

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
9:00 am

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

BILLS NO. 120298

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: This is the Hearing of
3 the Finance Committee on Bill No. 120298.

4 Would the clerk please read the title.

5 THE CLERK: An ordinance approving a
6 substantial amendment to the Year 37
7 Consolidated Plan for FY12, an application to
8 the United States Department of Housing and
9 Urban Development for approximately \$1,260,836,
10 an Emergency Solutions Grant fund, all under
11 certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: For the record, we have
13 a quorum in the persons of Wilson Goode, Curtis
14 Jones, Bill Greenlee and Kenyatta Johnson.

15 And will people here to testify please
16 state your name for the record and -- and submit
17 your testimony.

18 MS. LONG: Hello, my name is Melissa Long.
19 I'm the Deputy Director for the Office of
20 Housing and Community Development. And I'm
21 pleased to submit testimony on behalf of
22 Dainette Mintz, Director of Office of Supportive
23 Housing.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Testimony will be made a
25 part of the record.

1 Does anybody have any questions for this
2 witness?

3 (No response.)

4 Seeing none, Councilman Greenlee, would you
5 please -- sorry. This will -- we will adjourn
6 the hearing.

7 MS. LONG: Can I just ask one -- make sure.
8 We -- within that testimony is requesting that a
9 suspension of the rules and -- so that the first
10 reading could be heard at the next Council
11 Meeting.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
13 Councilmember Johnson.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman. Just had one question with
16 regards to how the funding will be allocated.

17 Is there any way that any portion of the
18 land allocation will go towards domestic
19 violence -- be used for domestic violence or
20 specifically, overall, just homelessness in
21 general?

22 MS. CANCELLIER: This is Roberta
23 Cancellier, Deputy Director for Policy Planning
24 at Office of Supportive Housing. And while
25 victims of domestic violence are not a targeted

1 population in our movement, they absolutely are
2 eligible to participate. And the fact that our
3 emergency obtaining household providers to serve
4 victims at the time, likely a bill be one of
5 them to be served.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Is it possible
7 to ask you for to create a particular line item
8 to specifically designate domestic violence as a
9 specific category as opposed to the broad scope
10 of just homelessness across the board?

11 MS. ROEBUCK: So, one of the things that we
12 do -- I'm sorry. My name is Katrina Roebuck.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Excuse me?

14 MS. ROEBUCK: I'm sorry. Good morning. My
15 name is Katrina Roebuck. And I'm the Director
16 of Homeless Prevention with the Office of
17 Supportive Housing.

18 One of the things that we do every year is
19 we look at who we've served, and we take a
20 considerable amount of time in working with our
21 providers to identify populations, identify the
22 folks that we can serve that we could prevent
23 from homelessness with our funding, and then
24 also the folks that we think will be most
25 successful if we provide them with rapid

1 re-housing services.

2 So, within our unit of housing and
3 transitional housing programs, we do have
4 shelters in transition housing as you know that
5 target domestic violence victims. And we take
6 applications from those groups as well as
7 prevention. We provide prevention assistance
8 with less barriers to domestic violence victims
9 than we do to other potential clients in the
10 community.

11 So, for instance, folks that come to our
12 eviction services often have to bring an
13 eviction court ordered notice. Domestic
14 violence victims don't have to do that. We
15 don't require domestic violence victims to have
16 documentation saying a court, you know, notice
17 and police notice. We try to do everything that
18 we can to not create barriers for domestic
19 violence victims to receive assistance.

20 So, to answer your question specifically,
21 no, we have not carved out a specific amount to
22 serve those particular population -- those
23 particular victims. However, we make the
24 barriers less than those are to the general
25 population because we do want to be able to

1 serve them and to be able to provide them
2 services quickly.

3 Moving forward, in order to think about
4 what we could carve out, we'd have to look at
5 our funding sources. I don't know exactly how
6 much we will get moving forward, you know, over
7 the next several years. But we do know how much
8 we will get next year. And it's a considerable
9 decrease in funding that we've gotten from the
10 Stimulus funds. So, we don't have the capacity
11 in particular to carve out target populations in
12 the way that I think we would all like to, but
13 we certainly have made it a resource that is
14 more easily accessible to domestic violence
15 victims.

