all I can say to you is that
11 I know that our Law Department is in
12 contact with the General Counsel's Office
13 in Harrisburg to try to resolve that,
14 because it's particularly the inheritance
15 tax, they no longer think the standard
16 notification counts, but they won't tell
17 us why it doesn't, why it works for all
18 the other state taxes, not inheritance
19 taxes.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Just one last
21 comment. Should we be making sure that
22 our current sales going forward, that we
23 have these inheritance taxes taken out of
24 the proceeds or escrowed?

25 MR. VIGNOLA: Well, the only

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 thing that I can say, to the extent that
3 there is excess proceeds, when someone
4 comes and files what we call a DART
5 application, if we find that that title
6 policy bring-down, because we now find
7 out it's an heir that's claiming the
8 money and not the defendant, we ask for
9 an estate to be filed and we ask for
10 proof that the inheritance taxes at least
11 have been filed. But that's after the
12 fact, sometimes a year, a year and a half
13 after a property has been sold and
14 deeded.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank
16 you very much.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you, Councilman.

20 Councilwoman Parker.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
22 you, Mr. Chairman.

23 And hello, Sheriff and your
24 team. Welcome. Sheriff, I have one
25 question in particular, but I want to,

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 first, I want to thank you and your team
3 for the record for your support as it
4 relates to coming directly into
5 neighborhoods throughout the Ninth
6 Councilmanic District, communicating to
7 them what services are offered by the
8 Sheriff's Department, the gunlocks that
9 you all have to issue, and providing
10 technical information to them. We host a
11 series of budget briefings and town hall
12 meetings during this season in every area
13 in the Ninth District. The Sheriff's
14 Office is always present and there's
15 usually always a line for people to ask
16 questions. And so I want to say to you
17 thank you for your leadership and to your
18 team. It's in the evening. Sometimes
19 they don't finish until about 10 o'clock
20 at night, and early on Saturday morning.
21 So I wanted to say thank you for that.

22 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, you're
23 quite welcome. And maybe that's a part
24 of when we talk about overtime, because
25 when our guys stay out, they have to be

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 paid. And certainly we know that the
3 public is -- most of the public is
4 working, so from 9:00 to 5:00 people are
5 working, so we do extend ourselves after
6 5 o'clock or even myself as the Sheriff,
7 I go to the seminars sometimes on Sundays
8 and then -- and on Saturdays, and then we
9 do something called Sunday Office. After
10 the church service, we set up tables
11 around the City of Philadelphia and we
12 provide people with information.

13 I've always said that the best
14 thing that an elected official or
15 politician can do is give you
16 information, and that's what we pride
17 ourselves on, giving information.

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So thank
19 you for that. My question, Sheriff, is
20 last week I had to during Council on the
21 record talk about a very bad case of
22 criminal squatting that is taking place
23 in the Lawncrest section of my district,
24 and at two of those meetings that I just
25 described, we had a group of neighbors

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2 from the block to come to talk about how
3 this criminal squatting was impacting
4 their quality of life. And they told us
5 one meeting. Two weeks later we had
6 another meeting, and I had not been able
7 to solve the issue, because it is not
8 that simple because of due process.

9 With that being said, and you
10 may have explained this prior to my
11 coming into the meeting, walk us through
12 the Sheriff's Office role when it comes
13 to criminal squatting. What is the
14 responsibility of the Office of the
15 Sheriff? Is there any role?

16 SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Let me yield
17 to the legal counsel, because my answer
18 would be you call, we haul. I believe
19 just go and get them and put them out,
20 but there's legal things that you need to
21 do.

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: We wish
23 that were the case, Sheriff.

24 MR. VIGNOLA: Thank you,
25 Councilwoman. Unfortunately, the Sheriff

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2 does not have jurisdiction. That
3 jurisdiction for criminality is with the
4 Philadelphia Police Department. And you
5 know if you call the Police Department,
6 unlike what the Sheriff will do, if you
7 call, they don't haul. But be that as it
8 may, we're not saying the Police
9 Department is wrong in not doing it.

10 Just this morning prior to the
11 meeting, Councilman Taubenberger and the
12 Sheriff were talking about his criminal
13 squatting bill, and he gave the Sheriff a
14 copy of his criminal squatting bill,
15 which the Sheriff immediately gave to me,
16 and we're going to be in discussions to
17 figure out a way to do it.

18 There's many complications from
19 the standpoint, well, if the building is
20 vacant, right, when you go to try to get
21 the people evicted, even following the
22 Landlord-Tenant Act of Pennsylvania, they
23 ask where's your certificate of
24 occupancy, where's your rental license,
25 where's this, where's that, and you can

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2 say, Well, the building is vacant. I
3 don't rent it. So then they say, Well,
4 if the building is vacant, how come you
5 don't have a vacant property license on
6 it.

7 So I think all these things
8 have to be worked through when this bill
9 comes up. As part of the bill,
10 Councilman Taubenberger said if the
11 Sheriff was given the authority to do
12 evictions like they do in landlord-tenant
13 cases or landlord-tenant orders, could
14 the Sheriff do it, and Sheriff Williams
15 replied yes, but we don't have the
16 authority. It would only be after a
17 court case. The situation then becomes
18 by the time it works through the
19 Municipal Court system, how long is that
20 going to be, what further damage are the
21 squatters going to do to the property, is
22 there a way to short-circuit the process
23 to get the Police Department to act or,
24 in lieu of the Police Department, get the
25 Sheriff's Office to act. And that's what

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 we're going to explore through the
3 discussions.

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Well, let
5 me just note for the record that I
6 appreciate your explanation and just want
7 to note that we have been in conversation
8 with Community Legal Services, the
9 SeniorLAW Project, and many of the
10 non-profit organizations who we reach out
11 to to help our constituents when they
12 find themselves in these kind of
13 situations, but I did want to get on the
14 record that it is very disheartening and
15 frustrating when you see a case like this
16 and residents who have been long-term
17 owner-occupants -- and I'm ultra
18 sensitive to that in the Ninth
19 Councilmanic District because I have a
20 district where 94 percent of it is
21 classified as a middle neighborhood. So
22 while we have all of these growing,
23 burgeoning, new, sexy neighborhoods and
24 new residents that I want to welcome to
25 Philadelphia because we're growing our

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 population, it bothers me that the people
3 who have been the heart of Philadelphia's
4 tax base before all of this growth could
5 be suffering from such a challenge and I
6 as their District Councilperson had no
7 immediate remedy to address their issue.

8 So I'm familiar with both of
9 the bills. We introduced a resolution
10 calling for the creation of a task force
11 that included all City agencies and
12 interested parties, and I will be looking
13 forward to having the Sheriff's
14 Department to be a part of that
15 discussion.

16 I respect due process. I know
17 that people are having challenges, and
18 that was the value of having the
19 non-profits there, but you look at some
20 taxpayers in the face who are having to
21 deal with prostitution, drug activity,
22 noise, loitering and they can't do
23 anything about it, it is one of the most
24 frustrating things you can experience.

25 Thank you for your patience,

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Mr. Chairman.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you.

5 SHERIFF WILLIAMS:

6 Councilwoman, give us the authority, help
7 us with the manpower, and we will
8 execute. All we need is the authority,
9 because like you in your previous job as
10 a legislator, we're very familiar in
11 process, and there is things that you can
12 do to effect change, because some of the
13 laws are antiquated. The very issue of
14 putting a sign up to say no trespassing
15 is an issue. If there was a sign that
16 say no trespassing and someone walks in
17 the property, then they're breaking the
18 law, but somebody has to enforce it.

19 So there are a lot of things
20 that you can do, but it takes some time
21 to sit down as a team of people and we
22 could massage the process where the
23 public is being safe, the community is
24 being safe, and everybody working
25 together, but it takes time and it takes

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 a process, and I'm willing to sit down
3 with you guys.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you. Thank you, Sheriff.

6 Councilman Domb.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman. I just want to echo my
9 colleague Councilwoman Parker's comments
10 on this squatting thing. Most of the
11 squatting cases, these people are
12 criminals. They broke into homes. They
13 are not tenants. I visited one with
14 Councilwoman Blackwell and Councilman Oh,
15 and the people broke into this person's
16 home, and some of these situations
17 they've been there six months to a year,
18 which is unacceptable. They're
19 criminals. So I just want to be clear,
20 it's not Landlord-Tenant Court. These
21 are criminals who break into homes and
22 they should be arrested and taken out and
23 have that homeowner's home returned to
24 them.

25 If any of this happened to any

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 of us sitting here today, we would be
3 crazed. We would be ballistic about
4 this. If you went away on a trip for a
5 week and you came home and somebody is
6 sleeping in your bed and you can't get
7 back into your home, I'm not sure what
8 would happen. It's unacceptable.

9 So I agree. We just got to
10 speed up this process. It's taking way
11 too long. This has been going on that
12 I'm aware of it for over a year, and this
13 is not how government should be.

14 So thank you. I just wanted to
15 echo those comments. Thank you.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you. Thank you, Councilman.

19 Okay. No further questions.
20 Thank you all very much. Thank you for
21 your patience and hanging in there.

22 Our next department is the
23 Department of Parks and Recreation.

24 (Witnesses approached witness
25 table.)

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If we
3 could ask everybody to please leave
4 quietly so we can keep moving on, because
5 we're already well backed up. Parks and
6 Rec have been very patient here.

7 Good -- we're now in afternoon.

8 Commissioner, please identify
9 yourself and proceed. We have your
10 written testimony obviously.

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.
12 Good afternoon, Councilman Greenlee and
13 members of Council. I'm Kathryn Ott
14 Lovell, Commissioner of Philadelphia
15 Parks and Recreation. With me today are
16 Aparna Palantino, Deputy Commissioner for
17 Capital Infrastructure and Natural Lands,
18 and Marissa Washington, Deputy
19 Commissioner for Administration. It's
20 our pleasure to be here today.

21 I appear before you today to
22 present our proposed operating budget for
23 Fiscal Year 2019, which includes a
24 General Fund obligation of \$65,712,181
25 and Grants Revenue of \$13,214,542. The

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 FY19 General Fund budget reflects an
3 increase of \$4,653,270 over FY17
4 estimated obligations. The Class 100
5 request of 49,347,561 sustains the
6 Department's authorized level of 750
7 General Fund full-time positions.
8 \$9,416,490 is proposed for Class 200 and
9 \$2,750,630 in Class 300/400, and
10 \$2,647,500 in Class 500.

