

Committee on Appropriations
November 12, 2019

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Room 400, City Hall
1400 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
1:35 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE PARKER
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

BILLS: 190854, 190855, 190856, 190857

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2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Good afternoon. I apologize for the delay.
4 We've had several debriefings happening in
5 Council upstairs, but I believe we have
6 established a quorum. To my right,
7 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. To my left,
8 Councilman Henon, Councilman Brian O'Neill,
9 Councilwoman Cherelle Parker and Councilman
10 Kenyatta Johnson. Having established a
11 quorum, the Committee on Appropriations will
12 now come to order.

13 Will the Clerk read the title of
14 all the bills, please.

15 THE CLERK: Bill No. 190854, an
16 ordinance amending Bill No. 190152 entitled,
17 "An Ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for
18 the six Fiscal Years 2020-2025 inclusive."
19 Bill No. 190855, an Ordinance amending Bill
20 No. 190153 entitled, "An Ordinance to adopt
21 Fiscal 2020 Capital Budget."

22 Bill No. 190856, an ordinance
23 authorizing transfer in appropriations for
24 Fiscal Year 2020 from the General Fund,
25 certain or all City offices, departments,

1 boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue
2 Fund, certain or all City offices,
3 departments, boards and commissions, to the
4 General Fund, certain or all City offices,
5 departments, boards and commissions, the
6 Water Fund, certain or all City offices,
7 departments, boards and commissions, the
8 Special Gasoline Tax Fund, certain or all
9 offices, departments, boards and
10 commissions, and the Aviation Fund.

11 Bill No. 190857, an ordinance
12 authorizing transfers and appropriations for
13 Fiscal Year 2019 from the General Fund, to
14 the Grants Revenue Fund, Aviation Fund, to
15 the Water Fund and General Fund and all
16 other boards and commissions, the Aviation
17 to certain or all City offices, departments,
18 boards and commissions and the Water
19 Residual Fund, all certain -- all City
20 offices, boards and commissions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Thank you. We will start with the
23 Administration with Marisa and then I
24 realize that the airport folks have to go so
25 any questions for the airport and then of

1 course, my Council colleagues will have
2 independent questions for the different
3 departments.

4 And I know at one point, Marisa,
5 you may have to step out for a little bit
6 and come back, so let's start with you.

7 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Good
8 afternoon --

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
10 We're not hearing you. Sorry.

11 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Thank you.
12 Good afternoon, Councilmember Sanchez.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
14 Still not loud enough.

15 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: All right.
16 Good afternoon, Councilmember Sanchez and
17 Members of the Appropriation Committee --
18 I'll try this one.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 You know we're messing with you because this
21 is your first time, right?

22 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: All right.
23 Good afternoon --

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 It's still not -- hold on, hold on.

1 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: All right.
2 Here we go. Good afternoon, Councilmember
3 Sanchez and Members of the Appropriation
4 Committee. My name is Marisa Goren Waxman
5 and I serve as the Budget Director for the
6 City of Philadelphia.

7 I appear before you today to offer
8 testimony on Bill Nos. 190854, 190855,
9 190856 and 190857. These four bills reflect
10 the current fiscal conditions of the City,
11 our expectations for the future and our
12 choices about how best to manage limited
13 resources. The City of Philadelphia ended
14 FY19 with a higher than budgeted General
15 Fund balance in large part due to increased
16 revenue collections from the notoriously
17 volatile Business Income & Receipts Tax.

18 We should all be pleased with this
19 improvement in our finances but also
20 acknowledge that we are starting in a
21 vulnerable place with a weak tax base, a
22 community with many unmet needs, a high
23 level of fixed cost, a Pension Fund that is
24 still less than 50 percent funded and a
25 recession on the horizon. Although our Fund

1 balance is still just over half the amount
2 that the Government Finance Officers
3 Association recommends, with this added
4 flexibility we've chosen to allocate funds
5 to both immediate service needs including
6 programs to reduce violence and to our long-
7 term fiscal health.

8 Given that we cannot count on
9 those revenue increases to incur entirely,
10 we have focused our investments on those
11 with maximum impact. Bill No. 190857 is the
12 FY19 year-end transfer ordinance and it
13 proposes transferring appropriations within
14 the General Fund of \$7.9 million, the Grants
15 Revenue Fund of \$111.2 million, the Water
16 Fund of \$5.1 million and the Aviation Fund
17 of \$130,000.

18 This ordinance is needed to
19 transfer appropriations to those agencies
20 and expenditure classes where shortages have
21 occurred and will allow the proper reporting
22 of the final Fiscal Year 2019 obligations.
23 For the General Fund, the largest of the
24 shortages to be addressed is \$14.9 million
25 to the Fire Department to fully fund

1 payroll, followed by payroll shortages of
2 the Sheriff's Office of \$3 million, \$923,000
3 in the Department of Public Health, \$510,000
4 in Licenses & Inspections, \$379,000 for the
5 City Commissioners, \$365,000 at the Free
6 Library and \$112,000 at the Office of
7 Property Assessment.

8 Some of these were wholly or
9 partially offset by internal transfers from
10 other classes within the Department. All
11 other payroll shortages were less than
12 \$90,000. The ordinance also includes
13 transfers within and between departments
14 with no net impacts. In addition to the
15 shortages, the FY19 year-end transfer
16 ordinance includes \$2.2 million to the First
17 Judicial District per the zero growth
18 agreement between the City and the courts
19 which requires the City to appropriate any
20 surplus in the FJD General Fund budget and a
21 share of the revenue they generate to be
22 sent to the Administrative Office of the
23 Pennsylvania Courts.

24 The higher-than-anticipated Fund
25 balance also enabled additional investments

1 in the City's long-term fiscal health and
2 economic stability through this ordinance,
3 including allocating \$10 million to the
4 Housing Trust Fund, \$20 million for a
5 recession reserve, \$20 million for the
6 Economic Stimulus Fund to support commercial
7 corridor cleaning and inclusive growth. At
8 \$46.9 million in Pay As You Go Capital
9 Projects to avoid borrowing costs and
10 address immediate needs. I'll outline those
11 capital payments in a few moments.

12 Bill 190856, the FY20 in the year
13 transfer ordinance proposes \$66 million in
14 additional spending made possible by the
15 higher-than-expected FY19 Fund balance. The
16 new funding includes \$15 million to the Fire
17 Department to meet payroll needs and
18 purchase EMS supplies and firefighter gear,
19 \$14 million to those with Hepatitis C in
20 prison facilities, over \$10 million for
21 affordable housing in redevelopment of
22 vacant land, including \$5 million for the
23 Housing Trust Fund, just over \$5 million for
24 the Land Bank and \$855,000 for the Office of
25 Homeless Services.

1 There's more than \$5 million to
2 support antiviolence programs through the
3 Managing Director's Office, Licenses &
4 Inspections and Streets Department, \$4.7
5 million for independent offices including
6 City Council, the City Controller and the
7 District Attorney's Office, \$4.4 million to
8 the Office of Technology to support cyber
9 security stabilization of One Philly,
10 security cameras and other projects, \$4.4
11 million to the Department of Public Property
12 to make a payment required under the Gallery
13 Mall Tax Increment Financing Agreement,
14 additional costs for maintenance at the
15 Triplex and adding new sites to the Property
16 Maintenance Contract.

17 There's \$2.3 million for the
18 Community College of Philadelphia for dual
19 enrollment in programs agreed to during
20 contract negotiations, \$2.1 million to cover
21 increases due to exempt staff raises granted
22 in July 2019 to various departments, \$1.5
23 million for Vision Zero and other Public
24 Works projects funded by the Title
25 Registration Fee which must be used for

1 travel safety, and \$435,000 for initiatives
2 in the resilience area.

3 Other initiatives supported
4 include Philly Counts in conjunction with
5 the 2020 census, time clocks and software
6 for Parks and Recreation, funding for
7 enhanced budget communications and
8 engagement, lead remediation at playgrounds,
9 emergency management and insurance premiums.

10 In addition to the new funding, the
11 ordinance re-aligns funding between classes
12 with departments and between departments.

13 This additional funding in FY20 will meet
14 critical needs identified by Council, City
15 managers and leadership and the public.

16 On the capital budget side, Bills
17 190854 and 190855, we're adjusting the FY20
18 capital budget and the FY20 through 25
19 capital program to reflect three categories
20 of changes. First, the award of \$12 million
21 TIGER grant and a \$2 million CMAQ grant that
22 occurred after the FY20 Capital Budget
23 Program were introduced; second, to
24 liquidate about \$3 million incumbrances for
25 funding that was not needed so that it can

1 be allocated to other projects and finally
2 to adjust for the \$46.9 million at Pay As
3 You Go Capital funding allocated in the FY19
4 year and transfer ordinance.

5 The \$46.9 million in capital
6 investments reflects a mix of projects.
7 Ones that had already been planned for in
8 the budget with borrowed funds like new
9 printers for central duplicating. We plan
10 to borrow \$250,000 next year, but now the
11 machines can be purchased in full sweep
12 while avoiding interest in debt issuance
13 fees.

14 It includes projects not included
15 in the approved Capital Budget Program to
16 date like emergency library branch
17 improvements, planned projects where funding
18 needs exceeded the amount already budgeting.
19 These last dollar funds allow us to complete
20 a project without additional borrowing. For
21 example, \$6 million for the Department of
22 Revenues Integrated Tax System replacement
23 which was budgeted with a placeholder before
24 bids were received, and finally enabling us
25 to accelerate projects such as supporting

1 \$12 million in vehicle purchases.
2 Accelerating vehicle purchases results in a
3 younger fleet with less time spent in the
4 shop for repairs and more time in service,
5 helping to shorten response times for fire
6 and police, increasing on-time trash pickup
7 and many other service improvements our
8 communities deserve.

9 Thank you for your input and
10 insights that aided the development of these
11 proposals. We appreciate Council's ongoing
12 efforts to balance support for immediate
13 needs and the City's fiscal health with
14 limited resources. I respectfully request
15 that you report these bills out of Committee
16 with a favorable recommendation and I
17 further request that the rules of Council be
18 suspended so as to permit first reading at
19 the next session of Council. I appreciate
20 the opportunity to testify before this
21 Committee today and would be happy to answer
22 any questions you may have. Additionally,
23 representatives from all departments
24 involved with the transfers are available as
25 well. Thank you.

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Thank you. As I mentioned when we began the
3 session, the folks from the airport have to
4 go. If there are any airport-related
5 questions, if not, then we can release them.
6 No? We're good?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 Okay. So the airport folks I know that they
10 had to go. And then I'm going to -- you
11 have something for the airport? There's no
12 questions so we can move on. The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Henon.

14 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
15 Madam Chair. And good afternoon and thank
16 you for your testimony. These
17 Appropriations meetings are extremely
18 important for not just Councilmembers having
19 the opportunity to hear testimony from the
20 Administration, the various departments and
21 how we function and what we're transferring
22 and for what reasons.

23 One of the ongoing issues that
24 we've been dealing with in the City of
25 Philadelphia, not just recently but over the

1 past several decades is public safety when
2 it comes to our enforcement officers at the
3 Department of L&I. And I had an
4 Appropriations bill amendment that I was
5 going to submit today, but instead, you
6 know, I'm asking for a commitment from the
7 Administration Finance Department and the
8 Commissioner of L&I to make a commitment to
9 see that we have the proper staffing levels
10 for our enforcement officers that are out on
11 the street protecting people and protecting
12 property.

13 We are in -- we are not in the
14 position to change what we do in policies as
15 we do as working with the departments and
16 this legislative body and take away the
17 focus of our core mission of L&I and that's
18 to keep people safe and out of harm's danger
19 for losing life with these most recent
20 collapses. We have an uptick in
21 development. We have increase in permits
22 over the next couple of years moving forward
23 because there is work in the pipeline over
24 the next several years, and I don't feel
25 that -- I think that we can share in the

1 same vision in making sure that we have the
2 proper staffing levels.

3 Our L&I Department are overworked.
4 They're understaffed and I don't want them
5 to lose focus. So I would like the
6 commitment from the Mayor's Office, the
7 Finance Department and the L&I Commissioner
8 to sit down and go over what is needed to
9 budget that in the FY21 budget for next year
10 as we prepare to do so to ensure that I
11 think a lot of concerns that this body,
12 myself and the City have been talking about
13 for some time.

14 I think the time is now and I'm
15 asking for a commitment to do so, so we can
16 share that vision and make sure that not
17 just that we have a meeting, that we discuss
18 it and that we have a plan of action in
19 implementing the increase of enforcement
20 officers on the street. So my question to
21 you is can you commit to pulling together
22 the Administration and coming up with a plan
23 and putting together a budget as we move
24 forward to next year's budget process?

25 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yes, we will

1 commit to meeting with you and developing a
2 plan for the FY21 around that, yes.

3 COUNCILMAN HENON: Great. Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
6 Thank you. And we'll put your letter to the
7 Administration on the record as part of the
8 file.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
11 Thank you. With that, Marisa, I'm going to
12 release you and I'm going to call the next
13 panel on our other -- I don't know if,
14 Councilwoman Parker, if you wanted to say
15 something before we get started with --

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No, they've
17 been waiting.

18 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
19 Okay. Yes, I want to get through them. So,
20 Marisa, if you want to -- we have written
21 testimony from the Department of Commerce,
22 but I want to call PIDC, Econsult Ethan
23 Conner-Ross and then the panels will go as
24 follows, people should set up and cue up,
25 can go through them. So after Anne from

1 PIDC and Econsult, the next panel will be
2 Beth McConnell, Ron Wonderling, Donovan
3 Sterling West from the Chamber of Commerce
4 and Jeff Hornstein. You can go up to the
5 Witness table.

6 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Proceed with your testimony.

9 MS. BOVAIRD NEVINS: Good
10 afternoon, Madam Chair and Members of the
11 Committee. My name is Anne Bovaird Nevins
12 and I am PIDC's Chief Strategy and
13 Communications Officer. I'm here today to
14 provide testimony regarding PIDC's
15 participation in the PHL Taking Care of
16 Business program funded by Bill No. 190857.

17 PIDC is a nonprofit organization
18 created by the City and the Greater
19 Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in 1958 and
20 we focus on driving growth to every corner
21 of Philadelphia. I would like to thank
22 Councilmember Parker for her longstanding
23 support of commercial corridors and the
24 neighborhood businesses that will benefit
25 from the \$10 million funding provided by

1 this bill.

2 Her Ninth District is home to some
3 of the most dynamic and diverse shopping
4 areas in the City, such as North 5th Street,
5 Rising Sun Avenue and Ogontz Avenue. The
6 businesses on these corridors are the
7 drivers of the local economy. They create
8 jobs, build wealth for entrepreneurs and
9 provide critical goods and services to
10 neighborhood residents. Clean and safe
11 commercial corridors help to stabilize the
12 surrounding residential areas and create
13 jobs and taxes for the City. Providing
14 enhanced services to these corridors is a
15 smart investment.

16 PIDC has been pleased to
17 participate with the Commerce Department and
18 Council in the initial pilot of this program
19 and we look forward to working with the
20 Administration and City Council to expand
21 the numbers of corridors that are benefiting
22 from these critical services. Thank you for
23 the opportunity to submit this testimony and
24 I'm happy to answer any questions.

25 MR. CONNER-ROSS: I have copies

1 for --

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 You cannot take his job.

4 MR. CONNER-ROSS: Good afternoon,
5 everyone, Committee Members. My name is
6 Ethan Conner-Ross and I'm Vice-president at
7 Econsult Solutions, Inc., a
8 Philadelphia-based consulting firm
9 specializing in economics and public policy.
10 Our firm has been asked by the Council to
11 study the economic and community impacts of
12 the proposed Philadelphia Taking Care of
13 Business program.

14 Our study focuses on three
15 categories of benefits from the proposed
16 program. The first is the economic activity
17 associated with the direct and spillover
18 economic impact, employee earnings and tax
19 revenue from the program investment. The
20 second is the quality of life impacts on the
21 neighborhoods and business corridors through
22 increased attractiveness, improved public
23 health and public safety and the third is
24 the economic opportunity benefits for
25 building the workforce development pipeline

1 for Philadelphia residents, strengthening
2 and supporting CDCs and community-based
3 organizations and building the capacity of
4 small and minority-owned businesses that
5 perform the cleaning services. And my
6 testimony will briefly review the benefits
7 of the program in each of these areas.

8 Economic benefits were modeled in
9 our study based on an estimated program
10 budget of \$10 million in year one. The
11 majority of the budget is expected to be
12 spent on program operations rather than
13 administration. Most notably, crew members
14 are expected to earn \$15 an hour for a
15 25-hour work week. This means that the
16 majority of the program budget go to
17 Philadelphia residents in the form of
18 earnings for their work.

19 These direct expenditures for
20 workers, procurement of supplies, and
21 administration all have spillover effects
22 within the City economy. These effects come
23 in two types; indirect effects that capture
24 increases and activity across the supply
25 chain and induced effects that capture

1 increases in activity when employee earnings
2 are recirculated as household spending.
3 Economic modeling is used to estimate the
4 size of these effects as they ripple across
5 the Philadelphia economy.

6 Our study estimates that a \$10
7 million program investment produces an
8 additional \$7 million in spillover activity
9 for a total economic impact of \$17 million.
10 This \$17 million is comprised of \$11 million
11 in direct and spillover salary and benefit
12 for workers and another \$6 million in local
13 business income. This activity also grows a
14 tax base, bringing a portion of the
15 investment directly back to the City's
16 coffers.

17 While the activity of the City and
18 community non-profits is tax exempt, the
19 program will generate private sector
20 employee earnings and business activity that
21 grow the tax base for the City wage tax,
22 sales tax and business taxes. Annual tax
23 revenue from these sources is estimated at
24 \$425,000. It's also important to note that
25 these calculations consider only a \$10

1 million investment by the City.

2 Additional funding from private
3 and/or state sources and subsequent
4 investment in future years would have the
5 same multiplier effect, producing additional
6 benefits through a public-private
7 partnership. The corridors and businesses
8 that benefit from this program are the
9 lifeblood of communities across
10 Philadelphia.

11 Our study found that business
12 corridors and neighborhoods outside of
13 Center City account for 173,000 private
14 sector jobs, more than a quarter of the
15 private sector employment in the City.
16 Importantly, these jobs are driven by small
17 locally owned and diverse businesses.

18 More than half of the City's
19 registered M/W/DBE firms are located on or
20 adjacent to a neighborhood business
21 corridor. When business corridors are
22 cleaned in a systematic way, these
23 businesses see a reduction in their cleaning
24 costs. More importantly, the increased
25 attractiveness of the corridor makes the

1 experience more pleasant, which ultimately
2 means more customers and more revenue for
3 these small, local and diverse businesses.

4 In addition, academic research has
5 demonstrated a clear connection between
6 blight and litter mitigation and important
7 quality of life outcomes for neighborhoods.
8 Recent research from Columbia University and
9 the Urban Institute has connected blight to
10 a range of public health outcomes, including
11 chronic illness, mental health issues and
12 opportunity to build social capital.

