

Committee on Appropriations
December 2, 2020

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 200620, 200621, 200622, 200623

1 - - -

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Good morning, everyone, and thank you
4 for your patience and your indulgence
5 this morning as we get started to the
6 members of the Committee.

7 I understand that the state law
8 currently requires that the following
9 announcement be made at the beginning of
10 every remote public hearing as follows:

11 Due to the current public health
12 emergency, City Council Committees are
13 currently meeting remotely. We are
14 using Microsoft Teams to make these
15 remote hearings possible.

16 Instructions for how the public
17 may view and offer public testimony at
18 public hearings of Council Committees
19 are included in the public hearing
20 notices that are published in the Daily
21 News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
22 prior to the hearings and can also be
23 found on phlcouncil.com. I note that
24 the hour has come.

25 Eric, will you please call the

1 roll to take attendance. Members that
2 are in attendance, will you please
3 indicate that you are present when your
4 name is called. Also, say a few words
5 when responding so that your image will
6 be displayed on screen as you speak.

7 THE CLERK: Councilmember
8 Quinones-Sanchez.

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
10 Present.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Johnson.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
14 morning, everyone. Present.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
18 morning, Madam Chair. Good morning,
19 colleagues. Good morning to the
20 listening public.

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 O'Neill.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Good
24 morning, everyone.

25 THE CLERK: Councilmember

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1 Henon.

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: Good
3 morning, Madam Chair. And good morning,
4 colleagues.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Good morning,
7 Madam Chair. And good morning,
8 colleagues.

9 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember
10 Domb.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
12 Eric and Madam Chair and colleagues, as
13 well.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 Thank you. A quorum of the Committee is
16 present and this hearing is now called
17 to order. This is the public hearing of
18 the Committee on Appropriations
19 regarding Bill Nos. 200620, 200621,
20 200622 and 200623.

21 Mariana, will you please read
22 the titles of the bills.

23 THE CLERK: Bill No. 200620, an
24 Ordinance authorizing transfers and
25 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 from

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1 the General Fund, certain or all City
2 offices, departments, boards and
3 commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund,
4 certain or all City offices,
5 departments, boards and commissions, the
6 Aviation Fund, certain or all City
7 offices, departments, boards and
8 commissions, the Community Development
9 Fund, certain or all City offices,
10 departments, boards and commissions, and
11 the Housing Trust Fund, certain or all
12 City offices, departments, boards and
13 commissions, to the General Fund,
14 certain or all City offices,
15 departments, boards and commissions, the
16 Water Residual Fund, certain or all City
17 offices, departments, boards and
18 commissions, the Aviation Fund, certain
19 or all City offices, departments, boards
20 and commissions, the Grants Revenue
21 Fund, certain or all City offices,
22 departments, boards and commissions, the
23 Community Development Fund, certain or
24 all City offices, departments, boards
25 and commissions, and the Housing Trust

1 Fund, certain or all City offices,
2 departments, boards and commissions.

3 Bill No. 200621, an Ordinance
4 authorizing transfers and appropriations
5 for Fiscal Year 2020 from the General
6 Fund from certain or all City offices,
7 departments, boards or commissions, the
8 Grants Revenue Fund from certain or all
9 City offices, departments, boards and
10 commissions and the Water Fund from
11 certain or all City offices,
12 departments, boards and commissions, to
13 the General Fund to certain or all City
14 offices, departments, boards and
15 commissions, and the Water Fund from
16 certain or all City offices,
17 departments, boards and commissions.

18 Bill No. 200622, an Ordinance
19 amending Bill No. 200285 (Approved June
20 26, 2020), entitled "An Ordinance to
21 adopt a Capital Program for the six
22 Fiscal Years 2021 to 2026 inclusive."

23 Bill No. 200623, an Ordinance
24 amending Bill No. 200286, (Approved June
25 26, 2020), entitled "An Ordinance to

1 adopt the Fiscal 2021 Capital Budget."

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Before we begin our public testimony
4 from the witnesses we have here today,
5 everyone who has been invited to this
6 meeting to testify should be aware that
7 this public hearing is being recorded.

8 Because the hearing is public,
9 participants and viewers have no
10 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
11 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
12 consenting to being recorded.

13 Additionally, prior to
14 recognizing Members for questions or
15 comments they have for witnesses, I will
16 note for the record at this time that we
17 will use the chat feature available on
18 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
19 signify to me that they wish to be
20 recognized. In order to comply with the
21 Sunshine Act, the chat feature must only
22 be used for this purpose.

23 Will the Clerk please call the
24 first panel we have to testify this
25 morning on Bills 200620, 200621, 200622

1 and 200623. Will you please call our
2 first panel.