11 I'd like to begin my comments
12 by thanking the staff of Parks and
13 Recreation, many of whom are here with us
14 today, for their extraordinary dedication
15 to our department, our assets, and our
16 programs and to the constituents we serve
17 every day. The men and women of
18 Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
19 represent various backgrounds and
20 diversities. The Parks and Rec staff is
21 42 percent African American, 4 percent
22 Latino, 1 percent Asian, and 52 percent
23 white, 25 percent women, 75 percent men.

24 In February 2018, Philadelphia
25 Parks and Recreation released our Path to

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 2020, a comprehensive strategic plan, the
3 first of its kind for our department.
4 The plan reflects Parks and Recreation's
5 full understanding that we must
6 continuously evolve to help
7 Philadelphia's residents meet the
8 challenges that they face in everyday
9 life and lift people up on their way to
10 achieving their aspirations.

11 Our strategic plan serves as
12 both the catalyst and mechanism for the
13 organizational development required to
14 position Parks and Rec as an agent of
15 positive change in the lives of our
16 employees, City residents, visitors, and
17 users of Parks and Recreation in
18 Philadelphia.

19 The first phase of
20 implementation includes strengthening our
21 workforce by providing professional
22 development opportunities to all staff.
23 Starting in FY19, we will raise the wage
24 of our seasonal workforce to a living
25 wage, meaning approximately 1,000 of our

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 employees will see a \$100 average
3 increase per paycheck.

4 We will continue supporting
5 workforce development opportunities in
6 collaboration with City as a Model
7 Employer initiative by developing and
8 maintaining our Community Apprenticeship
9 Program. CAP is a 24-month initiative
10 that connects opportunity youth,
11 low-skilled, underemployed adults, and
12 returning citizens to permanent career
13 pathways.

14 For our permanent staff, we
15 will expand training and development
16 programs, like the newly developed
17 Recreation Leader Academy. We will also
18 launch a formal program encouraging staff
19 to research, select, and implement
20 innovative programming ideas.

21 The Department also plans to
22 test a new staffing structure that aims
23 to achieve greater equity in our program
24 delivery and offers our most underserved
25 neighborhoods increased recreation

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 program and services. The new staffing
3 structure will also improve how we align
4 Parks and Recreation programs with
5 community interests and needs.

6 We are excited to report on
7 some great achievements from the past
8 fiscal year, all of which we plan to
9 build on and expand in FY19. We served
10 over two million meals through our
11 after-school and summer meal program,
12 including over 4,000 meals served on
13 school holidays, thanks to our new Days
14 Off Meal Program championed by
15 Councilwoman Blackwell.

16 We raised \$150,000 to send 150
17 children to overnight summer camp in the
18 Poconos called Camp Philly. We plan to
19 send 200 children to Camp Philly again
20 this August.

21 Our concessions program
22 continue to generate revenue for our
23 system. Most notably, the Parks on Tap
24 program drew over 100,000 participants
25 last summer and will be expanded to 23

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2 parks this season. And we will soon open
3 the City's first aerial adventure course,
4 the first treetop rope and zip line
5 course in West Fairmount Park.

6 We gave away over 3,000 free
7 yard trees to residents through our
8 TreePhilly program sponsored by TD Bank.
9 We hired 1,000 high school youth to work
10 on our rec centers as part of our
11 WorkReady summer employment program. We
12 hosted 100 free movie nights throughout
13 the City last summer with over 8,000
14 attendees. We look forward to hosting
15 even more this summer.

16 In the coming months, we will
17 celebrate many ribbon cuttings on
18 significant Park and Recreation projects,
19 such as the grand reopening of Love Park.
20 Most recently we celebrated the total
21 transformation of Smith Playground in
22 partnership with Connor Barwin's Make the
23 World Better Foundation, and soon we will
24 celebrate the completion of the first
25 section of the rail park.

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2 Last, but not least, the Dell
3 Music Center was recognized by
4 Philadelphia Magazine as Best of Philly
5 for Music Venue Revival and had six out
6 of eight sell-out shows last season.

7 Finally, Philadelphia Parks and
8 Recreation will continue to support the
9 Rebuild initiative, a robust plan to
10 improve the physical conditions of parks,
11 playgrounds, recreation centers, and
12 libraries. Due to our aging
13 infrastructure, the influx of maintenance
14 work orders continues to outpace our
15 staff's ability to address critical
16 repairs. We continue to struggle with
17 leaky roofs, crumbling sidewalks,
18 obsolete heating systems, and missing
19 swings. We are desperate for Rebuild to
20 begin, and long for the day when the
21 physical state of our facilities
22 appropriately reflect the inspiring
23 experiences happening within them.

24 I want to thank the Parks and
25 Recreation Commission members, some of

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 which are here with us today, also the
3 members of our advisory councils and park
4 friends groups, without whom we could not
5 do our work each day.

6 I also want to thank each of
7 you for your tireless efforts on behalf
8 of your constituents and your care and
9 concern and support for Parks and
10 Recreation facilities in your districts.
11 Should any Councilmember wish to engage
12 in further discussion on any of these
13 matters, my staff and I are available to
14 meet with you at your convenience.

15 Thank you again for this
16 opportunity to discuss our department
17 with you today, and I look forward to
18 your questions.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you, Commissioner.

21 Let me first say I appreciate
22 all the services you and everybody in
23 your office gives. My neighbor, Aparna
24 there, we talk. And I have to mention a
25 guy that I've spoken to since I was a

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2 staff member, Barry Bessler, who is
3 always very helpful, even though I ask
4 him some ridiculous things sometimes. So
5 I appreciate that.

6 A few years ago the Department
7 had added -- well, Council had added \$2
8 million into your budget to hire
9 approximately 40 skilled workers to work
10 on the capital projects. How many of
11 those have been hired, or have they?

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: So we
13 hired 11 individuals so far. We have not
14 hired the rest of the individuals because
15 that funding is directly tied to the
16 Philadelphia beverage tax.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Rebuild?

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.
19 So we're very anxious and eager to hire
20 the rest of those skilled trades staff,
21 but so far we have 11.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. So
23 you're waiting for the Rebuild to --

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
25 Correct. We're waiting for the go.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And we're
3 hoping our legislators don't address that
4 in a negative way.

5 Also in your written testimony
6 you state that in FY19, your department
7 will raise the wage of your seasonal
8 workers to a living wage, which we
9 certainly support. How many employees
10 does this cover?

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: There
12 will be about 1,400.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: 1,400?
14 Really? Okay. And what's the overall
15 cost for that? Do you know offhand?

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: No.
17 We can find that out.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If you
19 don't have it now, you can get it to us.

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.
21 We can send that to you.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I
23 appreciate that. And these seasonal
24 workers, are they put in any kind of like
25 recruiting pool for permanent jobs?

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2 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.

3 It's a new program that we're starting
4 actually as part of our overall workforce
5 development initiative. We haven't had a
6 really formal recruitment program for
7 seasonal workers, but over the last two
8 years, we've started to establish one,
9 first and foremost, identifying which of
10 our seasonal workers would like to pursue
11 full-time employment. Some of our
12 seasonal workers such as our after-school
13 workers or our summer camp workers are
14 just -- they're quite content and happy
15 working after school and summer, but
16 there are quite a few of our seasonal
17 maintenance attendants, our SMA, who
18 would like to pursue full-time
19 employment. So some of them have been
20 routed into our new CAP program, which I
21 mentioned in my comments. Others, we are
22 working very hard to identify who wants
23 to work in full-time positions, and then
24 through a new workforce development
25 program, hoping to identify them and then

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2 bring them into training programs so we
3 can make those positions available.

4 Through our new last recreation
5 leader trainee process, we were able to
6 identify quite a few seasonals who wanted
7 to apply for those positions, were
8 eligible and to move them in, and the
9 same is for the grounds maintenance
10 worker positions.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

12 Thank you.

13 One thing surprised me, in your
14 written testimony, you highlight that
15 pool visits have declined by 16.6
16 percent. Any particular reason you see
17 for that?

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:

19 Weather.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, the
21 weather, okay. That makes sense. Okay.
22 Didn't even think of that. The most
23 obvious answer, I guess.

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: The
25 summer before last we had over a million

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2 visits, and that's because it was one of
3 our hottest summers. This past summer,
4 while it was hot at certain points, we
5 had more rain and it was a cooler summer.
6 So you'll see pool visits decline if
7 there's not -- people won't swim in the
8 rain.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: See, I
10 was looking for some great, detailed,
11 inventive answer.

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: All
13 the pools were open.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And you
15 tell me it's the weather, which makes the
16 most sense. Okay.

17 One last question from me. You
18 mentioned Parks on Tap. It seems to be
19 from me being around there, it seems to
20 be doing pretty well. Is the City making
21 a profit out of that?

22 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
23 do, yeah. So it is a concession, so we
24 have revenue share with the
25 concessionaire. I believe since we

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2 started the program, it's raised over
3 \$200,000 for Parks and Recreation. So
4 we're very excited to continue that
5 program and hopefully expand it.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You're
7 saying your plan is to expand. That's
8 great. That's great.

9 Okay. That's it for me. Thank
10 you.

11 Councilwoman Parker, please.

12 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman.

14 And hello to each of you. I'm
15 about to go through a list, and this is
16 in realtime, and it's coming from leaders
17 and heads of friends groups throughout
18 the Ninth Councilmanic District. And if
19 I don't mention this, I'm not worried
20 about you. I will get in trouble from
21 them, and they are the people I'm
22 concerned about.

23 So I have to say thank you to
24 you, Commish, Tiffany, and Aparna.

25 We're going to work on her

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2 residency, Councilman Greenlee. I heard
3 you. We're going to try to see if we can
4 get her to the Ninth Councilmanic
5 District.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No.
7 She's not leaving.