13 In addition, a team led by
14 researchers at the University of
15 Pennsylvania established a linkage between
16 blight and public safety, including crime
17 and gun violence as well as residents'
18 perception of their safety. Efforts to
19 improve conditions on the business corridors
20 will deliver a range of quality of life
21 benefits to neighborhood residents.

22 Another important objective for
23 the program is to create a workforce
24 development pipeline for City residents.
25 Members of the cleaning crews will not only

1 earn \$15 an hour but will have the
2 opportunity to acquire job skills that will
3 help them advance to new employment
4 opportunities. This model has demonstrated
5 success in other locations.

6 Cleanslate is a block cleaning
7 program in Chicago that's been operating for
8 more than a decade with a focus on finding
9 permanent job opportunities for its
10 participants. The program reported in the
11 most recent fiscal year that retention for
12 these permanent and long-term placements and
13 was more than 70 percent, showing that the
14 program can lead to transformative change.

15 Importantly, as participants move
16 on to permanent opportunities, new spots are
17 opened in the pipeline for more
18 participants. In addition, this investment
19 will help to build capacity for private
20 cleaning firms that will perform the work.
21 This flow of business will enable small and
22 diverse firms to increase their staff and
23 capabilities, enabling them to take
24 advantage of more private sector
25 opportunities. This process seeks more

1 activity in the private economy.

2 In conclusion, each of these
3 elements helps to build a more robust and
4 more inclusive Philadelphia economy, and
5 enhance the quality of life of communities
6 across the City. Thank you to the Committee
7 for your time and your attention.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,
11 Madam Chair. Just for the public record, I
12 do want residents in the City of
13 Philadelphia who are watching at home who
14 are paying attention to this testimony to
15 know that PHL Taking Care of Business is a
16 \$10 million program invested in all
17 neighborhoods in the City of Philadelphia
18 where we are proposing to have 30
19 Philadelphians clean commercial corridors
20 and around commercial corridors in each
21 respective City Council District.

22 I do want to say a special thank
23 you to Econsult for demonstrating that this
24 program is just not worth taxpayer dollars
25 but it makes good economic sense. For the

1 \$10 million investment of City dollars
2 alone, you talk about a \$7 million
3 spillover.

4 Just for the benefit of the public
5 that's listening, when you talk about
6 spillover activity, what does that mean?

7 MR. CONNER-ROSS: Sure. So when
8 dollars are directly spent in the economy,
9 the people that receive that spending turn
10 around and make additional purchases so
11 there would be supply chain activity, the
12 businesses that do the cleaning have in turn
13 suppliers that would benefit.

14 And then an important impact here
15 is household spending. So the folks that
16 are earning a salary off of this work, turn
17 around and then recirculate that money when
18 they go to the grocery store, when they redo
19 their homes, et cetera. So in that way,
20 additional spending is created throughout a
21 number of sectors in the City economy.

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Finally, I
23 want to ask you about this program that you
24 mentioned called Cleanslate, is it?

25 MR. CONNER-ROSS: Yes.

1 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now, you
2 talked about this program having a 70
3 percent, 70 percent, and so, when you look
4 at a program like PHL-TCB, one of the things
5 that Councilman Johnson along with
6 Councilman Jones and all members of this
7 body, we have been looking for tools. And I
8 know, Bilal Qayyum, we're going to hear from
9 you for violence reduction here in the City
10 of Philadelphia. And what would be your
11 response to someone who is saying we don't
12 see how a program like this can help, the
13 workers are only going to be working for 25
14 hours a week and it's only \$15 an hour, so
15 how can you tell us that aside from the
16 wrap-around supports, GED preparation,
17 learning to write a resume, how do you
18 justify that these workers will not be
19 working 40-hour work weeks?

20 MR. CONNER-ROSS: Sure. So we
21 really view this program as an investment in
22 that workforce and in development of a
23 pipeline towards permanent job
24 opportunities, so the wrap-around services
25 that you referenced including job training

1 including continuing education and the
2 ability for folks to develop job skills. We
3 have seen with the Cleanslate program and
4 other examples that when folks are exposed
5 to those opportunities for work, it improves
6 their ability to ultimately find permanent
7 positions through other private sector means
8 rather than continuing on in the program,
9 and that actually has the ability to then
10 open up slots for others to then join the
11 program, fill that slot and have the
12 opportunity to better themselves as well, so
13 it is really a pipeline model rather than
14 considering that investment to be sort of
15 the only income effect here.

16 MS. COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So
17 finally just -- and thank you for your
18 patience, Madam Chair. Just for PIDC, I
19 thank you in your testimony for giving a
20 historical overview about your finding and
21 what it is that you do. And for us, the
22 most creative opportunities presented in
23 PHL-TCB is that private sector contributions
24 are welcomed and we hope to help and work
25 with the private sector in attempting to

1 generate interest from the business
2 community to support this effort.

3 Can you tell us about what gives
4 PIDC the opportunity to receive private
5 sector donations?

6 MS. BOVAIRD NEVINS: Sure. So
7 PIDC actually operates a 501c3 nonprofit
8 organization called PIDC Community Capital.
9 And through PIDC Community Capital, we are
10 able to access private sector funds and
11 deploy those back out to the community
12 through small business lending, business
13 support services like business education
14 workshops or one-on-one assistance for small
15 diverse businesses throughout the City.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So if the
17 private sector was feeling great about
18 making a contribution, could they make this
19 contribution and write it off?

20 MS. BOVAIRD NEVINS: Yes, it would
21 be tax deductible through 501c3.

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
23 for getting it on the record. I appreciate
24 it. Madam Chair?

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 Thank you. Thank you, folks. Any other
2 questions for this panel?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 Seeing none, we will move to the panel with
6 Beth McConnell from the Philadelphia
7 Association of CDC, Rob Wonderling the
8 Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia,
9 Donovan Sterling West, African-American
10 Chamber of Commerce and Jeff Hornstein from
11 the Economy League. Some of you have
12 submitted your testimony in writing so we
13 will ask you to summarize.

14 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 I'm going to ask the following folks to cue
17 up: Delores Smith Robinson from Enon CDC,
18 Bilal Qayyum from Father's Day Rally
19 Committee, Crystal Brown Bradley from
20 Gilben's Bakery and Specialty Sandwich Shop.
21 Proceed.

22 MS. McCONNELL: Good afternoon,
23 Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez and Vice-chair
24 Johnson. My name is Beth McConnell. I'm
25 the Policy Director for the Philadelphia

1 Association of Community Development
2 Corporations. Afternoon other Members of
3 Council as well. We are here to testify on
4 the four transfer ordinances that have been
5 introduced today. I'm going to mostly focus
6 on the PHL-TCB program.

7 These ordinances include boosts in
8 funding for several critical equitable
9 development programs that PACDC has long
10 advocated for. We thank the Kenney
11 Administration and City Council for
12 proposing to strengthen them, including the
13 \$10 million for the PHL-TCB program which
14 would significantly boost commercial
15 corridor cleaning and blight removal in
16 every Council District in Philadelphia,
17 while also providing employment
18 opportunities, and thank you, Councilmember
19 Parker, for championing this program.

20 Philadelphia already has a strong
21 commercial corridor cleaning program that
22 can be built upon to make this program a
23 great success. In 2018, 15 organizations
24 collected more than 19,000 bags of trash and
25 recycling. That's 76 bags of trash every

1 weekday across the City. And many of these
2 organizations also removed thousands of
3 illegal signs, instances of graffiti and
4 other blighting influences on corridors.

5 Thanks to this Council and the
6 Administration funding for that program was
7 boosted just this past year to expand to
8 more than 23 organizations which was
9 fantastic, and that's cleaning more
10 corridors more days and hours and with more
11 adequately paid staff, but even that is not
12 enough.

13 Litter and short dumping can pile
14 up as soon as it's cleaned. In a city with
15 more than 250 commercial corridors, roughly
16 half of which are pedestrian-oriented, we
17 have many corridors that get no attention at
18 all. And also at a time when small
19 businesses face a lot of competition from
20 big box stores and online retailers, we want
21 to remove as many barriers as possible to
22 help them attract customers and give these
23 entrepreneurs a shot at success so that
24 every pedestrian-oriented corridor in
25 Philadelphia should be clean, should be

1 safe, should be well-lit and attractive
2 places to shop, dine and access services.

3 To that end, PACDC is also very
4 pleased to see another \$400,000 in funding
5 in the transfer ordinance for the business
6 security camera program which recently ran
7 out of funds and is not currently accepting
8 applications. And this program provides
9 reimbursements for small businesses that
10 install external cameras and register them
11 with the Police Department. And there's
12 another \$2.5 million in the transfer
13 ordinance for capital improvements on our
14 neighborhood commercial corridors which is
15 also desperately needed.

16 Just in -- I've submitted longer
17 written testimony, but just in brief we also
18 want to acknowledge the new resources for
19 the Housing Trust in the transfer ordinance.
20 I know some of which has been set aside to
21 expand the Philly First Homebuying program
22 which has been championed last year by the
23 Council President, Councilmembers Sanchez,
24 and Squilla and Parker, with the support of
25 all Members of City Council and the

1 Administration, it has been a resounding
2 success since launched in June.

3 545 grants have been awarded for
4 more than \$4.7 million, helping moderate
5 income homeowners to achieve the dream of
6 homeownership. Average purchase price for
7 the homes was \$160,000 which is affordable
8 for a family earning Philadelphia's median
9 household income. And the transfer taxes
10 paid to the City from these new programs
11 offset 60 percent of the grant funds, so
12 that money is coming right back to us. So
13 the program is a win-win and is really
14 helping build household wealth in a changing
15 city.

16 I also want to acknowledge and
17 support the resources for the Philadelphia
18 Land Bank which is critical. And we thank
19 City Council, the Kenney Administration,
20 including the Department of Planning and
21 Development, Division of Housing and
22 Community Development and the Commerce
23 Department for working with us in the CDC
24 community to fund and implement these
25 successful programs strengthening

1 communities and creating a more equitable
2 city. Thank you very much.

3 MR. WONDERLING: Good afternoon,
4 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez, Councilwoman
5 Parker and Members of the Committee on
6 Appropriations. My name is Rob Wonderling
7 and I'm with the Chamber of Commerce for
8 Greater Philadelphia and I'm here today to
9 offer testimony in support of Bill No.
10 190857.

11 Before I continue with my remarks,
12 I would also like to acknowledge a number of
13 individuals that represent Chamber members
14 that have joined us today. They're part of
15 our City Council Connectors program that we
16 launched on your first day of session and
17 many have joined us today in support of our
18 position, in support of the transfer
19 ordinance as identified.

20 As you know, our business in civic
21 communities are very much focused on
22 inclusive neighborhood level small business
23 growth. And in January, our Chamber of
24 Commerce along with other partners launched
25 the Neighborhood Growth Project. This

1 project is just that, it's a long-term
2 agenda to create free enterprise of small
3 business opportunities in our neighborhoods,
4 and it's being executed in partnership with
5 a myriad of grasstops and grassroots
6 organizations.

7 I specifically want to recognize
8 our partners, the African-American Chamber
9 of Commerce who you will hear from
10 momentarily, the Asian-American Chamber of
11 Commerce of Greater North Philadelphia, the
12 Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of
13 Commerce, the Greater Hispanic Chamber of
14 Commerce as well as the Independent Business
15 Alliance.

16 Our Neighborhood Growth Project is
17 built around the recognition that addressing
18 the City's deep poverty won't be
19 accomplished through a single program or
20 policy, but will take a coordinated broad
21 effort across government, business and
22 community leaders. It will require
23 improving public education, public safety
24 and job training. It will require laws,
25 taxes, regulations that are easy to

1 understand when applied equally and
2 consistently.

3 Philadelphia is in the midst of a
4 renaissance that began almost 30 years ago.
5 Its skyline is filled with cranes and
6 downtown buildings with new businesses,
7 workers, new residents. The City is winning
8 accolades for its quality of life. But as
9 your Chamber of Commerce, we found that
10 district by district the analysis of key
11 measures of strength and stability are a bit
12 waning.

13 In fact, I refer as attached to
14 this testimony, Members of this Committee
15 and others in the community have received
16 analysis also conducted by Econsult that we
17 made public a few months ago where we've
18 built a baseline of indices by councilmanic
19 district, by neighborhoods on what is
20 required for future job growth, inclusive
21 job growth, neighborhood by neighborhood,
22 Council district by Council district and,
23 therefore, that's why we fully endorse Bill
24 190857.

25 The transfer is up to \$20 million

1 into the Commerce Department's Economic
2 Stimulus Fund, \$10 million of which would go
3 towards the business corridor cleaning
4 program as previously suggested,
5 Philadelphia Taking Care of Business. We
6 support this program as it will create
7 nearly 300 jobs, reduce blight and litter,
8 help retain and attract business and
9 residents and decrease poverty and crime in
10 our neighborhoods.

11 This program fits in well with
12 part of our policy agenda which called for
13 the creation of a Neighborhood Renaissance
14 Fund where generating operating dollars are
15 put directly into neighborhoods to support
16 small business enterprises, and we think
17 this is a great first step in creating safe,
18 clean and welcoming commercial corridors for
19 our City.

20 We want to commend Councilwoman
21 Parker's initiative. This has proven to be
22 successful in the pilot phase in her
23 District. We look forward to working with
24 all of Councilwoman's colleagues here in
25 City Council throughout and as many

1 commercial corridors possible through the
2 District.

3 As I conclude, I will take note in
4 previous testimony, our colleagues at PIDC
5 in particular noted that there is a role for
6 the private sector and through their
7 philanthropy for this initiative. We
8 support that as well. In fact, in a recent
9 survey of just 50 organizations that serve
10 on the Board of Directors of your Chamber of
11 Commerce, just in the last two years alone
12 over \$95 million of charity and philanthropy
13 has been provided to support neighborhood
14 health, education and public safety
15 initiatives.

16 Can you imagine if you had to put
17 a premium on that philanthropy if it was
18 delivered through the City government. So
19 as has always been the case with this
20 Chamber of Commerce, we stand ready to
21 support City Council on neighborhood growth
22 initiatives both in terms of policy and our
23 philanthropy. Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 MR. WEST: Good afternoon,
25 Councilwoman, Members of the Appropriations

1 Committee. My name is Donovan West. I'm
2 the present CEO of African-American Chamber
3 of Commerce of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and
4 Delaware, an organization committed on
5 serving business in communities of color
6 through access, advocacy and advancement.

7 We support Councilwoman Cherelle
8 Parker's initiative for a number of reasons.
9 Number one, partnership; the investment in
10 the program demonstrates the
11 Administration's participatory partnership
12 with minority businesses in the
13 traditionally underserved segments
14 throughout the City. Business owners that
15 have grown weary from stemming the tide of
16 blight, crime and hopelessness will be
17 encouraged and inspired by this bill because
18 it provides a surely-needed structured
19 capacity coupled with a fiscal and human
20 capital to facilitate and monitor a cleaning
21 agenda that will contribute significantly to
22 the bottom line.

23 Cleanliness, this service provides
24 in this City-wide effort to clean commercial
25 corridors, will reduce blight and litter

1 while improving health and safety for both
2 the business and residential communities
3 alike. Well-meaning business owners cannot
4 clean the whole corridor and often suffer
5 financially as their target market will
6 choose more attractive business corridors to
7 shop.

8 Additionally, due to the blight
9 and litter issue, many potential business
10 owners are apprehensive about developing a
11 site within these corridors or fear of the
12 corridor not being attractive enough to
13 attract the desired consumers. Safety,
14 consumers need to feel safe when they're
15 shopping. A clean corridor will make the
16 environment conducive for a high volume of
17 consumer activity.

18 Additionally, with a 30 team
19 member working in every district in our
20 local by way of being in the community as
21 well, they serve as additional eyes and ears
22 in the community and can provide an
23 additional way of stemming the tide of crime
24 that currently exists. Lastly, with the
25 living wage of \$15 per hour for team

1 members, more families will be positively
2 impacted and less in a situation where there
3 will be poverty-related crimes.

4 Employment, job creation, it
5 reduces poverty within, you know, this same
6 situation it reduces crime. With an
7 estimated 300 jobs local and with living in
8 earning wages, it will function in a great
9 first step by impacting unemployment
10 challenges that most disenfranchised
11 communities are facing.

12 Additionally, the job training
13 program will create a skilled workforce pool
14 for many businesses in light of an
15 industrial industry in need of expanding
16 their business. What does that mean? It
17 means that for many businesses that are
18 developing the workforce, they don't have
19 the luxury of actually developing a job
20 specific skill workforce. This will provide
21 the necessary workforce that they need so
22 that they can actually expand in a very
23 healthy manner.

24 We would like to thank
25 Councilwoman Parker for her leadership in

1 supporting a socially, economically,
2 healthier and cleaner city through this
3 commercial corridors cleaning bill. On a
4 personal note, before the Chamber I was
5 actually COO at People for People where we
6 partnered with Francisville Neighborhood
7 Development Corporation.

8 And through the support of the
9 Commerce Department and Wells Fargo, we were
10 able to actually do a corridor cleaning
11 project very similar to this with Penelope
12 Giles and Francisville. It was very
13 successful. And as you know, that same
14 corridor right now is bustling with
15 activity. So you see a lot of small
16 businesses right now that are developing.

17 The neighborhood is also while
18 it's been gentrified, there's a great deal
19 of harmony as you see the natives in that
20 same neighborhood are participating in
21 higher levels, is very interactive. So
22 beyond the statistics that we're talking
23 about, beyond all the empirical data which
24 you'll actually see is that you can actually
25 walk along the same corridor, this Ridge

1 corridor and see what will happen when we
2 actually implement this bill throughout the
3 City. Thank you for your time, Committee.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
5 Any questions for this panel?

6 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Just one.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 Councilwoman Parker?

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair. One, I want to thank each of
11 you for your testimony and send just a huge
12 shout out to you, Beth, and the PACDC. You
13 guys have been pounding the pavement on this
14 issue for a very, very long time and I thank
15 you.

16 Rob Wonderling, I also want to say
17 a special thank you to you and all members
18 of the Chamber's partnerships, particularly
19 for your PHL Neighborhood Growth and that
20 you've ensured that the activity has made it
21 into neighborhoods outside of Center City,
22 because it can't be neighborhood growth
23 without that. So we want to thank you for
24 your efforts in that area, and to just note
25 for the record that we're going to be

1 heavily relying on the private sector. It
2 won't be a real public, private sector
3 partnership if we don't find a way to move
4 forward together.

5 In addition to that, I was shocked
6 when I read an Econsult's study, and I'm not
7 sure about my colleagues but the study found
8 that corridors in neighborhoods outside of
9 Center City account for 173,000 of private
10 sector jobs, so more than a quarter of the
11 private sector employment in the City. And
12 then they note that these jobs are driven by
13 small locally-owned and diverse businesses.
14 And this was also a kicker, more than half
15 of the City's registered M/W/DBE firms are
16 located on or adjacent to a neighborhood
17 business corridor.