3 THE CLERK: Marisa Goren
4 Waxman, Rob Dubow and Tumar Alexander.

5 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Shall I
6 begin?

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 Good morning. We're connected and ready
9 to proceed. Please state your name for
10 the record and proceed with your
11 testimony.

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Good
13 morning, Councilmember Quinones-Sanchez
14 and members of the City Council
15 Committee on Appropriations. My name is
16 Marisa Goren Waxman. I'm the Budget
17 Director and I'm here to testify in
18 support of Bill Nos. 200620, 200621,
19 200622 and 200623. These bills provide
20 amendments to the FY20 and FY21
21 Operating Budget and the FY21 Capital
22 Budget and the FY2021 to '26 Capital
23 Program.

24 I'm joined by Rob Dubow, the
25 City's Finance Director, and Tumar

1 Alexander, the City's Managing Director.
2 The Mayor's Cabinet, Deputy Managing
3 Directors and Department Commissioners
4 impacted by these bills are also here
5 and available to answer your questions.
6 And I'm now going to present the slide
7 deck submitted along with this
8 testimony.

9 I wanted to start with a little
10 bit of good news and bad news. So FY20
11 ended up a little bit better than we
12 thought in terms of the City's fund
13 balance. We had initially projected 255
14 million. We wound up at 290. We
15 believe this is primarily attributable
16 to City employees not using as much
17 medical health benefits as anticipated.
18 We think during the shutdown they didn't
19 go.

20 We don't think this is
21 repeatable and could result in higher
22 costs later for deferred medical care.
23 But what that meant was that in FY21 we
24 were starting with a higher fund
25 balance. However, we've now revised our

1 fund balance to be lower, \$22.9 million.
2 This is a really challenging number.
3 This is less than two days' worth of
4 City spending, less than 1 percent of
5 our spending for the year. Our goal is
6 usually 6 to 8 percent. The GF0A
7 recommends 17. And we still even at
8 this have concerns. We had projected
9 that revenue would start to improve in
10 the second quarter, which we're in now,
11 but we're worried that that's not
12 happening.

13 If the improvement doesn't
14 happen over the balance of the fiscal
15 year and we stay where we are right now,
16 we're worried that we could have
17 revenues that are \$70 million to \$100
18 million less than we're currently
19 budgeted. We have some real risks that
20 we're facing that I'm sure you're
21 familiar with, the path of the virus is
22 an uncertainty, the economic impacts.

23 We're also concerned with any
24 challenges around the presidential
25 transition and civil unrest as well as

1 the prison census, because as that
2 changes, the costs do as well. We are
3 hopeful about some potential
4 opportunities, new federal stimulus or
5 flexibility with the existing dollars
6 we've gotten. We are not building our
7 budget based on any assumptions for
8 anything that is not yet passed, but
9 this is just mainly a bit hopeful that
10 it will allow us to make some changes in
11 the future.

12 We're covering four pieces of
13 legislation today. The first includes
14 the FY20 Operating Year-End Transfer
15 Ordinance that needs to be passed by the
16 end of the calendar year to close the
17 books, and it includes Pay-As-You-Go
18 capital and just cleans up, some moving
19 funds around on some essential operating
20 expenses.

21 We're also covering the FY21
22 Operating Budget with a midyear
23 transfer. There's 61.7 million in
24 additional General Fund spending. A bit
25 of that is offset by additional

1 revenues. I'll go into that in a bit
2 more detail. So there's about 57.3
3 million in additional dollars being
4 added to the spending for FY21
5 Operating. We are also making
6 amendments to the Capital Budget and
7 Program to account for the
8 appropriations that are in that FY20
9 PayGo as well as some appropriations for
10 new Water funding.

11 I wanted to just give you a
12 little bit of context on how we
13 developed the proposal. We met with all
14 of the departments to understand where
15 they were. We understood what their
16 needs were when we did the budget very
17 quickly in the spring. Trying to
18 understand what this pandemic would look
19 like, we knew that we would have to make
20 some re-adjustments.

21 We also then looked at what our
22 resources were, what money we had, our
23 current revenues and our projections for
24 both the pandemic as well as the economy
25 going forward, and we had to update our

1 revenue estimates. And then we had to
2 prioritize. Because this is true in
3 every year but this year most
4 especially, we can't do everything we
5 would want to do. We simply don't have
6 the resources. So we look towards
7 what's legally mandated. We got
8 feedback from City Council, from our
9 internal Budget Equity Committee. We
10 looked towards the Mayor's second-term
11 priorities to the updated post-COVID.
12 And generally, we also were trying to
13 avoid new multi-year costs. Because
14 there's so much uncertainty, we didn't
15 want to commit to something we didn't
16 know if we would be able to sustain.