8 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: To
9 Azzura, Ebony Hatcher, and John Cooney,
10 congrats on recent promotions. They're
11 leaving Finley and Lawncrest,
12 respectively. Frank Fabey, rock star;
13 Jerry B; Anthony B; Veronica Lawson; and
14 Zyler; Amenah Claiborne at Simons; Brian
15 Sell at Dorothy Emmanuel; Sue Buck at
16 Carpenter at Olney; Walt Mulholland at
17 Tarken; Andy M. at Jardel; Tawanda at
18 Sturgis; and Fletcher Anderson, who just
19 left Houseman and is now at Finley.

20 Now, for those residents of the
21 Ninth District who are watching, the
22 hearings are extremely important, but
23 we're concerned about what happens in our
24 neighborhood and where we live, and the
25 people's names who I just mentioned, they

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2 are the people who help to keep
3 recreation going in our regions, and we
4 want to say a special, special thank you
5 to each of them.

6 Now that I have done my
7 homework, my question is about something
8 that is bothering me tremendously.
9 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown and
10 Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez prior
11 to my even arriving in this body attacked
12 an issue that is very frustrating and,
13 that is, the rule of two, specifically as
14 it relates to hiring.

15 With that being said, I went
16 back through my questions from last year
17 and I want to know if you would put on
18 the record what you believe are the most
19 significant barriers to promotion within
20 the Rec Department. I will tell you I am
21 bias, I want to start, particularly as it
22 relates to standardized testing, because
23 I am a former high school English teacher
24 and that is like to me using a child's
25 performance on the SAT or the ACT as the

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2 sole indicator that is metric to
3 determine their potential success in the
4 future, and it's quite frustrating.

5 So I want you to describe to me
6 what do you think are the top three
7 barriers to promotion, particularly with
8 our goals of increasing diversity and
9 inclusion, not just amongst staffing but
10 amongst management.

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Thank
12 you, Councilwoman, for that question. I
13 also want to thank you for the shout-out
14 for those staff and rec leaders. It's
15 not every day they get to hear their name
16 in Council Chambers for a good reason.
17 So thank you. They work tremendously
18 hard and it's wonderful to acknowledge
19 them.

20 We definitely struggle with
21 diversity in terms of our ability to
22 promote people of color, and I've seen
23 that firsthand in our department. I wish
24 I had -- I wish I knew exactly what the
25 reason was. I can give you my

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2 assumption, right, as to what I think
3 some of the barriers are.

4 We have some -- and, again, I
5 can't speak to whether it really impacts
6 quality. We have great managers, and
7 those managers have been promoted through
8 the existing system, right, but we have
9 struggled on both the operations and the
10 program side with people of color being
11 able to promote into mid-level manager
12 positions.

13 And so I do agree with you that
14 I think the rule of two is one of those
15 barriers. I have spoken to other cities'
16 parks districts and systems across the
17 country, and there have been other things
18 that other cities have done to increase
19 diversity in civil service that -- things
20 like rule of two plus so that you can
21 move down the list if your first two are
22 not diverse candidates, and we have seen
23 that some candidates who have made it
24 onto the list but didn't make it up high
25 enough by the time we hire for those

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2 positions because we only have a certain
3 number of vacancies to promote, they move
4 off the list because we can't make it all
5 the way down to reach them, and that's
6 hard, right, because we want to offer
7 opportunities and we want our managers
8 and all of our staff to reflect the
9 communities that we're serving every day.
10 So I definitely think the rule of two is
11 a barrier.

12 I have never taken a civil
13 service test. I have never seen a civil
14 service test. So I can't speak to the
15 fairness of those tests. I do agree with
16 you that in my experience of working in
17 schools and being a mom, purely from that
18 perspective, that a standardized test is
19 not always the best way to judge a
20 person's capability to do a job. I also
21 don't think that it's an appropriate way
22 to judge emotional intelligence. And I
23 think that in terms of managers, probably
24 the most important element you can have
25 or attribute you can have in a manager in

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2 recreation is emotional intelligence, and
3 I don't know what -- I don't sit here and
4 claim to know what the appropriate test
5 or module is to be able to diagnose level
6 of emotional intelligence, but I'm not
7 quite sure that we have figured that out
8 in our civil service system.

9 In terms of a third barrier, I
10 will say that we need to get better at,
11 and we're really working towards this, to
12 increasing diversity within the pool of
13 applicants, so that we make sure -- it
14 takes a long time for people to make it
15 up the hierarchy in civil service, and
16 you have to be a really dedicated
17 individual to want to see that through,
18 right? You have to really aspire to
19 become a manager, become a director, a
20 higher level position, because it could
21 take you 15 years. So we're implementing
22 some different initiatives now that we
23 may not see the difference that they make
24 now, but I'm hoping two commissioners
25 down the road will appreciate the fact

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2 that we really are trying to work hard to
3 diversify our incoming pool of
4 individuals. So, again, looking at our
5 seasonal workforce. So it's 1,400
6 individuals that have already worked for
7 us and are outstanding individuals and
8 are from the communities that we're
9 serving, identifying which of them want
10 full-time employment, supporting them in
11 pursuing that full-time employment,
12 walking them through the civil service
13 process as best we can. Being an
14 advocate for them through the civil
15 service process is something that we are
16 working to do and offering other kind of
17 programs and trainings to individuals to
18 help them make it through that process,
19 which can be mystifying to individuals
20 that don't already know someone on the
21 inside that can walk them through that.
22 So we're trying to level that playing
23 field by offering that out to our
24 seasonal workforce, which is incredibly
25 diverse and very representative of the

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2 communities we serve.

3 So I hope that answered your
4 question.

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No; you
6 did, and let me thank you, Commissioner,
7 for your very thoughtful and, more
8 importantly, forthright response about
9 some of the issues. Much like the
10 conversation with the Sheriff relative to
11 criminal squatting, there is no single
12 silver bullet response that can sort of
13 just fix it, and it will require, I
14 think, multiple steps and adjustments in
15 different areas, as you've mentioned. So
16 thank you, and I look forward to working
17 with you and your office, along with my
18 good friends in Council and over at the
19 Commission, to figure out a way, because
20 we're not going to give up on this.

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you, Councilwoman.

3 Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6 Good afternoon. I want to
7 thank the Parks and Recreation staff for
8 all the work that you do in making our
9 city a better place to live and providing
10 an outstanding quality of life to the
11 residents from all age categories.

12 I wanted to touch base with you
13 regarding a couple of things. I know a
14 little while ago this body passed
15 legislation to make our recreation
16 facilities more accessible for people
17 that have physical and learning
18 differences like autism. I want to get
19 some perspective on how we're doing, not
20 just in reference to the equipment that
21 we use but also the activities that we
22 provide.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
24 Aparna Palantino, Deputy Commissioner,
25 Parks and Recreation.

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2 Thank you for your question,
3 Councilman. Since the bill was passed a
4 couple years ago, we've actually been
5 successfully able to implement about 15
6 playgrounds using those principles, not
7 only to make them physically accessible
8 but also sensitive to people with all
9 types of disabilities, intellectual as
10 well as physical. We continue that
11 effort. It's part of the design of every
12 playground that we do now. We've
13 provided our staff with additional
14 training by professionals on how to
15 incorporate those principles into each of
16 our designs. We're trying to work with a
17 group to do a fully accessible
18 playground. It doesn't come cheap,
19 unfortunately.

20 So we have been making a
21 conscious effort across all of our
22 projects to incorporate those. Some of
23 the elements require more space than
24 others, so certain playgrounds you'll see
25 more features because they can be

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2 accommodated with the size of the space.
3 Others we're not able to incorporate
4 everything.

5 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
6 Kathryn, Commissioner.

7 In terms of the programming for
8 individuals with disability or children
9 with autism, we have individual programs
10 throughout our system that our recreation
11 leaders are encouraged to host at their
12 facilities. For instance, we had a major
13 day for autistic children at the
14 Pennypack Environmental Center recently.
15 So we look to our recreation leaders to
16 provide them with resources and trainings
17 to encourage them to provide activities
18 in their own facilities, but I'll be
19 honest, Councilman, we have a long way to
20 go in that area.

21 I attended recently an
22 inclusion and disability summit and was
23 introduced to some individuals who had
24 some really great ideas about ways that
25 we can increase the programming. I think

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2 the bill, Councilwoman Bass's bill, for
3 the equipment side of things, the
4 infrastructure, was great, and that's
5 moving, as Aparna said. Now our focus
6 really does need to turn to inclusive
7 programming, and it does need to turn to
8 what kind of staff changes that we need
9 to introduce into our system to make sure
10 that we are offering inclusive
11 programming throughout our entire system
12 and not just at a facility, say, at
13 Carousel House, which of course provides
14 so many programs to disabled individuals,
15 autistic individuals. There's an
16 after-school program for autistic
17 teenagers at Carousel House, but it's
18 something that we are looking to
19 mainstream throughout our entire system.

20 Tomorrow I actually have a
21 meeting with some advocates from the
22 disability community as well as our ADA
23 officer with the City and Mr. Horton and
24 a number of different individuals to
25 continue that conversation and looking to

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2 have a couple of forums and focus groups
3 in the near future with advocates and
4 with parents so that we can come to a
5 better understanding about the work that
6 we need to do and how we can do that.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: As we wait
8 for the litigation to be resolved
9 regarding the sugar-sweetened beverage
10 tax, this provides an opportunity as we
11 are planning for Rebuild to also focus on
12 some of these initiatives. So how are we
13 using this opportunity to both prepare
14 for the Rebuild recreation facilities to
15 be more friendly for people with learning
16 and physical differences as well as
17 working on that additional programming as
18 we go through Rebuild?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
20 So as I mentioned, Councilman, we
21 internally with our staff have attended
22 trainings and are making a conscious
23 effort. So any project that goes through
24 the Rebuild process on any of our sites,
25 we would review the documents. We also

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2 have been in touch with several
3 professionals in the field. So they have
4 been willing to help us review the
5 proposed designs to ensure that we
6 include those principles in all of our
7 designs. So we would review the
8 documents that are put out by the Rebuild
9 initiative as well.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Also, you
11 talked about 15 recreation facilities
12 that have been adapted for people with
13 physical and learning differences. Have
14 you done any outreach for organizations
15 like the Philadelphia Autism Project to
16 let people know of the facilities that
17 have been adapted for people that have
18 these type of differences?