18 When you read those data points,
19 any specific thoughts about that and efforts
20 to reinforce that activity?

21 MR. McCONNELL: That data is
22 certainly consistent with our lived
23 experience as well. And particularly in
24 many of our corridors are thriving and
25 bustling because of immigrant entrepreneurs

1 that have filled vacant storefronts and
2 opened new businesses. More affordable
3 rents on our corridors are opportunities for
4 entrepreneurs that don't have access to the
5 same kind of capital that you might need to
6 open a downtown store and there's also
7 opportunities for folks that might not find
8 traditional employment opportunities that
9 are entrepreneurs interested to start their
10 own business because they're finding locked
11 out of other opportunities. So where we can
12 strengthen and grow and get them from being
13 able to just basically hold on to thrive in
14 our neighborhood corridors requires an awful
15 lot of work, requires a lot of programs,
16 requires a lot of partnership. But if
17 they're not clean and they're not safe and
18 they're not well-lit, we're fighting
19 against -- we're fighting against the wind.

20 MR. WONDERLING: I will just add
21 briefly, we all know in a recent Center
22 District's study, approximately 40 percent
23 of our City residents take jobs in the
24 suburbs. That's a costly endeavor, a daily
25 endeavor, a very stressful endeavor. And if

1 we can grow free enterprise in neighborhoods
2 in the long-term and have this City
3 governing in partnership with this business
4 community to be absolutely obsessed with
5 that notion that every single activity
6 whether it's either regulatory activity or
7 legislative activity is all about creating
8 neighborhood free enterprise opportunities
9 for residents they will remain working in
10 Philadelphia, they'll thrive in Philadelphia
11 and we'll be able to reverse what is the
12 decline of Philadelphia in terms of job
13 growth as compared to our other competing
14 cities.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 Thank you. One --

17 MR. WEST: Let me just add just
18 really quickly.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

20 Sure. Go ahead.

21 MR. WEST: One of the key
22 components that we're not talking about from
23 a business perspective is increasing
24 retention, right, increasing retention and
25 reducing turnover really does impact the

1 City also in a very detrimental way. So our
2 way of development of these local
3 opportunities will increase retention,
4 reduce turnover and then of course make sure
5 that we keep the dollar here in
6 Philadelphia.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
8 wanted to quickly ask, because you made the
9 point about how we operationalize that, and
10 we do have a commercial corridor piece. How
11 has the Administration been talking to you
12 about the existing corridors with this money
13 and then how do we support some of this new
14 initiative and do you see a synergy around
15 growing some of what's currently happening?

16 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah, for sure.
17 We've significantly boosted corridor
18 cleaning contracts just this past go-round
19 with those RFPs which was very meaningful,
20 but still not all corridors are being served
21 seven days a week, not some corridors are
22 this long but we're only able to serve this
23 much. So if we're able to in some places
24 where it's appropriate based on what the
25 local need is and what their local capacity

1 is, we could expand potentially onto those
2 corridors to extend those blocks, extend
3 those hours.

4 And then also sometimes we will be
5 cleaning, for example, one long corridor but
6 not necessarily off the intersection, kind
7 of in the surrounding blocks because there
8 just aren't the resources to do it. So this
9 program could again help build and add onto
10 that, in addition to any corridors that are
11 just being completely untouched at all.

12 It is an issue I think that is
13 worth spending some time thinking about, the
14 capacity building. And I know that's really
15 important because you might have more
16 capacity in some Council Districts than in
17 others to be able to staff up and take this
18 work and get it going, but that is hard work
19 worth doing for sure.

20 And again, where we also -- to the
21 extent that we can be thinking about this
22 program in the larger context of all of our
23 commercial corridor investments where we
24 have targeted corridor management programs
25 where we've been able to deploy storefront

1 improvement programs and others and really
2 thinking about how we supercharge our
3 commercial corridor programs and our
4 investment in community economic
5 development, this is a great step in that
6 direction.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Yeah, and we're going to be looking at as we
9 get into next year's budget is that, right,
10 what is it that we give every corridor,
11 what's the inspirational goal, what are we
12 going to do. I think the Councilwoman's
13 intent is to make this permanent, right, and
14 then how do we learn from it, grow from it,
15 what is the minimal investment that we
16 should make in every corridor so we will be
17 counting on your capacity to help us build
18 the capacity where we don't have it for
19 those smaller groups. That's usually
20 important for us.

21 And for the corridor folks who's
22 been in this game for a while is like how do
23 we really share that experience and
24 knowledge and how do we make sure we set up
25 this program so that it's not as

1 bureaucratic, right, so it's seamless and
2 we're getting as much money on the ground is
3 going to be hugely important.

4 MS. McCONNELL: Just quickly, I
5 forgot to acknowledge -- I want to
6 acknowledge the Commerce Department, that
7 we've been working closely with them over
8 the last few months to talk about that
9 capacity building and how we can enhance the
10 professionalization and the training and
11 skills of our corridor management
12 organization, so I'm really excited about
13 some new work that we'll be doing together
14 in the coming months on that.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 Yeah, I want to welcome you to the African
17 Chamber of Commerce and this work. We were
18 like when you said where you were from,
19 we're like okay, that's where -- we were all
20 here trying to figure out where we've seen
21 him before, so welcome to this platform and
22 this conversation.

23 Rob, I will be hosting a breakfast
24 tomorrow with my community connectors or my
25 chamber connectors because everybody's

1 called and I'm like, okay, we're just all
2 going to have breakfast together.

3 MR. WONDERLING: That's awesome.
4 We appreciate that.

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
6 But I wanted to speak to specifically
7 because I'm going to be on a panel with Paul
8 Levy a little bit to talk about the job
9 growth. You know, one of the challenges,
10 and maybe you from the African-American
11 Chamber, is those businesses that are
12 one-employee businesses, how do we get them
13 to be two and three? If you say one or two
14 things, what is it that we need to
15 absolutely do so that as we move to next
16 year, we'll really make it happen and invest
17 in them?

18 MR. WONDERLING: Right, and I
19 appreciate the question. And you and I have
20 had this conversation both in public forums
21 and other means. And again, thanks for
22 taking the time with our Council connectors.
23 We really appreciate it.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 They're my constituents, right. I got to --

1 MR. WONDERLING: So I don't think
2 it's that difficult. I just think it comes
3 down to fortitude. One, as we have talked
4 about, it's just too darn hard to open and
5 expand a for-profit free enterprise or a
6 not-for-profit organization in the City of
7 Philadelphia. Larger organizations might
8 have the resources to do so. Smaller
9 organizations do not. And so, we should be
10 maniacal about making it really, really easy
11 to start and expand particularly a small
12 business in the City of Philadelphia.

13 It should happen quickly with
14 money-back guarantees in less than two
15 months is the current global benchmark
16 according to the World Bank. Second, and I
17 know Councilman Domb is keenly interested
18 with rising revenues. The next forecast
19 around the completed census will probably
20 show another uptick in our population such
21 that we do think the time is right to
22 accelerate wage and business tax reductions
23 for all citizens.

24 Wage tax reduction helps the union
25 carpenter as much as the software engineer

1 as much as the sole entrepreneur that's
2 currently running a business out of their
3 home and moving on to a commercial corridor,
4 and of course, business taxes have been a
5 perennial issue for many, many years, not so
6 much for the big large publicly traded
7 organizations, but for small shopkeepers,
8 entrepreneurs and mom and pop enterprises in
9 our neighborhoods.

10 And then finally, and I think
11 Donovan really touched on it, we're at a
12 unique moment where we have so much
13 opportunity to hire locally, to train
14 locally, to retain locally regardless of
15 one's station in life and one's zip code.
16 We're fully committed to working on a myriad
17 of programs privately led, closet publicly
18 led, led by the not-for-profit committee or
19 the government to make that so.

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
21 from 157 steps to what are we going, Rob,
22 come on?

23 MR. WONDERLING: Oh, I think we
24 would be done in 10 steps or less.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We

1 should be at 10 steps so --

2 MR. WONDERLING: With the money
3 back guarantee --

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 You want a 90 percent reduction in the
6 bureaucracy. Take the challenge. Let's
7 take the challenge, come on.

8 MR. WONDERLING: There are plenty
9 of large metropolitan regions around the
10 world where that's the case today.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

12 Yeah, I appreciate it and I do think that
13 again part of the investment by Council in
14 these departments, thanks to the advocates
15 and the stakeholders for the work that they
16 do is really how do we build in those
17 efficiencies to make it happen.

18 It is mind-boggling what it takes
19 to run a business and we do have to do more
20 and that's why we count on our chambers to
21 help us do that and we look forward to that.
22 Thank you for coming today. We appreciate
23 your testimony. Then next, our final panel
24 on this -- oh, excuse me. Councilman Domb
25 has a question. Sorry.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair, and thank you for your testimonies.
3 This came out of, Rob, your testimony. You
4 said 40 percent of our population commutes
5 to a job in the suburbs every day, which I
6 think the number is 211,000 so 4 to 10
7 people leave the City to go to a job in the
8 suburbs.

9 If you had the ability to change
10 that dramatically -- because we have the
11 talent in the City. We have the talent.
12 How can we change that so they're not
13 commuting to the jobs and we bring those
14 companies back into the City? You mentioned
15 wage and business taxes, but are those the
16 two key pieces?

17 MR. WONDERLING: As the Chair
18 indicated and she's been very adamant in
19 trying to make it easier to start a
20 business, just in terms of time, I think
21 depending on the type of business you have
22 and what neighborhood you live in the City
23 of Philadelphia, it will take a year or a
24 little over two years to start a business.
25 Time is money and you make a decision to

1 move that or start that enterprise outside
2 of the City.

3 I also think that we're at an age
4 that so much can happen in the global
5 economy behind our control. And so, we just
6 have to be vigilant around a public policy
7 agenda. It takes into consideration that
8 the best thing we can do to solve poverty
9 over the long-term for people in the City is
10 to give people an opportunity to thrive in a
11 job that's being driven by the
12 non-governmental sector.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right.
14 Thank you. Thank you very much.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 Thank you. Okay. Thank you folks again for
17 your testimony and the collaboration. This
18 is going to be an ongoing conversation and
19 we look forward to it as we enter the new
20 year. To close out this conversation, we
21 have -- I just want Delores Smith Robinson,
22 Bilal Qayyum, Crystal Brown Bradley.

23 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: As
25 they come up, for the record we have written

1 testimony by Michael Rashid of MECCA
2 Childcare Academy, Pearl Wang-Herrera from
3 Oxford Circle, Alex Balloon for Tacony
4 Community Development Corporation, Eugene
5 Desyatnik from Bella Vista Neighbors
6 Association and the African Cultural
7 Alliance of North America, Inc. I think the
8 Council will make sure that every single
9 part of the City was represented and they
10 have skin in the game so we appreciate that
11 and thank you very much. Oh, Jeff. I
12 forgot about you. I'm sorry. I will let
13 Jeff go first. I'm sorry.

14 MR. HORNSTEIN: It's okay. It's
15 always great to be here. Good afternoon,
16 Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez, Members of the
17 Committee on Appropriations. I'm Jeff
18 Hornstein, Executive Director of the Economy
19 League of Greater Philadelphia. We are an
20 110-year-old nonpartisan, independent think-
21 and-do-tank supported by a Board of nearly
22 60 area enterprises representing a true
23 cross-section of our region's economy.

24 We reduce high-quality,
25 independent intelligence for the sole

1 purpose of helping policy makers and civic
2 leaders make data-informed decisions. The
3 question at hand from our point of view is
4 whether the proposed transfer of \$10 million
5 for the proposed business corridor cleaning
6 program PHL Taking Care of Business,
7 PHL-TCB, is a good deal for taxpayers.

8 While there is no doubt that the
9 program's primary objective addressing
10 litter and blight on the City's commercial
11 corridors is of great value and I have lived
12 in Queen Village where there's a fantastic
13 commercial corridor cleaning. PHL-TCB is
14 also being promoted as a jobs and economic
15 development program. Thus, we must consider
16 its economic impact and whether the benefits
17 will be sufficient to justify the \$10
18 million cost.

19 I should note that as a 501c3
20 nonpartisan public charity, the Economy
21 League is not taking an advocacy position on
22 this proposal. It's our role to follow the
23 facts where they lead. And in this case,
24 since there are no arm-length facts or data
25 for us to analyze yet, since our colleagues

1 at Econsult Solutions have been retained and
2 done an excellent job on the economic impact
3 projections, as an organization founded to
4 promote shared prosperity in the City and
5 the region, it's our role in this hearing to
6 put a few questions on the record that may
7 serve as guideposts to evaluate the program
8 after it's been implemented.

9 So according to the brochure
10 produced -- the excellent brochure produced
11 by Councilmember Parker's office, PHL Taking
12 Care of Business is a newly proposed city-
13 wide business corridor cleaning program in
14 which every Council District will receive 30
15 on-the-job trainees, each paid a living
16 wage.

17 The brochure also states that the
18 funding will flow from the Commerce
19 Department to a third-party entity PIDC,
20 which will issue RFPs and/or contract with
21 CDCs and other neighborhood-based
22 organizations and they will hire either
23 inhouse or contract with a professional
24 cleaning firm. As for the workers
25 themselves, the brochure states that for the

1 roughly 300 trainees hired, the only
2 qualifications are if they show up on time
3 and be ready to work. Trainees will each
4 work about 25 hours a week and be paid a
5 living wage of \$15 an hour.

6 Trainees will be trained as
7 they're getting paid and will also receive
8 additional wrap-around supports. Our
9 questions really derive from PHL-TCB's
10 stated goals to serve as both an employment
11 program and as a driver of small business
12 growth. They revolve around three things,
13 job quality, career pathways and small
14 business development.

15 First, are these quality jobs. By
16 our standards, a quality job provides a
17 family-sustaining income. Paying adults \$15
18 an hour for 25 hours a week with no benefits
19 produces an income well below \$20,000 a
20 year, hardly enough to sustain a single
21 person, let alone a family. By contrast,
22 the unionized janitor working under 32BJ
23 city-wide collective bargaining agreement for
24 example, earns significantly more per hour,
25 is guaranteed more hours per week and has

1 benefits.

2 It's hard to imagine that there
3 are only 25 hour's worth of work a week in
4 cleaning commercial corridors. Granted the
5 program calls for wrap-around services in
6 some degree of civil preference for those in
7 the program, but with this level of taxpayer
8 investment, we would like to ensure that
9 these are truly quality jobs.

10 Second, what is the career
11 development program, how the trainees get
12 beyond street cleaning jobs if that is their
13 desire. Perhaps there's a way to make these
14 35 or 40-hour positions by including paid
15 skills upgrading, a learn-while-you-earn
16 model. Are there commitments from the City
17 as Model Employer program for one to hire
18 graduates from the program.

19 The last thing we want to see out
20 of this program are jobs that perpetuate the
21 cycle of poverty. Third, the program also
22 purports to support small businesses and
23 entrepreneurs presumably because local and
24 hopeful diverse firms will be given
25 preference for the contracts awarded by the

1 district-level organizations through which
2 the funds will flow. Because the Economy
3 League's work with the Philadelphia Anchors
4 for Growth & Equity or PAGE initiative, we
5 know that the path to business growth for
6 small firms, particularly diverse firms,
7 requires more than just access to contracts,
8 requires access to capital as well as access
9 to capacity building programs.

10 What is the plan to ensure that
11 PHL-TCB is helping to grow small business
12 capacity? Are there relationships built
13 with credible capacity building programs to
14 ensure that our small businesses grow as a
15 result of this \$10 million taxpayer
16 investment? These questions are asked in
17 the spirit of wanting to make sure this
18 program, and I will say personally that I
19 think this is an excellent program, meets
20 its objectives, but also out of a desire for
21 accountability for taxpayer investment.

22 For one, we would like to see a
23 proposed budget for this program. The
24 direct annual labor cost for 300 trainees
25 before payroll taxes and any markup to

1 contractors is roughly \$5.6 million. How
2 will the remaining \$4.4 million be spent?
3 What is the proposed margins for for-profit
4 contractors? Are there funds earmarked for
5 small business development? Again, these
6 are questions that we want to put on the
7 record so that when we look back on this
8 hopefully very successful program, we can
9 have some metrics to measure them by. We
10 look forward to your responses and to
11 analyzing the program's results in the
12 future. Thank you for inviting the Economy
13 League to testify.

14 MR. QAYYUM: Good afternoon, Madam
15 Chair, Councilman Domb, Councilman Johnson
16 and my Councilperson Parker. I'm Bilal
17 Qayyum, President of Father's Day Rally
18 Committee. Father's Day Rally Committee,
19 this year we're celebrating our 30th
20 anniversary. This organization started out
21 of the need of more positive images of
22 fathers, particularly African-Americans and
23 Latino males in the City of Philadelphia.

24 My testimony today is going to
25 be -- is personal. In 2006 when I was 60

1 years old, I took a walk to Harrisburg. It
2 took me six days walking and I walked under
3 the banner Jobs Not Guns. And along with me
4 was two other men that walked with me, but
5 we also had a big SUV that followed us, and
6 on the side of the SUV was a big banner
7 saying Jobs Not Guns.

8 An interesting thing was we were
9 going from city to city to city. And the
10 more we left Philadelphia, the more rural it
11 came. And along the highway, it was very
12 interesting. These bubble trucks would be
13 passing us with gun racks on these trucks
14 and they would beep and give me a thumb
15 sign. So they was like, wow, what is this
16 about with these bubble trucks and these gun
17 racks.

18 So every time we stopped along the
19 route to getting something to eat, had an
20 opportunity to talk to a lot of these
21 gentlemen. Most of them were gentlemen.
22 And what they shared with me was they
23 disagreed with my discussion or discussion I
24 had with them about gun legislation, but
25 they all agreed with me for the need of

1 jobs.

2 And I also found out in that walk
3 going to these rural areas, there was a high
4 number of suicides among young white males
5 that we don't hear about in the City of
6 Philadelphia. And the suicide was based on,
7 they didn't see the opportunities for them
8 to get employment because the economy has
9 changed. So it gave me a new look, a new
10 thought pattern about how important a job
11 is.

12 So this bill I am totally behind
13 supporting it because I understand how a job
14 is. I'm lucky. I've worked all my life. I
15 had a job all my life. I worked in
16 government as a lot of you know, but I have
17 a lot of friends who don't work. And I
18 talked to them and the psychological
19 problems that they're going through.

20 One friend in particular called me
21 up one night and he was talking about his
22 wife done lost her job and when he came home
23 from work, she was in a closet in the house
24 crying because she had been working all of
25 her life and she lost her job. Luckily, the

1 support system he had with her was able to
2 get her beyond that point, because she felt
3 worthless.

4 She felt like she had no pride in
5 herself because she wasn't working. When
6 she started working again, she turned back
7 to the way she was before, a joyful and
8 loving person. So I'm saying that to say
9 this, it's very interesting and I got to pat
10 my colleague next to me, people are not
11 working. I always question about job
12 programs of people who are not working.