17 So I just wanted to give you a
18 bit more detail on the FY20 Year-End
19 Transfer Ordinance. And as I said, that
20 has a couple of different things. In
21 the General Fund, it includes Pay-As-
22 You-Go capital spending, and that is
23 primarily for the public health lab that
24 needs to move the current site. They
25 need to vacate in October and we need a

1 new location. There's also funding in
2 there for Parks and Recreation for labor
3 mediation and fire suppression, ADA
4 improvements and paving.

5 We also just needed to do some
6 clean-up at the end of the fiscal year,
7 this is normal, that we do each year.

8 The largest parts were in Police and
9 Fire around the personnel costs. We
10 also had to account for an additional
11 payment to the School District. And
12 again, this is more of a timing issue.

13 It was a payment that was supposed to be
14 made in FY19 and was budgeted in '19,
15 but it didn't happen until early '20 and
16 there hadn't been an appropriation for
17 that. We also have some funds moving
18 around in the Grants Fund, moving 29
19 million to the General Fund and some
20 re-alignment within the Water Fund, so
21 that's really how FY20 year ends.

22 Now, moving to the Capital
23 Budget, as I mentioned we had included
24 Pay-As-You-Go financing there and this
25 would create the authorization to spend

1 that money, and again, noting it's the
2 public health lab, additional paving
3 which has become more expensive per mile
4 when we assure that we are complying
5 with ADA requirements for ramps, lead
6 remediation, suppression and fire safety
7 systems at our Parks & Rec centers.

8 This also does include appropriations
9 for the Water Fund so that they can take
10 advantage of \$81 million of PennVest
11 funds that they've been awarded access
12 to for improvements to water treatment
13 infrastructure.

14 Moving along to the FY21
15 Operating Budget Mid-Year Transfer
16 Ordinance, just to give you the big
17 picture, as I mentioned in the beginning
18 we're looking at a much lower fund
19 balance than we had started. The
20 original budget had that at 51. We're
21 now looking at that 22.9, less than 1
22 percent of our spending which is a
23 really low amount for us to have as a
24 cushion, particularly given current
25 uncertainties. But at the same time, we

1 have a lot of needs and Philadelphians
2 have a lot of needs that we wanted to be
3 able to meet, so that is why we were
4 requesting the additional spending with
5 that \$57 million impact on fund balance.

6 And as I mentioned, we
7 prioritized based on input from a
8 variety of sources, but obviously
9 couldn't do everything that we would
10 have liked. So I wanted to give you the
11 big picture of the items that are
12 impacting fund balance, that 57.3
13 million. This is all here on one slide,
14 but I'm going to go into greater detail
15 on each of these. But I first wanted to
16 just recap the types of things that we
17 didn't have as having that net impact on
18 fund balance.

19 First is, there's some items
20 that were added in the transfer
21 ordinance that are offset by new
22 revenue, so the example there is Public
23 Health is drawing down additional
24 revenues. But because they're drawing
25 down those additional revenues, some of

1 the payments we make to the state are
2 higher. This also supports increased
3 spending at Riverview and for staffing
4 for the Health Department.

5 You'll also see with no impact
6 on fund balance and transfers between
7 departments, this is really just to
8 align where the dollars for certain
9 programs are with where they
10 operationally live. And so, the Taking
11 Care of Business funds for commercial
12 corridors are moving from the Commerce
13 Department to the Streets Department.
14 The Adult Literacy funds are moving from
15 the Managing Director's Office to the
16 Department of Human Services, where that
17 activity is going to happen. And staff
18 costs related to Zero Waste are going to
19 move from the Streets Department to
20 Sustainability where those will be
21 managed.

22 There's also some transfers
23 between classes within a department,
24 re-aligning funds with no change to
25 their overall funding level. Examples

1 there are shifting funds between Class
2 200 and 300, 400 for body-worn cameras
3 within the Police Department and IT.
4 And then moving around some Class 100
5 dollars in Streets so the temporary
6 sanitation workers as well as moving
7 some money around within Finance to be
8 able to absorb additional risk insurance
9 cost that the City has.

10 But now I'll go deeper into the
11 ones that do have a net impact and
12 really represent increased spending.
13 The first is \$8.3 million for the
14 Streets Department and Class 200. This
15 is for trash disposal. As we've
16 discussed with everyone being at home,
17 there's significantly higher residential
18 tonnage, and that means we have to pay
19 more for someone to accept our trash.
20 So these are the costs we have
21 calculated based on the current levels
22 and our expectations going forward.