19 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: No,
20 we haven't, but that's a great idea and
21 we can certainly do that.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
23 the Philadelphia Autism Project is an
24 initiative that we here in City Council
25 have supported for the past couple years,

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2 started with then-Councilman Dennis
3 O'Brien and I continued that. But it
4 really is a one-stop shop of activities.
5 We've tried to coordinate with a number
6 of different organizations to help people
7 that need a location for either
8 recreation facilities, daycare, all kinds
9 of services to have a one-stop shop to go
10 to. So having that list of those
11 locations within the City, within the
12 Parks and Rec system that have those
13 adaptive abilities I think would be very
14 important to provide that opportunity.

15 I also wanted to talk about
16 staffing. One of the things that I've
17 been working on with various
18 departments -- in fact, the Airport has
19 hired in the past two years four people
20 who are on the autism spectrum. And so
21 working with Charles Horton and the
22 Mayor's Office of Disabilities and
23 others, we've been looking at how do we
24 incorporate how the City can do a better
25 job in employing people who are not

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2 neurotypical. And so the Airport has
3 taken that lead. Working with the
4 Philadelphia Industrial Development
5 Corporation, we actually had a job
6 employer fair at the Navy Yard where
7 various employers who have had a history
8 of hiring people that have learning and
9 physical differences were actually there
10 and talking about their experiences and
11 really informing other employers that
12 this is an opportunity that will help
13 empower your workforce and you'll have
14 employees that although they may have a
15 different set of abilities, they have
16 enhanced abilities in other areas, and
17 they're trying to really use the City as
18 a leader in that regard, but in order for
19 the City to really advocate to the
20 private sector, we've got to do a better
21 job internally.

22 So has there been any
23 conversation within Parks and Rec to talk
24 about hiring people who have physical and
25 learning differences?

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2 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: There
3 has actually, and that's in concert with
4 our work on the City as a Model Employer
5 initiative at the MDO's Office. We
6 actually identified a position. It's
7 called a departmental aide, specifically
8 for individuals who might be on the
9 autism spectrum or have learning
10 difficulties, and we have currently one
11 individual in that position who works at
12 Carousel House. We don't have any other
13 vacancies for that position, but it's
14 been something that we're looking at. At
15 least we have the position and there's a
16 pathway in for individuals into a civil
17 service full-time position, a pathway in
18 for individuals and a position that we
19 have. And so as we look to restructure
20 our staffing, which we, as I mentioned in
21 my comments, we hope to do over the next
22 year, that's definitely a position that
23 we would look to try and create some more
24 vacancies for and then perhaps working
25 with groups like the one you mentioned in

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2 our recruitment strategies, reaching out
3 to them. And also, to be honest, some of
4 our seasonal staff members also have
5 learning difficulties and other issues,
6 and so this would provide a pathway in
7 for some of those individuals.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And I just
9 wanted to just give the perspective that
10 when you meet one person on the autism
11 spectrum, that means you've met one
12 person on the autism spectrum. It's a
13 wide diversity of skill sets and
14 abilities.

15 One of the things that we did
16 at the employer fair at PIDC, showed a
17 short piece of a new segment on CBS
18 Sunday Morning where they had hired, I
19 believe it was, two individuals who are
20 alumnus from Spark Philadelphia who
21 actually work now, one at SAP, one doing
22 work with another company -- the name
23 escapes me -- where they're actually
24 providing data analysis for the CIA. So
25 there's a wide range of skills and

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2 abilities. I just want to make sure that
3 some people, when they think of someone
4 on the autism spectrum, they have a more
5 specific and finite perspective on some
6 of the abilities when it's a broad, broad
7 range.

8 And then I'll just close with,
9 I do a lot of work with Special Olympics
10 Pennsylvania. There is a goal to make
11 the City of Philadelphia the world's
12 leading autism-friendly city. There are
13 a number of institutions who are already
14 working in that regard. I just had a
15 meeting with the Philadelphia Museum of
16 Art on working on not just accessibility
17 for workforce, but also adapted locations
18 as well as programming. Our sports
19 teams, from the Sixers, who also worked
20 at Wells Fargo, we have a
21 sensory-friendly room at the Wells Fargo
22 Center. The Eagles have the Eagles
23 Autism Challenge coming up May 19th.
24 Gabe Kapler, the GM for the Phillies, is
25 a strong advocate for Special Olympics as

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2 well as the Flyers as well.

3 So we have a lot of
4 institutions who are doing that, and I
5 think we just need to kind of pull all
6 these activities together going forward,
7 and if we get the support from the
8 Special Olympics at the national level,
9 that will be something that we're pushing
10 forward. So I look to work with all of
11 you in this regard.

12 Just one last question. I know
13 the bell has rung, but I think it's just
14 three of us in here.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Under your
17 capital budget, does your capital budget
18 include funding for the Mann Music
19 Center?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
21 This year it does not.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
24 That falls in -- I think it's in
25 Commerce's budget. I saw a

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2 representative.

3 It's in ours? Sorry. It's in
4 ours.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I thought it
6 was in Parks and Rec, okay. So I guess
7 one of the questions -- and we have a lot
8 of great facilities. We recently spent a
9 significant amount of money in upgrading
10 the Dell, which has been a great venue.
11 The Mann is another venue that's a great
12 asset to the City that provides a
13 diversity of programming. In fact, I had
14 a chance to tour the Mann last year and I
15 was -- I would say there's probably a
16 little more diverse programing at the
17 Mann than even the Dell. I mean, the
18 Dell tends to have music that's more of,
19 I'll say, my age category and slightly a
20 little older, a little more seasoned, as
21 my dad will say. My dad is 85, so he
22 calls himself a seasoned citizen. So I'm
23 not quite that age, but I use the
24 seasoned phrase. I call myself a
25 seasoned millennial, although my staff

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2 keeps joking with me when I use that
3 joke. They're probably laughing as we
4 speak.

5 But I was surprised because
6 when I went to the Mann and did a tour, I
7 mean, they had artists like A\$AP Rocky,
8 Bryson Tiller, who were actually
9 performing at the Mann, which you may not
10 see at the Dell because they're a little
11 younger than some of the performance acts
12 at the Dell, except for Lady B and some
13 of the activities that she has.

14 But the reason I said that, I
15 toured the Mann during the day, and I
16 think many of the people, if you would
17 have visited the Mann during the day,
18 would be somewhat shocked in reference to
19 the physical plant of the Mann. It's in
20 a very, very, very -- I'll just use the
21 politically correct phrase -- challenged
22 state. I will -- there could have been
23 some opportunity where people may have
24 really gotten hurt. I know they had the
25 scaffolding that fell from the Mann in

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2 last -- I guess year before last during
3 the wintertime. If that had been during
4 the main programming season, there
5 probably would have been some fatalities.

6 And so my concern is that I
7 know during the end of the Nutter
8 Administration, there was a goal to
9 provide resources to the Mann and that
10 was spread out over time, and I think
11 it's continuing to be spread out, and for
12 some of the work that needs to be done,
13 especially for the scaffolding because
14 the water is coming in and some of the
15 other things, that it takes equipment
16 that you rent to get that work done. And
17 so it doesn't make sense to me to rent
18 the equipment for one season and then the
19 next season have to rent equipment again
20 and then rent equipment again. And so we
21 try to do things in a much more economic
22 efficient perspective. So to me it makes
23 sense to get that work done earlier and
24 spend the money quicker so we don't have
25 other potential issues like when the

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2 soffit fell about a year and a half ago.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

4 Councilman, I agree. I actually visited
5 the site several times as well and did an
6 extensive tour, and I 100 percent agree
7 with you that it does need a significant
8 amount of investment due to the water
9 damage that has happened. The roof
10 needs -- the entire facility needs a lot
11 of work. And it is true that it would be
12 significantly more cost effective to, as
13 you mentioned, rent the scaffolding once
14 and complete a project.

15 However, we've put in their
16 request, the Mann Center's request,
17 through our budget. However, we're happy
18 to have that discussion with Budget,
19 because ultimately based on all the needs
20 of various departments, they have to
21 balance that. So that's something we're
22 happy to speak to them about.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I mean, it's
24 one of the things that if you go there
25 during -- I mean, many people have gone

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2 to the Mann mostly there in the evening,
3 so you don't see some of the challenges,
4 but if you're there during the day, you
5 would be basically shocked. And I think
6 people also have the sense that the Mann
7 is some private entity that was created
8 by some well-endowed funder and -- it's a
9 City entity, and I think that the fact
10 that people don't realize Frederick Mann
11 was the recreation leader for the City
12 and not someone from some private sector
13 to name the Mann. It was named after the
14 Mann because he was the recreation center
15 leader at the time.

16 Well, we'll continue that
17 conversation.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
19 Thank you. By the way, seasoned
20 millennial, I like that.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I should
22 trademark that. I've used it a lot. I
23 should trademark it because I'm afraid
24 someone is going to use it. If I see
25 someone on CNN using it, I'm not going to

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2 call Stormy Daniels' attorney.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Let me publicly salute
9 Councilman Derek Green for your
10 consistency and -- Councilman Green, for
11 your consistent, laser beam focus on
12 ensuring or making sure that our City
13 does better when it comes to being
14 sensitive and cognizant of those who may
15 have learning or physical disabilities.
16 It's a welcome voice here in City Council
17 budget hearings.

18 Good afternoon, Department of
19 Rec team leadership. I want to start off
20 with a question posed by my colleague
21 Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez
22 wherein she asked, and I quote, focusing
23 on paid time for special events, provide
24 some detail, if you will, on how much is
25 spent on special events, and then

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2 separate from that, how much is spent on
3 overtime for special events.

4 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: So
5 I'm sorry. The question was -- what was
6 the first one?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Paid time
8 on special events.

9 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
10 don't have those figures. We can work to
11 get those in terms of, I think, straight
12 time. Is that what you're talking about,
13 non-overtime staff time spent on special
14 events?

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
17 don't have those figures, but we're
18 working to gather them. But we do have
19 overtime numbers.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So going
21 forward, if you would be so kind to make
22 that a part of your standard testimony
23 going forward.