13 We need to get people to work.
14 When I stop at Broad and Olney and I see
15 those Black men working cleaning up and I
16 stop and talk to them, they are proud men.
17 They are glad they are working. Yes, should
18 they be making money, yes. Should they have
19 benefits, yes. But in America, the Labor
20 and Statistics when you hear our crazy
21 President, and I was getting ready to say
22 something else, we're talking about the high
23 number of Black folks working higher than
24 before, what he doesn't tell you is that all
25 the national statistics and the latest

1 employment statistics coming out of
2 Washington shows that the growth in the
3 Black community among jobs is among Black
4 women, but they're being paid less.

5 Guess what, the one population in
6 America now whose job number has not
7 decreased but has increased are Black males,
8 so a program like this can help address
9 this. We should be sitting here talking not
10 about \$10 million, why can't we do \$20 or
11 \$30 million. Instead of 300 jobs, we need
12 to talk about 1200 jobs, 1500 jobs. We have
13 to talk about jobs.

14 Tying it into the violence,
15 everybody knows for over 40 years I've been
16 involved trying to reduce violence in this
17 City. People don't realize when we had gang
18 deaths of 90 gang deaths per year in the
19 City of Philadelphia when I worked at the
20 House of Umoja when we brought gang deaths
21 from 90 to 100 a year to 0 in 1979, a lot of
22 folks don't know that we were able to
23 negotiate with the gang members,
24 particularly the leadership to stop the gang
25 war in the City of Philadelphia because one

1 of the tools we had was we were able to work
2 with agencies in the private sectors to get
3 them jobs.

4 So if we get folks jobs, I am
5 totally -- it's not going to solve all of
6 the violence problem in the City of
7 Philadelphia. It's not going to solve all
8 of the shootings in the City of
9 Philadelphia, but I believe totally over the
10 years looking at what's going on in
11 Philadelphia, what we did in this City
12 across the country, we can reduce violence
13 in the City of Philadelphia.

14 So I know that my Councilwoman
15 Parker did not intend to create this bill to
16 be a job bill that reduces violence, but
17 thank God she's introducing this bill. And
18 I'm saying that getting these young men to
19 work and getting young women to work that
20 don't have those opportunities can be a
21 violence reduction program.

22 I will end by saying that a good
23 friend of mine who's an economist told me a
24 couple of weeks ago, Bilal, when private
25 sector -- and I hope the private sector

1 folks and Chamber folks are still here
2 listening to me, when they don't step up and
3 provide employment, then government has to
4 step up and provide employment. And this
5 bill is a step forward to me providing that
6 effort.

7 We have too many young folks in
8 the City of Philadelphia who don't have
9 hope, don't have belief that this system is
10 going to work for them because they don't
11 see opportunities, and we have to break that
12 cycle. This is one bill, I believe, that
13 can help be the first step. Yes, it's not
14 perfect. As all bills, you always got to
15 work out the cranks, but I'm here
16 supporting, totally my support for Bill
17 190650(sic).

18 MS. SMITH ROBINSON: Good
19 afternoon. These are my written testimony.
20 My name is Delores Smith Robinson and I am
21 the Program Coordinator of the Enon Coulter
22 Community Development Corporation. Before I
23 begin my testimony, I'd like to thank
24 Chairwoman Sanchez and Councilwoman Cherelle
25 Parker for inviting the CDC to the

1 Appropriations Committee hearing to explain
2 the success and benefits of the trilateral
3 partnership for Ninth District community.

4 This project is a partnership
5 between the Enon Coulter Community
6 Development Corporation, the Office of Ninth
7 District Councilwoman Cherelle Parker and
8 the City of Philadelphia Commerce Department
9 to maintain clean and safe corridors in the
10 Ninth District neighborhoods in order to
11 enhance the quality of life providing
12 employment and entrepreneurial opportunities
13 for local residents.

14 Our cleaners are providing daily
15 trash removal, removing vegetation and
16 overgrowth, reporting incidents of short
17 dumping for immediate removal and finally
18 maintaining overall cleanliness on
19 neighborhood commercial corridors throughout
20 the Ninth District community. The project
21 also includes a commercial corridor branding
22 initiative which will involve the
23 installation of banners along light posts
24 and wrapping big belly trash cans with the
25 same design.

1 Tentatively scheduled to begin
2 December of 2019, the branding initiative
3 will support the overall economic
4 development goals for the Ninth District
5 corridors including increasing pedestrian
6 traffic and greater economic activity for
7 local businesses. In the near future, the
8 CDC will schedule community engagement
9 meetings to discuss ideas for the banner
10 designs.

11 Enon Tabernacle Church's mission
12 is to offer families a Christ center
13 biblically-based ministry that is
14 educational and angelical, inspirational and
15 combative of negative forces in our
16 community. This project advances our 2019
17 theme of valuable life in the Scripture
18 Romans 12:2, which means to be on one accord
19 and establish cooperative relationships
20 throughout the community.

21 We are always seeking ways to
22 extend our mission's ministry to help our
23 City and local communities. We believe in
24 active community service and this is an
25 opportunity to support surrounding

1 communities, local small businesses and
2 entrepreneurialship. And re-entry services
3 such as our Uplift Program where we have
4 partnered with Shoprite and the local
5 workforce development.

6 10 percent of Enon's tithes go to
7 community organizations. This cleaning
8 project is an extension of Enon's commitment
9 to supporting the community. Enon East is
10 located at 2800 Cheltenham Avenue,
11 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the Ninth
12 District and we have several members who
13 live, work, own businesses or attend school
14 in the Council District.

15 As part of our outreach, we
16 believe our projects must be community-based
17 and that neighbors should be able to see
18 what the church is doing and feel the
19 impact. We want to be good partners in the
20 City's effort to support our local economy
21 and elevate the quality of life for
22 community residents.

23 In order to realize her vision of
24 strengthening the commercial corridors in
25 the District, Councilwoman Parker wanted to

1 partner with the community CDC to maintain
2 clean and safe corridors, aware of Enon's
3 commitment to mission's work, including the
4 work of the CDC. She approached us to seek
5 our assistance in overseeing this important
6 effort.

7 The Commerce Department requires
8 that this work be led by a viable community
9 organization and there are a few providing
10 this service in the Northwest section of the
11 City. The success of this pilot is
12 important to the CDC and Enon Tabernacle
13 Baptist Church and we understand the
14 initiative may lead to additional funding to
15 support future commercial corridor projects.

16 We've seen the benefits of the
17 success, public private partnerships with
18 the recent Vernon Road corridor
19 revitalization project. Through this
20 initiative, we will help maintain
21 improvements along Vernon Road and other
22 corridors in the Ninth District.

23 We know that projects are
24 successful when cities partner with
25 community development groups to enhance

1 existing municipal services and to provide
2 additional services that address needs
3 identified by the community. The Enon
4 Coulter CDC has contracted with TWB Cleaning
5 Contractors, a Black-owned and woman-owned
6 local business to provide the corridor
7 maintenance and public space cleaning
8 services.

9 Enon Coulter CDC is a separate and
10 distinct entity from the Enon Tabernacle
11 Baptist Church and is led by a separate
12 board and directors. The corridors
13 currently being serviced by TWB Enterprises
14 include the Broad and Olney business
15 corridor which starts at Taber Road and goes
16 to Champlost Avenue. It also includes
17 Spencer Street to Goddfrey Avenue.

18 Broad Street starts at Wyoming
19 Avenue to Wagner Avenue, Old York Road,
20 upper and lower, Ogontz Avenue, Stenton
21 Avenue, Vernon Road, Wadsworth Avenue,
22 Washington Lane and Cheltenham Avenue. The
23 banner initiative will be -- the banners
24 will be posted on Wadsworth Avenue, Ogontz
25 Avenue, Stenton Avenue and Washington Lane.

1 Funding for this project was
2 provided by the Ninth District Councilwoman
3 Cherelle Parker, the City of Philadelphia
4 Commerce Department and the Einstein
5 Healthcare Network, additional partners
6 including State Senator Art Haywood. The
7 impact of this initiative is as follows:
8 It's building in supporting local workforce,
9 creating employment opportunities for local
10 residents, recruitment and hiring of
11 re-entry citizens contributing to local and
12 economic development efforts and economic
13 stability by maintaining clean, safe and
14 vibrant commercial corridors, which enhances
15 neighborhoods, attracts businesses,
16 eliminates blight, ensures safe passage by
17 pedestrians and enhances public service,
18 especially in low and moderate income
19 communities supporting neighborhood-based
20 small businesses. It also supports a Black
21 and woman-owned local business.

22 Trina W. Benjamin is the President
23 of the TWB Cleaning Enterprise, LLC and
24 she's been hired to provide cleaning
25 services. Trina is committed to building a

1 skilled workforce and emphasizes leadership
2 development and customer service when
3 training her employees.

4 Ms. Benjamin prioritizes the
5 hiring of re-entry citizens and residents of
6 the Ninth District. Finally, increasing
7 Enon's visibility throughout the community
8 and promoting our commitment to supporting
9 local neighborhoods and small businesses
10 through our mission to work, Enon is listed
11 as a sponsor on the cleaning uniforms and
12 press materials.

13 In conclusion, I'd like to thank
14 you for your time, attention and interest in
15 the Ninth District commercial corridor clean
16 and green initiative. Thank you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

18 Thank you so much and thank you so much for
19 your patience. I want to thank all of the
20 departments. I don't know if Councilwoman
21 Parker wanted to add anything as we close
22 out this -- oh, we have one more. Oh, I'm
23 sorry. I apologize. Is that Crystal?

24 MS. BROWN: Yes. Good afternoon,
25 Members of the Committee. My name is

1 Crystal Brown and I have a family-owned
2 business called Gilben's Bakery which is
3 located along Stenton Avenue, a commercial
4 corridor. My family opened the business in
5 the summer of 2017 and immediately we
6 noticed the amount of trash that always
7 accumulated in front of bakery.

8 When it was windy, trash and
9 debris would be dispensed throughout the
10 entire block which kept the area very
11 unsightly and untidy. We found ourselves,
12 along with many other business owners,
13 sweeping in the morning as well as the
14 afternoon. This is discouraging as well as
15 disheartening. We were so pleased when
16 Councilwoman Cherelle Parker implemented the
17 business corridor cleaning program this
18 summer.

19 We immediately noticed a huge
20 difference in the corridor. There was no
21 more trash in the streets or sidewalks. In
22 fact, I noticed people are becoming more
23 conscious of how they dispose of their trash
24 and keep the area clean by not littering.
25 The program is restoring pride and dignity

1 to our businesses as well as the
2 neighborhood. By having regular-scheduled
3 cleaning on our business corridor, it helps
4 me as a small business owner feel supported
5 by the City of Philadelphia.

6 And last but not least, I hold in
7 my hand many testimonies of business owners
8 along Stenton Avenue expressing their
9 support and their wholehearted gratitude to
10 Councilwoman Cherelle Parker for
11 implementing this cleaning program, so I
12 would like to enter them in for testimony.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

14 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,
16 Madam Chair. I want to thank you and all
17 Members of the Committee for their patience.
18 I just want to state for the record that
19 Crystal is here, you just heard from her,
20 from Gilben's Bakery. But she did not just
21 come with her testimony alone. She has
22 handwritten letters, Councilwoman, so let's
23 just talk about, Councilman Johnson, when a
24 small business owner does some work of all
25 of the business owners that are on her

1 commercial corridor. If you ever try to
2 leave the Ninth Council District, I will
3 stalk you, Crystal.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
5 Well, she can expand.

6 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: She can do
7 that. She can do that. To Enon, thank you
8 also very much for your help. Please
9 regards to Pastor Waller and all members of
10 the Enon CDC team. Without your
11 partnership, we don't make this possible.
12 Bilal Qayyum, I'm glad you took that six-day
13 walk and you had that experience. And I
14 thank you for the work that you do on the
15 ground helping our young people.

16 And Ashley was one of the very
17 first people I want to -- the second person
18 outside of my staff who I had spoken to when
19 we were working on getting the pilot of
20 starting this. I want to thank you for your
21 confidence and thank you for being here to
22 testify.

23 To my good friend Jeff, we wanted
24 you here because of your perspective. I
25 appreciate your noting on the record that we

1 do need to create "good jobs" and as a
2 passionate advocate for retirement security,
3 something that I've been an advocate for
4 since my tenure in the PA General Assembly.

5 There is nothing more important to
6 me than moving a person toward self-
7 sufficiency than a living wage, access to
8 health care and retirement security.

9 However, as Councilwoman Sanchez,
10 Councilmember Johnson and I were just
11 sharing up here, especially when you heard
12 in Enon's testimony that the owner of the
13 small business specifically focuses on those
14 who are coming back to neighborhoods, so the
15 constituency that we're talking about, the
16 barriers to access and the barriers to entry
17 for them have at times seemed so
18 insurmountable to pass and when they're
19 trying to build a resume so that one day or
20 go back and get a GED or get some training
21 skills so that they can pass that Civil
22 Service test or so that they can become
23 members of SEIU 32BJ or the Laborers
24 District Council or District Council 33.

25 I mean, ultimately that's where we

1 would like all of our people to be. But if
2 this is going to give them immediate access
3 with the only barrier being your willingness
4 to get up and go to work with all that our
5 City is facing, it's definitely worth a try.
6 In addition to that, I was really
7 encouraged, Crystal, by the letters with all
8 of the business owners noting that the
9 people cleaning have been on time every day.

10 We think that those soft skills of
11 getting up every morning and reporting to a
12 place are skills that everyone has as if
13 it's standard operating procedure, and I
14 would argue that everyone doesn't have
15 access to those skills. And so, now they're
16 cleaning in front of a business who said,
17 listen, you've come on time, I appreciate
18 you, you've given me some dignity, you've
19 encouraged me to believe that I can make a
20 difference. We have to work through that.

21 I want to appreciate on the record
22 Econsult's testimony and I said to
23 Councilman Bob Henon that although he is not
24 here today, he did submit in writing, Alex
25 Balloon of the Tacony CDC and, Councilwoman

1 Sanchez, you were absolutely right, we were
2 very intentional about ensuring that there
3 were comments on the record from every
4 section of the City of Philadelphia to
5 ensure that this was not something that was
6 just being driven by one region, but
7 commercial corridors that don't have a bid,
8 a lid or a trid, who don't have access to
9 the administrative capacity to complete
10 applications for grants. They are the ones
11 who have not gotten access to this support.

12 So to the Economy League, Jeff,
13 you know you're a very good friend of mine.
14 I think you have one of the best minds in
15 the world and we are going to look to you to
16 continue giving us guidance, particularly
17 after our first year where we begin to track
18 and literally measure that retention rate
19 that the African-American Chamber of
20 Commerce talked about during their
21 testimony, to see how much support we've
22 been able to drum up from the private
23 sector. And we did not mention it on the
24 record, we also have talked to members of
25 the Philadelphia Delegation in Harrisburg in

1 both the House and the Senate and all of
2 them appear to be interested and wanting to
3 see how we can all add value to this
4 process.

5 So I just wanted to say thank you
6 for your testimony. It was important to get
7 it on the record. Madam Chair, we've got
8 100,000 other meetings that are happening,
9 but I appreciate your patience in just
10 allowing us to get through this. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
12 want to thank all of the Administration and
13 all of the Department Heads. We're going to
14 try to get through some of this real
15 smoothly but, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just want
17 to make a compliment commending Councilwoman
18 Cherelle Parker for this legislation, for
19 this initiative. But most importantly, I
20 want to highlight Mr. Bilal Qayyum's
21 comments how this particular initiative
22 addressed the issue of youth gun violence,
23 addressed the issue of rising people out of
24 poverty.

25 And we want to talk about

1 statistics to back up the factual data
2 regarding how in areas of high crime and
3 violence are predominantly areas of poverty.
4 So I thank Councilwoman Cherelle Parker for
5 this initiative, and most importantly,
6 including the whole Council body to have the
7 opportunity to participate because at the
8 end of the day rather it's \$15 an hour or a
9 union job, how many individuals on a day-to-
10 day that just want to get off the streets
11 but don't have an alternative. And so, this
12 is definitely going in the right direction
13 so I just want to highlight that part of the
14 testimony. And thank you very much. Take
15 care.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

17 Thank you. I also want to thank everyone
18 for their patience, leadership in this and I
19 really do look forward to figuring out all
20 the different ways we can leverage this new
21 investment, so thank you all.

22 So we're going to quickly, I'm
23 going to try to move through some of these
24 administrative questions for the Department
25 before we get to the amendments, in

1 particular the animal control amendment for
2 the record with Councilman Domb. I wanted
3 to get the independent and elected officials
4 if they can come forward, somebody from the
5 Register of Wills, Sheriff's, the City
6 Commissioners and the courts. I have some
7 Council colleagues who are not here and I
8 got to put some stuff on the record real
9 quickly. I got to do everybody's business.

10 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
12 can release the people from the District
13 Attorney's office. They got their budget
14 allocation so I think they're happy and they
15 can go. Sorry, I just thought about it. I
16 didn't want to -- you guys are good.

17 I'll start with you, Nick, real
18 quick. Congratulations on the new machine
19 situation. Real quickly for the record, I
20 know as we roll that out, there were
21 questions from Councilman Oh around a
22 language and education. So I wanted to know
23 if some of the transferred money, I know you
24 have some additional salary stuff, what, if
25 anything, additional you need for the

1 education campaign as we move forward into
2 the next election cycle?

3 MR. CUSTODIO: That's something we
4 can get back to you on as we evaluate what
5 we did in this election. We're going to
6 need some funds in order to really get the
7 word out to the voters of Philadelphia
8 before the April primary. We had about
9 300,000 people cast a ballot in November and
10 we have a lot more voting in April.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 There was a last-minute legislation up at
13 the state around mail-in voting and other
14 things. Have you guys began to look at that
15 and what the impact is going to be?

16 MR. CUSTODIO: Oh, yeah. We --
17 not just the mail-in voting part, but the
18 part that makes --

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 15-day registration.

21 MR. CUSTODIO: Yeah, the 15-day,
22 we're going to be meeting with you guys and
23 the Administration to talk about what kind
24 of impact does that have on our budget. We
25 are definitely going to need to address and

1 increase our staff in order to make those
2 new deadlines.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
4 I just wanted to make sure we put that on
5 the record. I know that was kind of last
6 minute things leading up to this. Was there
7 anything else related? I know you guys
8 didn't do the poll book situation. Is there
9 any updates for us on that, that we should
10 be aware of at this point?

11 MR. CUSTODIO: No, the Law
12 Department is handling that right now so.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
14 let me strongly encourage you to work on an
15 aggressive plan and plan for what you need,
16 not what they've given you because this is
17 usually important and next year is usually
18 important for us. Councilwoman --

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No, I
20 just --

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Okay. So thank you. Thank you, Nick, and
23 again congratulations on that.

