

11/22/2022

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
JOINT COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

RESOLUTION: 220699

11/22/2022

1 - - -

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
3 morning, everyone. This is a joint
4 hearing on the Committee of Public
5 Safety as well as the Committee on Gun
6 Violence Prevention regarding
7 Resolution No. 2200699 -- 220699.

8 Before we begin this hearing,
9 I'd like to recognize Mr. Glass to
10 read an important announcement.
11 Mr. Glass.

12 THE CLERK: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 I understand that state law
15 currently requires that the following
16 announcement be made at the beginning
17 of every remote public hearing as
18 follows: Due to the current public
19 health emergency, City Council
20 Committees are meeting remotely. We
21 are using Microsoft Teams to make
22 these remote hearings possible.

23 Instructions for how the
24 public may view and offer public
25 testimony at public hearings of

11/22/2022

1 Council Committees are included in the
2 public hearing notices that are
3 published in the Daily News, Inquirer
4 and Legal Intelligencer prior to the
5 hearings and can also be found on
6 PHLCouncil.com.

7 Everyone who has been invited
8 to the meeting to testify should be
9 aware that this public hearing is
10 being recorded. Because the hearing
11 is public, participants and viewers
12 have no reasonable expectation of
13 privacy. By continuing to be in the
14 meeting, you are consenting to being
15 recorded.

16 Additionally, prior to
17 Councilman Jones recognizing Members
18 for questions or comments they have
19 for the witnesses, I will note for the
20 record at this time that we will use
21 the chat feature available in
22 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
23 signify that they wish to be
24 recognized. In order to comply with
25 the Sunshine Act, the chat feature

11/22/2022

1 must only be used for this purpose.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Mr. Glass. Can we call the roll to
5 establish a quorum, sir.

6 THE CLERK: Yes,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 From the Committee on Public
9 Safety, Councilmember Gauthier.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Gym.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Present.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
15 morning.

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember
17 Brooks.

18 (No response.)

19 THE CLERK: Councilmember
20 Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
22 morning. I'm present.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
24 morning, Member Thomas.

25 THE CLERK: Vice-Chairman

11/22/2022

1 Johnson.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good

3 morning, everyone.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

5 morning, Co-Chair.

6 THE CLERK: Chairman Jones.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: I am

8 present. I believe a quorum has been

9 established for this Committee. And

10 I'd like --

11 (Background

12 interruption.)

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Somebody's

14 mic is live. You need to check your

15 mic. Thank you.

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember

17 Jones?

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: I'd also like to

20 note for the record that Councilmember

21 Oh has been especially appointed to

22 the Committee by Council President

23 Clarke for today's hearing.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome,

25 Member Oh. Thank you for coming.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
2 very much. I am present.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member, I
4 mean -- maybe that's Freudian.
5 Mr. Glass, can you read the title of
6 the resolution.

7 THE CLERK: Yes,
8 Mr. Chairman. Resolution No. 220699,
9 authorizing the City Council's
10 Committee on Public Safety and the
11 Special Committee on Gun Violence
12 Prevention to hold hearings regarding
13 relocating victims who are targets of
14 deadly violence and determining how
15 the \$500,000 appropriated for their
16 relocation was utilized.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
18 so much, Mr. Glass.

19 I want everybody to know that
20 whether it's Member Johnson or Member
21 Oh or other members of this Committee,
22 this is a vital issue to the justice
23 system, to our constituents and to
24 prevent more gun violence, because
25 without witnesses there is no justice,

11/22/2022

1 without people willing to bravely come
2 forward to see something, say
3 something in a safe manner, then, you
4 know, justice grinds to a halt and
5 those perpetrators that do the crime,
6 which are a very small percentage of
7 the City of Philadelphia's population,
8 get away with it.

9 Witness relocation safely
10 increases our closure rate on open
11 cases. I get so sick of hearing news
12 reports when you hear about gun
13 violence, hear about fatalities and
14 you hear no one, no suspects, and
15 those cases often stay open for long
16 periods of time.

17 So we're looking at the money
18 that has been appropriated and how it
19 was spent. We're looking at the issue
20 of the fact that we are doubling down
21 and putting an extra half a million
22 dollars towards this goal so that we
23 can safely relocate witnesses, so that
24 we can have them at trial.

25 And I want to turn it over

11/22/2022

1 now to my Co-Chair Member Johnson.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank
3 you, Mr. Chair.

4 And I want to thank
5 Councilman David Oh for making sure
6 this is on the forefront of our minds
7 and City Council, not only from a
8 budget standpoint, but most
9 importantly making sure this issue is
10 a priority. When we talk about
11 solving homicides, when we talk about
12 addressing gun violence, if we can't
13 protect our witnesses, then the work
14 that we are doing is all for not. So
15 thank you, Councilman David Oh.

16 But more importantly, I just
17 want to get down to the bottom of the
18 actual question around the specific
19 resolution, how the money is actually
20 being spent. So we have a lot of
21 different individuals who are going to
22 speak, which I believe is great. But
23 the key thing that I want to see at
24 the end of this hearing is what's the
25 plan, how the money has been spent and

11/22/2022

1 how we're going to protect those who
2 are most vulnerable when addressing
3 the issue of gun violence. Anything
4 else is just a part of the discussion.

5 We need to make sure that at
6 the end of the day people feel safe
7 when they do participate in coming
8 forward. Because if we can't keep
9 them safe, then at the end of the day
10 we will have a revolving door of gun
11 violence because we won't solve
12 homicides, we won't solve shootings
13 because a lot of times we put a lot of
14 pressure on our homicide detectives,
15 but if they don't have anybody coming
16 forward with information, then they
17 can't do their job. And that's how
18 you end up with cold cases because
19 people do not want to participate in
20 our criminal justice.

21 And so, again thank you,
22 Councilman David Oh, for bringing this
23 issue to the forefront. And as always
24 my colleague and my partner in this
25 issue, Councilman Curtis Jones, thank

11/22/2022

1 you for your leadership as well in
2 putting together this hearing.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Member Johnson.

5 The Chair will now recognize
6 Member Oh for comments.

7 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
8 very much, Chairman. And thank you to
9 both you and to Councilmember Kenyatta
10 Johnson for your continuous work
11 leading the way prior actually to
12 being elected and continuously on the
13 issue of crime, criminal justice and
14 protecting the public from violence.

15 A year ago back in October of
16 2021, I was informed about what I
17 thought was just something new and
18 something terrible. I could not
19 really almost believe it. But it was
20 identified to me that nine mothers
21 were being shot at, not just them, but
22 their children, as young as 8 years
23 old, were being shot at continuously,
24 occasionally, periodically by young
25 people basically, not because they did

11/22/2022

1 anything to them, but because somehow
2 through the grapevine these young
3 people believed that their children,
4 one of their children, had cooperated
5 with law enforcement. It might not be
6 true, but because they could not get
7 to that particular child, they were
8 targeting the mothers and their
9 children.

10 And I went out to one of the
11 homes to actually look at the home.
12 And the first thing I saw was a metal
13 lamppost with a bullet hole in it. As
14 I went to the porch, everything was
15 covered in paper, the windows. When I
16 went into the home, there were other
17 signs of breaking and entering and
18 other types of indications that the
19 home was being shot at.

20 This is the first time I
21 began to understand that this was a
22 different type of violence, that
23 people were being targeted not because
24 they did anything in particular, but
25 they might simply be related to or a

11/22/2022

1 friend of somebody. They might simply
2 be in a photograph on Facebook and
3 somebody else sees them, runs up on
4 them and shoots them maybe while
5 they're waiting for a bus or standing
6 outside of a playground.

7 The level of just wanton
8 violence and harm was shocking. And
9 through this Council body, and
10 particularly through Councilmember
11 Jones and Councilmember Johnson, we
12 were able to introduce an
13 appropriation of \$500,000 to
14 immediately relocate these mothers.
15 One of them actually, keeping her
16 identity secret, spoke to the press,
17 keeping her face and voice disguised
18 spoke on television.

19 The Mayor's Office stated
20 that they absolutely felt this was an
21 important issue and was 100 percent on
22 board. That's why they approved the
23 \$500,000 relocation money. And in our
24 conversations with Councilmember Jones
25 and Councilmember Johnson, it was

11/22/2022

1 stated, and I think clearly in this
2 conversation and certainly by myself
3 because I worked in the District
4 Attorney's Office and I've worked as a
5 criminal defense attorney, the
6 District Attorney's Office has money
7 for witness relocation that is
8 typically related to a trial, an
9 upcoming trial. It's a temporary
10 placing of the witness until after the
11 trial. It's actually not called a
12 relocation, but it's just witness
13 protection.

14 Relocation that we were
15 talking about and as we talked with
16 the Administration was taking a person
17 who is being targeted with deadly
18 violence and their children and moving
19 them to a new location out of the
20 neighborhood unbeknownst to the people
21 in the neighborhood. It was not to
22 move them to a hotel or motel for a
23 couple of weeks and have them come
24 back to that same home in the same
25 neighborhood with the same people

11/22/2022

1 hunting for them.

2 To date, nobody has been
3 moved to my knowledge. And what I
4 mean is while they have been moved
5 temporarily for a few weeks, they have
6 come back to the same home where
7 everybody knows where they live.

8 Moving the children is another problem
9 because you can't move the children to
10 another school if the mother doesn't
11 have an address, so they have to
12 have -- they have to be able to be
13 moved.

14 And in that particular case
15 as we'll hear from the witnesses, that
16 mother eventually got a gun to protect
17 herself. And now, she is in jail.
18 And the children, one of them is
19 missing, the 14-year-old to my
20 knowledge, he might be 15 now. The
21 consequences of people being unable to
22 protect themselves, being targeted
23 with deadly violence eventually they
24 try to protect themselves, and this is
25 where the trouble escalates.

11/22/2022

1 She was supposed to have been
2 moved for over a year and was not
3 moved. We got this money. She was
4 supposed to be moved and has not been
5 moved. I want to understand what
6 happened to the \$500,000, and there is
7 a new \$500,000 being appropriated for
8 this very purpose when this work has
9 not been done.

10 So I think it is a very
11 important hearing, Chairman and
12 Co-Chair, as you say because it's a
13 very public matter now. We need to
14 protect the people in our community,
15 but this is something new and we
16 wanted to protect these people in
17 particular until we could get our arms
18 around this problem through our Police
19 and District Attorney and other folks.

20 So with that, I thank you
21 very much for holding this hearing.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
23 so much, Member Oh, and thank you for
24 being steadfast. That was one case
25 and there have been many others with

11/22/2022

1 witnesses being intimidated and
2 threatened. I remember this was in
3 2010, taking a ride with the then
4 Captain Vernell in the 39th District
5 in part of North Philadelphia that I
6 represent, 24th and Lehigh. And he
7 was new, but he knew of the incidence
8 where the witness was shot dead on
9 their porch for being brave enough to
10 come forward and testify.

11 This is unacceptable. We
12 have to do better. So --

13 (Background
14 interruption.)

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Somebody
16 please mute your mic. Please mute
17 your mic.

18 COUNCILMAN OH: Diamond,
19 Diamond. Please mute your microphone.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we bear
22 with those people who are not used to
23 our hearings and we work with them.

24 So with that, Mr. Glass,
25 please read the first panel to

11/22/2022

1 testify.

2 THE CLERK: Yes,
3 Mr. Chairman. I would also like to
4 note for the record that we're joined
5 today by Councilmember Bass, and
6 Councilmember Johnson is also Co-Chair
7 of the Special Committee on Gun
8 Violence Prevention.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
10 for that, Councilmember Bass.

11 THE CLERK: Our first panel
12 today, Mr. Chairman, will be Diamond
13 Wilson.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES:
15 Ms. Wilson, you can unmute your phone
16 or device now.

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Diamond?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. As
21 she works with her device, can we call
22 the next witness.

23 THE CLERK: Yes,
24 Mr. Chairman. Our second panel is
25 Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight and Tobi

11/22/2022

1 Downing.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES:

3 Dr. Speight, Mr. Downing, welcome.

4 Ms. Speight, you are not new
5 to this process. Please state your
6 name for the record and begin your
7 testimony.

8 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Yes.

9 Thank you. My name is Dr. Dorothy
10 Johnson-Speight. I'm Founder and
11 National Executive Director of Mothers
12 In Charge, an organization I started
13 in 2003, almost 20 years, so I am not
14 new to this. I want to thank first of
15 all this morning for this hearing on
16 Special Committee on Gun Violence,
17 Councilman Oh and Councilman Jones and
18 Councilman Johnson for caring enough
19 about this issue to hold such a
20 hearing. This is so important.

21 Mothers In Charge started in
22 2003. We've been serving families
23 over the years on the ground, meeting
24 with families every single day who
25 often times are afraid, afraid after

11/22/2022

1 they've had to bury a son or daughter
2 because someone took their life,
3 murdered them.

4 They come to us often times
5 and they'll say things like, well, the
6 investigation can't go any further
7 because we have no witnesses or we
8 need two witnesses or they tell us
9 they can't do anything in terms of the
10 investigation of my son or my daughter
11 because the witnesses won't come
12 forward. They are afraid. So this
13 resolution is so very, very important
14 to so many families of unsolved
15 murders. Unsolved murders often times
16 because people are afraid, and they
17 don't feel supported when they have
18 information.

19 My son was murdered over a
20 parking space many years ago and there
21 were people in the community who knew
22 that he had killed -- the person had
23 killed (inaudible) in December, but
24 wouldn't come forward because they
25 were afraid. They saw him running

11/22/2022

1 from the scene. They knew all the
2 information but wouldn't share because
3 they didn't feel they were being
4 supported.

5 So often times the same
6 people are killing over and over again
7 like in my case and in so many cases.
8 The same people killing because they
9 know they can get away with it. When
10 the clearance rate is under 40
11 percent, which is unbelievable, so out
12 of 100 murders, maybe 40 of them may
13 be solved, someone may be arrested.
14 But 60 percent of these guys keep
15 killing over and over again because
16 they know they can get away with it,
17 because they know that no witnesses
18 are going to come forth because they
19 know that the witnesses are afraid
20 because they're out there killing
21 every day.

22 So this resolution is so very
23 important to solving homicides. It's
24 a part of what we want to do around
25 violence prevention. So again, I just

11/22/2022

1 want to thank all those involved with
2 this allocation of this funding for
3 these families to be relocated. And
4 this has been something that has been
5 going on for years, like no support
6 for these families.

7 I remember years ago when
8 (inaudible) Kent was trying to do a
9 relocation and it never really worked.
10 It's got to work. We've got to put
11 the things in place that's come
12 around. With 480 homicides in this
13 year so far, we've got to do more than
14 what we're doing to save lives. And
15 no one is safe until we're all safe.

16 So please, please, please
17 find this money, put it where it's
18 supposed to go and try to find some
19 more money to go with it to help save
20 the lives of retaliation, families who
21 want to give information but are
22 afraid to, but these guys are just
23 running rampant because they know they
24 can get away with it.

25 So my plea is please do all

11/22/2022

1 that you can to address this issue.
2 We don't know who the next homicide
3 victim may be. It may be someone near
4 and close to you as well. We all have
5 to be involved. It's no one person or
6 one entity that has to solve this.
7 Together collectively, we must all
8 work together to address this issue
9 and get these people off the street
10 that are creating havoc in our lives
11 every single day.

12 Those of us who have lost
13 loved ones to violence are traumatized
14 every single day when we hear another
15 person's been murdered. We've got to
16 do more in the City of Brotherly Love
17 and Sisterly Affection. Thank you for
18 the opportunity.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
20 so much for your testimony. And,
21 Doctor, I want you to know whenever I
22 listen to you, your passion on both
23 sides of the ledger, not just for the
24 victims, but those who might be able
25 to be rehabilitated comes across, and

11/22/2022

1 I appreciate that clarion voice in
2 this discussion. So I just wanted you
3 to know that.

4 Are there any questions from
5 members of the panel for Dr. Speight?
6 We're going to do it that way today.

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Glass.

9 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, no
10 one has signified that they have any
11 questions in the chat.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
13 so much --

14 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT:
15 Councilman Jones, just remember
16 they're all our children. Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's a
18 strong, strong point. They're all our
19 children. I've been in courtrooms
20 where the victim's family is on one
21 side and the perpetrator, defendant's
22 family is on another side and there's
23 nothing that day but sadness. They're
24 all our children, you're right. Thank
25 you so much.

11/22/2022

1 Who is the next witness to
2 testify, Mr. Glass?

3 THE CLERK: Tobi Downing,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you
6 there? Are you connected?

7 MS. DOWNING: I'm here.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
9 Thank you. State your name for the
10 record and please begin your
11 testimony. That's Ms. Diamond?

12 MS. DOWNING: Downing. My
13 names Tobi Downing. I work for
14 Northwest Victim Services. I'm the
15 Executive Director. And thank you all
16 for inviting me to participate in this
17 hearing. So relocation is a huge
18 issue for us as we serve survivors of
19 gun violence and victims of crime.

20 It's one of the most common
21 requests for assistance, housing and
22 relocation assistance. And in my
23 years of supporting victims through
24 some of these requests and the
25 limitations of how we do deal with

11/22/2022

1 this issue, I've come to realize that
2 there's a real need for us to really
3 coordinate our efforts in real ways to
4 support families as they ask for this
5 assistance.

6 We have gun violence, and
7 community violence has a particular
8 bias against it. And so, when
9 individuals are victims of gun
10 violence, they're faced with all of
11 the perceptions of why and how it
12 happened, and that trickles down to
13 some of how we apply some of the
14 services and our policies toward it.