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Okay.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And then

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2 ultimately of course if I know
3 Councilwoman Sanchez, she would look for
4 an analysis of how well we're doing over
5 X number of years, but that does give us
6 a reading on how much is being spent.
7 And for me as an at-large, I would then
8 ask the question, break it down by
9 councilmanic district just to have
10 another layer of analysis on that. So if
11 you can make sure that the Chair gets
12 that, that would be appreciated.

13 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.
14 So so far for FY18 for citywide special
15 events, our overtime has been about
16 \$529,000, and the Show Mobile and
17 bleacher setup is separate from that. We
18 have that separate and that's --

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Who was
20 that? What's separate from that?

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Show
22 Mobile, the Show Mobile when
23 Councilmembers or communities request to
24 have -- do you know the Show Mobile?

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes, yes,

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 yes.

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: When
4 they request to have that out at an
5 event, that's skilled tradespeople that
6 need to go out with that vehicle. That
7 is -- and then when bleachers need to be
8 set up for an event, that's an additional
9 \$34,000.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
11 Very well. Thank you for that.

12 During budget testimony from
13 various departments, I pay attention and
14 now focus to a couple of areas, and one
15 of them is how well departments are doing
16 around MBE/WBE participation. According
17 to Page 3 of your testimony, there's a
18 jump in participation rate in the total
19 amount of M/W/DSBE contracts, from 19
20 percent in FY17 to 32 percent in FY18.
21 Can you speak to or elaborate what that
22 jump is attributed to?

23 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: So we
24 have been successful in having Dell
25 performers fill out a sole practitioner

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2 form to become -- to be certified or be
3 recognized as a minority or woman-owned
4 business. So the performers at the Dell,
5 which we pay, who previously we hadn't
6 been capturing, there's now a way to
7 capture that. And so that's helped our
8 numbers significantly. We do hope to end
9 the year above our goal of 25 percent.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
11 would you suspect that that jump is
12 sustainable?

13 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes,
14 as long as we keep having shows at the
15 Dell for those seasoned millennials.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
17 so Derek would call them seasoned
18 millennials. I will call them old
19 school.

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: They
21 sell out.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I'm one of
23 them who is there for old school.

24 The participation goal, what
25 has that been over the last three, four

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2 years? I'd like to see what the trend is
3 or not. So this is a participation goal
4 for FY18?

5 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes.
6 So our actual rates have been for FY13,
7 21 percent, FY14, going all the back --

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: 35.

9 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes,
10 35. FY15, 21 percent; FY16, 21 percent;
11 FY17, 19 percent. This year to date, 32
12 percent. And, again, we hope to see
13 that -- the goal is 25 percent, but we're
14 hoping to -- we're not sure it will
15 sustain at 32 percent, but we think it
16 will come in above 25 percent this year.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So the
18 operative word there is hoping, and we
19 know that diversity doesn't happen
20 organically. It has to be intentional by
21 the leadership. So what strategies or
22 protocols are you putting in place to
23 indeed exceed the goal?

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Well,
25 one was that when we recognized that we

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2 were not capturing these performers at
3 the Dell, to work with them. And these
4 are serious performers that have to take
5 another step in terms of a process for
6 them to be paid to be recognized as MBE
7 or WBE. So it has been somewhat
8 painstaking to go through that process
9 with these performers, but we're very
10 committed to it because it's something
11 that we weren't capturing and we should
12 have been capturing, and so --

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It's a new
14 protocol.

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.
16 It's a new protocol that we're doing for
17 each of those performers and it's
18 actually an understanding with them when
19 they book with us that this is a
20 protocol, a process that they need to go
21 through.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: One of
23 those things that's required and not
24 optional.

25 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:

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2 Correct.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. All
4 right. You do make mention that you have
5 100 vacancies currently, if I'm reading
6 this accurately. So of those vacancies,
7 how many are exempt positions?

8 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
9 don't have any exempt vacancies.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: No exempt
11 open positions?

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
13 Correct. And I do want to mention,
14 Councilwoman, if I may, that of the
15 vacancies that we have, our current
16 vacancies rate is around 13 percent.
17 However, that includes the Rebuild
18 positions that we are not able to hire
19 for. So when you deduct those 29
20 positions out of the 100, we are
21 actually -- our vacancy rate is closer to
22 9 percent, which is the lowest our
23 vacancy rate has been in many years. So
24 we're proud that we've been able to hire
25 at a clip.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All right,
3 then. Let's focus now on the exempt
4 positions, because we know that that's
5 where department heads have an
6 opportunity to align themselves
7 philosophically with where Mayor Kenney
8 is.

9 How many exempt positions do
10 you have? Some place on here I saw it.
11 You have 33.

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
13 have 35.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Oh, is it
15 35?

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
17 Councilwoman, give me one second to get
18 me...

19 So, yes, we have 35 total
20 exempts. Of them, 18 are female and 17
21 are male and we have 40 percent people of
22 color.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: How many
24 of those were hired since last June?

25 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: So

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2 since last --

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: July 1

4 last year.

5 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I

6 don't have that breakdown. I have how

7 many were hired since I became

8 Commissioner.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. I'd

10 like to see that.

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:

12 Actually, we do have that. Those aren't

13 just our exempt. So I have how many have

14 been since we started here.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: How many

16 have been hired?

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We've

18 had 19 hired. So there's been some

19 attrition, though. So some -- so of the

20 35, 19 have been hired since we've been

21 here, because we've had some retirements.

22 And of those who have been hired since

23 we've been here, it's 47 percent people

24 of color.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Of the 19?

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:

3 Correct.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: How many
5 were women?

6 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: 50
7 percent, a little more than 50, maybe 51.
8 11 of the 19.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Were
10 women?

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Were
12 women, yes. That's a little more than 50
13 percent, I guess.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: How would
15 you grade yourself with regards to the
16 Mayor's consistent interest to ensure
17 government that looks like Philadelphia?

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
19 That's a great question. I'd say we're a
20 B minus.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
22 where would you want to make improvement
23 to move that to a B plus or an A?

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Well,
25 we can only hire when there's a position

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2 open. So we really have to make sure
3 that we're just doing everything we can.
4 We did that with our executive team. We
5 really made sure that our executive team
6 was as diverse as possible, and as these
7 positions come up, we need to make sure
8 that we find the number one most
9 qualified candidate, but also making sure
10 that we are reaching out to as many
11 groups as possible so that we cast a
12 really wide net for that position.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And you
14 can certainly --

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: And
16 also attract people to working for the
17 this department. I think that's really,
18 really critical, is that there are so
19 many opportunities in this city for
20 talented, qualified people and you really
21 try to have people come and work in our
22 department, make sure that they see that
23 we are a model department to work in is
24 something that I think we can do better
25 on.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure. And
3 you can do both. You can hire qualified
4 people and achieve diversity at the same
5 time.

6 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We
7 have. We have.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Now let's
9 talk more, drill down with regards to
10 MBE/WBE contracts. I am a neighbor of
11 the Urban Restorian (ph) Project, along
12 with a couple of members of my staff,
13 over there in the Wynnefield area.

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Of
15 the what?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The Urban
17 Restorian Project in Wynnefield. And one
18 observation I made when I first came to
19 Philadelphia City Council, on
20 Philadelphia's Courtyard I seldom saw, if
21 ever, license plates that have
22 Pennsylvania driver's license. And so
23 when I go to this project over here, I
24 look for the same thing.

25 Detail for me the companies

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2 that are working on this project.

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: What
4 project is that again?

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It's on
6 Montgomery Drive.

7 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Is it
8 the reforestation project?

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
10 Reforestation project near the
11 Philadelphia Horticultural Center.

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: By
13 the Hort Center, correct?

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Got
16 you.

17 We'll have to get that
18 information to you, Councilwoman. I
19 don't have that in front of me who the
20 contractors are working on that, but we
21 can get that information to you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
23 we will want to know who they are, are
24 they local, and of their employees how
25 many are Philadelphia residents.

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2 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Okay.

3 We're happy to get that to you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. I

5 would also be curious to know too the

6 total size of that project.

7 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So

9 if you could provide that to the Chair.

10 And not to rush you, but to give me a

11 framework on when we can anticipate it.

12 Is that a week, two weeks?

13 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: A

14 week.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

16 Let's move now to training and

17 why that's important. According to your

18 testimony on Page 7, 92.1 percent of

19 permanent staff attended training, and

20 the goal in FY18 is to increase that

21 number to 95 percent. Speak to training

22 and how your department is approaching it

23 and some of the strategies you are using

24 to increase that number.

25 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.

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2 So we have a variety of different
3 trainings that we offer. Of course we
4 offer a variety of different safety
5 trainings, right? So we have basic
6 trainings around safety, such as dealing
7 with hazardous substances from folks on
8 our operation team to active shooter
9 training for individuals --

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Active
11 what?

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
13 Active shooter training.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You said
15 active?

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
17 Active shooter.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Shooter?

19 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes.
20 Correct. Active shooter training. So
21 it's very common in schools and places
22 where there are large of groups of people
23 that if there are active shooters, what
24 our recreation leaders would do if an
25 active shooter were to approach a

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 building or an event or basketball league
3 when something is happening. So we bring
4 a former -- a person in from Homeland
5 Security in to do that training. We'll
6 have mental health first aid training for
7 our program staff.

8 So we have a very robust
9 training calendar, which I'm happy to
10 share with Councilmembers. Much of it is
11 focused around safety training.

12 More recently we've created
13 training that we hope will help influence
14 the quality of the program that we're
15 offering. So, for instance, we offer a
16 new program called Rec Leader Academy,
17 and this means that for all of our
18 recreation staff, people who are running
19 those programs in rec centers, we're
20 offering training that is very tailored
21 to that role and helping them grow in
22 that role, right? So for new rec
23 leaders, this might be very basic, like
24 how to hold an advisory council meeting
25 or how to build a Facebook page for your

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2 rec center. For rec leaders who have
3 been with us for a while, it might be a
4 Rec Leader 3, it would be more around how
5 to deal with new immigrant communities,
6 how to deal with conflict in communities.
7 So there's actually a curriculum that we
8 offer, and they participate in an
9 eight-week training course and they can
10 go to core classes and then there's
11 electives that they can select from. We
12 use people within the Department to offer
13 the training, and then we also go
14 external.