24 MR. CUSTODIO: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 For the courts, Councilwoman Blondell
2 Reynolds Brown is not here. But one of the
3 last initiatives she worked on was the day
4 care situation in the court and for some
5 reason that has not happened. Is there
6 anything you want to put on the record as an
7 update as it relates to that?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We met with
9 her and we talked about it and the expense
10 involved in it. We've been looking into it
11 because part of it is, is where we put it,
12 how it would be funded. One of the things
13 that we discussed that might be a more
14 practical approach to jurors that are coming
15 in is the possibility of giving them
16 vouchers for day care at their existing day
17 care rather than relocating a child to a
18 different location and then being concerned.

19 One of the problems is in the
20 Family Court building, where there is, in
21 fact, a court nursery. The court nursery
22 not only deals with children who are
23 involved in very difficult custody cases,
24 but also children who are involved in an
25 independency case and are neglected and

1 abused. So the problem is where we would
2 set something like that up and how we would
3 fund it.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
5 want the courts to know that even though she
6 will not be here, it will not die.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We don't
8 have a -- our goal in principle is we do not
9 disagree, which is to get as many people
10 involved in juror duty as we can, the City
11 of Philadelphia and to work towards that
12 goal in the best way to do it. So how we do
13 that, we may disagree but the truth of the
14 matter is we have the same goal and that to
15 the court is extremely important.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Okay. I just want to make sure for the
18 record she's not here today, but these are
19 issues that have been extremely important to
20 her and whether it's our new
21 Councilwoman-elect Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson or the women of Council, we're
23 going to continue to pursue and make sure in
24 the next year's budget we see a plan
25 reflected of that.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

2 Councilwoman, your and City Council's
3 encouragement to assist the courts in
4 getting more citizens in the City involved
5 in juror duty, we are open to and
6 encouraged, so thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I

8 have one financial question. And it may be
9 because they're in separate fiscal years.

10 In your Zero Growth Agreement, you have in
11 excess of \$2 million. But then in our
12 transfer ordinance, there's an additional
13 \$487,000 being given to the courts. Can you
14 reconcile that for me?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll be

16 glad to, Councilwoman. Our actual ending
17 balance was about \$2.6 million. What we've
18 done is taken \$485,000 from our FY19 budget
19 and moved it into our FY20 budget, so the
20 midyear ordinance is actually cost neutral
21 to the City because we're funding this part
22 of this increase with our own funds.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

24 Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much. Is
25 there anybody here from the Register of

1 Wills or the Sheriff's Office?

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 No, okay. Marisa, just for the record I
5 think it's usually important, I don't know
6 what the transition plans are for that,
7 those offices, but I want to make sure we
8 put that on the record, that as these
9 offices transition, their financial plans
10 are hugely important to us. Councilwoman
11 Parker agrees with me over here, so we would
12 like to see some sort of financial
13 transition plan for the new folks coming in.

14 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: We agree.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

17 We'll put that on the record. Thank you
18 very much. Health Department, I have
19 another question for someone -- a Council
20 colleague who's not here. Anybody here from
21 the Health Department? You want to respond
22 to it?

23 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yeah, and if
24 we -- and the Commissioner is here as well.

25 (Witness approaches Witness

1 Table.)

2 COUNCILWOMANQUINONES-SANCHEZ: As
3 Dr. Farley comes up to the table,
4 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Browns in her
5 work and her legacy around lead, there was
6 in fiscal year 20, a \$200,000 allocation for
7 pilot program for landlords. Her
8 understanding is the money is there. It's
9 being used for some other things. We want
10 to make sure that on the record what is the
11 plan for this pilot program and will
12 something be launched this year?

13 MR. FARLEY: Are you talking about
14 the current fiscal year or fiscal year 20?

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 Her understanding is that it was in fiscal
17 year 20. And so, there was a decision
18 internally made and I'm summarizing that
19 that money has been used for something else.
20 We want to make sure that there is a
21 commitment for a \$200,000 pilot as part of
22 her legislation to assist landlords in the
23 remediation of lead.

24 MR. FARLEY: There is -- my
25 understanding is \$200,000 in the current

1 year's budget to be used for assisting
2 landlords with remediation. And then
3 there's a request for \$200,000 in the next
4 fiscal year's budget to build a database to
5 implement the law that Councilmember
6 Reynolds Brown championed.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
8 is the pilot all for landlords for this
9 year?

10 MR. FARLEY: The database isn't
11 working.

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Okay. I'm
13 sorry. So I think our understanding is the
14 flip. We need the database first and then
15 the pilot. So the database is in the
16 process of being built, should be done early
17 FY21 and that's where the first \$200,000 is,
18 and then the expected \$200,000 for FY21
19 would be to then once there's the database
20 which is the prerequisite to be able to
21 administer the program through that pilot.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Okay. So if we can get that updated and put
24 it on the record for her.

25 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yes.

1 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Thank you. That's for the Health
4 Department. Let me go through this list.
5 Housing, I know Anne has been waiting so
6 patiently over there for me to ask
7 questions. So one, let me start off, and I
8 know for Councilwoman Parker this was
9 important as it is for all of us, the First
10 Time Buyer program and its success.

11 Councilwoman Parker and I are anxiously
12 waiting on the list, because sometimes I'm
13 ahead and then sometimes she's ahead --

14 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Right,
15 right.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: --
17 and you are not catching up. But in
18 addition to -- so I know the Administration
19 is putting as part of this transfer
20 ordinance additional money. Is that because
21 there's a waiting list? We know we're going
22 to be able to move this money out quickly?

23 MS. FADULLON: So it's my
24 understanding that there was an agreement
25 for the fiscal year 20 budget to put \$20

1 million into the Housing Trust Fund.
2 Initially, we got \$13 million, some that
3 came over. And so, part of this is the \$7
4 million to get up to \$20 million. And then
5 the other \$3 million, it's our understanding
6 it's a million more coming in for our
7 programs and then \$2 million would be used
8 in some way to support homeless housing.

9 So all of the money other than the
10 \$2 million to support homeless housing,
11 because we haven't had a conversation with
12 Office of Support of Housing yet about how
13 they would like to use that money, the rest
14 of it is all committed.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 Okay. Awesome.

17 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: And if I can
18 just clarify, that's in the FY19 year-end
19 transfer ordinance. There's an additional
20 \$5 million for the Housing Trust Fund in the
21 FY20.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

23 Okay. So we can keep spending, right?

24 MS. FADULLON: Yeah, we're going
25 to keep spending, we keep putting it out.

1 As an example, we put out letters I think it
2 could have been Thursday, it could have been
3 Friday of last week of about \$28.5 million
4 to support 9 percent tax credit deals. We
5 hope that we will be as successful as we
6 were this past round. We got about half the
7 tax credits available in the state which is
8 pretty good for Philadelphia. So hopefully
9 we'll get another seven or eight projects
10 next year.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

12 Okay. Good. So I want to talk a little bit
13 about the Land Bank. There's a significant
14 increase in here, so I want to know how many
15 dispositions have we done this year and how
16 many will we be able to do with the
17 additional resources?

18 COUNCILMAN HENON: Madam Chair?

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

20 Oh, excuse me. Is it related to the --

21 COUNCILMAN HENON: The House of
22 Trust.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

24 Oh, okay.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: I didn't want

1 to interrupt. I just have one quick
2 question just to ask while you were
3 explaining some of the programs and the
4 resources that are available for affordable
5 housing. Last year FY19, there was two
6 years prior holdover of \$4 million and \$4
7 million for a total of \$8 million for
8 affordable housing that was to be determined
9 for programming.

10 Has that been earmarked? And are
11 they going towards some of either the
12 programming with affordable housing?

13 MS. FADULLON: So I'll be honest,
14 I'm not exactly sure what the \$4 million and
15 the \$4 million is that you're referring to.
16 We believe --

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: It's \$8 million
18 that we discussed --

19 MS. FADULLON: Well, the \$4
20 million and the \$4 million, right, so --

21 COUNCILMAN HENON: It's what we
22 discussed in length last year.

23 MS. FADULLON: So I would say that
24 based on our understanding of the dollars
25 that we have available, it's all committed

1 other than the \$2 million for the Office of
2 Support of Housing.

3 COUNCILMAN HENON: So if I go back
4 and take a look at notes of testimony and
5 hearing --

6 MS. FADULLON: If you can provide
7 me the exact reference and more specifics, I
8 can --

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Right, only
10 because you just went through real quick
11 which is great --

12 MS. FADULLON: Sure.

13 COUNCILMAN HENON: -- just a
14 litany of allocations and programs briefly
15 as we're leading up to the Land Bank. My
16 concern is sometimes we have a lot of carry-
17 over for certain programmings and it hasn't
18 been actually -- programs aren't in place
19 yet. So maybe offline, you know, I can
20 provide you --

21 MS. FADULLON: No, I'm happy to
22 provide as much detailed information as we
23 can about any of it you have questions
24 about.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: We all too

1 quick, you know, we get out of line
2 sometimes from our big comprehensive plan
3 and I would just want to make sure that what
4 we're doing is we anticipate the next couple
5 of years, you know, that we're doing it
6 responsibly and making sure that the
7 programs that we did commit were programs
8 that are not in place actually come to
9 fruition and then we're leveraging the same
10 dollars instead of re-allocating.

11 MS. FADULLON: Yes, yes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
13 think some of that is -- there was
14 \$2 million for counseling and some of the
15 support administrative services. Your
16 Accelerated program, was that like
17 \$2 million and I think some of the Right to
18 Counsel money, so some of it has been -- I
19 think that's what he's --

20 MS. FADULLON: We can -- I can
21 give you an update.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
23 think he needs that update. I think it was
24 some Right to Counsel, Accelerated Fund and
25 the --

1 MS. FADULLON: So Right to
2 Counsel, I think is again -- we're a
3 passthrough for that. That will go into
4 either Gladstein's budget essentially, so
5 that will go there. And the Accelerated
6 Fund, we actually have it established as far
7 as an entity, but now I got to --

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
9 What was the allocation for that?

10 MS. FADULLON: So that was \$2
11 million.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
13 think that's what he -- I think everybody
14 should get an update about --

15 MS. FADULLON: And I mean the
16 programs that we talked about getting up is
17 Philly First Home which is just like
18 wildfire, and the other one that we're
19 working on is shell(sic) rent, probably that
20 will get established for existing subsidized
21 housing. I think there's probably the
22 RFP -- the first RFP will go out in January.

23 And then for potentially a similar
24 program for naturally occurring will
25 probably happen towards the end of first

1 quarter calendar year 2020.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Thank you. So we've made that request
4 officially, update of that spread to all
5 Members of Council will be greatly
6 appreciated.

7 MS. FADULLON: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
9 back to my Land Bank. How many dispositions
10 have we done? How many are we going to do
11 by December 31st?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hi. Angel
13 Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Land
14 Bank, Senior Vice-president for PHDC for
15 Land Management. I'll leave it at that.
16 Fiscal year 19 we closed out the year having
17 done 143 units of housing and that's a mix
18 of market rate and then affordable housing
19 ranging from 30 percent of the AMI up to 120
20 percent of AMI. Do you want me to go
21 through the past three fiscal years?

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

23 No, no. I want to know what are we going to
24 get done for the additional investment we're
25 doing.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For fiscal year
2 20, what we have cued up is 164 units so far
3 for affordable housing predominantly. And
4 then we have 21 side yard dispositions that
5 are cued up and then gardens and open space
6 and business expansions, we have 6 other
7 units, 6 lots that we have cued up so far.

8 And we are consistently putting up
9 requests for proposals for larger swaths of
10 land about 20 units at a time or 20 parcels
11 at a time, specifically asking for mixed
12 income, predominantly a vast majority asking
13 for affordable housing either 120 percent of
14 AMI, but we're leaning more towards 80
15 percent of AMI and a small percentage, that
16 would be market rate which would allow
17 developers to earn some money because we're
18 offering the land without subsidy.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 Okay. Thank you. One last thing, U.S. Bank
21 liens. Part of the discussion has been as
22 we've added money to the Housing Trust Fund
23 as to what we do with this portfolio, any
24 updates on that?

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Currently, I don't

1 have a direct -- I'm not involved in the
2 negotiations with U.S. Bank liens. I can
3 only speak to the fact that we do have a
4 certain number of properties on hold, but by
5 the current acquisition policy we don't have
6 any authority to satisfy those liens.

7 MS. FADULLON: I believe the City
8 Treasurer's Office is negotiating with the
9 entity that holds those liens right now.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
11 Yeah. As you know, I have 1300 of these in
12 my District, a large concentration below
13 Lehigh and they're going up for sale. And
14 so, it is hugely important that as we do all
15 this great work around the subsidy, that we
16 consider how that is going to impact a
17 justification in subsidy.

18 MS. FADULLON: I mean those
19 properties are all throughout the City and
20 often times will impact --

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
22 look forward to that conversation.
23 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson?

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
25 very much. Thank you for your testimony,

1 Anne and Angel. I just had a question. Is
2 there a targeted number of affordable
3 housing units that we're targeting in terms
4 of the Administration or is there an overall
5 affordable housing plan? Like for instance
6 we have a plan for Vision Zero, we know we
7 want so many miles of bike lanes here in the
8 City of Philadelphia, so many miles of
9 protected bike lanes. There's an actual
10 targeted number.

11 Similarly, the Administration has
12 a plan of climate control. So by the year
13 2024 we have specific targeted goals as it
14 relates to climate change as we're
15 approaching as to the City. Do we have the
16 same thing when it comes to affordable and
17 workforce housing units strategically
18 looking at the City as a whole?

19 MS. FADULLON: So we do have those
20 goals in our housing action plan that are
21 10-year goals. The strategic plan for the
22 Land Bank has specific goals around
23 acquisition, disposition and then broken
24 down by units. I think one of the things
25 that will be useful in the legislation that

1 was recently passed around land disposition
2 is having that be a three-year plan so it
3 can be more strategic with an annual report,
4 and we are sitting down talking about
5 different ways to strategize about land
6 disposition and how we could do that, you
7 know, in the way so that we're putting
8 property out at one time or putting it out
9 under different kinds of mechanisms in order
10 to really ramp up and be able to get the
11 properties back out on the street and onto
12 useful life.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Do we know
14 what this number is, 1,000 units, 15, 1,000?

15 MS. FADULLON: So overall, 10
16 years it's 100,000 units but they're broken
17 down over different -- whether they're new
18 production or preservation, so it's detailed
19 in the housing action plan. I'm happy to
20 come over and sit down and talk you through
21 that. And there's also goals in the
22 strategic plan that are mostly tied to
23 funding.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So 100,000
25 affordable and workforce units, some being

1 preserved, some new --

2 MS. FADULLON: So overall --

3 overall it's 100,000 units over 10 years
4 that is homeless all the way through market
5 rate and then it's broken down by income and
6 rental versus homeownership. So there's a
7 clear chart in the plan. I'm happy to send
8 that to you.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And can we
10 exclude market rate as a part of that
11 conversation and just strictly look at
12 affordable and workforce units?

13 MS. FADULLON: So there's a chart
14 in the plan that shows every type of unit,
15 whether rental, homeownership and then also
16 by income. I encourage you to look at that
17 and then if you have questions, I'm happy to
18 come meet with you and talk to you about it.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. I just
20 wanted to have that for the record. Thank
21 you. Angel?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So as Anne
23 mentioned, the strategic plan for the Land
24 Bank does have specific goals by income
25 bracket and also by end-use which includes

1 side yards, gardens, business expansion,
2 market rate and goes down the -- runs down
3 the list in terms of affordable housing.
4 The recent -- the 2019 strategic plan, the
5 first draft is published.

6 We will be coming to Council for
7 final approval. Those numbers are being
8 updated as well as based on market research
9 that's been done with the new MVA, so that
10 will be presented to Council for review
11 prior to adopting resolution from the
12 Council. The numbers we typically have
13 about anywhere in excess of 200 units, that
14 should be produced in any fiscal year for
15 affordable housing.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
17 very much, Angel.

18 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
19 Thank you. So we have good news. We got a
20 lot of money, so let's go out and invest it.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. FADULLON: That's the plan.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
24 You know I'll spend it. If you don't spend
25 it, I'll spend it. So next we have some

1 questions for the Managing Director's Office
2 around the crime prevention transport. And
3 then we had a press conference I guess it
4 was last Wednesday, the day after election,
5 Councilman Johnson and Council President
6 Clarke and Councilman Jones.

7 So in addition to some of the work
8 that's being done -- oh, okay, good. So in
9 addition to some of the work, and I
10 mentioned this to Vanessa earlier and I want
11 to put this story on the record because I
12 think it's hugely important. As many of you
13 know, the last three shootings of the
14 children have been in my District, and I got
15 a pretty irate email from a constituent who
16 was attacked at McPherson after she tried to
17 intervene with young kids who were beating
18 up someone who was homeless.

19 And I listened to the story
20 intently. And then as she finished, said to
21 her these young people are lashing out.
22 They're lashing out because we have homeless
23 folks who have taken over their green space,
24 what was their safe space, and they're
25 lashing out. Adults are lashing out in

1 Kensington and some of the things -- and I
2 really do appreciate the Administration
3 taking this seriously, the rapid response
4 teams after the shooting.

5 But my question is, what are we
6 doing before the shooting and what is it
7 that we could be doing or is the
8 Administration thinking about investing in
9 those communities where the trauma, these
10 young people were responding to what they
11 believe is a hostile situation towards them
12 and responding to some of the work there?

13 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: So good
14 afternoon. This is Vanessa Garrett Harley,
15 Deputy Managing Director for Criminal
16 Justice and Public Safety for the City. The
17 City's plan with regards to violence
18 provision is entitled the Philadelphia
19 Roadmap to Safer Communities, and that is
20 where we work very closely with police. The
21 center point is Operation Pinpoint which is
22 the police and strategy, but it really is
23 coming at approaching the violence and
24 violence provision from a public health
25 aspect, which is pretty much what you just

1 described which is trying to get at the root
2 causes of what is causing some of the
3 violent behavior and activities and sort of
4 attacking it from all sides in order to
5 figure out the best way to uplift some of
6 these individuals, particularly young people
7 as well as the communities.

8 What is being done is the City is
9 working together, all the various City
10 agencies, to think about how we wrap-around
11 services around an individual because no one
12 set of services for many of these young
13 people that you've described may be the
14 correct answer. So it's how we wrap those
15 services together to try and prevent the
16 behavior that you saw and/or try to prevent
17 that behavior from escalating into the wrong
18 trajectory in terms of a criminal record or
19 past.

20 Those folks that are at the table
21 from the City include the Department of
22 Behavior and Health, which we coordinate our
23 sort of crisis response, but not only crisis
24 response, they have a myriad of prevention
25 programs that work in the various

1 communities and with certain providers to
2 try and address the trauma that many of
3 these kids feel and you aptly described as
4 why they may have been acting out.

5 The Department of the Human
6 Services are also at the table. Some of
7 these young people may be acting out because
8 we don't know the situations in their home,
9 and they may be lashing out on the basis of,
10 you know, based on some things they've seen
11 or experienced that would be, you know,
12 unsightly for us to even think about, but
13 they're trying to maneuver through that.