23 As I mentioned, there are some
24 additional costs for staffing as well.
25 Those can be absorbed in the existing

1 budget. And costs for PPE for the
2 balance of the year, we expect a support
3 through the existing recession and
4 reopening reserve. So this 8.3 is just
5 for the waste disposal fees.

6 We have some costs related to
7 pensions and indemnities. The
8 Philadelphia Municipal Authority which
9 issues City bonds and has staff in the
10 City pension system, we need to catch up
11 on required calculated amounts for
12 pension payments. And that amount is
13 406,000. That money resides within the
14 Public Property -- within the Department
15 of Public Property, so you'll see that
16 there.

17 We also have some court-ordered
18 payments related to Eastwick in
19 Southwest Philadelphia for environmental
20 issues. That winds up being in the
21 Finance Class 500 budget to cover the
22 payments in FY21. Some payments were
23 already made in FY20. We will still
24 also need to accommodate the last
25 payments for that, those court-ordered

1 payments in FY22.

2 There are additions for
3 independent offices as well. The City
4 Commissioners is included for \$9.7
5 million and this is related to the cost
6 for doing the election in ways we have
7 never done it before. There's expanded
8 costs for mailing and printing of
9 mail-in ballots, for the satellite
10 offices and expanded communications to
11 make sure everyone knew what we needed
12 to do.

13 Additionally, there is funding
14 for the District Attorney. This is a
15 partial restoration of the \$8 million
16 reduction that the adopted version of
17 the FY21 budget had. Council has asked
18 the Administration and the District
19 Attorney's Office to collaborate on a
20 more reasonable revised budget. And so,
21 that's what we've been doing over the
22 past couple of months. And this is the
23 restoration recommended under that
24 Council direction to collaborate.

25 The Office of Innovation and

1 Technology is seeking funding for a
2 couple of different initiatives. I've
3 got the individual amounts for each
4 initiative listed out here, but I wanted
5 to first note that they found \$2.6
6 million worth of savings within their
7 existing budget to offset part of this.
8 So if you total all of these up, that's
9 more than is actually in the transfer
10 ordinance, but they're just able to
11 absorb some of it.

12 The largest is something called
13 multi-factor authentication, and this is
14 for when folks are logging in,
15 particularly important when we're doing
16 this remotely, for extra security. And
17 both our Law Department and Risk
18 Management identified this as a must do.
19 This is not, in fact, the full cost.
20 Some of it was already under way. We've
21 been able to find some other outside
22 sources of funding for this, but this is
23 what's needed from the General Fund.
24 There's also funding requested for One
25 Philly, the City's payroll system, in

1 order to maintain the existing
2 consultants so that we can complete
3 required activity, W2s, tax rate
4 changes, be able to fix defects and
5 provide accurate paychecks, which as a
6 City employee I certainly appreciate.
7 This is unfortunately not the full
8 amount that they requested, but we had
9 to make a number of different
10 trade-offs.

11 Additionally, there's funding
12 within in here for Class 100 for OIT for
13 staffing. One of the happy benefits of
14 this whole pandemic is that OIT has been
15 able to accelerate some of their hiring.
16 We historically have been challenged in
17 attracting talent for the salaries we're
18 able to pay, but they have been having
19 more success recently in being able to
20 bring folks on board, and over time that
21 should lessen our reliance on outside
22 contractors, but they hadn't been
23 budgeted to bring those staff on.

24 Also with OIT is funding to
25 allow Wi-Fi at 25 access centers at a

1 higher level to support distance
2 learning. So that's Internet and Wi-Fi
3 for 175,000. And then the last thing
4 here is 75,000 to connect also Property
5 Assessments new computer-assisted mass
6 appraisal system to rev -- (inaudible).

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 Marisa, you froze for a little bit, just
9 so that you're aware.

10 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Okay. I'm
11 going to turn my camera off, but
12 hopefully you can still see my screen.
13 Let me know if there's anything you need
14 me to redo. I was at the Mayor's Office
15 requesting funding for racial equity,
16 and this is money that they had had in
17 the original budget but following the
18 civil unrest and social activism in
19 June, they used that money for a series
20 of town halls, but we still want to
21 proceed with the racial equity training
22 that was originally planned.

23 Additionally, there's a funding
24 for college scholarships that
25 historically had been 200,000 a year.

1 We had reduced it to 100,000 for FY21
2 because of the pandemic. What we didn't
3 realize at the time was that the awards
4 to students had already gone out and
5 rather than have to tell those students
6 that the scholarship that they had been
7 counting on we had to pull back, we
8 wanted to fund that there.