15 And I would love an
16 opportunity to see us codify the value
17 that we have for survivors of gun
18 violence to supports, to housing
19 support just as we do survivors of
20 domestic violence and those fleeing
21 sexual and human trafficking. There's
22 guidelines. In the City of
23 Philadelphia, we have particular
24 provisions for domestic violence
25 survivors that you can't be evicted.

11/22/2022

1 You can't be like certain things. We
2 would want the same things for our
3 survivors of gun violence.

4 And what we see is that even
5 with money available, our families
6 often aren't able because of the
7 landscape of affordable housing or the
8 lack of affordable housing, they're
9 not able to meet the needs and we're
10 not able to assist them with the
11 flexibility of dollars the way
12 families need. We need to be able to
13 meet families where they are.

14 I've had many young men who
15 may need to leave the area and they
16 may have an uncle down South, but
17 unfortunately some of the relocation
18 dollars says that you have to have a
19 licensed realtor. The average
20 19-year-old is not going to be able to
21 walk into an office and rent an
22 apartment with no credit history.
23 Many of them haven't even finished
24 school. And so, we need to if we're
25 really committed to providing

11/22/2022

1 sustainable relocation, find ways to
2 support people in real ways and meet
3 them where they are.

4 I think some of the things I
5 think about, I know there's the checks
6 and balances thing. We don't want
7 money to just -- you have to make sure
8 that you're being accountable. So we
9 need to figure out how do we build on
10 those checks and balances, but support
11 people where they are.

12 We have lots of mothers -- my
13 experience is we'll have a mother with
14 multiple children in the household and
15 maybe the teenage kid is the one who's
16 in a little bit of trouble, but now
17 there's other kids in the household
18 and now she has to figure out on a
19 limited income how she can get this
20 assistance and maybe she goes to a few
21 places, but she can't get approved.
22 Our systems aren't -- the way we
23 support aren't flexible enough to just
24 meet her where she is.

25 And also, I know EMIR had a

11/22/2022

1 kind of record rehousing model where
2 you pay some money upfront and you
3 continue to pay for several months
4 until the family gets on their feet.
5 We need to consider that. Our dollars
6 need to be applied in ways that can
7 support a family through the trauma
8 of -- and they're also dealing with
9 trauma, that's the other thing. On
10 top of needing to move, we have
11 families and the children in the
12 families who are dealing with trauma.

13 And so, what I would like to
14 offer this space is I'm just so happy
15 because this is by far one of the most
16 common requests. And at Northwest, we
17 don't have any dollars to support
18 families with housing needs or
19 relocation needs. We can refer them
20 to the VCAP process, which is
21 reimbursable up to \$1,000. So you
22 have to already have the money, and
23 it's up to \$1,000 per direct victim,
24 which is an issue in and of itself.
25 And most families say, if I had the

11/22/2022

1 money, I wouldn't be calling you.

2 So I would just like to offer
3 this space and this opportunity to
4 think about as we identify more money,
5 think about how it trickles down, how
6 we apply that money and finding ways
7 to really meet the families' needs in
8 the ways that we know -- like, we
9 can't be tethered to economic
10 structures that disadvantage the very
11 families that we're serving. Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
14 so much for that testimony. So what
15 I'm hearing is that the willingness on
16 most parts is there, whether it's law
17 enforcement, whether it's the courts
18 and whether it's the people. The
19 systems aren't in place to make it a
20 smooth transition. It's not just
21 money. It is systems that need to be
22 in place and removal of barriers.

23 You're so right, shooters are
24 getting younger, what do they know
25 about leases then and things like

11/22/2022

1 that. And there are people that I
2 know of that were in that whole drill
3 music world that just find themselves
4 engulfed in it and they just want to
5 be out of it, but don't know how to
6 get out. And we have to put better
7 supports in place to provide the right
8 hand of fellowship and the left hand
9 of punishment and knowing when to
10 apply equally. There are some people
11 that aren't going to change their
12 ways, but there are plenty of people,
13 the majority of people, who really
14 just want an exit ramp out of this.
15 And so, that's number one.

16 Number two, we need to codify
17 those barriers that you spoke of and
18 really list them and take it upon
19 ourselves to create an organized
20 method of removing some of them and I
21 think it can be done. Let me ask you
22 this question: There is a federal
23 relocation program, there is a state
24 relocation program, and then ours, how
25 do they converge or do they converge?

11/22/2022

1 MS. DOWNING: So what I can
2 say about the relocation assistance
3 that the DAs offer -- the DA's Office
4 offers, and Councilman Oh I think
5 spoke to it, it is meant to ensure
6 that witnesses feel safe enough to
7 testify. My experience with it is
8 that even that has limitations. And
9 so, I heard someone commenting about
10 the moving to the hotel, and it was
11 almost a mandate in a lot of the ways
12 because some of the protections that
13 we need to codify weren't in place.

14 So there was an expectation
15 that often times we would get a
16 20-year-old -- just the 20-year-old,
17 not the whole family, the 20-year-
18 old -- would be referred and he's
19 supposed to relocate, which is not
20 even a realistic act, and relocate by
21 going through these systems that
22 require that individual to sign a
23 lease, show a rental history, all of
24 the things that many families aren't
25 able to show. And if they are able to

11/22/2022

1 show, then finding rent that is
2 affordable. And that's an issue in
3 the City anyway beyond being a victim
4 of violence. But if you add being a
5 victim of violence, that's it. And
6 so, there's limitations for that.

7 And then it's just not a
8 comprehensive-enough approach. And
9 so, it's important -- the \$500,000 is
10 important that the City is committed
11 to providing that support. And what
12 we need is we need relationships with
13 housing authorities. We need to be
14 able to get vouchers for eligible
15 individuals because many of them do
16 need subsidized housing.

17 It's a lot of money -- the
18 average rent, and I know the
19 statistics just for other reasons,
20 I've been working on it, the average
21 rent for a one-bedroom is like \$1100
22 in the City for a one-bedroom. We
23 have many mothers who are seeking
24 assistance, and that would require
25 here in the City three months so \$3300

11/22/2022

1 upfront for a one-bedroom. And we're
2 not talking to about a house. And
3 moving to a place where you're not
4 finding yourself in more harm's way,
5 that's the other thing that happens.

6 The places that many of the
7 families are able to secure, they're
8 just jumping from one hot bed to
9 another hot bed, and some of the kids
10 end up seeing some of the same people
11 that could cause harm. And so, to
12 your question, I just think that the
13 City needs to commit, like, from the
14 heart and from the law and from policy
15 perspective to supporting these
16 families.

17 I think there is a particular
18 stigma against these families and
19 victims of gun violence that happen in
20 particular -- this gun violence issue
21 is across the country. But coming
22 from particular neighborhoods, there's
23 a stigma that already is attached to
24 the experiences of these families that
25 adds to their trauma.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Two quick
2 follow-up questions: To your
3 knowledge, how big a problem -- how
4 many people have requested to your
5 knowledge relocation last year?

6 MS. DOWNING: I don't know
7 across all the agencies, but I can say
8 I was trying to do in preparation for
9 this conversation, for Northwest
10 easily since the seven months I've
11 been on board, 60 percent of the
12 individuals that we talk with ask for
13 some level of assistance with moving
14 or housing assistance because they've
15 been injured and they have been unable
16 to get up their bills, so a
17 combination of the housing and
18 relocation assistance.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: And what
20 is that number of victims? Give me
21 some sense of scope how big the
22 problem is.

23 MS. DOWNING: Oh, so let me
24 look. So easily, I'm looking at --
25 let me get the exact number. I'm

11/22/2022

1 sorry. Easily about 80 families, 80
2 families, and that would be just since
3 March. I haven't been there for a
4 year.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,
6 that's helpful. So what is the
7 average cost of that assistance? So
8 we're talking about 80 families. Give
9 me a median rate from the most modest
10 help to the most help. What's the
11 average?

12 MS. DOWNING: It depends on
13 the income and needs of the family,
14 but I know while I think the \$500,000
15 was great, when I first saw that, I
16 remember thinking that's not enough.
17 So I do remember thinking you can
18 easily do 10,000 to 15,000 to one
19 family if you're doing it to be
20 sustainable.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.
22 Got it. See that helps and I'm glad
23 you put that on the record. I
24 appreciate it.

25 Are there any other questions

11/22/2022

1 from members of the Committee?

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Glass.

4 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it
5 does not appear that there are any
6 questions in the chat or any Members
7 who have asked to be recognized at
8 this time.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,
10 thank you for your testimony.

11 MS. DOWNING: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I
13 appreciate it.

14 And with that, Mr. Glass,
15 who's next to testify? I think it's
16 Diamond. Is she connected?

17 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
18 Diamond is connected, but I do see
19 that -- Diamond, you can proceed with
20 your testimony if you're ready.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
22 name for the record and please begin
23 your testimony.

24 MS. WILSON: Hi. My name is
25 Diamond Wilson. And by the grace of

11/22/2022

1 God, I am here today. It is his plan.
2 I am a living legend. I am his living
3 legend. I survived being handcuffed
4 to a chair in a school and left by
5 school security. I survived my
6 mother's death. I survived Trayvon
7 Martin's death. I survived my
8 grandmother's death, my mentors'
9 death, Leslie Pelzer and David Fattah.
10 I survived the death of my children's
11 father by gun violence. I survived
12 what I thought was my own death after
13 being shot in the face by a .40
14 caliber.

15 So I believe it's our God's
16 plan I am to here to speak in this
17 hearing for all people to help.
18 My home being off -- my existence is
19 off, so bear with me if I seem a
20 little bit down. I fight every minute
21 to survive. And in Zoom with
22 Councilman Jones and the DA's Victim
23 Crime Compensation staff, they
24 apologized. They had made their
25 resources available to me and my sons

11/22/2022

1 as someone told DA Krasner we were
2 relocated and safe and taken care of
3 with every resource in their power.

4 When, in fact, we had been
5 given no resources. In fact, we were
6 given nothing, no money, no housing,
7 no food, no help with our
8 medication -- no help with my
9 medication, I'm sorry, anyone to
10 dispense, no caregiver to help too.
11 In the Zoom, the two things I was
12 clear about was my needs as a victim,
13 for me and my sons and the fact that a
14 close friend's son Anthony Brown's
15 case was stuck in the DA's Integrity
16 Unit for years just like my Victims
17 Compensation resource has been held
18 up.

19 Me and my family have been
20 surviving going into the second year
21 of struggling to live. No sense of
22 urgency. For months into a year
23 waiting, what did I get. I didn't get
24 any resources that applied to my
25 situation. I didn't get any funds. I

11/22/2022

1 didn't get anything for an apartment.

2 I was told that I was going
3 to be helped by Section 8. Section 8
4 doesn't even have my application, and
5 I have no income. Disability denied
6 me. I'm sorry, guys. My vision is,
7 like, going in and out.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Take your
9 time, Diamond.

10 MS. WILSON: Did they know
11 that I was disabled with pain
12 overwhelmingly and I will never see
13 out the eye again. I pass in one eye
14 as blind. My eye was removed in June.
15 I don't have an eye. My first
16 question is what is the DA's Crime
17 Office supposed to do for survivors of
18 violence or even gun violence like me.
19 Perhaps I got it wrong.

20 After 60 weeks, we still need
21 help. We couldn't get a straight
22 answer when ironically I heard during
23 Myra Maxwell's testimony to the
24 Chairmen at the hearing just headed by
25 the Council last week. Help me lift

11/22/2022

1 my family past the effects of gun
2 violence I survived. I am no longer a
3 victim. I'm a survivor who was
4 promised accommodation resources to
5 help my recovery, protect me and my
6 young children from further attacks.
7 I believe that would happen.

8 Weeks after I watched my
9 family and friends and their family
10 and friends and strangers sacrifice to
11 help me and encourage me to stay
12 strong, they gave me hope to forget
13 about the red tape that was preventing
14 me from getting the help that me and
15 my children needed that was promised,
16 mandated to help victims and survivors
17 of violence. And just concrete on
18 getting strong enough to function like
19 a mother should, 69 weeks-plus later
20 after my surgery, doctors' visits,
21 continuously endless pain, I'm sorry,
22 painful days, I am not properly
23 relocated or protected. I am still
24 hopeful. I wish help to come.

25 I will survive this event and

11/22/2022

1 restore the qualities of life I lived
2 before the tragedy. I am now living
3 at a less capacity than before the
4 assault. Over the last months,
5 someone asked me if we could relocate
6 you and your family where would you
7 go. My first thought, where growing
8 up I want to live near the people who
9 came to my house and looked up to who
10 were famous, who gave back and helped
11 other people, the many fundraisers I
12 volunteered in that helped other
13 people, I want to live and be around
14 those people who helped.

15 But now, I just want to have
16 a safe place for me and my children to
17 live so they can survive and pass the
18 age 12 to 25, so I can come back and
19 help my friends that have been
20 affected by this disease of
21 unpeacefulness and homicides and gun
22 violence.

23 I don't want to forget to
24 give back. I am right here. You see
25 me, but you won't help me and my sons.

11/22/2022

1 I was left here to remind you all of
2 the work we need to do. I want to
3 address the lady who is the director
4 of the Public Defense office. You are
5 right, if you don't help us, you will
6 put more red tape up in play.
7 Criminals created because of the red
8 tape, roadblocks.

9 I can't tell you how many
10 times this past year me and my family
11 have been intimidated by my neighbors
12 or an authority. A delicate moment we
13 have. It's this moment. We have the
14 power to make it right. I don't have
15 to reach out to Ben Crump for help.
16 We can settle this right here in our
17 City.

18 Our Mayor, DA and this
19 hearing today, just listen. Don't let
20 me go back to my aunt's where I have
21 to call her and let her know I'm about
22 to pull up or look out before I ride
23 my son to school because of the
24 danger. The people in our authority
25 that can admit wrong has the power to

11/22/2022

1 make things right.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Diamond,
3 are you done?

4 MS. WILSON: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
6 for your testimony.

7 So for those people who do
8 not know the extent of what you went
9 through, almost two years ago Diamond
10 was a victim of crime. She was shot.
11 Unprovoked, she is not the kind of
12 person that a lot of times people give
13 the side nod to, to say, oh, you
14 shouldn't have been out there. She
15 was going to the store like tens of
16 thousands of people do and she was
17 assaulted, shot, and by the grace of
18 God survived.

19 From that point, we got the
20 District Attorney involved. And
21 again, I will reiterate that the
22 willingness to help is there. The
23 systems seem to be disjointed. So you
24 were relocated temporarily to a hotel;
25 is that right?

11/22/2022

1 MS. WILSON: Yes, but only
2 with a one two-bedroom and --

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: With how
4 many kids?

5 MS. WILSON: With two kids,
6 two very active kids.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And how
8 long were you able to stay there?

9 MS. WILSON: I wasn't able to
10 stay there too long. I think they
11 gave us a three-month stay because
12 they couldn't accommodate me and my
13 kids any longer because the space
14 wasn't helpful. The space that they
15 provided was not helpful to us.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: And so,
17 you wound up going back to the same
18 neighborhood?

19 MS. WILSON: The same
20 neighborhood, a block away from where
21 I got shot.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: And you've
23 had constant issues with people in the
24 neighborhood that are violent
25 encounters, correct?

11/22/2022

1 MS. WILSON: Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where you
3 were forced to have to defend
4 yourself, correct?

5 MS. WILSON: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And what
7 about your children, do they live in
8 that same type of stressful place?

9 MS. WILSON: Yes, my kids
10 live in the same stressful situation.
11 I was actually relocated by the DA's
12 Office at that time, so I was coming
13 back to the block to pick my son up
14 and take him to school, and we were
15 boxed in the block and they smashed
16 the window out and pulled a gun out on
17 us, so my son didn't never want me to
18 take him back to school after that.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So every
20 Monday my staff is instructed to
21 contact your detective that's
22 responsible for your case. And thus
23 far, we have not had any success in
24 finding the perpetrator; is that
25 correct?

11/22/2022

1 MS. WILSON: No success at
2 all.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: And are
4 they in contact with you?

5 MS. WILSON: Are they in
6 contact with me?

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes --

8 MS. WILSON: Only the person
9 from your office, not the detectives.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Not the
11 detective. So do you -- that
12 individual that you saw, is he still
13 in the neighborhood, do you know?

14 MS. WILSON: That night I
15 didn't see him. But after that night
16 when I was strong enough to do my own
17 investigating, I believe I found where
18 he lived at and the detectives never
19 followed through on it.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: That is
21 disturbing to me. I think one of the
22 things that we did last week, we had a
23 hearing talking about the true cost of
24 crime from the point that a person
25 picks up a gun, creates that assault

11/22/2022

1 and/or shooting, what happens then.

2 And this is a part of what happens
3 then. Could you work before you were
4 shot?

5 MS. WILSON: No, I did not.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

7 Since you've been shot, how much of
8 the medical bills have you incurred?

9 MS. WILSON: Actually,
10 Councilman, I'm not actually aware of
11 how many. But I know we had numerous
12 bills we had to cover that were not
13 reimbursed or anything.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: How many
15 surgeries did you have to endure?

16 MS. WILSON: I had three
17 surgeries the night I was shot. I had
18 a following surgery in the summer to
19 get my eye out and I have two more
20 surgeries to go. I believe the bullet
21 removal itself is about a couple
22 thousand, itself.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you
24 think it's more difficult for you to
25 find a job now because of the wound?