14 We also have at the table the
15 Office of Workforce Development who are
16 helping us to develop those kind of
17 career-ready programs that we just
18 described, many of your -- Councilwoman
19 Parker's plan and others have described.
20 And we understand the importance of not only
21 career readiness, but creating additional
22 job duties, so that there are alternatives
23 for some folks who get involved in the
24 violences, an offshoot of just trying to
25 survive basically or have enough funding or

1 money for themselves or their families.

2 Also at that table is the School
3 District of Philadelphia. Some of the
4 issues you described around those young
5 people may, in fact, involve some issues
6 that can be addressed or can be curbed in
7 that educational arena. We certainly also
8 have the Licenses & Inspections as well as
9 CLIP as well as the Streets Department, as
10 we try to address that blight remediation
11 that you've also heard several folks testify
12 here today and we agree with wholeheartedly
13 that the community in where some folks live
14 in the environment that they're in plays a
15 part in the activities that they are
16 involved in.

17 So there are a number of programs
18 that are going on beforehand that we're
19 trying to do. With specifics to Office of
20 Violence Prevention work is the -- we call
21 it CCIP, but it's the Community Crisis
22 Intervention Program. Not only are they on
23 the streets and responding after an event
24 occurs, and I'm sure you probably did see
25 them out there after some of these tragedies

1 that we recently had.

2 They're also out there addressing
3 the community acting sort of as a conduit
4 between them and City Social Services and
5 other places, where to go for help and also
6 sometimes as a liaison between them and the
7 Police Department. They're out there trying
8 to de-escalate tensions so that they don't
9 rise to the level of violence, and they also
10 even after unfortunately a shooting or a
11 homicide has occurred are out there trying
12 to prevent retaliatory-type continued
13 shootings so that that won't help.

14 They do some hospital-based
15 intervention, so they also go to the
16 hospitals because often when you get two
17 families together or emotions are running
18 high, other things erupt. The YVRP, our
19 Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, and
20 that is addressing young people ages 14 to
21 25. Now, unfortunately these are young
22 people who have already committed a criminal
23 act and are on probation or parole under
24 court supervision and have been deemed to be
25 at the highest risk of either killing or

1 being killed, and that's a very intensified
2 supervision program that is in conjunction
3 with all the criminal justice partners,
4 District Attorney's office, police,
5 probation and parole, juvenile probation and
6 parole. PAN is the provider who administers
7 both CCIP as well as YVRP and is closely at
8 the table as we try to figure out all of
9 these various strategies.

10 We also work with the Parks and
11 Recreation Department to think about what
12 kind of positive activities can we have for
13 these young people. In the summertime we
14 increased the hours so that the rec centers
15 were opened later. Many of these City
16 agencies got together and did the movie
17 nights so that there would be some positive
18 places that people can take their young
19 people.

20 Certainly, we're always trying to
21 brainstorm in our thinking about other ways
22 and ideas that we can introduce some
23 different things into the community. We
24 also have the targeted community investment
25 grants which we provided grants to

1 community-based organizations who have
2 often -- many of them are doing this work on
3 the ground but have not been able to get
4 City support or any support, and those
5 agencies, many of them had programs that
6 worked very well in terms of trying to
7 address some of the behaviors that you
8 described.

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

10 Yeah, it will be important particularly. I
11 know that was your first round of grants and
12 if you can provide to the Chair so we can
13 provide kind of a District by District who
14 applied, who fell through because of
15 whatever reason and those kinds of
16 investments. So when you launch your spring
17 one, those of us who are aware of people who
18 may have applied and for whatever reason
19 didn't get in the mix, that we can help and
20 support. Councilman Johnson?

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair. Thank you, Vanessa, first and
23 foremost for your hard work and dedication
24 on this topic and most importantly since you
25 have taken held of this position but most

1 importantly, fixing the system in making
2 sure we're on the ground and addressing this
3 issue. And I would be remiss if I didn't
4 acknowledge Shondell Revell who's running
5 the Office for Violence Prevention as well
6 as Theron Pride for his work as well,
7 because we know this isn't an easy issue.
8 I'm always the one that says it takes
9 everyone to roll up their sleeves, to get
10 involved to address this issue that we're
11 seeing consistently on a day-to-day basis
12 plaguing our City.

13 Just a couple of things I just
14 want to go through. Obviously, the
15 Administration is moving forward. I think
16 we're roughly close to \$5 million transfer
17 ordinance which I support. It's not a
18 secret I think that we should do more, but
19 this is the beginning of that process. And
20 as we move into the new year, I will be
21 consistently seeking additional funding.
22 But having conversation with different
23 individuals in my community, funding without
24 a strategic overall plan is just funding,
25 right. And so, we want to be supportive

1 from that aspect and really make sure the
2 funding is going to the actual resources.

3 And when the funding is going to
4 the individuals that need it but most
5 importantly to effective strategies that go
6 toward reducing gun violence as opposed to
7 we just got funding and, hey, the issue is
8 still the same. And so, a couple of things.
9 I just want to recommend -- and obviously, I
10 work with your office consistently on a
11 regular basis, but I want to go on the
12 record on a couple of things.

13 One, are we taking into
14 consideration making sure that we have
15 families of victims of gun violence at the
16 table? Because we're seeing an epidemic of
17 homicides taking place, I meet a lot of
18 mothers, fathers who have lost loved ones
19 that feel like we're doing so much of
20 criminal justice reform, that their voices
21 are lost in this process.

22 And so, beginning in stepping our
23 efforts to make sure that when we talk about
24 the issue of homicide and gun violence, that
25 they have a strategic and partnering role in

1 how we address this issue of gun violence
2 here in the City of Philadelphia.

3 And when we move forward, I want
4 to see how we can collaborate more with the
5 District Attorney's Office around the issue
6 of being proactive, like for instance, my
7 District most recently had a job and career
8 resource fair. And actually when you're
9 there, you see basically guys who just came
10 home or guys who have records that's trying
11 to do the right thing, right.

12 And I just think -- you all could
13 be doing it, but if there's a collaboration
14 with all the great resources we have on the
15 City side with the DA's Office, I think we
16 can take it to the next level, so hopefully
17 these guys won't pick up a gun in the first
18 place when they come looking for resources.
19 Those are just two key areas. And
20 hopefully, we can pay attention to and we
21 probably are, and elaborate on it if we are.
22 But I want to be supportive in taking it to
23 the next level.

24 And my other recommendations
25 because I know we talk about, well, we have

1 additional funding, then how are we going to
2 spend down in the right areas. Philadelphia
3 Futures is an excellent program, hire young
4 men who have records, give them the pathway
5 to work here in the City of Philadelphia.

6 If I was in a strategic position,
7 I would probably hire a thousand young men
8 and say, listen, if you want a job, get off
9 the corner, come down here, I want to make
10 sure your urine is clean -- we got to work,
11 but, yeah, right, make sure your urine is
12 clean, we'll hire you, right, to do the
13 quality of life issue, some of what
14 Councilwoman Parker was talking about.

15 For me, Philadelphia Futures
16 initially had young men under another
17 administration cleaning alleyways. Now, if
18 you live in neighborhoods like Point Breeze,
19 Grays Ferry, our alleys are atrocious and
20 they're a public safety hazard. And at one
21 time, young men would go through and clean
22 the alleyways. They would clean the
23 alleyways and then the Streets Department
24 would come and change the light bulbs,
25 right.

1 That's like a no-brainer public
2 works project that will improve the quality
3 of life for the City of Philadelphia. But
4 most importantly, we don't want to have that
5 instant where if that fire does happen and
6 that person can't get out the front and they
7 have to go through the alleyway and
8 something happens that we all may not want
9 to see, this is a way to be proactive but
10 also get young people involved. Those are
11 just a couple of things.

12 And last, I'm a real big advocate
13 of -- and I think we gave some additional
14 funding that year around the youth
15 employment program. We're talking about
16 poverty, right. Again, statistics show
17 there's high crime, high violence. In an
18 area where there's poverty, there's high
19 crime and high violence. Some individuals
20 need to be taken off the streets, period,
21 right. But some individuals say, well, if
22 I'm working all day, by the time I get home
23 I'm tired. I don't even want to stand on
24 the corner. I don't have to sell drugs to
25 feed my family, right, and those are the

1 real life stories that we hear out on the
2 street.

3 So those are just some of my
4 recommendations. I look at you as an ally,
5 so you have my continuous support, same
6 thing with your team. Because at the end of
7 the day, we're never going to be that great
8 city that we think we are until we get to
9 the bottom of addressing the issue of youth
10 gun violence. And so, thank you for your
11 hard work, your tenacity and your dedication
12 to the position that you inherited.

13 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: Thank you.
14 And just by way of brief response, I
15 certainly agree with the points that you
16 made. The Clean and Seal -- we asked for
17 money in this transfer ordinance for
18 additional Clean and Seal crews for L&I as
19 well as additional crews for CLIP.

20 Some of the work that they will be
21 doing is exactly what you said which is
22 cleaning the overgrown lots that you see.
23 Clean and Seal will be sealing up those
24 abandoned buildings to make sure they're not
25 being used for criminal activity but will

1 also improve what the environment of the
2 neighborhoods look like, but they are hiring
3 people from the community who have records,
4 the majority of them or have what we call
5 lived experience, in an effort to put some
6 economic turn-back into the community, but
7 also that these folks will take pride
8 hopefully in the work that they do when they
9 see it in their own communities.

10 So we have tried to incorporate
11 that and that is one of the budget -- also,
12 we also have asked in this transfer budget
13 for additional money for streets for
14 lighting. Specifically, we recognize
15 there's some areas of the City that are a
16 little too dark and that may breed some of
17 the more violent behavior in certain areas,
18 but also to do some of what you just said
19 and all of these things will work together.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to
21 push just a little bit, so I know there's a
22 recommendation for CLIP and I have it in my
23 notes. But how many people are actually
24 being hired under the CLIP program? Give me
25 a number.

1 MS. GARRET HARLEY: I believe --
2 is Tommy still here? But I think a crew
3 typically, we just hired almost 20 under
4 CLIP program. Now, we asked for funding for
5 additional two crews. And so, not sure but
6 I think the numbers would be somewhere
7 around that same number. And also for a
8 supervisor and what they call an inspector
9 that has to be able to do the work. Oh,
10 Joanne is here. CLIP falls under Community
11 Affairs.

12 MS. OTERO-CRUZ: Good afternoon.
13 Joanna Otero-Cruz, Deputy Managing Director
14 of Community Services and I just want to --
15 you were getting the right numbers. We've
16 already hired 19 and we would -- there's
17 another I believe 16 positions.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So 19 --

19 MS. OTERO-CRUZ: And we have 36
20 percent of our staff that are those
21 individuals who are formerly incarcerated
22 within the unit of CLIP.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So I think
24 that's great. I'm always pushing for more.
25 I know we got a \$430 million surplus, right.

1 And so, again let's take that 19, let's take
2 that 20 to 40 to 60, right, because we are
3 in a crisis right now. This is a rainy day
4 any time you get one day a 10-year-old shot
5 in the head and then the next day, you know,
6 an 11-year-old shot inside a household and
7 then two weeks earlier, toddlers being
8 murdered in the streets of Philadelphia.

9 To me I think it's time for bold
10 action with all due respect, and bold action
11 just based upon looking at the resources
12 that we have and putting an investment in
13 there. I remember as a student worrying
14 about FDR as a kid, right, and he started
15 his public works, right. That's because we
16 were coming out of a Depression.

17 And he said, okay, the only way we
18 can rise out of this Depression is put
19 people back to work and make bold
20 investments when it came around rising
21 people out of poverty. So again, I'm an
22 ally but at the same time, I have a
23 responsibility for that mother who calls me
24 in the middle of the night saying,
25 Councilman, can you come and talk to my

1 young son who's having problems getting
2 employment, who's in the street life or to
3 that mother who says can you come and speak
4 at my son's funeral because he just lost his
5 life to some senseless act of gun violence.
6 And I know it's not one particular method
7 that's going to address it, but I do believe
8 in giving people as much opportunities as
9 possible to steer them in the right way.

10 So again, I'm an ally but at the
11 same time I'm going to do my job to be
12 supportive and at the same time advocate to
13 make sure we're doing everything possible on
14 behalf of the taxpayers here in the City of
15 Philadelphia to address this issue of youth
16 gun violence.

17 MS. OTERO-CRUZ: Understand,
18 Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
20 very much.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Thank you. And again, I think to the
23 Councilman's point, I know everybody's
24 working really, really hard. We also want
25 to work smart and I think leverage the

1 investments, and I want to highlight these
2 are not expenses. These are investments in
3 people and they are hugely important. So
4 thank you, Vanessa, for all your work. And
5 as we move forward, we look forward to
6 continuing to work with you.

7 Lastly, I wanted to get an update
8 around the street cleaning. Is anybody here
9 from Streets? The street pilot, if I don't
10 ask this, we're going to get slammed about
11 it. Everybody's cheat sheet everybody's
12 given me. Just an update on the pilot.
13 Were we on point on what we thought we were
14 going to invest and how do we work and
15 expand that?

16 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

17 MR. NEWMAN: Well, right now we're
18 looking to expand the --

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 Put your name on the record.

21 MR. NEWMAN: Christopher Newman.
22 I'm Deputy Commissioner for Administration
23 for the Streets Department. Councilwoman,
24 we're looking to expand the pilot to add 75
25 more temporary workers this fiscal year

1 which is part of the ask for the transfer
2 ordinance.

3 So it would expand beyond the
4 pilot areas that we actually have right now
5 based on the litter index. So any place
6 that we haven't gotten to and the litter
7 index suggests we should go, once we get
8 these additional temporary positions, we
9 will be going to those areas and doing more
10 street cleaning in those areas.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 Okay. Yeah, let's make sure we leverage
13 some of the commercial street cleaning stuff
14 to better target some of this investment.

15 MR. NEWMAN: Sure.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Okay. I know we're getting a lot of push-
18 back about the blow stuff. Can you speak to
19 what you've learned?

20 MR. NEWMAN: So we're looking at
21 other ways in doing it. I know we're
22 working with the Office of Fleet Management
23 to look into vehicles that allow us to blow
24 water, high pressure water into the streets
25 as opposed to the blow vacs. Hopefully, we

1 will be able to do that going forward.

2 The individuals that we're going
3 to be hiring in this fiscal year, that 75
4 temporary workers, will be primarily doing
5 manual work, not using necessarily blowers
6 to do that job. They would be supported by
7 mechanical brooms. We would be moving the
8 trash into the streets and the brooms would
9 come down and get the trash as they go by.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
11 one of the things that we prepare for next
12 year is we got the short dumping situation,
13 we really do got to look at bulk trash
14 again, right?

15 MR. NEWMAN: Yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
17 know that we have the deposit centers. I
18 think this Council is going to be looking at
19 what do we do around this bulk trash and
20 going back to some of the programs that we
21 had eliminated during the budget shortfalls.
22 So we want you to start planning and give us
23 a plan.

24 MR. NEWMAN: We are. We're
25 looking to staff up on bulk trash. We're

1 looking for ways to do that. Of course,
2 we're not really resourced to do that
3 significantly right now, but we're looking
4 for ways that we can use our additional
5 resources -- our current resources to add
6 staff to do that work.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
8 plan for what you need, not for what you
9 have.

10 MR. NEWMAN: Okay. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We
12 look forward to that. That's a big issue
13 for the City and I think the data speaks for
14 itself, the correlation between blight,
15 trash, crime. I mean it's just there so
16 those investments -- and again, this is the
17 right time to begin to look at how do we
18 staff up the Department to be able to do
19 those things.

20 MR. NEWMAN: Agreed.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Thank you. Thank you so much. And
23 finally -- oh, wait, we have Councilman Domb
24 who wanted to ask a question to the Prison
25 Commissioner and then we're going to go to

1 the animal control piece.

2 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good afternoon.

4 Thanks for being here. I just had a quick
5 question. I noticed that you're looking for
6 \$14 million transfer for the prison
7 department. I believe it's for the Hep C
8 treatment. And the notes that I read, I
9 think the commentary was that 10 percent of
10 our prison population has Hep C. I think
11 this was required because the state was
12 going to sue us or something if we don't
13 deal with this issue; is that accurate?

14 MS. CARNEY: Yes, sir, that's
15 accurate. Blanche Carney, Prisons
16 Commissioner, yes, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So then my next
18 question is when I look at the overall
19 budget of the prison system, it looks like
20 with fringe benefits included we're still at
21 about \$359 million. And my question, and it
22 might be for you, Marisa, more so than the
23 Commissioner is that -- and welcome to this
24 new position by the way.

25 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is there a way
2 to look at this because maybe four or five
3 or six years ago, it was costing us \$47,000
4 per inmate. We've had a tremendous
5 reduction. We were told that with the
6 closing of the House of Corrections the
7 budget would change pretty dramatically.
8 But when you do the math, based on the
9 current population which today I think is
10 4880.

11 MS. CARNEY: That's correct.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It comes out to
13 \$73,500 versus the \$47,000. And then when
14 you layer in the Hep C treatment for 10
15 percent of that population, it's almost
16 costing us \$103,500 for those people on
17 State Road that have Hep C, and I understand
18 the Hep C issue.

19 But is there a way for you in the
20 next few months take a deep dive into this
21 and see are there areas where we could save
22 some serious money?

23 MR. GOREN WAXMAN: We can
24 absolutely get more detail for you about
25 what are the fixed costs that stay the same

1 even when the population changes versus what
2 has changed with the population changes.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because that
4 delta of \$47,000 a few years ago versus
5 \$73,500 today not including Hep C, it seems
6 to me we might not be able to get it to
7 \$47,000 but maybe we can get it to \$55,000
8 or \$60,000.

9 MR. GOREN WAXMAN: Yes, we can
10 absolutely look into that.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you very
12 much. Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: The Police
14 Commissioner?

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 The Police Commissioner?

17 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Prisons, I'm
18 sorry. I just wanted to for the benefit of
19 the listening public because with all of the
20 tragic violence that has occurred in the
21 City of Philadelphia when we think about our
22 local prison population, I mean we live in
23 this world so we hear these numbers quite
24 often.

25 Could you tell us about our

1 population here in the City of Philadelphia,
2 our prison population? What is the total
3 number?

4 MS. CARNEY: The total number -- I
5 thank you, Councilwoman. The total number
6 in our census is 4,880.

7 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: 4,888. Tell
8 us where we were prior to the closing.

9 MS. CARNEY: So prior to the
10 closing we were averaging about 6500
11 inmates. We realized significant savings
12 when we closed the House of Corrections.
13 Some of the early onset of those significant
14 cost savings were as a result of closing an
15 entire facility.

16 In order to get back to those
17 numbers of closing -- of savings, you have
18 to close an entire facility, further reduce
19 the population to around 4500, 4,000 folks.
20 Given that, we still have fixed cost with
21 contracts for food, health care. The folks
22 that are in custody now, we've really
23 realized the efforts of the MacArthur safety
24 and justice challenge where those low-level
25 folks have transitioned out.