15 So, for instance, Jackie Linton
16 came in and did a training for us. So
17 we're working to make it as meaningful as
18 possible for participants. But then we
19 just did complete a new strategic plan,
20 and there's a whole goal in that
21 strategic plan around training, and what
22 we're trying to do to even further
23 enhance our training is to generate ideas
24 for training from our staff. So it's not
25 just us, right, who aren't out in the

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 field every day coming up with what staff
3 should be trained in, but that the
4 training ideas are actually coming from
5 the individuals and what they feel that
6 they need to better do their job.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.

8 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: And
9 so we have -- now we'll be having a
10 survey of all of our staff to inquire
11 from them what trainings they'd like to
12 see in addition to the existing trainings
13 that we have, and that will then inform
14 our training calendar.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very, very
16 good. It sounds like it's a rich mix.

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: It's
18 very important to us.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please
20 forward to the Chair the schedule for the
21 active duty --

22 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL:
23 Active shooter training, sure.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Shooter
25 training. My staff and I do a retreat

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2 every year where we visit with various
3 departments. In fact, we spent one
4 summer day up in the Greater Northeast.
5 We've been a couple places hosted by the
6 Rec Department, and now I'm having a
7 brain freeze, but I would like to offer
8 to my staff to be in attendance at one of
9 the active shooter trainings. We live in
10 a new world order.

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes,
12 we do.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
14 then. Well, thank you very, very much.
15 I'll look forward to the follow-up
16 information.

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Thank
20 you.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Councilwoman.

23 Thank you all very much. Thank
24 you for all you do there.

25 Our final department is City

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2 Commissioners.

3 Commissioner, hold on one
4 second.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One
6 last question. Fishtown Rec. Real
7 quick, tell me where we're at with
8 Fishtown Rec, because I know we're moving
9 along. I know we have some issues.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
11 So it's a project that we're currently
12 working with the Trust for Public Land to
13 complete, and they, as a result of the
14 concerns around lead in that
15 neighborhood, they had done some testing
16 on the soil prior to actually beginning
17 construction, and of course they found
18 elevated levels of lead. So they're
19 doing their due diligence in completing
20 additional testing and designing
21 remediation measures for that. They are
22 now moving into the design phase of the
23 project itself and expect construction to
24 happen by fall of this year.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 That's TPL?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

4 Yeah.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Are
6 they also responsible for the
7 remediation?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

9 It's part of the project --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
11 all a part of their project?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

13 Yes.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
15 they do that better or quicker than us?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

17 So they would engage a contractor and
18 consultants to do that, but it typically
19 involves a soil exchange of some amount.
20 So it's part of the construction process.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
22 how much has the time schedule been
23 altered? Because a lot of people
24 thought activity was going to start.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

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2 It's been about six to eight months as a
3 result --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Eight months of delay?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

7 Yes. And they've been in touch with the
8 community. Now that they have all of the
9 results from the environmental
10 investigation, they're actually planning
11 to hold a meeting with the community
12 again to inform them of the findings and
13 then their proposed remediation plan.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
15 right. And one last, 9th and Venango.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
17 11th and Venango.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 11th
19 and Venango. Where are we at with that?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
21 I knew that would come up. So I have
22 been in touch with the Law Department,
23 and they have -- as a result of the
24 contamination on the site, they are
25 going -- they've been consulting with

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Risk Management and they're determining a
3 path forward based on those concerns.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
5 sounds like we took a step backwards. I
6 thought we had that resolved.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
8 I did too. So I don't have their final
9 determination on that. I know they have
10 three or four paths forward. We're happy
11 to schedule a separate meeting. So it is
12 currently in discussions between Law and
13 Risk.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
15 that meeting be in my office?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
17 Certainly.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
19 is like -- last year was bordering on the
20 ridiculous. Now it's beyond that. I
21 don't know what's the next phase.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
23 No. I agree. And I'm happy to help
24 schedule that. We are ready with the
25 concept design as soon as the

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 contamination issues and legality of
3 those are addressed.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
5 right. Thank you. Thank you.

6 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: No. My
8 questions are for the Commissioners.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
10 all right.

11 Thank you all for your
12 testimony today.

13 (Witnesses approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Folks, we have another department. If
17 you all are leaving, please leave quietly
18 and maybe even quickly.

19 Thank you. Good afternoon.

20 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good
21 afternoon.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Commissioners.

24 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good
25 afternoon, President Clarke and members

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 of City Council. I am City Commissioner
3 Chairwoman Lisa Deeley. Joining me today
4 are City Commissioner Vice Chair Al
5 Schmidt, Voter Registration Administrator
6 Gregory Irving, and our Budget Officer
7 Valerie Crawford-Keith. We are pleased
8 to provide testimony on the Office of the
9 City Commissioners' Fiscal Year 2019
10 Operating Budget.

11 The proposed Fiscal Year 2019
12 General Fund budget totals \$9,965,170, an
13 increase of \$87,188 over Fiscal Year 2018
14 estimated obligation levels. This
15 increase in Class 100 is due to the
16 contractual 3 percent pay increase for
17 our DC 33 employees.

18 The proposed budget includes
19 \$5,926,203 in Class 100 for employee
20 compensation; \$3,497,350 in Class 200 for
21 professional service contracts, Election
22 Board payroll, and polling place rentals;
23 \$441,772 in Class 300 for election
24 material printing contracts and office
25 supplies; and \$99,845 in Class 400 for

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2 computers, furniture, and equipment.

3 In addition to the proposed
4 budget, we are asking Council to consider
5 an additional \$386,200 in Class 200
6 funding which would allow us to increase
7 the stipend for Election Board workers
8 and to raise the polling place rental
9 fee, both of which have not been raised
10 in at least 30 years. This is
11 specifically needed to address the level
12 of vacancies on our Election Boards, a
13 nationwide problem, which has reached a
14 crisis level in Philadelphia. Many of
15 our Election Board workers are older and,
16 for one reason or another, not serving
17 anymore. The younger generations have
18 not stepped up to fill their roles. The
19 Board workers were on the ballot in 2017
20 and we saw a 30 percent decrease in Judge
21 of Election petitions compared to the
22 same election in 2009. As of today, we
23 have almost 1,200 elected board positions
24 that are unfilled. Our past surveys and
25 feedback from the poll workers indicates

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2 low pay is a significant contributing
3 factor for the shortage. Judges of
4 Elections would go from \$100 to \$120 per
5 election. Majority inspectors of
6 elections, clerks, and machine inspectors
7 would go from \$95 to \$115 per election.
8 And the bilingual interpreters would go
9 from \$75 to \$95 per election.

10 Addressing the poll worker
11 shortage is the fiscally responsible move
12 for the City. Since the shortage has
13 begun reaching critical levels, we have
14 been forced to deploy full-time and
15 temporary staff to work the polls. They
16 are paid much more than the elected board
17 workers. Last election we deployed 86
18 staff members to cover polling places
19 throughout the City, costing over \$16,000
20 in regular and overtime pay. These
21 employees were paid an average of \$191.68
22 for the day or \$71.68 more than a Judge
23 of Election would make under our proposed
24 increase. We only had enough staff to
25 deploy just two employees to the most

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2 critical locations. If we had the
3 available staff, the cost would exceed
4 \$450,000 to fill all of the vacancies in
5 this manner.

6 Our employee demographics as of
7 December 2017 are 64 male, 37 female, 51
8 white, 44 African American, 4 Hispanic, 1
9 Asian, and 1 other. The demographics of
10 our recent hires are 5 African American
11 and 5 white. Our department's OEO goal
12 for M/W/DBE contracts is 32 percent. Our
13 department's current level is 42 percent.

14 During Fiscal Year 2018, the
15 Office of the City Commissioners oversaw
16 the 2017 General Election and will
17 oversee the 2018 Primary Election, which
18 is coming up on May 15th. The 210,838
19 voters who cast ballots in the 2017
20 General Election represent a 78 percent
21 increase in voter turnout from the
22 comparable election cycle four years
23 prior.

24 Efforts to modernize the
25 department, increase efficiencies, and

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2 ensure that the election process is open
3 to everyone will continue to be at the
4 forefront of the Commissioners' efforts
5 for Fiscal Year '19. Modernization
6 efforts include for the first time
7 beginning in Fiscal Year '18 the City
8 Commissioners made nomination petitions
9 for committee person available to be
10 downloaded and completed electronically.
11 This is a significant step, not only for
12 the efficiency of the department in
13 processing nomination petitions but also
14 for making the nomination process more
15 accessible. We saw 16.25 percent of
16 candidates generate their petitions
17 online. We are also working with OIT on
18 a system to allow campaigns and
19 candidates to electronically file
20 campaign finance forms with the County
21 Board of Elections. This will cut down
22 on staff time scanning reports to the
23 website, storage space for paper reports,
24 and allow for a searchable database of
25 electronic reports. Additionally, we are

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2 working with the Board of Ethics to
3 enable campaigns and candidates to submit
4 electronic campaign finance reports to
5 both locations simultaneously, cutting
6 down on the current dual reporting that
7 is burdensome to candidates and creates
8 confusion. Our goal is to have this in
9 place in time for next year's Primary
10 Election reporting periods.

11 In Fiscal Year '18, the
12 department fully implemented its language
13 access plan. Language identification
14 cards have been posted in public-facing
15 offices. Supplemental posters and
16 language guides have been distributed to
17 polling places for use on Election Day.
18 Staff interpreters have been trained and
19 the department utilized Language Line for
20 year-round telephonic interpretation
21 services. In Fiscal Year '18, for the
22 first time, all department staff were
23 trained on language access procedures and
24 new public guides were produced in
25 various languages. Also in the second

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2 half of Fiscal Year '18, the department
3 designated a chief integrity officer who
4 is tasked with making sure that the
5 department operates with fairness,
6 transparency, and accountability.