11/22/2022

1 MS. WILSON: Yes, most
2 definitely. My health is still, like,
3 on the borderline. I can barely stand
4 up for more than three minutes, so
5 that's not going to get me a job
6 anywhere.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And did
8 you tell me or did you testify to the
9 fact that your disability was denied?

10 MS. WILSON: Yes, sir,
11 because of my physical experience and
12 I forgot what else. But I know one of
13 them was how I carry myself and dress
14 up. Like today, I forgot to put my
15 eye back in so I still need help.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
17 Are there any questions, Mr. Glass,
18 from members of this Committee?

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
20 Councilmember Oh has a question.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member Oh.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
23 very much, Mr. Chairman. You actually
24 asked some of those questions so I
25 will make comments since I've had an

11/22/2022

1 in-depth conversation with Diamond
2 Wilson and her aunt. For those
3 listening as the Council said and
4 Chairman said, she was in a car when
5 someone came by and shot at her and
6 hit her in the face and as a result,
7 she lost her eye.

8 And prior to that, the father
9 of her children or shortly after that
10 was murdered, and she's been on her
11 own. I believe that the bills she
12 paid was about \$7,000 and they
13 continue. And she's getting no
14 assistance, no help. She lives in the
15 same neighborhood. Where she was
16 moved to is the place where a lot of
17 witnesses are moved to and people know
18 where it is, and she has to come back
19 to the same neighborhood where she's
20 confronting and dealing with people
21 that are harassing her and attacking
22 her under the idea that they know or
23 somehow support the shooter.

24 And this culture of attacking
25 people that are perceived to somehow

11/22/2022

1 be vulnerable, easy victims or somehow
2 cooperating with law enforcement -- I
3 believe she does know and has
4 identified the people harassing her.
5 That is criminal. People harassing
6 her are criminals, and they should be
7 arrested and dealt with. But how does
8 she do that when she lives right
9 there.

10 We have \$500,000 for her. We
11 have \$500,000 for her and she's got
12 not one penny. And now, we've got
13 another \$500,000 and where is all this
14 money. She cannot function. She
15 takes medication. It knocks her out.
16 She wakes up the next day. She's
17 dizzy. She's up for a bit. She's got
18 two kids to care for. She can't care
19 for them. Her aunt, her family,
20 they're on their own. And this is
21 completely unacceptable and shocking.

22 But in the light of the fact
23 that we just gave the City with the
24 Mayor's blessing \$500,000, this has to
25 be taken care of. This is completely

11/22/2022

1 inhumane. This is a victim, a young
2 woman who's a victim many times over.
3 What happened to this money? It
4 should be used to help this person and
5 people like her.

6 And I know you're just as
7 outraged as I am. But at the end of
8 the day, this outrage and publicity
9 has got to result in some type of
10 action where we can move this young
11 lady and her aunt, because she needs a
12 caretaker, she cannot function, she
13 cannot work, she's got two more
14 surgeries. She's in constant
15 throbbing pain. For those who don't
16 know, for those who belittle the
17 victims of crime, constant
18 debilitating pain and headaches. She
19 needs some help.

20 Thank you very much,
21 Chairman. And, Diamond, thank you for
22 having the courage to step up in front
23 of everybody and lay this out for
24 them. Thank you so much.

25 MS. WILSON: Thank you, guys.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
2 Member Oh.

3 Are there any other questions
4 from members of the Committee,
5 Mr. Glass?

6 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
7 there are no other questions in the
8 chat and none of the Members have
9 signified that they wish to be
10 recognized at this time.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: So,
12 Diamond, I'm making this -- we're not
13 going to let this go, that as long as
14 you have the courage to come forward,
15 we have the courage to keep asking the
16 rough questions and getting the
17 answers. So hang in there. Okay?

18 MS. WILSON: Yes. Thank
19 you -- oh, sorry. I apologize. Thank
20 you for having me and letting me share
21 my story again. And I just wanted to
22 thank Councilman Kenyatta and
23 Councilman Oh and the rest of the
24 Members for helping me to continue my
25 story.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
2 so much. Thank you for your
3 testimony.

4 Mr. Glass, who is our next
5 witness?

6 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, I
7 would also like to note for the record
8 that Councilmember Squilla is in
9 attendance today as well.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome,
11 Member Squilla.

12 THE CLERK: Our witness is
13 Chantay Love.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Ms. Love.

15 MS. LOVE: Good morning.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
17 morning.

18 MS. LOVE: Are you all okay
19 to hear me?

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.
21 Please state your name for the record
22 and begin your testimony. Thank you.

23 MS. LOVE: My name is Chantay
24 Love. I'm the President of EMIR
25 Healing Center, which stands for Every

11/22/2022

1 Murder Is Real. I stand before you
2 and this is -- although I'm asked to
3 speak, this is a sad opportunity that
4 I am speaking, that the problem of
5 relocation and housing assistance
6 we've had this discussion last August
7 of 2021, September of '21, November
8 '21 and is still having this
9 conversation.

10 It's that we know that there
11 is a major flaw in relocation housing
12 for witnesses of crime. The
13 importance of us getting this right is
14 necessary today. We were fortunate to
15 have a pilot project that was not only
16 supported, also was evaluated,
17 assessed with policies that was
18 supported by the federal government
19 for victims of crime. The difference
20 in the program that we are saying is
21 that it allowed victim agencies to do
22 the work they need to do in relocating
23 families.

24 Policies that city
25 departments and state departments have

11/22/2022

1 will not meet this gap because of the
2 regulations that victim survivors and
3 agencies should have the opportunity
4 to do the work. We do not need
5 another department developed in the
6 City to try to do this type of work
7 because your policies will not go into
8 them. To be able to move a family out
9 of danger is a necessity.

10 But not only that, you're
11 talking about moving them out of
12 danger also helping them put the
13 pieces together. The missing
14 component that agencies or community
15 groups are having as well as
16 yourselves as elected officials is the
17 missing component of a community
18 partner and support to make that
19 happen, because you don't -- the red
20 tape and the policies that already
21 exist will not do it.

22 For example, if we are able
23 to move a family, help them move
24 immediately to safety and then walk
25 with them as they get stabilized, that

11/22/2022

1 takes resources and it takes manpower,
2 but it also takes someone who
3 understands victim rights and
4 regulations, and that's community.
5 What if we did that and it worked.
6 What if this conversation that I'm
7 having today that I had last year and
8 continue to have, if we fix it.

9 Unfortunately the District
10 Attorney's policies, as much as they
11 may be able to do, won't allow them to
12 do the missing component. Your
13 policies in the City will not allow
14 you to do it, but what you can do is
15 create community partners a mechanism
16 to make that happen. Our program that
17 we have was for emergency and
18 relocation and to stabilize. It
19 allowed victim service providers, it
20 allowed EMIR Healing Center, it
21 allowed the Police Department, it
22 allowed the District Attorney's Office
23 to call and say, we need to move a
24 family but we're not able to. But the
25 fortunate part is what happens when

11/22/2022

1 you're able to move a family within
2 hours for some place temporarily with
3 the plans of stabilizing them, is
4 essential for their survival.

5 Why are we still having this
6 conversation. And you all, I'm going
7 to say I'm apologizing because I am so
8 frustrated currently because we all
9 know what we need to do together.

10 This cannot be done without each
11 other. We have to fix it. You're
12 talking about one family and nine
13 families. Well, guess what, I have 36
14 families on a waiting list with over
15 100 people on a waiting list.

16 But what was I able to do
17 when I did have funding? I was able
18 in six months to relocate people
19 immediately within hours. I was able
20 to help people stabilize so that they
21 had a permanent place. It's not just
22 moving them. It's about also having
23 caregivers, making sure education is
24 intact for their children. It's about
25 really helping those that have been

11/22/2022

1 impacted by violence. And if we put
2 the impact and the effort meets each
3 other, the blessings come.

4 And we can't keep going
5 around this circle. Chantay Love at
6 EMIR Healing Center cannot keep going
7 around this circle. And it's
8 unacceptable for all of us. We are
9 all responsible. Every last one of us
10 needs to take ownership in this
11 because this is an easy fix. Now, any
12 questions you have for me?

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.
14 Ms. Love --

15 MS. LOVE: You all have my
16 program and all the data around it.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So for the
18 record, help me to understand. You
19 said 36 families with over 100 people
20 needing to be relocated. First and
21 foremost, is that the total number of
22 people that needed your service or is
23 that a number you were able to address
24 with your funding?

25 MS. LOVE: Oh, no. That was

11/22/2022

1 a number that's needed with my
2 services that's on the waiting list.
3 I do not have the funding to do it. I
4 can tell you about some numbers of
5 people that we served in six months
6 with the proper funding. Emergency
7 shelter and safety nights, we did 392
8 nights. Transitional nights, we have
9 798. We've relocated 252 in six
10 months.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what
12 I'm trying to get on the record, help
13 me with this, with our current
14 complement of murders and shootings,
15 how much -- and for those people who
16 actually need relocation, what is the
17 number that we should be shooting for
18 to solve this problem?

19 MS. LOVE: Oh, you don't have
20 the number -- the number you have is a
21 start. But you're talking about to
22 solve the problem, you need --

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

24 MS. LOVE: -- millions.

25 Because what's -- when you say solving

11/22/2022

1 the problem and I'm saying solving the
2 problem, mine is completely different.
3 Mine is the need to fix violence,
4 which means you need to have about \$70
5 million to work on violence, so --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I guess --

7 MS. LOVE: If you're talking
8 about relocation --

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

10 MS. LOVE: -- you need about
11 2 million to start.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we --

13 MS. LOVE: And that's for a
14 year. Look at the District Attorney's
15 Office budget. Look at the City's
16 Relocation Housing budget. The
17 problem that you have is that it's
18 temporary and it doesn't have a
19 permanent fix, so then it keeps
20 rolling the cycle. You're missing the
21 part of how do you stabilize that
22 family in a permanent place so that
23 they can move forward. And so, half
24 of a million is fine for six months if
25 you --

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: We
2 actually started at 250,000. We
3 realized quickly that that wasn't
4 enough. We then doubled it to
5 500,000. We are now at \$1 million.
6 We just transferred another half a
7 million to the half of million we had
8 before. But what I'm hearing from you
9 is we're still probably not in the
10 ballpark where we should be which is
11 \$2 million.

12 Now, I say that and that only
13 addresses the temporary nature of
14 relocation and protection. That does
15 not address the total focus of
16 stabilization of families post-violent
17 incidents; am I right?

18 MS. LOVE: That's correct,
19 but relocation should be leading
20 towards a stabilization. And so, it's
21 a huge moving part. It's not only
22 victim services and community
23 providers. It's also partnering up
24 with housing groups that help
25 stabilize. And so, it should not be a

11/22/2022

1 thing where money is just to move
2 them. The money should be utilized --
3 I will tell you and I will continually
4 promote moving people in different
5 ways, not only temporarily.

6 And sometimes everyone is not
7 needed to move permanently. They may
8 need to move for a week or two to
9 stabilize where they're at. Maybe
10 they don't want to be relocated in
11 another place, but their house needs
12 to be repaired. Maybe they need to be
13 moved temporarily until their family
14 decided to all relocate. That might
15 just be a month in a hotel and they
16 have a plan already.

17 Us moving them and then
18 stabilizing in a permanent place and
19 supporting them for a year, the return
20 is too beneficial to not invest, but
21 to make it happen. But you're talking
22 about dollars that you have, but
23 you're not able to utilize it in an
24 effective way. I am pushing that we
25 have a dialogue again around what that

11/22/2022

1 looks like. I will present what I
2 have and what I believe it is, because
3 we examined in this meeting that I had
4 with other providers to look at the
5 gap that why is this happening, and
6 that's to address that.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member --

8 MS. LOVE: If we have \$1
9 million, then where is it. Let's
10 utilize it. Diamond, this thing that
11 happened with her is unacceptable.
12 But unfortunately, she's one of so
13 many.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So Member
15 Oh and Member Johnson and members of
16 the Committee, what I would suggest
17 that we do in conjunction, in
18 partnership, with the various
19 organizations that are out there, that
20 we take a moment to kind of take a
21 look not at this hearing, but maybe at
22 Community College from soup to nuts
23 what we can do to accomplish this goal
24 of accessible relocation and then
25 stabilization, to look at the kind of

11/22/2022

1 process that we have and figure out
2 where the gaps are.

3 If that is okay with the
4 Chairman -- Co-Chairman and Member Oh?

5 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes, that's a
6 great idea, Chairman. I'm happy to do
7 that, and it's urgent that we do
8 something.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

10 MS. LOVE: Councilman Jones,
11 I and all of my colleagues that are
12 not only -- that are survivors of
13 violence, that are in this work and
14 that are elected officials looking at
15 this, let's have that conversation,
16 but let's move on it because we've had
17 the conversation.

18 And let's be clear, you have
19 to have the community component.
20 We've all looked at what the concern
21 is, the City, and you have to be okay.
22 I know there's things they're
23 struggling to support community groups
24 to do the work, but the community
25 groups are the pulse of the community.

11/22/2022

1 They help stabilize the community.

2 And the red tape that City
3 and elected officials that happens in
4 that municipality and the bureaucracy,
5 until you change laws, you will have
6 that problem. So I'm urging you to
7 let's really talk about what that
8 looks like and let us move on it. But
9 also, be okay with making mistakes and
10 pivoting. If the mistake is that
11 we're at a standstill, let's make the
12 move and do it together. Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: To your
14 point, what we will do is come up with
15 a proposed agenda and we'll try to
16 make this exercise that is inclusive
17 of people who actually have boots on
18 the ground, people who have funding to
19 apply that we can meet in the middle.

20 What I'd like to do is get a
21 university to actually undertake this
22 so that they can be the continuity to
23 kind of memorialize what we are
24 attempting to fix. I think it's an
25 appropriate time because never in the

11/22/2022

1 history of me being around have we
2 ever had a \$175 million surplus in the
3 City. We have never in my history had
4 a \$12 billion, billion with a B,
5 surplus at the state level. So if
6 we're ever going to be able to
7 adequately fund, it's today.

8 MS. LOVE: Thank you very
9 much. And if I can make my last
10 statement is that if one of those that
11 are on my list of survivors and
12 everyone else's list that's waiting to
13 be moved is unfortunately victimized,
14 revictimized or even murdered, then
15 who gets that bill for not to act on
16 it. And thank you for your time.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
18 for your testimony.

19 Are there any other questions
20 from Members for this panel? I see
21 Jamie Gauthier. Are you there?

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I'm
23 here. Mr. Chair?

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I'm

11/22/2022

1 here. I just want to be recognized as
2 present. But I also since I have this
3 opportunity want to say that I agree
4 fully with Chantay Love that we need
5 to get to a point where we are moving
6 people away from danger and it's worth
7 it for us to make not only that
8 investment to save lives, but the
9 investment in making sure that people
10 are able to stabilize and thrive,
11 especially when you compare that
12 investment to everything that we are
13 losing and spending due to the gun
14 violence epidemic.

15 So I would want to just add
16 my voice moving on this issue and
17 moving on it expeditiously, and I am
18 excited to be part of any
19 conversations and effort in that
20 regard.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I hate to
22 always have working groups and task
23 forces, but this topic is so important
24 to justice in our City so we have to
25 do it steadfast. So thank you, Member

11/22/2022

1 Gauthier.

2 Who's the next witness to
3 testify, Mr. Glass.

4 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
5 Councilmember Oh has a question as
6 well.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member Oh.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
9 very much, Chair.

10 To Chantay Love, you have
11 explained your program to us and my
12 recollection is that your program is
13 already in operation, albeit right now
14 it doesn't have funding, but you have
15 been working to fill in those gaps.
16 And also, our Sheriff was also willing
17 to help as well because sometimes the
18 District Police are patrolling and
19 doing other things and they're
20 shorthanded, and the Sheriff was
21 willing to send Sheriffs to watch the
22 homes, to help move the targets of
23 deadly violence.

24 And so, I thought, apparently
25 mistakenly, I thought your

11/22/2022

1 organization was going to get a big
2 hunk of this \$500,000. And what I've
3 later learned is that the money is no
4 longer with the MDO's Office. It's no
5 longer with the Victim Services or
6 whatever office is there. And
7 apparently, I think and I'm waiting
8 for the testimony, was transferred to
9 the District Attorney's Office which I
10 thought we specifically -- well, I
11 know we specifically said not to send
12 it there because it is not answering
13 this question. But your program and
14 perhaps some others were immediately
15 moving people with great success.

16 My concern, and I completely
17 agree with our Chairman Curtis Jones,
18 there are bigger issues. But in the
19 meantime, \$500,000 is available to
20 move people right now except we don't
21 have it anymore, but we have another
22 \$500,000. But I want to know where is
23 that 500,000. Quite frankly, I want
24 it back. It should go to your program
25 and other programs right now. There's

11/22/2022

1 people waiting to be moved.

2 And it's nothing against the
3 District Attorney's Office. They are
4 moving witnesses. They get state and
5 federal money. They get money from
6 the City. If they want money for
7 their program, they certainly can ask
8 for it. But this money from the MDO's
9 Office was supposed to go to immediate
10 relocation in a stable way to get
11 people out of the line of fire. Of
12 course, there's more that can be done
13 later, but just to move them and take
14 care of their immediate situation.

15 And that's what I want to
16 know. That's why we're having this
17 hearing. After all the discussions
18 that we have, how come the money went
19 to no organization that is moving
20 people right now.