1 There are significant diversion
2 initiatives underway, but the folks that are
3 in custody, now those medium to high risk
4 folks, they're going to be with us longer.
5 Also, we're looking at a 6 percent vacancy
6 rate. Last year I did not onboard any
7 correctional classes. We saved significant
8 monies. We put in place new initiatives to
9 address and reduce overtime. We've done
10 that. And I think at this point we're
11 leveling out. We have that 6 percent, but
12 we're going to need to fill those vacancies
13 or we'll revert back to increased overtime
14 cost to cover available posts and leave
15 usage in the department.

16 And we also have an update on --
17 joining me is Deputy Commissioner Xavier
18 Beaufort for Administration and my Budget
19 Director Gerald Buck.

20 MR. BUCK: Gerald Buck,
21 Administrative Services Director. Our cost
22 per inmate per day is \$77 per day. And
23 maybe we can get together and figure out
24 what our differences are.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Are you counting

1 fringe benefits?

2 MR. BUCK: I'm counting fringe
3 benefits and direct cost.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I have
5 \$238 million for the budget and \$121 million
6 for fringe. That's where the number came
7 from. I'm happy to meet with you outside
8 the hearing.

9 MR. BUCK: Yeah, sounds good.

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Well, thank
11 you. I will be really happy to hear you all
12 reconcile those numbers. I want you to talk
13 to us, if you will, about this Hep C crisis
14 that we are seeing. Let's just think about
15 this. Because of our efforts to reduce the
16 population and we've been very aggressive at
17 our local prison reform, we are rewarded,
18 our innovation, our partnership, our hard
19 work is rewarded with the MacArthur grant.

20 But at the same time with our
21 efforts to attempt to reduce the population
22 in my opinion, we can't in any way, shape or
23 form reduce access to treatment,
24 particularly those with Hep C or any other
25 chronic diseases or illnesses because these

1 are men and women who are leaving these
2 prisons and they're coming back home to our
3 communities.

4 So if we're going to be penny-wise
5 and pound-foolish relative to giving people
6 access to the treatment that they need while
7 they're inside, we as a city can be required
8 to pay more in the end when we haven't
9 ensured that these prisoners get access to
10 the healthcare treatment that they need.

11 So talk to me, if you will, about
12 what that process is like and ensuring that
13 they are getting access to the medical
14 treatment that is needed, to ensure that
15 they're not transmitting these diseases
16 particularly when they're released and they
17 come back home, and we're trying to say,
18 hey, we're going to work with you in
19 re-entry in coming back to our
20 neighborhoods, but while you were in prison,
21 we didn't give you access to the medical
22 care that you needed. I hope I just made
23 sense to you.

24 MS. CARNEY: So this is very
25 important. Prisons is not one-faceted.

1 It's a multi-faceted department. We're
2 addressing behavioral health, illness
3 burdens such Hep C treatment. This
4 department is a holistic department. We're
5 not just detaining folks and keeping them in
6 a secure environment, but these are the same
7 folks that are in these poverty communities,
8 that have lack to access to healthcare
9 benefits and then are surmounted with the
10 barriers with the criminal justice
11 background.

12 So once they are committed into
13 our custody, we want to make sure that we're
14 addressing the issues that are presented.
15 Health care is not cheap if you do it
16 correctly. We understand that as folks are
17 coming in if we're diagnosing them and
18 they're presenting as Hep C, the right thing
19 to do is to provide the treatment while
20 they're here. The right thing is to fill in
21 those interventions where people that have
22 for a long time have had chronic care
23 conditions, have not been addressed.

24 We're a 24 hour operation. We
25 don't have the luxury to wait and see.

1 We've done a lot of innovative things.
2 We've instituted medication-assisted
3 treatment, ground breaking, it wasn't
4 happening. We did it because we are a
5 re-entry partner in public safety. So the
6 issues that are faced in those communities
7 for those folks that come in, MAT, we
8 implemented it. This is the next step.
9 It's Hep C.

10 If the person -- we will start to
11 test all folks at the time of admission.
12 Those that present and that will be in our
13 care for the duration for us to implement
14 that treatment, we're going to do that.
15 Those folks that are currently incarcerated
16 that present and are symptomatic, we're
17 going to do that as well. So this is part
18 of the continuum of care.

19 As these folks release out, they
20 would have received the treatment. We can
21 also connect them. We're at 90 percent for
22 medical assistance enrollment. Again,
23 continuity of care. If we're going to do it
24 right, it's best to do it on the front end
25 versus the back end when you're getting in

1 the litigation.

2 This is borne out of the State
3 Department of Corrections' settlement where
4 they're going to provide the Hep C
5 treatment. We were already at the forefront
6 in processing how we were going to implement
7 it and this was our best effort, rather than
8 to be told and get into litigation. These
9 are the same people that touch communities
10 and touch departments in the City of
11 Philadelphia. This is not just a separate
12 group of people.

13 So health care, we want to make
14 sure we're providing those folks for the
15 duration that they're with us so that we can
16 decrease Hep C reinfection and get people on
17 a continuum of health, that once they
18 release out, they return to the communities.
19 They can get involved in some of these jobs
20 that we're talking about. And that's what
21 we're committed to at the City's prisons.

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Well,
23 Commissioner Carney, I just want to say a
24 special thank you to you and your team. I
25 want to join Councilman Domb, Councilman

1 Johnson and Madam Chairwoman Quinones-
2 Sanchez, your work is not easy. It is tough
3 work and it requires a certain amount of
4 tenacity and sticktoitiveness and innovation
5 and patience and partnership.

6 And every challenge that has come
7 up within your department, I don't care if
8 it's been an article in the newspaper or a
9 challenge that we're hearing from our
10 constituents, whenever we bring those issues
11 to you, you address them head on. Even if
12 we don't like the answer sometimes, you
13 address them. And I want to say to you and
14 your team thank you for the record.

15 MS. CARNEY: Thank you,
16 Councilwoman.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
18 Thank you. Real quickly because I know you
19 said it a little bit on your testimony, what
20 other things do you think we can be doing to
21 ensure some of the reimbursements? This is
22 a prison that now becomes a medical facility
23 and behavioral health facility, all the
24 other things that you were mentioning. How
25 are we doing on the reimbursement piece as

1 it relates to Medicaid and other places?

2 MS. CARNEY: We're doing well, but
3 we can also do better. There's always room.
4 Joining me today is Dr. Bruce Herdman, my
5 Chief Medical Officer. He works closely to
6 make sure that we're able to get all of our
7 reimbursements, but it is a tedious process.
8 It's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that
9 goes on so I want him to join us just to
10 walk us through in the interest of time.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 These are big investments and I'm
13 particularly interested and I watch the
14 state talk about their investments in some
15 of these areas in making sure that if there
16 are any bureaucratic roadblocks to our
17 ability to enhance these services,
18 particularly around the opioid stuff and
19 some of the other stuff, so how are we doing
20 and what could we be doing if there's one or
21 two regulatory issues with the state that we
22 need to address and ensure full
23 reimbursement for this?

24 MR. HERDMAN: Bruce Herdman, Chief
25 of Medical Operations for the Prison.

1 Councilwoman, federal law prohibits the use
2 of federal funds for paying for health care
3 for people that are incarcerated unless
4 they're in the federal system. However, we
5 do have some mechanisms where we can take
6 advantage of medical assistance.

7 So, for example, we are the
8 largest distributor of Narcan kits in the
9 City. And those kits are provided to us in
10 bulk. We actually give the kit to the --
11 these are high risk opioid use disorder
12 patients. After they've technically been
13 released from the prison but before they
14 leave the campus, which allows the pharmacy
15 to bill Medical Assistance. So we're
16 working on mechanisms like that to get
17 around the federal prohibition.

18 We're hopeful to do that with
19 Sublocade which is a 30-day injectable of
20 Suboxone. So those are the principal
21 efforts. But to be more specific to other
22 Councilwoman's comments, we complete our
23 medical evaluations within four hours of the
24 time a person gets off the bus. That
25 includes drawing blood for STDs and for

1 Hepatitis C, urinalysis and so forth.

2 So we start those treatments
3 immediately because as you said, as a public
4 health agency we can prevent, not only help
5 the individual but preventing from
6 re-infecting people in the community.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So
8 again, we're very much interested
9 particularly as people transition back, and
10 we appreciate all of the work-arounds. But
11 we also want to get to a point there are
12 regulatory challenges at the state as they
13 are in the federal, that we call folks out,
14 right, to have the Federal Government to say
15 this opioid stuff is a crisis, but then does
16 not provide the resources for us to take
17 care of people when we have them, right.

18 What better way to treat people
19 than while they got nowhere else to go,
20 right, that we can do that. And
21 unfortunately, that wasn't what the original
22 intent is but is where we've moved and
23 that's definitely an area that we want to
24 make sure that our federal and state
25 partners invest in also.

1 MR. HERDMAN: There may be well an
2 opportunity in -- although the state has
3 been very helpful in terms of helping us to
4 enroll people in Medical Assistance. We had
5 an 8 percent enrollment rate five years ago
6 and now it's over 90 percent. The state
7 reduced the application from 24 pages to 1
8 page for corrections, so they've been very
9 instrumental there. We are going to run
10 into some problems in terms of automating
11 the re-activation for coverage and we may
12 ask for your assistance.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We
14 look forward to doing that. And a personal
15 family experience, someone came out of jail
16 after 10 years on a Thursday and he
17 overdosed on a Saturday. So again, it's the
18 burden that we all shoulder and it wasn't
19 part of the initial job. So I'm going to
20 pay particular interest in that about what
21 else we can be doing at the prison.

22 In the form of education, right,
23 folks who were incarcerated who are coming
24 out, the drugs on the street today are not
25 the drugs that they knew before they went

1 in. And I'm seeing that uptick. And again,
2 it was a personal experience. And as much
3 as the mother does what the mother did which
4 is warned, you're out, please don't do that.
5 In less than 48 hours, he was dead from an
6 overdose, so very tragic.

7 MS. CARNEY: Councilwoman, we also
8 take advantage of the citizens that come to
9 visit the prisoners while they're there.
10 We're also running the Narcan video to
11 educate the public. We work collectively
12 with other City agencies that wish to have
13 PSAs run on the closed circuit T.V. system,
14 so while they're waiting there, they're
15 getting information that they may not have
16 had access to, where to go for support,
17 where to go for housing, jobs.

18 We've partnered as part of the
19 public safety cluster, and as Deputy
20 Managing Director Vanessa Garrett Harley
21 stated, part of that group is we are that
22 partner that we can also run that
23 information, so as a mother, grandmother
24 sitting in one of our waiting areas, they
25 have access to information as well and

1 hopefully, those employment opportunities.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Again, thank you. I know for the Police
4 Department they are now homeless prevention
5 experts, the Fire Department, like all of
6 our uniform, we really thank you during this
7 opioid crisis, in particular on the ground
8 the work that has to happen and I appreciate
9 that.

10 MS. CARNEY: Thank you,
11 Councilwoman.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

13 All right. We are going to move -- we have
14 a panel of -- I don't know if folks are
15 still here to move on with the animal
16 control. I don't know if Councilman Domb
17 wants to say something before we get
18 started. I know I have some written
19 testimony here, Marsha Perelman, Azita Kay,
20 Dr. Beth Mehaffey and Ian Griffiths.
21 Councilman Domb, do you want to open up?

22 (Panel approached Witness Table.)

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Yes. Thanks,
24 Madam Chair.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I

1 think Councilman Henon wanted to weigh in.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I wanted to
3 speak about the monies that are needed at
4 ACCT, and thank you all the ACCT volunteers
5 for being here today and supporters. As
6 elected officials, we have the duty and
7 responsibility to provide essential services
8 that benefit all Philadelphians. And the
9 same goes for animals and pets in our City's
10 care.

11 As part of this City's midyear
12 appropriation transfer, I've requested
13 \$480,790 to be directed to ACCT Philly to
14 hire additional veterinarian staff that are
15 needed to care for the animals currently at
16 the facility. My initial funding request
17 was not included in the \$70 million
18 appropriation that is being requested today.

19 My request was less than 1 percent
20 of the total appropriation. Not only did
21 this not make any sense, it's completely
22 unacceptable that the City would not provide
23 adequate funding that is essential to saving
24 animals' lives and allowing our staff to
25 work in better conditions.

1 As such, I introduce a separate
2 bill which is captured in today's amendment
3 requesting the needed funding. We have many
4 priorities to address in our City. We've
5 heard many of them today such as the
6 elevated crime, homelessness and poverty.
7 And it's important for the City to utilize
8 the funding transfer to address these issues
9 and many more.

10 However, we cannot turn a blind
11 eye to the inadequate conditions in our
12 Animal Care and Control facility Hunting
13 Park. A first class city like Philadelphia
14 needs to have a first class animal shelter.
15 If the City isn't going to take actions to
16 help save animals, then we as City Council
17 members have an obligation to all
18 Philadelphians to take the necessary steps.

19 My colleagues Councilmen Bobby
20 Henon and Mark Squilla and all of my
21 colleagues on Council, I want to commend
22 them for their efforts over the years to
23 provide funding for ACCT Philly. We need to
24 continue this movement and take aggressive
25 measures. I commend all the volunteers and

1 thank you so much for your patience today
2 and dedication in helping us to save
3 animals' lives every day. You guys are all
4 amazing.

5 Thankfully, we will have
6 volunteers around the City who rescue
7 animals, foster and help maintain the ACCT
8 facility and I especially applaud those
9 who've joined us here today to show their
10 support for ACCT Philly. Your voices do
11 matter. I encourage all my colleagues to
12 join me in supporting this bill to provide
13 more money for ACCT Philly. Thank you.
14 Thank you very much and thank you to
15 everybody for being here. Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Okay. Do you want to start, Marsha?

18 MS. PERELMAN: Sure. Good
19 afternoon, Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez and
20 fellow Members of the Committee. I'm Marsha
21 Perelman and I'm here to testify in support
22 of this amendment. Since serving as Acting
23 President and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo,
24 I've been a member of the Boards of the two
25 largest animal welfare organizations in the

1 country.

2 Previously serving as the Chair of
3 the Board of ASPCA and currently serving on
4 the Board of the Humane Society of the
5 United States, I'm also a Member of the
6 Pennsylvania Dog Law Advisory Board. Most
7 recently, I joined the Board of ACCT Philly
8 and I'm here today to urge each of you to
9 accept this amendment to provide critical
10 funding to ACCT by far Philadelphia's
11 largest open intake shelter and the only
12 shelter in Philadelphia that provides animal
13 control services to the City.

14 As you all know not long after the
15 most recent budget for ACCT was passed in
16 spring of this year, ACCT faced a crisis due
17 to the outbreak of a viral respiratory
18 disease. This resulted in ACCT being unable
19 to provide the critical community services
20 it normally provides, leaving many
21 Philadelphia citizens with nowhere to turn.

22 Staff worked around the clock for
23 an unsustainable number of hours. The City
24 had to spend tens of thousands of dollars to
25 construct and operate temporary facilities

1 and many dogs lost their lives. This
2 outbreak of disease was the third such
3 outbreak in several years. Though make no
4 mistake, ACCT every day makes animals sick.
5 Healthy dogs come into ACCT. Healthy cats
6 come into ACCT and only a matter of days
7 later, they have pneumonia because of the
8 conditions that currently exist there.

9 But this outbreak was remarkably
10 severe and it underscored the need to not
11 only improve our facilities for the animals
12 in our care but for the humans providing
13 that care as well. That crisis is one that
14 ACCT is determined to never let happen
15 again.

16 Two recent developments have
17 happened to allow us to make major advances
18 toward that goal. First, we have hired
19 Aurora Velazquez, a highly experienced and
20 well-respected leader in animal sheltering.
21 And second, we have gotten the City's
22 assurance that ACCT will finally be able to
23 expand into the much-needed space currently
24 occupied by Vector Services in its building
25 on West Hunting Park Avenue no later than

1 March 2020.

2 These are two critical steps in
3 starting to significantly improve working
4 conditions for over 80 ACCT employees and
5 the health and welfare of the 18,000 animals
6 that ACCT takes in each year in compliance
7 with its contract with the City of
8 Philadelphia. Since that outbreak, we have
9 had the benefit of several pro bono
10 consulting arrangements from national
11 shelter experts.

12 Without exception, they advised us
13 to bolster intake prevention programs by
14 reducing the number of animals coming into
15 the shelter. This could be done by
16 providing resources and support to pet
17 owners in emergency situations who wish to
18 retain their animals but are afraid they
19 cannot and by slowing the growth of the
20 City's unowned or community cat population.

21 Second, they required us to
22 acquire more space in which to perform the
23 services required by ACCT, most importantly
24 by providing isolation areas to animals
25 suspected of harboring disease. And

1 finally, they've asked us to significantly
2 enhance the medical services provided to the
3 animals in our care. In order to accomplish
4 these three objectives, we are submitting
5 this request today which addresses ACCT's
6 most urgent needs, funding for intake
7 prevention programs, funding for equipment
8 and technical upgrades so that we can begin
9 to use the Vector space as soon as it
10 becomes available and funding for additional
11 medical support staff and training.

12 Intake prevention programs play a
13 crucial role in decreasing the risk of
14 disease. One of the causes of the outbreak
15 that ACCT experienced last week was that too
16 many animals were given to ACCT for the
17 capacity that ACCT had at that point to care
18 for them. Each of the national shelter
19 experts recommended ensuring a continuation
20 of the Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition
21 community help desk, a resource for owners
22 who wish to keep their pets but are being
23 forced by personal circumstances to
24 surrender them.

25 In the first 16 months of

1 operation, this desk realized a 66 percent
2 success rate by giving families the
3 resources they needed to retain over 2,000
4 pets that would otherwise have been given to
5 ACCT. On an analyzed basis, this relatively
6 inexpensive program alone can reduce ACCT's
7 intake by almost 10 percent.

8 Additionally, this amendment would
9 allow ACCT to support a much-needed trap,
10 neuter and return program to address the
11 City's growing population of unowned or
12 community cats. If you live in
13 Philadelphia, you've likely seen stray and
14 community cats throughout our neighborhoods.
15 In 2018, ACCT took in over 7500 such cats,
16 almost 40 percent of the animals it handled.
17 Performing more trap, neuter and return
18 services as strongly recommended by the
19 assessments of veterinary experts at Cornell
20 University and The University of Wisconsin
21 Shelter Medicine program will help to
22 decrease the number of cats roaming
23 Philadelphia streets and entering the
24 shelter in the future.

25 This funding requested today will

1 enable ACCT to spay and neuter more than
2 2200 cats which will prevent the births of
3 literally thousands of kittens every year
4 going forward. Further, this amendment
5 would provide equipment and supplies such as
6 isolation cages, which will finally allow
7 for dogs and cats symptomatic of disease to
8 be isolated from the general population.