7 The Commissioners instituted an
8 aggressive outreach program in Fiscal
9 Year '18. The Commissioners and staff
10 attended events throughout the City and
11 held information sessions to provide
12 voters with pertinent information,
13 register voters, and distribute absentee
14 ballot applications. Last month we
15 augmented our social media footprint when
16 we launched @phillyvotes, our
17 department's own Twitter page. While
18 many people complain about the
19 participation rate of millennial voters,
20 we are making efforts to reach out and
21 communicate with them where they seek
22 news and information. As anyone who
23 follows our Facebook and Twitter accounts
24 could attest, we are out at events and
25 community meetings every day, many times

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2 attending multiple events a day.

3 Our website traffic continues
4 to increase as we continue to make more
5 and more information available online.

6 During Fiscal Year 2018 to date, our
7 website has served 65,442 unique users,
8 up from 36,341 unique users in Fiscal
9 Year 2014, the last comparable election
10 fiscal year.

11 For the past year, before the
12 Department of State's press release
13 instructing counties to select new voting
14 systems, we have been working with the
15 Administration, OIT, Procurement, Public
16 Property, and the Law Department to begin
17 the process of procuring electronic poll
18 books and a new voting system. This is a
19 very complicated process, as we look to
20 select a system that Philadelphians will
21 feel confident in while exercising their
22 right to vote.

23 Under a normal procurement
24 timeline, a rollout of the new machines
25 would occur for the 2021 General

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2 Election. This timeline meets the
3 Department of State's criteria, while
4 also protecting the long-term interests
5 of the citizens of Philadelphia. We are
6 unsure about what the total cost will be
7 to implement new voting systems, but
8 based on our preliminary conversations,
9 the cost will likely exceed the
10 previously estimated \$22 million figure.
11 We are currently working with OIT on RFIs
12 to gather more information on this and
13 will share with you more information once
14 we have it.

15 We appreciate this opportunity
16 to present our testimony and are happy to
17 answer any questions you may have at this
18 time.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you for
22 your great work.

23 So national level, topic of
24 voter fraud has been a topic of
25 discussion for a lot of years, leading

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2 up, during, and when the person wins.
3 You don't hear about it anymore, but it's
4 an issue that is out there. Can you talk
5 to us about how we can best ensure that
6 there is in fact no voter fraud? I don't
7 think there's a lot here, but just kind
8 of talk to us about that.

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We are
10 fortunate that our current voting system
11 is secure, mostly because it's so old. I
12 know that there have been new stories
13 lately that have never reached out for
14 any of us for comment and instead they
15 made assumptions about our current system
16 to conclude that they're vulnerable.

17 Each machine is a stand-alone
18 machine and not connected to any machine,
19 device or the Internet. The computers
20 that are used to program and read the
21 cartridges are not connected to the
22 Internet and have never in their lifetime
23 been connected to the Internet. Our
24 system is constantly monitored and
25 subjected to penetration tests

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2 periodically throughout the year and
3 before every election.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Okay. So -- Commissioner, were you
6 getting ready to say something?

7 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Yes. I
8 just would like to add, our department
9 works very closely with the District
10 Attorney's Office. So after each
11 election, we make referrals to the
12 District Attorney's Office for follow-up
13 investigation and, when warranted,
14 charges. So in the last -- regarding
15 sort of anecdotal voter fraud, individual
16 cases, a person or an Election Board,
17 something like that. In the last three
18 years, I think there have been about 12
19 indictments and ten guilty pleas for
20 either voter fraud or election
21 fraud-related activities, and they sort
22 of range a certain spectrum. But we work
23 closely with the DA's Office whose job it
24 is to enforce the law and they've taken
25 our referrals seriously.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Right. So it kind of sounds like the
4 benefits of having older machines, more
5 antiquated technology actually kind of
6 prohibits our good friends -- or
7 somebody's good friends on the other side
8 of the earth; i.e., the Russian, whomever
9 you want to call that, ability to hack
10 our machines and to impact our elections,
11 but if we had, I guess, the best
12 technology available, it's a stronger
13 possibility to hack into those machines?

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: And the
16 machines we have are old and there's,
17 like Commissioner Deeley said, advantages
18 to that in terms of their vulnerability
19 to external manipulation. At the same
20 time, they are old machines. Just like a
21 car or anything else, after a while the
22 cost of keeping it going increases year
23 after year. We find replacement parts
24 from cannibalizing that system that's not
25 used in other states or counties where

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2 the machines are decommissioned. So it
3 has gotten more expensive over the years
4 and it will have to be replaced
5 eventually. We've been working with
6 these different departments to get to
7 that point.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Right. Okay. One last question, and I
10 don't know why I'm asking this, but it's
11 come up recently. With respect to
12 write-ins, what are the rules governing
13 write-ins? Because I know there were
14 some recent instances where people wanted
15 to run for whatever office and there was
16 an issue about the stamps or whatever,
17 because in the old days they used to use
18 stickers. Where can the actual stamps be
19 placed in terms of the person going in to
20 use the stamp to do a write-in?

21 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: They
22 cannot remain in the polling location.
23 So if somebody is running a writing
24 campaign, they are actually campaigning
25 for themselves. So they and their

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2 campaign workers would have to solicit
3 the vote from the voter just like a
4 ballot and say, here's my stamp, can you
5 take --

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Outside?

8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Outside the polling place and can't --
11 because I remember back in the day, back
12 in the good old days when I was a ward
13 leader, we actually had the ink pad and
14 the stamp sitting on the table. As a
15 person walked in, oh, don't forget the
16 stamp, you know, boom. You can't do that
17 anymore, right?

18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We cannot
19 do that.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
21 just wanted to clarify.

22 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We do not
23 do that.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
25 right. Okay. Thank you.

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2 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
5 dating myself.

6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: What's
7 that, dated millennial or aged
8 millennial? Seasoned.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Seasoned, right. Thank you.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Greenlee.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you, Mr. President.

15 Just for the record, I think
16 Council President and I are past being
17 seasoned millennials or any kind of
18 millennials at this point.

19 Good afternoon. First, thanks
20 to both of your offices. You're always
21 very responsive to everything when we
22 need help out there, both at my job here
23 and as my political job. You certainly
24 are always very helpful. And I certainly
25 have to mention the veterans that have

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 been helping us for years. Greg Irving,
3 despite his poor choice in football
4 teams, and Tim Dowling, Joe Lynch and a
5 lot of the folks have been there for a
6 long time, really very knowledgeable,
7 very helpful to us. We appreciate it.

8 Commissioner Deeley, I know
9 you've been, because I've been with you,
10 the times you go to the schools to
11 educate the young people on voting and
12 also to do registrations. Do you have
13 any record of how many registrations
14 you've done at these events?

15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I do. I
16 can get that for you. I would like to
17 add happily that we just met with someone
18 at the School District to do a more
19 formal engagement process with the
20 students. So we're looking forward to
21 that.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
23 But if you can get us, that would be
24 interesting to know, because they might
25 be people that might not otherwise

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 register. You put it right in front of
3 them like that.

4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah.
5 We'll get that to you.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But,
7 again, I appreciate you both.
8 Commissioner Schmidt was just out at my
9 civic association last week. He had the
10 easier job. He was talking about this.
11 I had to talk about assessments. And I
12 noticed, Commissioner, you got out of
13 that room real fast when I started
14 talking about that.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT:
16 Immediately after I was done.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I noticed
18 that, trust me.

19 Okay. Thank you very much.
20 Thank you all very much.

21 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Thank you, Councilman.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
6 afternoon, Commissioners. My staff and I
7 would be very, very remiss not to seize
8 this opportunity to offer a huge thank
9 you, because members of our team work
10 exceedingly closely quickly to ensure
11 that we dotted all the I's and crossed
12 the T's for our ballot question that's
13 pending, and we want to give a special
14 salute to Tim Dowling. I mean, we know
15 that he's a veteran, but he jumped hoops
16 and made it happen for us for May 15th,
17 and we don't take that kind of effort for
18 granted.

19 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you
20 very much.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So thank
22 you very, very, very much.

23 And know that we will be asking
24 the School District what are they doing
25 these days when it comes to teaching

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2 civics in our schools. My Chief of Staff
3 and I were just remarking when we were at
4 Philadelphia High School for Girls, we
5 would have known what the City Charter
6 said, and nowadays when we go to speak
7 before young people, unfortunately they
8 simply are not aware.

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: That's
10 true.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So keep us
12 posted on how well you are doing with
13 regards to penetrating the high schools
14 with the work that you do. I know that
15 you were at Girls' High, because I was
16 there when you were there. So thank you
17 very, very much for that.

18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank
19 you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Thank you, Councilwoman.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Green.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
3 Council President.

4 I heard the phrase "seasoned
5 millennial" when I stepped out of the
6 room. I told you I'm going to have to
7 trademark that or get a certain attorney
8 on retainer.

9 Good afternoon. I wanted to
10 thank the City Commissioners for being
11 here this afternoon. Also, Commissioner
12 Deeley, I want to thank you for the work
13 you do out in the field. I know we had a
14 very engaged conversation last night in
15 Mount Airy. That's how we do things in
16 that part of the City. But also thank
17 you for the work in getting out the word
18 regarding voting. I know that's
19 something that the Commissioners do on a
20 regular basis in reference to National
21 Voter Registration Day. I know I've
22 participated at different high schools,
23 Frankford. I know that Councilwoman
24 Brown, alumnus of Girls' High School,
25 which I have to say on the record because

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 both my mother and wife went to Girls'
3 High. But the stuff you do around the
4 City trying to get young people to
5 register to vote at an early age, I think
6 once you get them in the habit of doing
7 it, I think the way I try to articulate
8 voter registration, that this is your
9 first opportunity to be a real adult. So
10 if you get someone to register to vote at
11 a young age, then that's something that
12 becomes part of the annual things that
13 they do.

14 A couple of questions. I know
15 the Council President had asked some
16 questions in reference to voting
17 integrity, and I heard a little bit of
18 your back and forth, but I guess my
19 question -- I know there's been some
20 questions about last year when you talked
21 about electronic polling books and there
22 were also some questions about voting
23 machines. So where are we in that
24 process?