21 Thank you very much, Chair.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Member Oh.

24 Are there any other questions
25 for this panel?

11/22/2022

1 Cindy Bass, did you have any
2 comment?

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
4 you, Mr. Chairman. I am present.
5 Number one, I want to thank you for
6 this most important hearing. And I'm
7 just joining the hearing so I will be
8 having some questions in a few
9 moments. But I thank you for putting
10 this very important hearing together.

11 I see my old friend Chantay
12 Love here on the screen. We go way,
13 way back. And I do want to recognize
14 her and her organization EMIR and
15 doing outstanding work, not just for
16 the City of Philadelphia, but in the
17 8th Council District in Germantown
18 which is where they're based at. So
19 lots of love to Chantay Love and for
20 all of the work that all of these
21 organizations and providers do for our
22 City.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
25 Member Bass.

11/22/2022

1 Member Squilla, did you have
2 any comments?

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: No,
4 Councilmember -- Mr. Chairman. I
5 appreciate this hearing and how
6 important it is to continue this
7 conversation.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
9 Member Gla -- I keep calling him a
10 member. Mr. Glass, do we have anyone
11 else that has questions for this
12 group? If not, who is the next to
13 testify.

14 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, our
15 next panel will be Adara Combs and
16 Shondell Revell.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
18 Are you both connected?

19 MS. COMBS: Yes, I --

20 MR. REVELL: THE WITNESS:
21 Yes. Good morning, Councilman --

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
23 morning.

24 MR. REVELL: --
25 Councilmembers.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you
2 state your name for the record and
3 begin your testimony.

4 MS. COMBS: Yes. My name's
5 Adara Combs from the Office of the
6 Victim Advocate.

7 MR. REVELL: Shondell Revell,
8 Executive Director, Office of Violence
9 Prevention.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Ms. Combs,
11 we'll have you go first, please.

12 MS. COMBS: Absolutely.
13 First of all, good morning and thank
14 you to Councilmember Jones,
15 Councilmember Johnson and
16 Councilmember Oh for convening this
17 very important conversation, which is
18 something that I've been working on
19 since beginning the Office of the
20 Victim Advocate at the top the year.

21 So just to reiterate one more
22 time, my name is Adara Combs. I was
23 confirmed by the Council body as a
24 whole in January to head the
25 newly-created Office of the Victim

11/22/2022

1 Advocate. And joining me today,
2 Shondell Revell, who is Executive
3 Director of the Office of Violence
4 Prevention.

5 So as we know -- and I'll
6 submit my written testimony for the
7 record which was sent prior to this
8 hearing. But for the purposes of time
9 and efficiency, I'll kind of go
10 through it and highlight what's
11 important so that way there's room for
12 questions.

13 So as we all know, the rising
14 tide of violence is something that
15 we've been battling. It's obviously
16 had a direct relation in terms of the
17 safety of our communities. With that
18 increased lack of safety within our
19 communities have come an increased
20 need for support from families who are
21 directly impacted by imminent threats
22 in terms of violence within our City.

23 As shooting homicides
24 increase, countless citizens live
25 every single day not sure when they're

11/22/2022

1 going to be the next target. Since
2 2019, the Office of Violence
3 Prevention and the Philadelphia Anti-
4 Drug Anti-Violence Network, which is
5 PAAN for short, have worked in
6 partnership to address these dangers
7 within our communities through the
8 Community Crisis Intervention Program,
9 which is also called CCIP. I just
10 want to add the caveat that obviously
11 at that point the Office of the Victim
12 Advocate did not exist, so those two
13 offices were working in partnership to
14 try to solve this problem.

15 Part of what CCIP does is
16 provide temporary relocation services
17 for those who are experiencing
18 imminent danger. The services that
19 are provided vary depending on what
20 the family needs. As Ms. Love was
21 indicating, we can't assume what a
22 family needs at any particular moment
23 until we actually interface with that
24 family. So depending on what their
25 needs will determine what services are

11/22/2022

1 deployed.

2 Since the Office of the
3 Victim Advocate opened in early 2022,
4 we received multiple requests for
5 relocation, mostly in the spring I'll
6 say, from people who are experiencing
7 the threat of gun violence. However,
8 my office did not have any formal
9 program structure or funding allocated
10 for this particular purpose, so we
11 were working directly with the Office
12 of Violence Prevention and PAAN to
13 identify some solutions to that
14 ongoing problem.

15 So to kind of talk about the
16 fiscal aspects before I go into what
17 we've done since then, from July 2021
18 to November 2022 we spent \$95,747.86
19 relocating community members
20 experiencing imminent danger from gun
21 violence. So like I was saying, those
22 funds obviously utilized depending on
23 the family, depending on what they
24 need, but obviously to create or to
25 provide rather life-sustaining needs,

11/22/2022

1 so housing, clothing, food,
2 transportation, things of the sort,
3 home-fortifying expenditures like
4 security, window repairs and things
5 like that.

6 While those funds have been
7 used to provide temporary relocation,
8 the community needs obviously extend
9 beyond that. While building the
10 foundation for my office, the need for
11 relocation funds was very apparent to
12 me. So like I was saying, while the
13 funds that were sent in FY22 predate
14 the existence of my office, it became
15 apparent to me that that money whether
16 it be for the balance of the year when
17 my office opened or for the next
18 fiscal year if more money was
19 allocated, there needs to be some
20 system or structure in place to
21 properly utilize that money. Other
22 than that, we would just be throwing
23 money at a problem without any hope to
24 actually solving the problem if we
25 don't create some type of system or

11/22/2022

1 structure.

2 So earlier this year I was
3 contacted by Councilmember Oh about
4 various families who needed supporting
5 systems and -- I'm sorry, supporting
6 services, and even in that very
7 exchange it became apparent to me that
8 we did not have a program that existed
9 that could meet their needs. We have
10 this pot of money that again predated
11 my office, but we didn't have any way
12 to deploy those services in a way that
13 makes any sense.

14 Even figuring out who those
15 families were is something that I'm
16 still trying to figure out. I was
17 connected to a community member and
18 was told the names of three families I
19 want to say, but only given contact
20 information for two. After receiving
21 that information, I did go back to
22 Shondell as well as George Mosee with
23 PAAN to find out what exactly had been
24 done prior to my office to address the
25 needs of those families, and I was

11/22/2022

1 informed that all of them had received
2 services that were available, those
3 temporary relocation services.

4 And like I said, even in that
5 exchange it became apparent that we
6 needed something to do case
7 management. We need a referral
8 system. We needed someone to track
9 the progress of what's happening so
10 that the ball did not get dropped.
11 This is exactly what we're talking
12 about. But without creating any
13 systems or structures, we're not doing
14 anything to actually solve the
15 problem. Who is going to manage the
16 move, who is going to make sure it
17 happens, who is going to contact the
18 families on the back-end to make sure
19 it's okay, who is going to make sure
20 that whatever situation we put them
21 in, they can sustain it and they
22 wouldn't end up in the same situation
23 they were fleeing, who was going to be
24 that person.

25 Based on identifying those

11/22/2022

1 needs -- and I'll just go back again
2 to that particular situation, the
3 conversations that I had with those
4 families, it became very clear that
5 they needed something additional.
6 They needed credit repair. They
7 needed someone who was going to -- a
8 proper management company or a
9 landlord that was going to be willing
10 to work with their particular
11 circumstances. They needed some type
12 of income beyond the point in which we
13 would be in their lives so that they
14 could sustain whatever move we were
15 able to make for them. That's bigger
16 than temporary relocation. That's
17 something that requires more
18 structure. That's something that
19 requires someone to follow up, that
20 something that requires someone to
21 form necessary contracts, that
22 requires someone to make the
23 partnership connections between
24 community-based organizations, between
25 City agencies like PHA and things of

11/22/2022

1 the sort to make sure there's an
2 entire system that's in place to
3 support this person. We're not just
4 saying, here, here goes some money, go
5 figure it out for yourself, because
6 that's not accessible either.

7 So while the Office of the
8 Victim Advocate entered the
9 conversation towards the end of FY22,
10 the money that was allocated, a
11 portion of it, like I said almost
12 \$100,000, was used to provide those
13 temporary relocation services because
14 that's what existed at the time.

15 Beyond that, we and I
16 personally have taken intricate steps
17 to identify what a relocation program
18 should look like and how it should
19 operate, what contracts we need, what
20 partnerships we need and what's
21 necessary to deploy meaningful
22 services and to actually take people
23 out of dangerous circumstances and to
24 put them on the path of safety and
25 success, and that is not temporary

11/22/2022

1 hotel stays. Yes, it does abate
2 immediate harm. But if they're going
3 right back from where they came from,
4 that's not particularly helpful.

5 So we're currently in the
6 interview process for a dedicated
7 relocation specialist. We're at the
8 tail-end of that process. We've
9 identified candidates, and that person
10 will be charged with identifying the
11 services, creating the contracts,
12 building the programs, building the
13 partnerships with all the community
14 agencies. And if we're going to
15 contract with them to provide specific
16 services, overseeing what that looks
17 like so this money is just not sitting
18 there or divided out haphazardly and
19 unevenly around the City and only
20 going to people just because they were
21 able to potentially get the ear of an
22 influential person, but rather that
23 money can be there, can be utilized so
24 that if anyone contacts our office,
25 whether it be through a Councilmember

11/22/2022

1 or whether it be through Mothers In
2 Charge or EMIR or Northwest Victim
3 Services or any other agency, even the
4 DA's Office if they're facing an issue
5 where the person doesn't meet their
6 criteria, they can come to this
7 person. It will be a dedicated
8 individual, and they will actually see
9 the entire process through and connect
10 them to whatever services they need
11 and have those contracts in place so
12 we're not just sitting there looking
13 at each other trying to figure out
14 who's going to do what.

15 So the program is built with
16 the spirit of continual care for
17 Philadelphians, and it's in
18 recognition that resources without
19 strategy or proper planning or systems
20 in place is really just throwing money
21 at a problem with no hope of ever
22 solving that problem.

23 And since I've come into the
24 conversation at the top of this year,
25 it was very apparent to me that those

11/22/2022

1 systems and that structure was lacking
2 and that is something we absolutely
3 need if we seek to use any pot of
4 money to solve this problem. So I
5 thank you for your time and the
6 opportunity to speak. I'm happy to
7 answer any questions, but I will pass
8 it on to Shondell in case he has
9 something he would like to add.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Shondell,
11 would you like to add to this
12 testimony?

13 MR. REVELL: One thing I wish
14 to add is throughout this whole entire
15 process, any and everyone that was
16 referred to us we did provide some
17 type of care, whether it was temporary
18 relocation as you know in trying to
19 take away the immediate need and the
20 immediate emergency, which sometimes
21 happens at 2 o'clock in the morning as
22 we've talked about before.

23 But the system is so
24 important. And one thing that you
25 said, Chair Councilman, is that we

11/22/2022

1 need to get together literally in a
2 room and we need to walk this process
3 through every single step. As
4 Chantay, Ms. Love said earlier, some
5 people don't want to relocate, but
6 they need housing repair. We buy
7 refrigerators, we put windows in. So
8 there is a lot of need that doesn't
9 involve relocation but falls under the
10 same realm. So I think that needs to
11 be part of the conversation, it really
12 does.

13 But again, connecting the
14 dots is very important. People can
15 say they called and reached out, but
16 if it doesn't get to where it needs to
17 get to, then it falls in that black
18 hole. But again, I can honestly say
19 that every call and I say every call
20 that has come into our office has been
21 addressed and the need has been met.
22 So thank you.

23 MS. COMBS: And,
24 Councilmember, if I can just add one
25 last comment.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Sure.

2 MS. COMBS: Thank you. So
3 the necessary partnerships that I've
4 identified that would be necessary to
5 build this system, kind of
6 piggybacking on what Shondell was
7 indicating is the School District to
8 make sure that children are able to be
9 moved quickly, and I've already begun
10 building that partnership.

11 Credit repair, a property
12 management company, a contract with a
13 moving company, counseling services,
14 job readiness, utility providers and
15 also the Philadelphia Housing
16 Authority because there are some folks
17 that can be located within their
18 mechanisms, so those are partnerships
19 that we've identified, and also the
20 Sheriff's Office, piggybacking off the
21 conversation that we had this year, to
22 ensure secure moves. So those are
23 just some of the partnerships that
24 we've identified that will be helpful
25 to building out a holistic program

11/22/2022

1 that meets people where they are,
2 provides what they actually need, not
3 with what we assume they need, but
4 also creates some sustainability
5 within their lives so they're
6 catapulted right back into the
7 situation of violence they left.
8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
10 so much for your testimony. And I'm
11 going to agree and I'm going to
12 reiterate what I said in the
13 beginning. I think -- as a matter of
14 fact, I know that the people that are
15 testifying today have a willingness, a
16 sincere intention to fix this problem.

17 What I sense in my now
18 experience is that the system is
19 broken, and we need to not point
20 fingers at anybody. We really need to
21 figure out how to fix it. And I
22 believe if we got in a room with all
23 the parties, that we would not only --
24 and what I learned about systems is
25 you've got to break down silos. If we

11/22/2022

1 can break down the silos, look at the
2 problem linearly and apply resources
3 towards it, we can fix it.

4 And so, what I'm hoping to do
5 from this hearing is to entice the
6 Community College or St. Joe's
7 University or Cheyney for that matter,
8 Lincoln, whoever, to sit us in a room
9 to start to do two things. One, how
10 do we stop the immediate -- how do
11 solve the immediate problem, which is
12 public safety giving witnesses
13 protection and relocated.

14 The second part of what I'm
15 hearing is that stabilization aspect.
16 So after you deport, case is done.
17 How do we get their life right so that
18 they don't wind up in the same
19 circumstances that they found
20 themselves in. So it's a two-prong,
21 two-step approach to this. One is
22 more immediate. The other is longer
23 and more long-lasting. So we have to
24 figure it out. It's not going to be
25 easy. And I think, I sense there's a

11/22/2022

1 willingness to fix it.

2 Are there any questions from
3 members on the Committee?

4 Mr. Glass --

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
6 Councilmember Oh has a question.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member Oh.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
9 very much, Chair.

10 What happened to the money?
11 Where did it go? \$500,000, where is
12 the \$500,000?

13 MR. REVELL: From where I'm
14 standing, part of the money is in the
15 District Attorney's Office and part of
16 it is in the MDO's Office. I can
17 get --

18 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Who
19 sent the money to the District
20 Attorney's Office?

21 MR. REVELL: I can get you
22 that answer. I do not have the answer
23 now.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Was not
25 anybody that you know of? In other

11/22/2022

1 words --

2 MR. REVELL: Again --

3 COUNCILMAN OH: -- someone

4 way above your head that you don't

5 know who took that money? Who can

6 take the money and send it to the

7 District Attorney's Office?

8 MR. REVELL: I can honestly

9 say this, Councilman, the money did

10 not go through the Office of Violence

11 Prevention.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay.

13 Because what I want to know is this a

14 passthrough? Are we putting \$500,000

15 to immediately move? We're not buying

16 refrigerators. We're not buying air

17 conditioners. We're not replacing

18 windows. We are moving people who are

19 subject to being killed because

20 they're being shot at right now, and

21 it's taken two years to even figure

22 this out which is why we were engaged

23 in a conversation with Chantay Love,

24 EMIR, and the other providers. They

25 are moving people immediately. So why

11/22/2022

1 wasn't the money moved to them so they
2 could move people immediately?

3 Why are you trying to build a
4 better mouse trap, which is great and
5 very important. But in the meantime,
6 \$500,000, be it not enough for
7 whatever it is, was supposed to move
8 the mothers and others like Diamond
9 Wilson out of harm's way because they
10 have proven that they are being shot
11 at, assaulted, beaten, you know, and
12 they have to be moved. If you plan
13 this out some more with all the
14 limitations, you might have a much
15 better thing, but you're not moving
16 anybody right now.

17 Who decided not to give the
18 money to the people who are moving
19 people right now? Who decided to put
20 it in the DA's Office or leave it in
21 the MDO's Office, do we know?

22 MR. REVELL: Again, I can
23 honestly say the money is not in the
24 Office of Violence Prevention, but we
25 can get that answer for you.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN OH: Well, I mean
2 it's odd, right --

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member Oh,
4 I think they need to get that answer
5 now.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah, you
7 need to give us the answer.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Call
9 whoever you need to call. We need
10 that answer.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah. The
12 mother who went on television, the
13 people in the neighborhood know who
14 she is, and they began to attack her
15 and her children and she got a gun.
16 That gun had been used in a murder.
17 Now, she's in jail awaiting the trial
18 because the gun she had was used in
19 two murders. I mean, you're forcing
20 people to defend their lives with
21 illegal guns. She should have been
22 moved two years ago.

23 Where is the \$500,000? How
24 come that wasn't given to EMIR to move
25 her and Diamond Wilson and everyone

11/22/2022

1 else? They got a long list of people.
2 We can't help everybody. And we're
3 not buying them refrigerators. We're
4 getting them out of immediate deadly
5 violence. Can you get back to the
6 Chair and this Committee in the next
7 30 minutes to find out who moved that
8 money and did not give it to EMIR?

9 Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
11 Member Oh. I think that's a direct
12 question that needs a direct answer,
13 guys.

14 All right. Are there any
15 other questions for this panel?

16 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, at
17 this time no one else is --

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
19 Mr. Chair.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.
21 Member Gauthier.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
23 you. Sorry. I just wanted to commend
24 Adara on being able to (inaudible)
25 being able to see what changes are

11/22/2022

1 needed so we can make
2 relocation successful (inaudible)
3 today.