9 While the optimal use of the
10 Vector space will require eventually some
11 capital improvements, in the short-term that
12 space can easily be outfitted with the
13 necessary equipment and technology to
14 decrease disease transmission and increase
15 the standard of medical care provided to
16 animals at ACCT. Achieving these objectives
17 will reduce the amount of time animals spend
18 there and improve the working environment
19 for all of ACCT's employees.

20 Finally, this amendment will allow
21 for the hiring of medical support staff who
22 can take care of many of the medical needs
23 of ACCT's animals that can be administered
24 without using the time of a trained
25 veterinarian. When community services are

1 properly supported and provided and
2 sufficient space is provided to ACCT to
3 properly care for the animals brought into
4 it, crises like that which occurred this
5 past summer should not occur.

6 Accepting this amendment, the
7 amount of which comprises well under 1
8 percent of the entire amount of the bill
9 that you are considering today will be
10 monumental in improving conditions at ACCT
11 for both the people who work there and the
12 animals who live there for years to come.
13 Thank you very much for your time.

14 MS. KAY: I've never felt so
15 short. And I want to apologize if I
16 mispronounce anything or if I address it the
17 wrong way. My name is Azita Kay. I'm the
18 Founder and President of the Paw It 4Ward
19 Foundation. We're a local rescue as well as
20 we provide medical funding for other local
21 rescues that need help with their pets.

22 Dear Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez
23 and everyone else on the Board, I'm here to
24 support the amendment to the bill 190856.
25 The reason I'm here, I was actually here

1 four years ago sitting here actually asking
2 everyone not to fund any money to ACCT,
3 because the Administration at the time and
4 the Board were just on another planet, if
5 that makes sense, and we were not supporting
6 them. And today I'm actually sitting here
7 in support and actually seeing hope and
8 light that everyone is moving in the right
9 direction and we want the rescue community
10 to actually support the new Administration
11 and actually Members of the Board that are
12 really having a positive impact on what's
13 going on at ACCT.

14 You know, we've pulled dogs from
15 there for the past seven years and this year
16 with the disease that took place in April,
17 we're actually in jeopardy of no longer
18 being able to help any more animals. We've
19 spent \$23,000 alone on rescue for seven
20 dogs. And just speaking to about five other
21 rescues, the bills have gone up to \$200,000
22 alone with these rescues.

23 And these rescues are no longer
24 able to help ACCT. They're not going to be
25 able to go in there and pull those dogs that

1 need the help because we don't have the
2 finances anymore. The reason why we're here
3 to support Congressmen Domb and everyone or
4 Councilman Domb and everyone else --
5 Congress, that could be a good thing too, is
6 because again this is such a great step in
7 the right direction.

8 It's not only money that is going
9 to help with medical care that's going to
10 bring ACCT to almost providing basic care,
11 it's not -- it's going to bring ACCT to a
12 level that's going to provide humane care
13 for these animals while they're there. I
14 don't think anyone here is asking for money
15 to bring in this huge medical director that,
16 you know, is a leader. No one is asking for
17 that. They're asking for actual vets to
18 come in here and help the animals. No one
19 is asking for these miraculous things to
20 happen.

21 The Cornell report stated that
22 with a size intake of 18,000 animals, there
23 should be at least three to four full-time
24 vets on board. I believe you guys are only
25 asking for two vets. No one is even asking

1 for the three or four. They're asking for
2 two vets to provide care, basic care so that
3 when these dogs or cats are actually
4 surviving their stay at ACCT and not getting
5 sick.

6 And then the other part of this is
7 spay and neuter. The number one thing with
8 animal control is to control the population.
9 And if you do not have vets there to provide
10 spay and neuter services and you're
11 releasing animals that are not spayed and
12 neutered, this is a major problem. And this
13 is really -- we should be ashamed of
14 ourselves in this City for doing this right
15 now. And we really need to get back on
16 track to the basics.

17 So I hope I'm not sounding
18 negative. I hope it makes sense that four
19 years ago I was here saying absolutely do
20 not fund anything that goes into ACCT. And
21 now, I'm a person that's sitting here, you
22 know, supporting the Board and also
23 supporting the new Administration and saying
24 it's going to make a difference, but we
25 really need to get things to even just basic

1 humane care there and we're not there.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We
3 appreciate your testimony.

4 MS. KAY: So I hope this -- thank
5 you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
7 And thank you, duly noted. I know
8 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson with Sasha,
9 Councilman Jones with Captain Van and my own
10 Norman, I think you got some allies here,
11 right?

12 MS. KAY: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah, I had
14 introduced several bills. One is an
15 ordinance that says if you leave your dog
16 outside in extreme cold or extreme heat, you
17 could be fined here in the City of
18 Philadelphia, and also the tethering bill.
19 In other words, when you tie the dog up.
20 And so, I'm a dog lover.

21 MS. KAY: Thank you for doing
22 that.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: This is like
24 a no-brainer. It's a no-brainer if you ask
25 me, so I can't speak to why we even have to

1 go this route at the end of the day, so I
2 commend Councilman Domb and --

3 MS. KAY: Are we allowed to clap
4 or not?

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You can clap,
6 yeah.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 The fact that I know his dog's name and I
9 know Councilman Jones' dog's name, I'm
10 telling you.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So we get it.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We
13 get it. Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We're on
15 board.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Ian?

18 MR. GRIFFITHS: Chairwoman
19 Quinones-Sanchez, my name's Ian Griffiths.
20 I'm a volunteer at ACCT. I'm here to
21 support Bill No. 190856. I just wanted to
22 give you a little bit of data from the 15
23 largest cities of the United States. At the
24 moment, ACCT comes in right at the bottom at
25 No. 15 in dollars per animal.

1 The top four spend quite a lot of
2 money in their animal welfare budgets.

3 No. 1 is Washington, D.C. who spends
4 \$1,370 per animal, \$13 million budget.

5 No. 2 is San Diego. They spend \$965 per
6 animal with a \$28 million budget. No. 3 is
7 our neighbor up north, New York City, \$954
8 per animal spent. And No. 4 is Miami Dade
9 County, they spend \$930 per animal with a
10 \$27 million budget.

11 And even if you go down to our
12 neighbor down south, Baltimore, which has a
13 slightly higher poverty than Philadelphia,
14 they come in No. 7 in the nation. They
15 spend \$460 per animal. ACCT is all the way
16 down at No. 15 and they spend only \$230 per
17 animal, half of what Baltimore does. So
18 that incredibly low level of funding leaves
19 ACCT management basically between a rock and
20 a hard place.

21 They have to choose between bad
22 policy A and bad policy B. ACCT hasn't had
23 a full-time vet for almost a year due to the
24 pathetically low salary it can afford to
25 offer. So about 50 percent of the time

1 during the week, there's no vet at ACCT and
2 the other 50 percent, there's part-time vets
3 there.

4 So when an adopter adopts an
5 unfixed dog and there's no vet there, ACCT
6 has -- and there's no vet there or the next
7 day there's going to be no vet, ACCT has to
8 make the choice of either letting that dog
9 go unfixed with a voucher to Paws or SPCA or
10 they hold that dog in the kennel for three
11 or four more days until one of the part-time
12 vets comes to work.

13 Now, there's several adopters who
14 are quite happy to not use the voucher, so
15 at the moment they're, you know. But the
16 equally bad policy is if they keep that dog
17 for another three days until a part-time vet
18 shows up, then during that day ACCT would
19 have intaked another 30 dogs, one of whom
20 will definitely lose their life because that
21 adopted dog's kennel wouldn't have opened
22 up.

23 Now, like ACCT like the other 14
24 municipal shelters has their intake
25 prevention program where owners have a

1 meeting with an intake prevention counselor
2 and given access to information and
3 resources with the hope of keeping their
4 dog. But in the other 14 municipal
5 shelters, they have an average of 8 to 10
6 intake prevention counselors working.

7 So when I called up randomly about
8 seven or eight of these places, I was told I
9 could come in and see the counselor that day
10 or I had to have an appointment for the next
11 day or the day after. Now, at ACCT this
12 November when owners showed up on November
13 1st to surrender their dog, they were told,
14 oh, your appointment with the counselor is
15 November 30th, one month after the fact.
16 Now, it's 200 owners a month that hear that
17 and walk out.

18 Now, they don't count in the ACCT
19 statistics where it says we have a 90
20 percent live release rate. They don't count
21 it in any statistical category. You can't
22 quantify what happens to those dogs so no
23 one cares about them. Now, the alternative
24 is bad policy B. You take those 150 to 200
25 dogs and half would go straight to the

1 euthanasia room and have their lives ended.

2 Now, the managing director a
3 couple of months ago claimed that ACCT is
4 underfunded compared to other cities, but
5 it's no more underfunded than any other City
6 department but that's simply not true.
7 Philadelphia spends 50 percent of the
8 Washington, D.C. school budget per pupil,
9 but it spends only 18 percent of the D.C.
10 budget for animal care per animal.

11 Philadelphia spends 74 percent of
12 the New York City school budget per pupil,
13 but spends only 24 percent of the New York
14 City budget on animal care per animal. So
15 ACCT is three times more underfunded than
16 the School District. And the bar in
17 Philadelphia for animal welfare is set so
18 low, that all animal welfare advocates want
19 is that the animals in Philadelphia be
20 treated as well as the animals in Baltimore,
21 a city with a higher poverty rate.

22 Baltimore spends double the amount
23 per animal than ACCT, \$460 per animal versus
24 \$230. And also in two months, it's moving
25 into a brand new state-of-the-art building

1 near their baseball stadium which is twice
2 the size of ACCT. But if they only take in
3 half the number of animals, so it's twice
4 the size for half the animals.

5 The saddest part about this is
6 their current building which is deemed by
7 the city of Baltimore to not be good enough
8 for their animals is about to be demolished.
9 If that building was somehow magically
10 transported up 95 and dropped down in the
11 Navy Yard or somewhere on Delaware Avenue,
12 then animal welfare advocates in the City
13 would throw a party.

14 I've been to that building and
15 it's a million times better than the
16 building where ACCT is at present. So their
17 current building is not good enough for the
18 animals of Baltimore but will be a major
19 improvement for the animals of Philadelphia.
20 Not having any political experience ever,
21 it's very hard to reconcile the difference
22 in the treatment that the animals get here
23 compared to Baltimore.

24 If every Councilperson could make
25 an unscheduled visit to ACCT and see the

1 facility, then I feel that ACCT's chronic
2 underfunding wouldn't be allowed to
3 continue. And since a lot of the commenters
4 today been about talking about jobs, I've
5 been volunteering at ACCT for four years and
6 in that time it's never ever had a full
7 staffing at ACCT.

8 And their jobs pay there -- their
9 entry level jobs pay over \$13 an hour and
10 they always have between 10 and 40 job
11 vacancies. So, you know, if you know people
12 who want to work and they need entry level
13 jobs, it's -- I don't know how many entry
14 level jobs in Philadelphia are paying that
15 much, but they're paying I think \$13.25 to
16 start.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

18 Thank you. Thank you, Ian, for advocacy. I
19 thank all of you on the panel for your
20 advocacy. We appreciate it. There's a
21 commitment on our behalf so thank you very
22 much.

23 MS. PERELMAN: Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I
25 want to have Marisa -- Mr. Craig Martin come

1 in real quickly from the Sheriff's Office
2 and then Marisa so we can close out. You
3 had something to add, Councilman Johnson?

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes -- well,
5 let's keep this thing.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
7 Mr. Craig Martin, I posed a question to the
8 independent offices about the transition and
9 how the budget allocations were going to
10 help in that transition, if there was a plan
11 from the Sheriff's Office and the other
12 departments. So I just want to get on the
13 record what, if anything, we're doing as you
14 transition?

15 MR. MARTIN: Yes, Craig Martin
16 from the Sheriff's Office. I'm the Budget
17 Officer. Good afternoon. The request was
18 for \$3,006,000. Most of it was due to
19 overtime. The Sheriff's Office has suffered
20 from overtime tremendously. There is a
21 plan. In the past, the Sheriff had a
22 problem hiring because we didn't have our
23 own hiring list.

24 This last fiscal year we were
25 granted that. The Sheriff's Office was able

1 to interview a series of candidates. We do
2 have a lot on the docket. Some will be
3 hired. Some have actually been hired and
4 will be put into place. This budgetary
5 quarter coming, the plan is to direct those
6 employees to the shortages that we have in
7 Family Court, City Hall, the Wagner building
8 and the Bike unit.

9 Now, we intend to hire 41 deputy
10 officers this fiscal period and another 30
11 next budgetary period for City Hall here,
12 for all the administrative offices here and
13 the courts here. The big issue is the
14 interviewing process. A lot of them -- we
15 do turn down a lot based on the number that
16 we get, so we have to interview a lot.

17 Then there's the issue of the time
18 it takes to get a person from a higher to a
19 functioning deputy which is about a good six
20 months, but the process is on the way. We
21 do see overtime actually going down this
22 next quarter at least by 10 to 12 percent
23 and going down each quarter percentage-wise
24 based on how we bring them in. We bring
25 them in and move them into the areas where

1 we have shortage, and we do anticipate that
2 the overtime will decrease and go down.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 Any questions from this panel? Thank you.
5 We'll be looking for --

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I have a
7 question.

8 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So we're
10 doing this transfer ordinance now, you're
11 hiring all of these individuals. How does
12 that play into the transition with the new
13 person that's coming in? Just try and give
14 me an idea. Because we're doing this ramp-
15 up of hiring, then you got a new leadership
16 team that's going to come in. Explain that
17 to me. Give me an idea of how that works.

18 MR. MARTIN: That's a good
19 question. Law enforcement in the Sheriff's
20 Office will not change. The law enforcement
21 needs are the needs. The new leader will
22 come in with their goals and objectives and
23 a new plan hopefully. But the need is still
24 there for this Deputy Sheriff's Offices.
25 That's why we had a problem with the

1 overtime because we're like 41 deputies
2 short.

3 And the new person coming in is
4 going to need that because there's new needs
5 for City Hall, new needs for the court, new
6 needs for CJC and they have to be covered.
7 Any other programming will still be affected
8 by the needs of law enforcement.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: One last
10 thing, and I'll wrap up because I know we
11 have to keep it moving, and I guess this
12 will be for the new Administration, but
13 nevertheless, the hiring issue, right, and I
14 mean on the regular, constituents who work
15 for the House of Corrections -- not House of
16 Corrections, but the prison system.

17 MR. MARTIN: Right.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Who's always
19 trying to make that transition over into the
20 Sheriff's Department, right?

21 MR. MARTIN: Right.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Obviously,
23 she can't let but so many -- Commissioner
24 Blanche can't let but so many people go
25 because she got to maintain her workforce

1 personnel. And so, I guess I would want to
2 see what the plan and the strategy is. I
3 don't think I've seen a Sheriff's Department
4 hiring fair recently. Maybe -- I'm quite
5 sure --

6 MR. MARTIN: Are you speaking of
7 the strategy of getting people from the
8 prisons to the Sheriff's Office?

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Or people
10 just hired in general.

11 MR. MARTIN: Well, actually -- the
12 problem with the strategy has been not to
13 have the proper list and getting people that
14 are already employees, say like the prisons
15 into the Sheriff's Office is a slow process
16 because they have to be willing to give
17 these people up.

18 The Sheriff's Office still wants
19 to hire those people because they come with
20 experience. But now that the floodgates
21 have opened in terms of being able to bring
22 in, do the testing for the Sheriff's Office
23 and bring in a lump of hirings that are
24 basically directed to the Sheriff's Office,
25 that gives the Sheriff's Office more people

1 to interview for the job.

2 And we've seen the floodgates open
3 up and we've had a lot to interview. We're
4 interviewing now. As I said, we hope to
5 hire the 41 by the end of this fiscal period
6 and then hire another 30 for City Hall. I
7 can't speak as to how the plans will be made
8 by the incoming Chief.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's cool. I
10 just wanted to get an idea.

11 MR. MARTIN: All I can say is as a
12 budget person, crunch the numbers, keep them
13 right, make sure that I have answers for her
14 when she ask me and let her take it from
15 there.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Well, we thank you for coming over at our
18 request. We appreciate that. Marisa, real
19 quickly so we can put on the record --

20 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: --
22 the explanation of the amendment, and then
23 we will go to the public meeting and take
24 the vote. So in the amendment that's been
25 circulated to the Committee for Bill No.

1 190856, there are a couple of items,
2 \$250,000 for the Culture Fund as requested
3 in a program activity from Councilwoman
4 Blondell Reynolds Brown, this \$488,000 for
5 animal control as presented by Councilman
6 Domb and there's a \$25 million to the
7 finance for what we consider a deposit to
8 the poverty plan.

9 Anything you want to add as it
10 relates to this or to particularly comment
11 on this as we go into the meeting?

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Sure. Thank
13 you very much. I wanted to say that
14 obviously the Kenney Administration shares
15 with Council a real commitment to figuring
16 out what are the right ways we can address
17 poverty, evidence-based approaches that are
18 really going to move the needle because that
19 is something that we know Philadelphia has a
20 persistent high rate of poverty so we
21 understand putting that funding in there and
22 we look forward to working with the task
23 force Council has now to develop what is the
24 most effective use of those funds so that we
25 have real shared solutions there.

1 With regard to the funding to the
2 Animal Care and Control, the MDO is really
3 interested in the administration and working
4 with the management of ACCT to understand
5 what is the spending plan for any additional
6 funds, what outcomes those are going to
7 achieve.

8 The gentlemen on the last panel
9 testified about the currently-funded
10 positions that remain vacant, so how will
11 those be addressed. So we look forward to
12 continuing those conversations to understand
13 where we can get to there. And with that, I
14 thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 Okay. Thank you so much. You got through
17 your first one.

18 So the public hearing has come to
19 a close. We will now enter the Committee of
20 Appropriations Public Meeting. The Chair
21 recognizes Vice-chair Kenyatta Johnson for a
22 motion on the amendment to 190856.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
24 Madam Chairwoman. I move that the amendment
25 to Bill No. 190856 be adopted.

1 (Duly seconded.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 All those in favor?

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

6 Any opposition?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 Seeing none, the amendment to 190856 has
10 been adopted. The Chair recognizes
11 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson for a motion on
12 Bill Nos. 190856 as amended, 190854, 190855
13 and 190857.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
15 Madam Chairwoman. I move that Bill No.
16 190856 as amended, 190854, 190855 and 190857
17 be reported from this Committee with a
18 favorable recommendation and further move
19 that the rules of Council be suspended to
20 permit first reading of this bill at the
21 next session of Council.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

24 All those in favor?

25 (Aye.)

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1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Any opposition?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 Seeing none, it has been moved and properly
6 seconded that Bill Nos. 190856 as amended,
7 190854, 190855, 190857 be reported at this
8 Committee with a favorable recommendation
9 and further move that the rules of Council
10 be suspended to permit first reading at our
11 next session. Thank you very much. This
12 concludes our long afternoon. Thank you.

13 (Committee on Appropriations
14 concluded at 4:35 p.m.)

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

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

Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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