25 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well, as

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2 I said, we've been working with the
3 Administration, OIT, Procurement, Public
4 Property, Law Department to begin the
5 process of procuring electronic poll
6 books and a new voting system. It's a
7 very complicated process. It will
8 involve much more than just simply buying
9 new machines. We have to evaluate all of
10 our storage and maintenance needs, and
11 quite honestly, we are hamstrung right
12 now waiting on the state, because they
13 have only certified one system as of
14 today that would meet the requirements
15 for us to purchase.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. And
17 then also along those lines, how would
18 we -- I know you talked about this a
19 little bit earlier about some of the, for
20 lack of a better word, fake news about
21 the integrity of our voting machines and
22 voting system. Is there a way that we
23 can get information out to the public
24 about how our voting system here in the
25 City of Philadelphia and integrity of

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 that process so we can address some of
3 that information that's out in the media?

4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah.
5 Sure. We would be happy to provide you
6 with some written information. And just
7 to be clear, we're not ignoring any
8 possible issues. We are committed to
9 making sure that our system is secure in
10 Philadelphia and that our voters can
11 trust the results of our elections, and
12 the Department of Homeland Security
13 recently designated election systems as
14 critical infrastructure. So we've been
15 in contact with the Department of
16 Homeland Security, and they will be
17 coming in the summer to evaluate us top
18 down, to identify and correct any
19 possible vulnerabilities, and as soon as
20 we have all that together, we'd be happy
21 to get it to you.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Because once
23 you have that information, it may be a
24 good idea to actually do the engagement
25 in reference to the points of voting

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 maybe using public service announcements,
3 Channel 64, other means of getting out
4 the word regarding the integrity of our
5 local machines, so that way, it can
6 counteract some of the issues and
7 concerns people may have raised based on
8 what they may see in the media.

9 Now, with the new technology --
10 and I know it's going to be a process
11 before we get the new machines -- will
12 there be any means of auditing the voting
13 machines going forward?

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I
15 couldn't answer that question because we
16 haven't seen the new ones, but we are
17 required by law to do an audit, so that
18 will be part of their requirements.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Earlier in
20 your testimony you talked about poll
21 workers. I'm glad you're being proactive
22 about that, because that's something I
23 have a concern. Being a committee person
24 for a number of years and also I was a
25 Judge of Election before I became a

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 committee person in East Oak Lane and
3 I've just seen the number of the
4 challenges that wards have been having
5 trying to get people to serve as a Judge
6 of Election, as a machine inspector, and
7 it's been a harder and harder challenge
8 to get people to fill those positions,
9 and I guess that's one thing we're going
10 to have to try to look at. And I think
11 trying to raise the pay helps, but I
12 think this is something -- there's a
13 means of trying to get more information
14 out there about the benefits of being a
15 Judge of Election or being an inspector.
16 I think that's -- for me that was my
17 first elected position, getting elected
18 as a Judge of Election.

19 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Mine as
20 well.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. And
22 I think it's -- and I'm just kind of
23 brainstorming. Maybe there's ways we can
24 partner with other organizations, maybe
25 some non-profit organizations to kind of

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 talk about the benefits of being involved
3 in that process, especially for younger
4 people who are less seasoned as a way of
5 getting involved in the election process.

6 A few other quick things. I
7 wanted to commend the Commissioners
8 Office for using technology in reference
9 to online petitions, because that was
10 very helpful for various people to be
11 able to get that information online and
12 not have to pick up old-school petitions
13 and then -- you can just go right online
14 for those who are interested in becoming
15 a committee person.

16 And then, finally, there was
17 some work done a few years ago with the
18 Philadelphia Autism Project. There was a
19 group that we funded, a grassroots
20 organization, that was helping people
21 that had learning or physical differences
22 in reference to voting on the autism
23 spectrum. I know they were working at
24 different locations around the City.
25 They were at the Beckett Life Center to

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 basically help -- and they were working
3 with the Commissioners Office, my
4 recollection, of helping people that were
5 on the autism spectrum how to vote, and I
6 think hopefully that's something we can
7 continue working with the Philadelphia
8 Autism Project as one way to continue to
9 let people know regardless of their
10 background, if they have any physical or
11 learning differences, that we want them
12 to be engaged citizens and voters like
13 anyone else. So hopefully that's
14 something we can continue to do with the
15 Commissioners Office.

16 On that, I am done, Council
17 President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Sorry, Councilman. We were talking about
20 the end of the budget process when we
21 have to start making decisions. Getting
22 close. We're getting close.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Taubenberger.

25 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Council President, thank you very much
3 and good afternoon.

4 And Commission Chair Lady

5 Deeley and Commissioner Schmidt, thank
6 you for being here. Thank you for doing
7 what you're doing, because without you,
8 we couldn't conduct an election, not just
9 you but your staff. Also a shout-out to
10 Tim Dowling. Tim is a great guy. I
11 think I've known Tim as long as I've been
12 in this business. So I think it's a good
13 thing, and I think there's something that
14 comes with wisdom overall.

15 The work that you do is
16 essential to our democracy, and as a
17 child of German immigrants from the 1930s
18 who fled the Third Reich, the fact that
19 you can vote and speak out and be a part
20 of something where your opinion matters
21 was always very, very important to my
22 parents. So on behalf of immigrants
23 everywhere, particularly the ones that
24 came from non-democratic areas, I thank
25 you both very, very, very much.

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Commission Chair Lady, I have a
3 couple of questions. If you could expand
4 on the normal procurement timeline for
5 the purchasing and installing new voting
6 machines, and if I could also add into
7 that, I think you mentioned, and correct
8 me if I'm wrong, if I didn't catch this
9 right, there's like an involvement with
10 the state-approved system?

11 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes.
12 Before we can purchase a machine, we have
13 to wait for the systems to be approved
14 both on the federal level and the state
15 level.

16 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
17 Particularly on the state level, is that
18 by statute of some sort or just tradition
19 or what is that? How is that defined?

20 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It's the
21 law.

22 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: It's
23 a statute somewhere?

24 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It's a
25 statute somewhere.

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Okay.

3 I got it.

4 So we're actually now -- the
5 holdup seems to be we're waiting for the
6 state?

7 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well,
8 it's a very long, complicated process,
9 and one of the complications of this is
10 that right now presently there's only one
11 system that's been certified for us to be
12 able to purchase. There are four or five
13 others that are in the pipeline for
14 certification, and we're being told that
15 that would happen sometime in the fall.
16 So until we have a bigger selection,
17 we're really just looking at getting the
18 RFI together, working with the
19 departments on all the other pieces that
20 would have to come into place before we
21 even were able to enter into any
22 purchase.

23 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
24 think that's very prudent and very wise
25 to wait until you have a greater

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 selection.

3 With the Election Board workers
4 being at an all-time low, how do you see
5 the voting technology, the new voting
6 technology, affecting the number of
7 workers that we have?

8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well, we
9 would hope that given ample time for
10 training and instruction for our staff,
11 for our poll workers, and for the public,
12 that we could do everything we can to
13 mitigate any mass exodus of our older
14 poll workers in fear of the new
15 technology. So the last time that the
16 City acquired new voting systems, they
17 spent a whole year training. So we would
18 look at this point, we would look to be
19 able to do the same.

20 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yeah.
21 I think it's important. And actually if
22 you actually take a look -- and I think
23 you know this better than anyone else,
24 but the public ought to know -- is that
25 these poll workers, they're certainly

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 senior citizens or seasoned citizens,
3 however you want to eloquently put it.
4 When I go to vote, I feel like I'm the
5 kid, and that's a good feeling for me,
6 but maybe a bad feeling overall if we
7 take a closer look at that, and we must
8 engage the youth and, therefore, I
9 commend you both very, very much for
10 having your seminars in schools. I don't
11 think young people necessarily know the
12 importance of voting, and you being there
13 personally to help with that process I
14 think is great. In fact, Chair Lady
15 Deeley, I've met you there at a couple
16 sites, and I think it's important. I
17 think it's important from a guy from my
18 perspective who had parents who really
19 loved to vote, because where they came
20 from, nobody allowed them to vote.

21 With the shortage of Election
22 Board workers, in your opinion, if we
23 increased the amount of pay for these
24 Election Board workers, do you think
25 there would be an increase in

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 participation in the Election Board

3 process or are there more steps we need

4 to take?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: It will

6 certainly help. Right now the Election

7 Board workers' pay is, if you break it

8 out over the number of hours they're

9 working for the duration of the day, say

10 they're working for, in reality, 14

11 hours, when you break that pay out, it's

12 actually less than minimum wage. Now,

13 they're not hourly employees. They're

14 paid through our department, but they

15 don't work for us. They are

16 independently elected or court appointed,

17 and we want the best people possible. We

18 offer training. We can't require them to

19 take training, but we offer training and

20 have in the last years found savings

21 elsewhere in our budget to increase the

22 stipend that Election Board workers get

23 for attending the training.

24 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I

25 think that's --

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Because
3 we really want to solve two things. We
4 want to compensate them better and we
5 want them to know what they're doing.

6 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yeah,
7 because they also face the public, and
8 sometimes the public unfortunately -- I
9 hope some of them are tuning in while we
10 speak so they can learn a little more --
11 think they are representatives of the
12 City. I've seen Election Board workers
13 get lists of potholes, problems in the
14 neighborhood, the fact that there weren't
15 enough police, and anything you could
16 possibly imagine that would come to an
17 elected official sometimes goes to these
18 folks that are poll workers, and they
19 need to be compensated better.

20 I thank you both very much. I
21 thank you for what you're doing. You're
22 safeguarding our democracy because you're
23 right there. The whole thing of an
24 election is having the mechanism to use
25 it, and wherever possible that I can help

1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.
2 you get the word out to recruit more
3 people, maybe we ought to get like one of
4 those old military posters, Uncle Sam, We
5 Need You, and I don't think that's a bad
6 idea so we get more people to
7 participate.

8 Thank you very much,
9 Commissioners.

10 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And,
13 Council President, thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you, Councilman.

16 There are no additional
17 questions. I want to thank you very much
18 for your testimony, and see you later.

19 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank
20 you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
22 Committee will stand in recess until
23 Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 at 10:00, at which
24 time we will reconvene in Room 400, City
25 Hall.

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1 5/2/18 - WHOLE - BILL 180162, ETC.

2 Thank you all very much.

3 (Committee of the Whole

4 adjourned at 1:35 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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