4 MS. COMBS: Thank you,
5 Councilmember Gauthier.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
7 Are there any others wishing to
8 question this panel? If not --

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
12 Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
14 you. So just listening to the
15 testimony this morning and just
16 listening to my colleague Councilman
17 David Oh who has been on this issue
18 for a long time, you know, it just
19 brings me to the mindset that, listen,
20 as public servants people do really to
21 depend on us to be able to solve this
22 crisis. They depend on us to be able
23 to fix these problems.

24 And while it's not
25 necessarily in my opinion a reflection

11/22/2022

1 on the offices that we have in place,
2 I do think that, you know, you sort of
3 get your directive from the top-down.
4 And so, if you don't see or are not
5 receiving the resources from the
6 top-down, then I think that it's
7 incumbent upon us, members of Council,
8 to figure out how we get those funds
9 out in a way that is going to be
10 impactful as soon as possible.

11 So I just want to put the
12 ball back in our court. And,
13 Councilman, I know that you,
14 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson,
15 Councilman Oh, all of us have had
16 these concerns for a very long time,
17 and if we're not able to do it with
18 the apparatus that we have, then we
19 need to figure something out because
20 these funds have to begin hitting the
21 people who need them the most.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Member Bass.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So we
25 need a plan B.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Agreed,
2 agreed. This body has increased from
3 a quarter of a million each year,
4 we've doubled it, the amount. And to
5 Member Oh's point, we have to have
6 accountability. As Chantay Love said,
7 we keep throwing money at a problem
8 and don't fix the system, we're not
9 helping anybody.

10 Any other questions for this
11 panel, Mr. Glass?

12 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it
13 does not appear there are any
14 questions from members of the
15 Committee in the chat or any other
16 Members who wish to be recognized.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are there
18 any other witnesses?

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, at
20 this time that was our final panel of
21 witnesses. But I would like to note
22 for the record that written testimony
23 was submitted by Aleida Garcia, and
24 that will be distributed to members of
25 the Committee following this meeting.

11/22/2022

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if that
2 being the case, I do not think we can
3 conclude this Committee, this joint
4 hearing. What I would like to do is
5 recess to the call of the Chairs so
6 that we can get the answers that
7 Member Oh talked about.

8 Is that acceptable to you
9 Member Johnson?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Is that all
12 right with you, Member Oh?

13 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes. Thank
14 you very much.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: So at this
16 point, we will recess to the call of
17 the Chair to continue this hearing to
18 get insight. The only other thing
19 that I will say is that we will get to
20 the bottom of this, but we will also
21 look to establish a way to better
22 build a system that does better
23 service delivery that includes
24 boots-on-the-ground and people that do
25 it in the community.

11/22/2022

1 With that, thank you all for
2 your time. Thank you, witnesses, for
3 your testimony. This hearing is --

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you
5 very much, everybody.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: We will
7 recess. Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
9 you, Mr. Chair.

10 (Joint Committees on Public
11 Safety and the Special Committee on
12 Gun Violence Prevention concluded at
13 10:35 a.m.)

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11/22/2022

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

2

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

9

10

11

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11/22/2022

<u>WORD</u> <u>INDEX</u>					
< \$ >	24th 16:6	accessible	agencies 34:7	appear 36:5	attorney 13:5
\$1 61:5 63:8	25 41:18	63:24 81:6	54:21 55:3, 14	96:13	15:19 43:20
\$1,000 28:21,	250,000 61:2	accommodate	80:25 82:14	application	Attorney's
23	252 59:9	44:12	agency 83:3	39:4	13:4, 6 56:10,
\$100,000 81:12	< 3 >	accommodation	agenda 65:15	applied 28:6	22 60:14 69:9
\$1100 32:21	30 93:7	40:4	ago 10:15	38:24	70:3 89:15, 20
\$12 66:4	36 57:13	accomplish	19:20 21:7	apply 25:13	90:7
\$175 66:2	58:19	63:23	43:9 92:22	29:6 30:10	August 54:6
\$2 61:11	392 59:7	accountability	agree 67:3	65:19 88:2	aunt 49:2
\$3300 32:25	39th 16:4	96:6	69:17 87:11	99:20	50:19 51:11
\$500,000 6:15	< 4 >	accountable	Agreed 96:1, 2	appointed 5:21	aunt's 42:20
12:13, 23 15:6,	40 20:10, 12	27:8	air 90:16	appreciate	authorities
7 32:9 35:14	37:13	accurately	albeit 68:13	23:1 35:24	32:13
50:10, 11, 13,	480 21:12	99:1	Aleida 96:23	36:13 72:5	authority
24 69:2, 19, 22	< 5 >	Act 3:25	allocated 76:9	approach 32:8	42:12, 24
89:11, 12	500,000 61:5	31:20 66:15	77:19 81:10	88:21	86:16
90:14 91:6	69:23	action 51:10	allocation 21:2	appropriate	authorizing
92:23	< 6 >	active 44:6	allow 3:22	65:25	6:9
\$7,000 49:12	60 20:14	actual 8:18	56:11, 13	appropriated	available 3:21
\$70 60:4	34:11 39:20	Adara 72:15	allowed 54:21	6:15 7:18	26:5 37:25
\$95,747.86	69 40:19	73:5, 22 93:24	56:19, 20, 21,	15:7	69:19 79:2
76:18	< 7 >	add 32:4	22	appropriation	average 26:19
< 1 >	798 59:9	67:15 75:10	amount 96:4	12:13	32:18, 20 35:7,
10,000 35:18	< 8 >	84:9, 11, 14	and/or 47:1	approved	11
10:35 98:13	8 10:22 39:3	85:24	99:22	12:22 27:21	awaiting 92:17
100 12:21	80 35:1, 8	additional 80:5	announcement	area 26:15	aware 3:9
20:12 57:15	8th 71:17	Additionally	2:10, 16	arms 15:17	47:10
58:19	< 9 >	3:16	answer 39:22	arrested 20:13	< B >
12 41:18	9:00 1:1	address 14:11	84:7 89:22	50:7	back 10:15
14-year-old	< A >	22:1, 8 42:3	91:25 92:4, 7,	asked 36:7	13:24 14:6
14:19	a.m 1:1 98:13	58:23 61:15	10 93:12	41:5 48:24	41:10, 18, 24
15 14:20	abate 82:1	63:6 75:6	answering	54:2	42:20 44:17
15,000 35:18	able 12:12	78:24	69:12	asking 52:15	45:13, 18
19-year-old	14:12 22:24	addressed	answers 52:17	aspect 88:15	48:15 49:18
26:20	26:6, 9, 10, 12,	85:21	97:6	aspects 76:16	69:24 71:13
< 2 >	20 31:25	addresses	Anthony 38:14	assault 41:4	78:21 80:1
2 60:11 84:21	32:14 33:7	61:13	Anti 75:3	46:25	82:3 87:6
20 18:13	44:8, 9 55:8,	addressing	Anti-Violence	assaulted	93:5 95:12
2003 18:13, 22	22 56:11, 24	8:12 9:2	75:4	43:17 91:11	back-end
2010 16:3	57:1, 16, 17, 19	adds 33:25	anybody 9:15	assessed 54:17	79:18
2019 75:2	58:23 62:23	adequately	87:20 89:25	assist 26:10	Background
2021 10:16	66:6 67:10	66:7	91:16 96:9	assistance	5:11 16:13
54:7 76:17	80:15 82:21	Administration	anymore 69:21	24:21, 22 25:5	balance 77:16
2022 1:1 76:3,	86:8 93:24, 25	13:16	anyway 32:3	27:20 31:2	balances 27:6,
18	94:21, 22	admit 42:25	apartment	32:24 34:13,	10
20-year 31:17	95:17	Advocate 73:6,	26:22 39:1	14, 18 35:7	ball 79:10
20-year-old	absolutely	20 74:1 75:12	apologize	49:14 54:5	95:12
31:16	12:20 73:12	76:3 81:8	52:19	assume 75:21	ballpark 61:10
21 54:7, 8	84:2	Affection	37:24	87:3	barely 48:3
22 1:1	acceptable	22:17	apologizing	attached 33:23	barriers 29:22
2200699 2:7	97:8	affordable	57:7	attack 92:14	30:17
220699 1:1		26:7, 8 32:2	apparatus	attacking	based 71:18
2:7 6:8		afraid 18:25	95:18	49:21, 24	79:25
		19:12, 16, 25	apparent	attacks 40:6	basically 10:25
		20:19 21:22	77:11, 15 78:7	attempting	BASS 1:1
		age 41:18	79:5 83:25	65:24	17:5, 10 71:1,
			apparently	attendance	3, 25 94:9, 12,
			68:24 69:7	53:9	

11/22/2022

13 95:23, 24	brave 16:9	99:12	chat 3:21, 25	closure 7:10	93:6 96:15, 25
battling 74:15	bravely 7:1	carry 48:13	23:11 36:6	clothing 77:1	97:3 98:11
bear 16:21	break 87:25	case 14:14	52:8 96:15	Co-Chair 5:5	COMMITTEE
37:19	88:1	15:24 20:7	check 5:14	8:1 15:12	S 1:1 2:20
beaten 91:11	breaking 11:17	38:15 45:22	checks 27:5, 10	17:6	3:1 98:10
bed 33:8, 9	bringing 9:22	79:6 84:8	Cheyney 88:7	Co-Chairman	common
began 11:21	brings 94:19	88:16 97:2	child 11:7	64:4	24:20 28:16
92:14	broken 87:19	cases 7:11, 15	children 10:22	codify 25:16	communities
beginning	Brooks 4:17	9:18 20:7	11:3, 4, 9	30:16 31:13	74:17, 19 75:7
2:16 73:19	Brotherly	catapulted	13:18 14:8, 9,	cold 9:18	community
87:13	22:16	87:6	18 23:16, 19,	colleague 9:24	15:14 19:21
begun 86:9	Brown's 38:14	cause 33:11	24 27:14	94:16	25:7 55:14, 17
believe 5:8	budget 8:8	caveat 75:10	28:11 40:6, 15	colleagues	56:4, 15 61:22
8:22 10:19	60:15, 16	CCIP 75:9, 15	41:16 45:7	64:11	63:22 64:19,
37:15 40:7	build 27:9	Center 53:25	49:9 57:24	collectively	23, 24, 25 65:1
46:17 47:20	86:5 91:3	56:20 58:6	86:8 92:15	22:7	75:8 76:19
49:11 50:3	97:22	certain 26:1	children's	College 63:22	77:8 78:17
63:2 87:22	building 77:9	certainly 13:2	37:10	88:6	82:13 88:6
believed 11:3	82:12 86:10,	70:7	CINDY 1:1	combination	97:25
belittle 51:16	25	certification	71:1	34:17	community-
Ben 42:15	built 83:15	99:19	circle 58:5, 7	Combs 72:15,	based 80:24
beneficial	bullet 11:13	certify 99:1	circumstances	19 73:4, 5, 10,	company 80:8
62:20	47:20	certifying	80:11 81:23	12, 22 85:23	86:12, 13
better 16:12	bureaucracy	99:23	88:19	86:2 94:4	compare 67:11
30:6 91:4, 15	65:4	CHAIR 1:1	citizens 74:24	come 7:1	Compensation
97:21, 22	bury 19:1	8:3 10:5 37:4	CITY 1:1	13:23 14:6	37:23 38:17
beyond 32:3	bus 12:5	66:23 68:9	2:19 6:9 7:7	16:10 19:4, 11,	complement
77:9 80:12	buy 85:6	70:21 84:25	8:7 22:16	24 20:18	59:14
81:15	buying 90:15,	89:9 93:6, 9,	25:22 32:3, 10,	21:11 25:1	completely
bias 25:8	16 93:3	19 97:17 98:9	22, 25 33:13	40:24 41:18	50:21, 25 60:2
big 34:3, 21	< C >	Chairman	42:17 50:23	49:18 52:14	69:16
69:1	caliber 37:14	2:13 4:7 5:6	54:24 55:6	58:3 65:14	comply 3:24
bigger 69:18	call 4:4 17:21	6:8 10:8	56:13 64:21	70:18 74:19	component
80:15	42:21 56:23	15:11 17:3, 12,	65:2 66:3	83:6, 23 85:20	55:14, 17
bill 66:15	85:19 92:8, 9	24 23:9 24:4	67:24 70:6	92:24	56:12 64:19
billion 66:4	97:5, 16	36:4, 17 48:19,	71:16, 22	comes 22:25	comprehensive-
bills 34:16	called 13:11	23 49:4 51:21	74:22 80:25	coming 5:25	enough 32:8
47:8, 12 49:11	75:9 85:15	52:6 53:6	82:19	9:7, 15 33:21	concern 64:20
bit 27:16	calling 29:1	64:4, 6 68:4	City's 60:15	45:12	69:16
37:20 50:17	72:9	69:17 71:4, 23	clarion 23:1	commend	concerns 95:16
black 85:17	candidates	72:4, 14 89:5	Clarke 5:23	93:23	conclude 97:3
blessing 50:24	82:9	93:16 94:10	clear 38:12	comment 71:2	concluded
blessings 58:3	capacity 41:3	96:12, 19	64:18 80:4	85:25	98:12
blind 39:14	Captain 16:4	Chairmen	clearance	commenting	concrete 40:17
block 44:20	car 49:4	39:24	20:10	31:9	conditioners
45:13, 15	care 38:2	Chairs 97:5	clearly 13:1	comments	90:17
board 12:22	50:18, 25	change 30:11	CLERK 2:12	3:18 10:6	confirmed
34:11	70:14 83:16	65:5	4:6, 11, 16, 19,	48:25 72:2	73:23
body 12:9	84:17	changes 93:25	25 5:6, 16, 19	commit 33:13	confronting
73:23 96:2	caregiver	Chantay	6:7 17:2, 11,	committed	49:20
boots 65:17	38:10	53:13, 23 58:5	23 23:9 24:3	26:25 32:10	conjunction
boots-on-the-	caregivers	67:4 68:10	36:4, 17 48:19	COMMITTEE	63:17
ground 97:24	57:23	71:11, 19 85:4	52:6 53:6, 12	1:1 2:4, 5 4:8	connect 83:9
borderline	caretaker	90:23 96:6	68:4 72:14	5:9, 22 6:10,	connected
48:3	51:12	Charge 18:12,	89:5 93:16	11, 21 17:7	24:6 36:16, 18
bottom 8:17	caring 18:18	21 83:2	96:12, 19	18:16 36:1	72:18 78:17
97:20	CARROLL	charged 82:10	close 22:4	48:18 52:4	connecting
boxed 45:15			38:14	63:16 89:3	85:13