16 I hope that answers the question to some
17 extent.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right. Thank you
19 very much.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

21 Councilmember Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Ms. Roebuck, echoing Councilman Kenyatta and
24 further echoing, in my mind, Councilman Greenlee
25 who has been a long term advocate for this

1 issue, what I'm sensing based on a hearing we
2 had a month ago is that a priority is with beds
3 for domestic violence victims. We believe there
4 is about 100 short of what it was last year. We
5 believe that we're turning away people,
6 according to your testimony, because they had no
7 means by which to shelter them.

8 We believe this is a priority because it
9 leads to so many other crimes as a, you know,
10 result of people having to under duress turn
11 back to their victimizers. So, they're a victim
12 and then they're double victimized because now
13 they ran away, sought shelter, are turned back.

14 So, in our minds we were touched. We
15 understand the realities of your budget, but
16 going forward, we want to see what means can be
17 utilized to carve out the adequate number of
18 beds. We want 100. If there were 50, that's 50
19 less people turned away. So whatever creativity
20 you can come up with, whatever suggestions you
21 can come up with for us, we would be amenable to
22 those suggestions.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
25 Councilmember. I do want to state for the

1 record that although domestic violence is an
2 issue that I worked on and co-sponsored several
3 bills with Councilmember Greenlee, Councilmember
4 Greenlee was kind enough to allow me to work
5 with him on those issues. He's really been
6 pushing those issues at least during my term on
7 Council.

8 So, with -- any more questions?

9 (No response.)

10 Seeing none, we will end -- adjourn the
11 hearing on Bill No. 120298, and move into a
12 meeting on Bill No. 120298.

13 For the record, we have Councilmember
14 Blackwell joining us at the Committee Hearing --
15 Committee Meeting and Councilmember Squilla is
16 also present.

17 I recognize Councilmember Greenlee.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No. 120298 be
20 reported as with favorable recommendation and
21 move further the rules of Council be suspended
22 to allow for first reading at our next session
23 of Council.

24 (Seconded.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Move's been seconded.

1 All in favor?

2 (Ayes.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 Seeing none, the measure passes.

6 This will adj -- we will adjourn the
7 Meeting. Thank you for everybody's attendance.

8 (Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.)

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A able 5:25 6:1 absolutely 4:1 accessible 6:14 adequate 7:17 adjourn 3:5 8:10 9:6 adjourned 9:8 advocate 6:25 ago 7:2 allocated 3:16 allocation 3:18 allow 8:4,22 amenable 7:21 amendment 2:6 amount 4:20 5:21 answer 5:20 answers 6:16 anybody 3:1 application 2:7 applications 5:6 approving 2:5 approximately 2:9 assistance 5:7,19 attendance 9:7 Ayes 9:2 a.m 9:8	Cancellier 3:22 3:23 capacity 6:10 carve 6:4,11 7:17 carved 5:21 category 4:9 certain 2:11 certainly 6:13 Chairman 3:15 6:22 7:23 8:19 City 1:2,6 clerk 2:4,5 clients 5:9 come 5:11 7:20,21 Committee 1:3 2:3 8:14,15 community 2:20 5:10 conditions 2:11 considerable 4:20 6:8 Consolidated 2:7 Council 1:2 3:10 8:7,21,23 Councilman 1:11 1:12,12,13,13 1:14 2:2,12,24 3:4,12,14 4:6,13 6:18,20,22,23 6:24 7:24 8:18 8:25 Councilmember 3:13 6:21 7:25 8:3,3,13,15,17 COUNCILWO... 1:11 court 5:13,16 co-sponsored 8:2 create 4:7 5:18 creativity 7:19 crimes 7:9 Curtis 1:13 2:13	Deputy 2:19 3:23 designate 4:8 Development 2:9 2:20 Director 2:19,22 3:23 4:15 documentation 5:16 domestic 3:18,19 3:25 4:8 5:5,8 5:13,15,18 6:14 7:3 8:1 double 7:12 duress 7:10	Goode 1:12 2:13 gotten 6:9 Grant 2:10 GREENLEE 1:12 GREEN 1:11 2:2 2:12,24 3:12 4:13 6:20 7:24 8:25 Greenlee 2:14 3:4 6:24 8:3,4,17,18 groups 5:6	2:14 6:23 kind 8:4 know 5:4,16 6:5,6 6:7 7:9
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