11/22/2022

connections 80:23	coordinate 25:3	5:16, 20 10:9 12:10, 11, 24,	current 2:18 59:13	defense 13:5 42:4	48:9
consenting 3:14	correct 44:25 45:4, 25 61:18	25 17:5, 6, 10 48:20 53:8	currently 2:15 57:8 82:5	definitely 48:2	disabled 39:11
consequences 14:21	99:1	68:5 72:4	CURTIS 1:1 9:25 69:17	delicate 42:12	disadvantage 29:10
consider 28:5	cost 35:7 46:23	73:14, 15, 16 78:3 82:25	cycle 60:20	delivery 97:23	discussion 9:4 23:2 54:6
constant 44:23 51:14, 17	COUNCIL 1:1 2:19 3:1	85:24 89:6 94:5	< D >	denied 39:5 48:9	discussions 70:17
constituents 6:23	5:22 8:7 12:9 39:25 49:3	Councilmember s 72:25	DA 38:1 42:18	department 55:5 56:21	disease 41:20
contact 45:21 46:4, 6 78:19 79:17	71:17 73:23 95:7	Council's 6:9	Daily 3:3	departments 54:25	disguised 12:17
contacted 78:3	COUNCILMA N 1:1 2:2	COUNCILWO MAN 1:1	danger 42:24 55:9, 12 67:6 75:18 76:20	depend 94:21, 22	disjointed 43:23
contacts 82:24	3:17 4:3, 14, 21, 23 5:2, 4, 7,	4:13 66:22, 25 71:3 93:18, 22 94:9, 13 95:24	dangerous 81:23	depending 75:19, 24 76:22, 23	dispense 38:10
contained 99:1	13, 18, 24 6:1, 3, 17 8:2, 5, 15	counseling 86:13	dangers 75:6	depends 35:12	distributed 96:24
continual 83:16	9:22, 25 10:3, 7 15:22 16:15,	countless 74:24	DAs 31:3	deploy 78:12 81:21	District 13:3, 6 15:19 16:4
continually 62:3	18, 21 17:9, 14, 18, 20 18:2, 17,	country 33:21	DA's 31:3 37:22 38:15 39:16 45:11 83:4 91:20	deployed 76:1	43:20 56:9, 22 60:14 68:18 69:9 70:3 71:17 86:7 89:15, 19 90:7
continue 28:3 49:13 52:24 56:8 72:6 97:17	18 22:19 23:8, 12, 15, 17 24:5, 8 29:13 31:4 34:1, 19 35:5, 21 36:3, 9, 12, 21 37:22 39:8 43:2, 5 44:3, 7, 16, 22 45:2, 6, 19 46:3, 7, 10, 20 47:6, 10, 14, 23 48:7, 16, 21, 22 52:1, 11, 22, 23 53:1, 10, 14, 16, 20 58:13, 17 59:11, 23 60:6, 9, 12 61:1 63:7, 14 64:5, 9, 10 65:13 66:17, 24 67:21 68:7, 8 70:22 71:24 72:3, 8, 17, 21, 22 73:1, 10 84:10, 25 86:1 87:9 89:7, 8, 18, 24 90:3, 9, 12 92:1, 3, 6, 8, 11 93:10, 20 94:6, 11, 16 95:13, 14, 15, 22 96:1, 17 97:1, 11, 13, 15 98:4, 6, 8	courage 51:22 52:14, 15	data 58:16	detective 45:21 46:11	disturbing 46:21
continuing 3:13		course 70:12	date 14:2	detectives 9:14 46:9, 18	divided 82:18
continuity 65:22		court 95:12 99:13	daughter 19:1, 10	determine 75:25	dizzy 50:17
continuous 10:10		courtrooms 23:19	DAVID 1:1 8:5, 15 9:22 37:9 94:17	determining 6:14	Doctor 22:21
continuously 10:12, 23 40:21		courts 29:17	day 9:6, 9 18:24 20:21 22:11, 14 23:23 50:16 51:8 74:25	developed 55:5	doctors 40:20
contract 82:15 86:12		cover 47:12	days 40:22	device 17:16, 21	doing 8:14 21:14 35:19 68:19 71:15 79:13
contracts 80:21 81:19 82:11 83:11		covered 11:15	dead 16:8	dialogue 62:25	dollars 7:22 26:11, 18 28:5, 17 62:22
control 99:22		create 30:19 56:15 76:24 77:25	deadly 6:14 13:17 14:23 68:23 93:4	Diamond 16:18, 19 17:12, 18 24:11 36:16, 18, 19, 25 39:9 43:2, 9 49:1 51:21 52:12 63:10 91:8 92:25	domestic 25:20, 24
convening 73:16		created 42:7	death 37:6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12	difference 54:19	door 9:10
converge 30:25		creates 46:25 87:4	debilitating 51:18	different 8:21 11:22 60:2 62:4	Dorothy 17:25 18:9
conversation 13:2 34:9 49:1 54:9 56:6 57:6 64:15, 17 72:7 73:17 81:9 83:24 85:11 86:21 90:23		creating 22:10 79:12 82:11	deal 24:25	difficult 47:24	dots 85:14
conversations 12:24 67:19 80:3		credit 26:22 80:6 86:11	dealing 28:8, 12 49:20	direct 28:23 74:16 93:11, 12 99:22	doubled 61:4 96:4
cooperated 11:4		crime 7:5 10:13 24:19 37:23 39:16 43:10 46:24 51:17 54:12, 19	dealt 50:7	directive 95:3	doubling 7:20
cooperating 50:2		criminal 9:20 10:13 13:5 50:5	December 19:23	directly 74:21 76:11	Downing 18:1, 3 24:3, 7, 12, 13 31:1 34:6, 23 35:12 36:11
	Councilmember 4:9, 11, 16, 19	Criminals 42:7 50:6	decided 62:14 91:17, 19	Director 18:11 24:15 42:3 73:8 74:3	Dr 17:25 18:3, 8, 9 23:5, 14
		Crisis 75:8 94:22	dedicated 82:6 83:7	Disability 39:5	dress 48:13
		criteria 83:6	defend 45:3 92:20		drill 30:2
		Crump 42:15	defendant's 23:21		dropped 79:10
		culture 49:24			Drug 75:4
					Due 2:18

11/22/2022

67:13	establish 4:5 97:21	Facebook 12:2	finding 29:6 32:1 33:4 45:24	found 3:5 46:17 88:19	Gla 72:9
< E >	established 5:9	faced 25:10		foundation	glad 35:22
ear 82:21	evaluated	facing 83:4	fine 60:24	77:10	Glass 2:9, 11
earlier 78:2	54:16	fact 7:20 38:4, 5, 13 48:9	fingers 87:20	Founder 18:10	4:4 6:5, 18
85:4	event 40:25	50:22 87:14	finished 26:23	frankly 69:23	16:24 23:8
early 76:3	eventually	falls 85:9, 17	fire 70:11	Freudian 6:4	24:2 36:3, 14
easily 34:10, 24 35:1, 18	14:16, 23	families 18:22, 24 19:14 21:3, 6, 20 25:4	first 11:12, 20 16:25 17:11 18:14 35:15 39:15 41:7 58:20 73:11, 13	friend 12:1 71:11	48:17 52:5
easy 50:1	6:19 14:7	26:5, 12, 13		friends 40:9, 10 41:19	53:4 68:3
58:11 88:25	51:23 93:2	28:11, 12, 18, 25 29:7, 11	fiscal 76:16 77:18	friend's 38:14	72:10 89:4
economic 29:9	98:5	31:24 33:7, 16, 18, 24 35:1, 2, 8 54:23 57:13, 14 58:19		front 51:22	96:11
education	evicted 25:25	61:16 74:20	fix 56:8 57:11 58:11 60:3, 19 65:24 87:16, 21 88:3 89:1 94:23 96:8	frustrated 57:8	go 19:6 21:18, 19 41:7 42:20
57:23	evidence 99:1	78:4, 15, 18, 25 79:18 80:4	flaw 54:11	fully 67:4 99:1	47:20 52:13
effective 62:24	exact 34:25	family 23:20, 22 28:4, 7 31:17 35:13, 19 38:19 40:1, 9 41:6 42:10 50:19 55:8, 23 56:24 57:1, 12 60:22 62:13 75:20, 22, 24 76:23	fleeing 25:20 79:23	function 40:18 50:14 51:12	55:7 69:24
effects 40:1	exactly 78:23 79:11	61:16 74:20		fund 66:7	70:9 71:12
efficiency 74:9	examined 63:3	78:4, 15, 18, 25 79:18 80:4	flexibility 26:11	funding 21:2 57:17 58:24 59:3, 6 65:18 68:14 76:9	73:11 74:9
effort 58:2 67:19	example 55:22	31:17 35:13, 19 38:19 40:1, 9 41:6 42:10 50:19 55:8, 23 56:24 57:1, 12 60:22 62:13 75:20, 22, 24 76:23	flexible 27:23	fundraisers 41:11	76:16 78:21
efforts 25:3	exchange 78:7 79:5	61:16 74:20	focus 61:15	funds 38:25 76:22 77:6, 11, 13 95:8, 20	80:1 81:4
either 81:6	excited 67:18	78:4, 15, 18, 25 79:18 80:4	folks 15:19 86:16	further 19:6 40:6	89:11 90:10
elected 10:12 55:16 64:14 65:3	Executive 18:11 24:15 73:8 74:2	31:17 35:13, 19 38:19 40:1, 9 41:6 42:10 50:19 55:8, 23 56:24 57:1, 12 60:22 62:13 75:20, 22, 24 76:23	follow 80:19	FY22 77:13 81:9	goal 7:22 63:23
eligible 32:14	exist 55:21 75:12	61:16 74:20	followed 46:19		God 37:1 43:18
else's 66:12	existed 78:8 81:14	78:4, 15, 18, 25 79:18 80:4	following 2:15 47:18 96:25		God's 37:15
emergency	existence 37:18 77:14	31:17 35:13, 19 38:19 40:1, 9 41:6 42:10 50:19 55:8, 23 56:24 57:1, 12 60:22 62:13 75:20, 22, 24 76:23	follows 2:18		goes 27:20 81:4
2:19 56:17 59:6 84:20	exit 30:14	61:16 74:20	follow-up 34:2		going 8:21 9:1 20:18
EMIR 27:25	expectation 3:12 31:14	78:4, 15, 18, 25 79:18 80:4	food 38:7 77:1		21:5 23:6
53:24 56:20	expeditiously 67:17	28:15 45:23	forced 45:3	gap 55:1 63:5	26:20 30:11
58:6 71:14	expenditures 77:3	fatalities 7:13	forces 67:23	gaps 64:2 68:15	31:21 38:20
83:2 90:24	experience 27:13 31:7 48:11 87:18	father 37:11 49:8	forcing 92:19		39:2, 7 43:15
92:24 93:8	experiences 33:24	Fattah 37:9	forefront 8:6 9:23	Garcia 96:23	44:17 48:5
encounters	experiencing 75:17 76:6, 20	feature 3:21, 25	foregoing 99:1, 19	GAUTHIER	52:13 57:6
44:25	explained 68:11	famous 41:10	foremost 58:21	1:1 4:9 66:21, 22, 25 68:1	58:4, 6 66:6
encourage	extend 77:8	far 21:13	forget 40:12 41:23	93:18, 21, 22 94:5	69:1 75:1
40:11	extent 43:8	28:15 45:23	forgot 48:12, 14	George 78:22	79:15, 16, 17, 19, 23 80:7, 9
endless 40:21	extra 7:21	far 21:13	form 80:21	Germantown 71:17	82:2, 14, 20
endure 47:15	eye 39:13, 14, 15 47:19	28:15 45:23	formal 76:8	getting 29:24 40:14, 18 49:13 52:16 54:13 93:4	83:14 87:11
enforcement	48:15 49:7	28:15 45:23	forth 20:18	give 21:21 34:20 35:8 41:24 43:12 91:17 92:7 93:8	88:24 95:9
11:5 29:17 50:2		28:15 45:23	fortunate 54:14 56:25	given 38:5, 6 78:19 92:24	Good 2:2 4:14, 21, 23 5:2, 4 53:15, 16 72:21, 22 73:13
engaged 90:22		28:15 45:23	forward 7:2 9:8, 16 16:10 19:12, 24 52:14 60:23	giving 88:12	government 54:18
engulfed 30:4		28:15 45:23			grace 36:25 43:17
ensure 31:5 86:22		28:15 45:23			grandmother's 37:8
entered 81:8		28:15 45:23			grapevine 11:2
entering 11:17		28:15 45:23			great 8:22 35:15 64:6 69:15 91:4
entice 88:5		28:15 45:23			grinds 7:4
entire 81:2 83:9 84:14		28:15 45:23			ground 18:23
entity 22:6		28:15 45:23			
epidemic 67:14		28:15 45:23			
equally 30:10		28:15 45:23			
escalates 14:25		28:15 45:23			
especially 5:21 67:11		28:15 45:23			
essential 57:4		28:15 45:23			

11/22/2022

65:18	harm's 33:4	96:9	identified	indicating	23, 25 10:13
group 72:12	91:9	helps 35:22	10:20 50:4	75:21 86:7	12:21 18:19
groups 55:15	hate 67:21	Hi 36:24	82:9 86:4, 19,	indications	22:1, 8 24:18
61:24 64:23,	havoc 22:10	highlight 74:10	24	11:18	25:1 28:24
25 67:22	head 73:24	history 26:22	identify 29:4	individual	32:2 33:20
growing 41:7	90:4	31:23 66:1, 3	76:13 81:17	31:22 46:12	67:16 83:4
guess 57:13	headaches	hit 49:6	identifying	83:8	94:17
60:6	51:18	hitting 95:20	79:25 82:10	individuals	issues 44:23
guidelines	headed 39:24	hold 6:12	identity 12:16	8:21 25:9	69:18
25:22	Healing 53:25	18:19	illegal 92:21	32:15 34:12	
GUN 1:1 2:5	56:20 58:6	holding 15:21	immediate	influential	< J >
6:11, 24 7:12	health 2:19	hole 11:13	70:9, 14 82:2	82:22	jail 14:17
8:12 9:3, 10	48:2	85:18	84:19, 20	information	92:17
14:16 17:7	hear 7:12, 13,	holistic 86:25	88:10, 11, 22	9:16 19:18	JAMIE 1:1
18:16 24:19	14 14:15	home 11:11,	93:4	20:2 21:21	66:21
25:6, 9, 17	22:14 53:19	16, 19 13:24	immediately	78:20, 21	January 73:24
26:3 33:19, 20	heard 31:9	14:6 37:18	12:14 55:24	informed	job 9:17
37:11 39:18	39:22	home-	57:19 69:14	10:16 79:1	47:25 48:5
40:1 41:21	hearing 2:4, 8,	fortifying 77:3	90:15, 25 91:2	inhumane 51:1	86:14
45:16 46:25	17 3:2, 9, 10	homes 11:11	imminent	injured 34:15	Joe's 88:6
67:13 76:7, 20	5:23 7:11	68:22	74:21 75:18	Inquirer 3:3	JOHNSON
92:15, 16, 18	8:24 10:2	homicide 9:14	76:20	insight 97:18	1:1 5:1, 2
98:12	15:11, 21	22:2	impact 58:2	instructed	6:20 8:1, 2
guns 92:21	18:15, 20	homicides	impacted 58:1	45:20	10:4, 10 12:11,
guys 20:14	24:17 29:15	8:11 9:12	74:21	Instructions	25 17:6 18:18
21:22 39:6	37:17 39:24	20:23 21:12	impactful	2:23	63:15 73:15
51:25 93:13	42:19 46:23	41:21 74:23	95:10	intact 57:24	95:14 97:9
GYM 1:1	61:8 63:21	honestly 85:18	importance	Integrity 38:15	Johnson-
4:12, 13	70:17 71:6, 7,	90:8 91:23	54:13	Intelligencer	Speight 17:25
< H >	10 72:5 74:8	hope 40:12	important	3:4	18:8, 10 23:14
half 7:21	88:5, 15 97:4,	77:23 83:21	2:10 12:21	intention 87:16	joined 17:4
60:23 61:6, 7	17 98:3	hopeful 40:24	15:11 18:20	interface 75:23	joining 71:7
halt 7:4	hearings 2:22,	hoping 88:4	19:13 20:23	interruption	74:1
hand 30:8	25 3:5 6:12	hot 33:8, 9	32:9, 10 67:23	5:12 16:14	JOINT 1:1
handcuffed	16:23	hotel 13:22	71:6, 10 72:6	Intervention	2:3 97:3
37:3	heart 33:14	31:10 43:24	73:17 74:11	75:8	98:10
hang 52:17	held 38:17	62:15 82:1	84:24 85:14	interview 82:6	JONES 1:1
haphazardly	HELEN 1:1	hours 57:2, 19	91:5	intimidated	2:2 3:17 4:3,
82:18	help 21:19	house 33:2	importantly	16:1 42:11	14, 23 5:4, 6, 7,
happen 33:19	35:10 37:17	41:9 62:11	8:9, 16	intricate 81:16	13, 17, 18, 24
40:7 55:19	38:7, 8, 10	household	inaudible	introduce	6:3, 17 9:25
56:16 62:21	39:21, 25 40:5,	27:14, 17	19:23 21:8	12:12	10:3 12:11, 24
happened	11, 14, 16, 24	housing 24:21	93:24 94:2	invest 62:20	15:22 16:15,
15:6 25:12	41:19, 25 42:5,	25:18 26:7, 8	incidence 16:7	investigating	21 17:9, 14, 18,
51:3 63:11	15 43:22	28:18 32:13,	incidents 61:17	46:17	20 18:2, 17
89:10	48:15 49:14	16 34:14, 17	included 3:1	investigation	22:19 23:8, 12,
happening	51:4, 19 55:23	38:6 54:5, 11	includes 97:23	19:6, 10	15, 17 24:5, 8
63:5 79:9	57:20 58:18	60:16 61:24	inclusive 65:16	investment	29:13 34:1, 19
happens 33:5	59:12 61:24	77:1 85:6	income 27:19	67:8, 9, 12	35:5, 21 36:3,
47:1, 2 56:25	65:1 68:17, 22	86:15	35:13 39:5	invited 3:7	9, 12, 21 37:22
65:3 79:17	93:2	huge 24:17	80:12	inviting 24:16	39:8 43:2, 5
84:21	helped 39:3	61:21	increase 74:24	involve 85:9	44:3, 7, 16, 22
happy 28:14	41:10, 12, 14	human 25:21	increased	involved 21:1	45:2, 6, 19
64:6 84:6	helpful 35:6	hunk 69:2	74:18, 19 96:2	22:5 43:20	46:3, 7, 10, 20
harassing	44:14, 15 82:4	hunting 14:1	increases 7:10	ironically	47:6, 14, 23
49:21 50:4, 5	86:24	< I >	incumbent	39:22	48:7, 16, 21
harm 12:8	helping 52:24	idea 49:22	95:7	ISAAH 1:1	52:1, 11 53:1,
33:11 82:2	55:12 57:25	64:6	incurred 47:8	issue 6:22	10, 14, 16, 20
			in-depth 49:1	7:19 8:9 9:3,	58:13, 17

11/22/2022

59:11, 23 60:6, 9, 12 61:1 63:7, 14 64:9, 10 65:13 66:17, 24 67:21 68:7 69:17 70:22 71:24 72:8, 17, 22 73:1, 10, 14 84:10 86:1 87:9 89:7 92:3, 8 93:10, 20 94:6, 11 95:22 96:1, 17 97:1, 15 98:6 JR 1:1 July 76:17 jumping 33:8 June 39:14 justice 6:22, 25 7:4 9:20 10:13 67:24 < K > keep 9:8 20:14 52:15 58:4, 6 72:9 96:7 keeping 12:15, 17 keeps 60:19 Kent 21:8 KENYATTA 1:1 10:9 52:22 95:14 key 8:23 kid 27:15 kids 27:17 33:9 44:4, 5, 6, 13 45:9 50:18 killed 19:22, 23 90:19 killing 20:6, 8, 15, 20 kind 28:1 43:11 63:20, 25 65:23 74:9 76:15 86:5 knew 16:7 19:21 20:1 knocks 50:15 know 6:19 7:4 20:9, 16, 17, 19 21:23 22:2, 21 23:3 27:5, 25 29:8, 24 30:2, 5 32:18 34:6 35:14 39:10	42:21 43:8 46:13 47:11 48:12 49:17, 22 50:3 51:6, 16 54:10 57:9 64:22 69:11, 22 70:16 74:5, 13 84:18 87:14 89:25 90:5, 13 91:11, 21 92:13 94:18 95:2, 13 knowing 30:9 knowledge 14:3, 20 34:3, 5 knows 14:7 Krasner 38:1 < L > lack 26:8 74:18 lacking 84:1 lady 42:3 51:11 lamppost 11:13 landlord 80:9 landscape 26:7 law 2:14 11:5 29:16 33:14 50:2 laws 65:5 lay 51:23 leadership 10:1 leading 10:11 61:19 learned 69:3 87:24 lease 31:23 leases 29:25 leave 26:15 91:20 ledger 22:23 left 30:8 37:4 42:1 87:7 Legal 3:4 legend 37:2, 3 Lehigh 16:6 Leslie 37:9 letting 52:20 level 12:7 34:13 66:5 licensed 26:19 life 19:2 41:1 88:17 life-sustaining	76:25 lift 39:25 light 50:22 limitations 24:25 31:8 32:6 91:14 limited 27:19 Lincoln 88:8 line 70:11 linearly 88:2 list 30:18 57:14, 15 59:2 66:11, 12 93:1 listen 22:22 42:19 94:19 listening 49:3 94:14, 16 literally 85:1 little 27:16 37:20 live 5:14 14:7 38:21 41:8, 13, 17 45:7, 10 74:24 lived 41:1 46:18 lives 21:14, 20 22:10 49:14 50:8 67:8 80:13 87:5 92:20 living 37:2 41:2 located 86:17 location 1:1 13:19 long 7:15 44:8, 10 52:13 93:1 94:18 95:16 longer 40:2 44:13 69:4, 5 88:22 long-lasting 88:23 look 11:11 34:24 42:22 60:14, 15 63:4, 21, 25 81:18 88:1 97:21 looked 41:9 64:20 looking 7:17, 19 34:24 64:14 83:12 looks 63:1 65:8 82:16 losing 67:13	lost 22:12 49:7 lot 8:20 9:13 31:11 32:17 43:12 49:16 85:8 lots 27:12 71:19 Love 22:16 25:15 53:13, 14, 15, 18, 23, 24 58:5, 14, 15, 25 59:19, 24 60:7, 10, 13 61:18 63:8 64:10 66:8 67:4 68:10 71:12, 19 75:20 85:4 90:23 96:6 loved 22:13 < M > major 54:11 majority 30:13 making 8:5, 9 52:12 57:23 65:9 67:9 manage 79:15 management 79:7 80:8 86:12 mandate 31:11 mandated 40:16 manner 7:3 manpower 56:1 March 35:3 MARK 1:1 Martin's 37:7 matter 15:13 87:13 88:7 99:1 Maxwell's 39:23 Mayor 42:18 Mayor's 12:19 50:24 MDO's 69:4 70:8 89:16 91:21 mean 6:4 14:4 92:1, 19 meaningful 81:21 means 60:4 99:21 meant 31:5	mechanism 56:15 mechanisms 86:18 median 35:9 medical 47:8 medication 38:8, 9 50:15 meet 26:9, 13 27:2, 24 29:7 55:1 65:19 78:9 83:5 meeting 2:20 3:8, 14 18:23 63:3 96:25 meets 58:2 87:1 Member 4:24 5:25 6:3, 20 8:1 10:4, 6 15:23 48:21 52:2 53:11 63:7, 14, 15 64:4 67:25 68:7 70:23 71:25 72:1, 9, 10 78:17 89:7 92:3 93:11, 21 94:11 95:23 96:5 97:7, 9, 12 Members 3:17, 22 6:21 23:5 36:1, 6 48:18 52:4, 8, 24 63:15 66:20 76:19 89:3 95:7 96:14, 16, 24 memorialize 65:23 men 26:14 mentors 37:8 met 85:21 metal 11:12 method 30:20 mic 5:14, 15 16:16, 17 microphone 16:19 Microsoft 2:21 3:22 Microsoft® 1:1 middle 65:19 million 7:21 60:5, 11, 24 61:5, 7, 11	63:9 66:2 96:3 millions 59:24 minds 8:6 mindset 94:19 mine 60:2, 3 minute 37:20 minutes 48:4 93:7 missing 14:19 55:13, 17 56:12 60:20 mistake 65:10 mistakenly 68:25 mistakes 65:9 model 28:1 modest 35:9 moment 42:12, 13 63:20 75:22 moments 71:9 Monday 45:20 money 7:17 8:19, 25 12:23 13:6 15:3 21:17, 19 26:5 27:7 28:2, 22 29:1, 4, 6, 21 32:17 38:6 50:14 51:3 62:1, 2 69:3 70:5, 6, 8, 18 77:15, 18, 21, 23 78:10 81:4, 10 82:17, 23 83:20 84:4 89:10, 14, 19 90:5, 6, 9 91:1, 18, 23 93:8 96:7 month 62:15 months 28:3 32:25 34:10 38:22 41:4 57:18 59:5, 10 60:24 morning 2:3 4:15, 22, 24 5:3, 5 18:15 53:15, 17 72:21, 23 73:13 84:21 94:15 Mosee 78:22 motel 13:22 mother 14:10, 16 27:13 40:19 92:12
--	--	---	---	---	---

11/22/2022

mothers 10:20 11:8 12:14 18:11, 21 27:12 32:23 83:1 91:8 mother's 37:6 mouse 91:4 move 13:22 14:9 28:10 51:10 55:8, 23 56:23 57:1 60:23 62:1, 7, 8 64:16 65:8, 12 68:22 69:20 70:13 79:16 80:14 90:15 91:2, 7 92:24 moved 14:3, 4, 13 15:2, 3, 4, 5 49:16, 17 62:13 66:13 70:1 86:9 91:1, 12 92:22 93:7 moves 86:22 moving 13:18 14:8 31:10 33:3 34:13 55:11 57:22 61:21 62:4, 17 67:5, 16, 17 69:15 70:4, 19 86:13 90:18, 25 91:15, 18 multiple 27:14 76:4 municipality 65:4 Murder 54:1 92:16 murdered 19:3, 19 22:15 49:10 66:14 murders 19:15 20:12 59:14 92:19 music 30:3 mute 16:16, 19 Myra 39:23 < N > name 18:6, 9 24:9 36:22, 24 53:21, 23 73:2, 22 names 24:13 78:18	name's 73:4 National 18:11 nature 61:13 near 22:3 41:8 necessarily 94:25 necessary 54:14 80:21 81:21 86:3, 4 necessity 55:9 need 5:14 9:5 15:13 19:8 25:2 26:12, 15, 24 27:9 28:5, 6 29:21 30:16 31:13 32:12, 13, 16 39:20 42:2 48:15 54:22 55:4 56:23 57:9 59:16, 22 60:3, 4, 10 62:8, 12 67:4 74:20 76:24 77:10 79:7 81:19, 20 83:10 84:3, 19 85:1, 2, 6, 8, 21 87:2, 3, 19, 20 92:4, 7, 9 95:19, 21, 25 needed 40:15 58:22 59:1 62:7 78:4 79:6, 8 80:5, 6, 7, 11 94:1 needing 28:10 58:20 needs 26:9 28:18, 19 29:7 33:13 35:13 38:12 51:11, 19 58:10 62:11 75:20, 22, 25 76:25 77:8, 19 78:9, 25 80:1 85:10, 16 93:12 neighborhood 13:20, 21, 25 44:18, 20, 24 46:13 49:15, 19 92:13 neighborhoods 33:22 neighbors 42:11 Network 75:4	never 21:9 39:12 45:17 46:18 65:25 66:3 new 10:17 13:19 15:7, 15 16:7 18:4, 14 newly-created 73:25 News 3:3 7:11 night 46:14, 15 47:17 nights 59:7, 8 nine 10:20 57:12 nod 43:13 North 16:5 Northwest 24:14 28:16 34:9 83:2 Notary 99:13 note 3:19 5:20 17:4 53:7 96:21 noted 99:1 notes 99:1 notices 3:2 November 1:1 54:7 76:18 number 30:15, 16 34:20, 25 58:21, 23 59:1, 17, 20 71:5 numbers 59:4 numerous 47:11 nuts 63:22 < O > obviously 74:15 75:10 76:22, 24 77:8 occasionally 10:24 o'clock 84:21 October 10:15 odd 92:2 offer 2:24 28:14 29:2 31:3 offers 31:4 Office 12:19 13:4, 6 26:21 31:3 39:17 42:4 45:12 46:9 56:22 60:15 69:4, 6, 9 70:3, 9 73:5, 8, 19, 25 74:3	75:2, 11 76:2, 8, 11 77:10, 14, 17 78:11, 24 81:7 82:24 83:4 85:20 86:20 89:15, 16, 20 90:7, 10 91:20, 21, 24 offices 75:13 95:1 officials 55:16 64:14 65:3 OH 1:1 5:21, 25 6:1, 21 8:5, 15 9:22 10:6, 7 15:23 16:18 18:17 31:4 34:23 43:13 48:20, 21, 22 52:2, 19, 23 58:25 59:19 63:15 64:4, 5 68:5, 7, 8 70:23 73:16 78:3 89:6, 7, 8, 18, 24 90:3, 12 92:1, 3, 6, 11 93:11 94:17 95:15 97:7, 11, 12, 13 98:4 Oh's 96:5 Okay 17:20 47:6 52:17 53:18 64:3, 21 65:9 79:19 89:18 90:12 old 10:23 31:18 71:11 one-bedroom 32:21, 22 33:1 ones 22:13 ongoing 76:14 open 7:10, 15 opened 76:3 77:17 operate 81:19 operation 68:13 opinion 94:25 opportunity 22:18 25:16 29:3 54:3 55:3 67:3 84:6 order 3:24 organization 18:12 69:1 70:19 71:14	organizations 63:19 71:21 80:24 organized 30:19 outrage 51:8 outraged 51:7 outside 12:6 outstanding 71:15 overseeing 82:16 overwhelmingly 39:12 ownership 58:10 < P > PAAN 75:5 76:12 78:23 paid 49:12 pain 39:11 40:21 51:15, 18 painful 40:22 panel 16:25 17:11, 24 23:5 66:20 70:25 72:15 93:15 94:8 96:11, 20 paper 11:15 parking 19:20 part 9:4 16:5 20:24 47:2 56:25 60:21 61:21 67:18 75:15 85:11 88:14 89:14, 15 participants 3:11 participate 9:7, 19 24:16 particular 11:7, 24 14:14 15:17 25:7, 23 33:17, 20, 22 75:22 76:10 80:2, 10 particularly 12:10 82:4 parties 87:23 partner 9:24 55:18 partnering 61:23 partners 56:15	partnership 63:18 75:6, 13 80:23 86:10 partnerships 81:20 82:13 86:3, 18, 23 parts 29:16 pass 39:13 41:17 84:7 passion 22:22 passthrough 90:14 path 81:24 patrolling 68:18 pay 28:2, 3 Pelzer 37:9 penny 50:12 people 7:1 9:6, 19 10:25 11:3, 23 13:20, 25 14:21 15:14, 16 16:22 19:16, 21 20:6, 8 22:9 27:2, 11 29:18 30:1, 10, 12, 13 33:10 34:4 37:17 41:8, 11, 13, 14 42:24 43:7, 12, 16 44:23 49:17, 20, 25 50:4, 5 51:5 57:15, 18, 20 58:19, 22 59:5, 15 62:4 65:17, 18 67:6, 9 69:15, 20 70:1, 11, 20 76:6 81:22 82:20 85:5, 14 87:1, 14 90:18, 25 91:2, 18, 19 92:13, 20 93:1 94:20 95:21 97:24 perceived 49:25 percent 12:21 20:11, 14 34:11 percentage 7:6 perceptions 25:11 periodically 10:24 periods 7:16
--	---	--	---	---	---

11/22/2022

permanent 57:21 60:19, 22 62:18	playground 12:6	prior 3:4, 16 10:11 49:8 74:7 78:24	protections 31:12	35:25 36:6 48:17, 24 52:3, 7, 16 58:12	recognizing 3:17
permanently 62:7	plea 21:25	priority 8:10	proven 91:10	66:19 70:24	recollection 68:12
perpetrator 23:21 45:24	please 16:16, 19, 25 18:5	privacy 3:13	provide 30:7	71:8 72:11	record 3:20
perpetrators 7:5	21:16, 25	probably 61:9	75:16 76:25	74:12 84:7	5:20 17:4
person 13:16	24:10 36:22	problem 14:8	77:7 81:12	89:2 93:15	18:6 24:10
19:22 22:5	53:21 73:11	15:18 34:3, 22	provided	96:10, 14	28:1 35:23
43:12 46:8, 24	plenty 30:12	54:4 59:18, 22	44:15 75:19	quick 34:1	36:22 53:7, 21
51:4 79:24	point 23:18	60:1, 2, 17	providers	quickly 61:3	58:18 59:12
81:3 82:9, 22	43:19 46:24	65:6 75:14	56:19 61:23	86:9	73:2 74:7
83:5, 7	65:14 67:5	76:14 77:23,	63:4 71:21	Quite 69:23	96:22
personally	75:11 80:12	24 79:15	86:14 90:24	quorum 4:5	recorded 3:10, 15
81:16	87:19 96:5	83:21, 22 84:4	provides 87:2	5:8	recovery 40:5
person's 22:15	97:16	87:16 88:2, 11	providing	< R >	red 40:13
perspective	Police 15:18	96:7	26:25 32:11	ramp 30:14	42:6, 7 55:19
33:15	56:21 68:18	problems	provisions	rampant 21:23	65:2
PHA 80:25	policies 25:14	94:23	25:24	rate 7:10	refer 28:19
PHILADELPH	54:17, 24 55:7, 20 56:10, 13	proceed 36:19	PUBLIC 1:1	20:10 35:9	referral 79:7
IA 1:1 16:5	policy 33:14	proceedings	2:4, 17, 18, 24, 25 3:2, 9, 11	reach 42:15	referred 31:18
25:23 71:16	population 7:7	99:1	4:8 6:10	reached 85:15	84:16
75:3 86:15	porch 11:14	process 18:5	10:14 15:13	read 2:10 6:5	reflection
Philadelphians	16:9	82:6, 8 83:9	42:4 88:12	16:25	94:25
83:17	portion 81:11	84:15 85:2	94:20 98:10	readiness	refrigerators
Philadelphia's	possible 2:22	program	99:13	86:14	85:7 90:16
7:7	95:10	30:23, 24	publicity 51:8	ready 36:20	93:3
PHLCouncil.co	post-violent	54:20 56:16	published 3:3	real 25:2, 3	regard 67:20
m 3:6	61:16	58:16 68:11, 12 69:13, 24	pull 42:22	27:2 54:1	regarding 2:6
phone 17:15	pot 78:10	70:7 75:8	pulled 45:16	realistic 31:20	6:12
photograph	84:3	76:9 78:8	pulse 64:25	realize 25:1	regulations
12:2	potentially	81:17 83:15	punishment	realized 61:3	55:2 56:4
physical 48:11	82:21	86:25	30:9	really 10:19	rehabilitated
pick 45:13	power 38:3	programs	purpose 4:1	21:9 25:2	22:25
picks 46:25	42:14, 25	69:25 82:12	15:8 76:10	26:25 29:7	rehousing 28:1
pieces 55:13	predate 77:13	progress 79:9	purposes 74:8	30:13, 18	reimbursable
piggybacking	predated 78:10	project 54:15	pushing 62:24	57:25 65:7	28:21
86:6, 20	preparation	promised 40:4, 15	put 9:13	83:20 85:11	reimbursed
pilot 54:15	34:8	promote 62:4	21:10, 17 30:6	87:20 94:20	47:13
pivoting 65:10	PRESENT 1:1	80:8 83:19	35:23 42:6	realm 85:10	reiterate
place 21:11	4:13, 22 5:8	proper 59:6	48:14 55:12	realtor 26:19	43:21 73:21
29:19, 22 30:7	6:2 63:1 67:2	80:8 83:19	58:1 79:20	reasonable	87:12
31:13 33:3	71:4	properly	81:24 85:7	3:12	related 11:25
41:16 45:8	President 5:22	40:22 77:21	91:19 95:11	reasons 32:19	13:8
49:16 57:2, 21	53:24	property 86:11	putting 7:21	received 76:4	relation 74:16
60:22 62:11, 18 77:20 81:2	press 12:16	proposed	10:2 71:9	79:1	relationships
83:11, 20 95:1	pressure 9:14	65:15	90:14	receiving	32:12
places 27:21	prevent 6:24	protect 8:13	< Q >	78:20 95:5	relocate 7:23
33:6	preventing	9:1 14:16, 22, 24 15:14, 16	qualities 41:1	recess 97:5, 16	12:14 31:19, 20 41:5 57:18
placing 13:10	40:13	40:5	quarter 96:3	98:7	62:14 85:5
plan 8:25	PREVENTION	protected	question 8:18	recognition	relocated 21:3
37:1, 16 62:16	1:1 2:6 6:12	40:23	30:22 33:12	83:18	38:2 40:23
91:12 95:25	17:8 20:25	protecting	39:16 48:20	recognize 2:9	43:24 45:11
planning 83:19	73:9 74:4	10:14	68:5 69:13	10:5 71:13	58:20 59:9
plans 57:3	75:3 76:12	protection	89:6 93:12	recognized	62:10 88:13
play 42:6	90:11 91:24	13:13 61:14	94:8	3:24 36:7	relocating
	98:12	88:13	questions 3:18	52:10 67:1	6:13 54:22
			23:4, 11 34:2	96:16	76:19

11/22/2022

relocation 6:16 7:9 12:23 13:7, 12, 14 21:9 24:17, 22 26:17 27:1 28:19 30:23, 24 31:2 34:5, 18 54:5, 11 56:18 59:16 60:8, 16 61:14, 19 63:24 70:10 75:16 76:5 77:7, 11 79:3 80:16 81:13, 17 82:7 84:18 85:9 94:2	resources 37:25 38:5, 24 40:4 56:1 83:18 88:2 95:5 response 4:10, 18 17:17, 19 23:7 36:2 97:10 responsible 45:22 58:9 rest 52:23 restore 41:1 result 49:6 51:9 retaliation 21:20 return 62:19 Revell 72:16, 20, 24 73:7 74:2 84:13 89:13, 21 90:2, 8 91:22 revictimized 66:14 revolving 9:10 ride 16:3 42:22 right 23:24 24:8 29:23 30:7 41:24 42:5, 14, 16 43:1, 25 48:16 50:8 54:13 61:17 64:9 68:13 69:20, 25 70:20 82:3 87:6 88:17 90:20 91:16, 19 92:2 93:14 97:12 rights 56:3 rising 74:13 roadblocks 42:8 roll 4:4 rolling 60:20 room 74:11 85:2 87:22 88:8 rough 52:16 running 19:25 21:23 runs 12:3 < S > sacrifice 40:10 sad 54:3 sadness 23:23	safe 7:3 9:6, 9 21:15 31:6 38:2 41:16 safely 7:9, 23 SAFETY 1:1 2:5 4:9 6:10 55:24 59:7 74:17, 18 81:24 88:12 98:11 save 21:14, 19 67:8 saw 11:12 19:25 35:15 46:12 saying 54:20 60:1 76:21 77:12 81:4 says 26:18 scene 20:1 school 14:10 26:24 37:4, 5 42:23 45:14, 18 86:7 scope 34:21 screen 71:12 second 17:24 38:20 88:14 secret 12:16 Section 39:3 secure 33:7 86:22 security 37:5 77:4 see 7:2 8:23 25:16 26:4 35:22 36:18 39:12 41:24 46:15 66:20 71:11 83:8 93:25 95:4 seeing 33:10 seek 84:3 seeking 32:23 sees 12:3 send 68:21 69:11 90:6 sense 34:21 38:21 78:13 87:17 88:25 sent 74:7 77:13 89:19 September 54:7 servants 94:20 serve 24:18 served 59:5 service 56:19 58:22 97:23	Services 24:14 25:14 59:2 61:22 69:5 75:16, 18, 25 78:6, 12 79:2, 3 81:13, 22 82:11, 16 83:3, 10 86:13 serving 18:22 29:11 settle 42:16 seven 34:10 sexual 25:21 share 20:2 52:20 shelter 59:7 Sheriff 68:16, 20 Sheriffs 68:21 Sheriff's 86:20 shocking 12:8 50:21 Shondell 72:16 73:7 74:2 78:22 84:8, 10 86:6 shooter 49:23 shooters 29:23 shooting 47:1 59:17 74:23 shootings 9:12 59:14 shoots 12:4 short 75:5 shorthanded 68:20 shortly 49:9 shot 10:21, 23 11:19 16:8 37:13 43:10, 17 44:21 47:4, 7, 17 49:5 90:20 91:10 show 31:23, 25 32:1 sick 7:11 side 23:21, 22 43:13 sides 22:23 sign 31:22 signified 23:10 52:9 signify 3:23 signs 11:17 silos 87:25 88:1 simply 11:25 12:1 sincere 87:16	single 18:24 22:11, 14 74:25 85:3 sir 4:5 43:4 48:10 Sisterly 22:17 sit 88:8 sitting 82:17 83:12 situation 38:25 45:10 70:14 79:20, 22 80:2 87:7 six 57:18 59:5, 9 60:24 small 7:6 smashed 45:15 smooth 29:20 solutions 76:13 solve 9:11, 12 22:6 59:18, 22 75:14 79:14 84:4 88:11 94:21 solved 20:13 solving 8:11 20:23 59:25 60:1 77:24 83:22 somebody 12:1, 3 16:15 Somebody's 5:13 son 19:1, 10, 19 38:14 42:23 45:13, 17 sons 37:25 38:13 41:25 soon 95:10 sorry 35:1 38:9 39:6 40:21 52:19 78:5 93:23 sort 77:2 81:1 95:2 soup 63:22 South 26:16 space 19:20 28:14 29:3 44:13, 14 speak 8:22 37:16 54:3 84:6 speaking 54:4 SPECIAL 1:1 6:11 17:7 18:16 98:11 specialist 82:7	specific 8:18 82:15 specifically 69:10, 11 Speight 18:3, 4 23:5 spending 67:13 spent 7:19 8:20, 25 76:18 spirit 83:16 spoke 12:16, 18 30:17 31:5 spring 76:5 SQUILLA 1:1 53:8, 11 72:1, 3 98:8 St 88:6 stabilization 61:16, 20 63:25 88:15 stabilize 56:18 57:20 60:21 61:25 62:9 65:1 67:10 stabilized 55:25 stabilizing 57:3 62:18 stable 70:10 staff 37:23 45:20 stand 48:3 54:1 standing 12:5 89:14 standpoint 8:8 stands 53:25 standstill 65:11 start 59:21 60:11 88:9 started 18:12, 21 61:2 state 2:14 18:5 24:9 30:23 36:21 53:21 54:25 66:5 70:4 73:2 stated 12:19 13:1 statement 66:10 statistics 32:19 stay 7:15 40:11 44:8, 10, 11 stays 82:1 steadfast 15:24 67:25
---	---	---	--	--	---

11/22/2022

stenographic 99:1	39:17 70:9 91:7	takes 50:15 56:1, 2	66:18 69:8 73:3 74:6	thinking 35:16, 17	top-down 95:3, 6
step 51:22 85:3	sure 8:5, 9 9:5 27:7	talk 8:10, 11 34:12 65:7	84:12 87:10 94:15 96:22	THOMAS 1:1 4:20, 21, 24	topic 67:23
steps 81:16	57:23 67:9	76:15	98:3	thought 10:17 37:12 41:7	total 58:21 61:15
stigma 33:18, 23	74:25 79:16, 18, 19 81:1	talked 13:15 84:22 97:7	tethered 29:9	68:24, 25 69:10	track 79:8
stop 88:10	86:1, 8	talking 13:15 33:2 35:8	Thank 2:12 4:2, 3 5:15, 25	thousand 47:22	trafficking 25:21
store 43:15	surgeries 47:15, 17, 20	46:23 55:11	6:1, 17 8:2, 4, 15 9:21, 25	thousands 43:16	tragedy 41:2
story 52:21, 25	51:14	57:12 59:21	10:3, 7, 8	threat 76:7	transcript 99:1, 20
straight 39:21	surgery 40:20 47:18	60:7 62:21 79:11	15:20, 22, 23 16:20 17:9	threatened 16:2	transferred 61:6 69:8
strangers 40:10	surplus 66:2, 5	TANEHA 99:12	18:9, 14 21:1 22:17, 19	threats 74:21	transition 29:20
strategy 83:19	survival 57:4	tape 40:13 42:6, 8 55:20	23:12, 16, 24 24:9, 15 29:11, 13 36:10, 11	three 32:25 47:16 48:4	Transitional 59:8
street 22:9	survive 37:21 40:25 41:17	65:2	43:5 48:22 51:20, 21, 24,	78:18	transportation 77:2
stressful 45:8, 10	survived 37:3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11	target 75:1	25 52:1, 18, 19, 22 53:1, 2, 22	three-month 44:11	trap 91:4
strong 23:18 40:12, 18 46:16	40:2 43:18	targeted 11:23 13:17 14:22	65:12 66:8, 16, 17 67:25 68:8	thrive 67:10	trauma 28:7, 9, 12 33:25
structure 76:9 77:20 78:1 80:18 84:1	surviving 38:20	targeting 11:8	70:21, 22 71:3, 5, 9, 23, 24	throbbing 51:15	traumatized 22:13
structures 29:10 79:13	survivor 40:3	targets 6:13 68:22	72:8, 17 73:13	throwing 77:22 83:20	Trayvon 37:6
struggling 38:21 64:23	survivors 24:18 25:17, 19, 25 26:3	task 67:22	84:5 85:22	96:7	trial 7:24 13:8, 9, 11
stuck 38:15	39:17 40:16 55:2 64:12	Teams 1:1 2:21 3:22	86:2 87:8, 9 89:8 93:9, 10,	tide 74:14	92:17
subject 90:19	66:11	teenage 27:15	22 94:4, 6, 13	time 3:20 7:16 11:20	trickles 25:12 29:5
submit 74:6	suspects 7:14	television 12:18 92:12	95:22 97:13	36:8 39:9	trouble 14:25 27:16
submitted 96:23	sustain 79:21 80:14	48:8 59:4	98:1, 2, 4, 7, 8	45:12 52:10	true 11:6 46:23
subsidized 32:16	sustainability 87:4	62:3	thing 8:23 11:12 27:6	65:25 66:16	try 14:24 21:18 55:6
success 45:23 46:1 69:15 81:25	sustainable 27:1 35:20	temporarily 14:5 43:24	28:9 33:5	73:22 74:8	65:15 75:14
successful 94:2	system 6:23 77:20, 25 79:8	57:2 62:5, 13	62:1 63:10 84:13, 24	81:14 84:5	trying 21:8 34:8 59:12
suggest 63:16	81:2 84:23	61:13 75:16	91:15 97:18	93:17 94:18	78:16 83:13
summer 47:18	86:5 87:18	77:7 79:3	things 19:5 21:11 26:1, 2	95:16 96:20	84:18 91:3
Sunshine 3:25	96:8 97:22	80:16 81:13, 25 84:17	27:4 29:25 31:24 38:11	98:2	Tuesday 1:1
supervision 99:22	systems 27:22 29:19, 21	tens 43:15	43:1 46:22	times 9:13 18:25 19:4, 15	turn 7:25
support 21:5 25:4, 19 27:2, 10, 23 28:7, 17	31:21 43:23	terms 19:9 74:16, 22	64:22 68:19	20:5 31:15	two 19:8 30:16 34:1
32:11 49:23	78:5 79:13	terrible 10:18	77:2, 4 80:25	42:10 43:12	38:11 43:9
55:18 64:23	83:19 84:1	testify 3:8 16:10 17:1	88:9	51:2	44:5, 6 47:19
74:20 81:3	87:24	24:2 31:7	think 13:1 15:10 27:4, 5	title 6:5	50:18 51:13
supported 19:17 20:4	< T >	36:15 48:8	29:4, 5 30:21	Tobi 17:25 24:3, 13	62:8 75:12
54:16, 18	tail-end 82:8	68:3 72:13	31:4 33:12, 17	24:3, 13	78:20 88:9
supporting 24:23 33:15	take 30:18 39:8 45:14, 18	testifying 87:15	35:14 36:15	56:7 66:7	90:21 92:19, 22
62:19 78:4, 5	58:10 63:20	testimony 2:25 18:7	44:10 46:21	74:1 87:15	two-bedroom 44:2
supports 25:18 30:7	70:13 81:22	22:20 24:11	47:24 65:24	94:3	two-prong 88:20
supposed 15:1, 4 21:18 31:19	84:19 90:6	29:14 36:10, 20, 23 39:23	69:7 85:10	today's 5:23	two-step 88:21
	taken 38:2 50:25 81:16	43:6 53:3, 22	87:13 88:25	told 38:1 39:2 78:18	type 11:22 45:8 51:9
	90:21 99:1		92:4 93:11	top 28:10 73:20 83:24	
			95:2, 6 97:2		

11/22/2022

55:6 77:25 80:11 84:17 types 11:18 typically 13:8 < U > unable 14:21 34:15 unacceptable 16:11 50:21 58:8 63:11 unbeknownst 13:20 unbelievable 20:11 uncle 26:16 understand 2:14 11:21 15:5 58:18 understands 56:3 undertake 65:21 unevenly 82:19 unfortunately 26:17 56:9 63:12 66:13 Unit 38:16 university 65:21 88:7 unmute 17:15 unpeacefulness 41:21 Unprovoked 43:11 unsolved 19:14, 15 upcoming 13:9 upfront 28:2 33:1 urgency 38:22 urgent 64:7 urging 65:6 use 3:20 84:3 utility 86:14 utilize 62:23 63:10 77:21 utilized 6:16 62:2 76:22 82:23 < V > value 25:16 various 63:18 78:4 vary 75:19 VCAP 28:20 Vernell 16:4	Vice-Chairman 4:25 victim 22:3 24:14 28:23 32:3, 5 37:22 38:12 40:3 43:10 51:1, 2 54:21 55:2 56:3, 19 61:22 69:5 73:6, 20, 25 75:11 76:3 81:8 83:2 victimized 66:13 victims 6:13 22:24 24:19, 23 25:9 33:19 34:20 38:16 40:16 50:1 51:17 54:19 victim's 23:20 view 2:24 viewers 3:11 VIOLENCE 1:1 2:6 6:11, 14, 24 7:13 8:12 9:3, 11 10:14 11:22 12:8 13:18 14:23 17:8 18:16 20:25 22:13 24:19 25:6, 7, 10, 18, 20, 24 26:3 32:4, 5 33:19, 20 37:11 39:18 40:2, 17 41:22 58:1 60:3, 5 64:13 67:14 68:23 73:8 74:3, 14, 22 75:2 76:7, 12, 21 87:7 90:10 91:24 93:5 98:12 violent 44:24 vision 39:6 visits 40:20 vital 6:22 voice 12:17 23:1 67:16 volunteered 41:12 vouchers 32:14 vulnerable 9:2 50:1 < W >	waiting 12:5 38:23 57:14, 15 59:2 66:12 69:7 70:1 wakes 50:16 walk 26:21 55:24 85:2 want 6:19 7:25 8:4, 17, 23 9:19 15:5 18:14 20:24 21:1, 21 22:21 26:2 27:6 30:4, 14 41:8, 13, 15, 23 42:2 45:17 62:10 67:1, 3, 15 69:22, 23 70:6, 15 71:5, 13 75:10 78:19 85:5 90:13 95:11 wanted 15:16 23:2 52:21 93:23 wanton 12:7 watch 68:21 watched 40:8 way 10:11 23:6 26:11 27:22 33:4 62:24 70:10 71:12, 13 74:11 78:11, 12 90:4 91:9 95:9 97:21 ways 25:3 27:1, 2 28:6 29:6, 8 30:12 31:11 62:5 week 39:25 46:22 62:8 weeks 13:23 14:5 39:20 40:8 weeks-plus 40:19 Welcome 5:24 18:3 53:10 well 2:5 10:1 19:5 22:4 35:5 36:9 53:9 55:15 57:13 68:6, 17 69:10 78:22 92:1 went 11:10, 14, 16 43:8 70:18 92:12	we're 7:17, 19 9:1 17:4 21:14, 15 23:6 26:9, 24 29:11 33:1 35:8 52:12 56:24 61:9 65:11 66:6 70:16 79:11, 13 81:3 82:5, 7, 14 83:12 90:15, 16, 17 93:2, 3 95:17 96:8 We've 18:22 21:10, 13 22:15 50:12 54:6 59:9 64:16, 20 74:15 76:17 82:8 84:22 86:19, 24 96:4 willing 7:1 68:16, 21 80:9 willingness 29:15 43:22 87:15 89:1 Wilson 17:13, 15 36:24, 25 39:10 43:4 44:1, 5, 9, 19 45:1, 5, 9 46:1, 5, 8, 14 47:5, 9, 16 48:1, 10 49:2 51:25 52:18 91:9 92:25 wind 88:18 window 45:16 77:4 windows 11:15 85:7 90:18 wish 3:23 40:24 52:9 84:13 96:16 wishing 94:7 Witness 7:9 13:7, 10, 12 16:8 17:22 24:1 53:5, 12 68:2 72:20 witnesses 3:19 6:25 7:23 8:13 14:15 16:1 19:7, 8, 11 20:17, 19 31:6 49:17 54:12 70:4	88:12 96:18, 21 98:2 woman 51:2 words 90:1 work 8:13 10:10 15:8 16:23 21:10 22:8 24:13 42:2 47:3 51:13 54:22 55:4, 6 60:5 64:13, 24 71:15, 20 80:10 worked 13:3, 4 21:9 56:5 75:5 working 32:20 67:22 68:15 73:18 75:13 76:11 works 17:21 world 30:3 worth 67:6 wound 44:17 47:25 written 74:6 96:22 wrong 39:19 42:25 < Y > Yeah 92:6, 11 year 10:15 15:2 21:13 34:5 35:4 38:20, 22 42:10 56:7 60:14 62:19 73:20 77:16, 18 78:2 83:24 86:21 96:3 years 10:22 18:13, 23 19:20 21:5, 7 24:23 38:16 43:9 90:21 92:22 young 10:22, 24 11:2 26:14 40:6 51:1, 10 younger 29:24 < Z > Zoom 37:21 38:11
--	---	---	--	--