9 There's also funding in here
10 for some Class 100 as well as to support
11 a new African-American business think
12 tank that will support business
13 development. And then -- we're coming
14 close at the end now. The next requests
15 are related to public safety. The
16 largest is for Class 100 personnel cost
17 for the Fire Department. Our current
18 projections indicate that the current
19 service levels would require about \$35
20 million in additional funding.
21 Obviously, we are constrained and didn't
22 request that full amount. So we would
23 still need to try and work through how
24 the about \$11 million gap would be
25 filled, but this 24 million is

1 essential. Sort of absent that, you
2 know, if that full amount, that 35
3 million isn't made available, there's
4 very few options available to us and it
5 certainly would involve the closure of
6 stations and engines.

7 There's also included in this
8 \$800,000 for civil unrest expenses that
9 were incurred by the Office of Emergency
10 Management. There's a couple of things
11 I just wanted to note which you're not
12 going to see dollar figures on, but I
13 wanted to note them because it doesn't
14 mean we're not doing them.

15 So we had been working through
16 a plan to get full deployment of tasers
17 and that's going to be about \$14 million
18 over five years, so there's definitely
19 going to be a request for that in FY22.
20 But the existing funding in the budget
21 for the current fiscal year, 900,000 is
22 enough for us to get started on that
23 plan. Also, there's not funding in here
24 for a Kensington police station and that
25 is because the real estate folks over at

1 Department of Public Property have
2 negotiated us a lease that begins with
3 free rent and all other costs we can
4 absorb this year. We know there will be
5 costs in outyears, but we're able to get
6 that started without having to add any
7 dollars.

8 There's also funding in here
9 for anti-poverty and rental assistance
10 programs. Some of it isn't necessarily
11 new. For example, when the IRS extended
12 the tax deadline into July 15th, that
13 rolled some of our costs into FY21. So
14 this just allows us to move some of the
15 money that we were to have paid and
16 would have been for services entirely in
17 FY20, extend and allow that payment to
18 be made in FY21 for this past tax
19 season.

20 There's also funding in here
21 for both the PEPP rental assistance
22 program, the Eviction Diversion program
23 and rental assistance program for sort
24 of pre-COVID rental assistance. These
25 are a mix of programs that were already

1 started in the first half of FY21. And
2 actually, I will note this and
3 originally said this, these are fully
4 funded. That was when we had a slightly
5 different understanding of how much the
6 CARES Act could cover for this, but
7 there is still close to \$6 million in
8 here for rental assistance programs.
9 And then we have some spending requests
10 related to core operations. I already
11 noted that the pension payments for the
12 Philadelphia Municipal Authority were in
13 the Department of Public Property's
14 budget.

15 We're also seeking an
16 additional \$500,000 for some immediate
17 needs, primarily the escalator and roof
18 repair at the Criminal Justice Center.
19 We also have significant needs related
20 to extra cleaning and pest control and
21 the temporary relocation of the Police
22 Northeast Detective Division.

23 In Parks & Rec, there's
24 345,000. Most of this is actually cost-
25 related to tree removal. In August, we

1 had some massive storms and then also
2 from FBI and child abuse clearances and
3 support for the access centers and
4 actually support for all centers,
5 including the ones that are access
6 centers. And then the last one here is
7 the City Treasurer seeking additional
8 funds to be able to support bond counsel
9 for nontransaction costs. Normally,
10 when we need bond counsel, it's because
11 we're borrowing money and we're able to
12 wrap that cost rate into the borrowing
13 and we don't need General Fund dollars
14 on top for that. But we have a couple
15 of issues right now where we need really
16 good advice for bond counsel, but it's
17 not part of an immediate transaction so
18 we can't just wrap it into the
19 borrowing.

20 So an example of that is the
21 IRS is auditing our 4601 Market Street
22 transaction and borrowing, and we want
23 to make sure that we're able to retain
24 outside counsel for that. So that
25 concludes my overview of the proposals

1 as introduced and we are happy to answer
2 any questions that you have.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 Thank you, Marisa. That was at speed
5 pace there.

6 I don't know if -- Tumar
7 Alexander, did you want to add anything
8 to that or you just want to respond to
9 questions?

10 MS. ALEXANDER: No,
11 Councilwoman. I'm available to respond
12 to questions. Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
14 Okay. Before I go to my colleagues and
15 again -- if folks have a particular
16 departmental request that they want to
17 do, if you let us know, I know we have
18 all Department heads as I said available
19 to us.

20 So, Marisa, I just quickly want
21 to ask you to go through some of the
22 changes that we're contemplating that
23 we've been talking about over the last
24 couple of days that are important. One
25 of them being a recognition, as been

1 discussed, through some of the small
2 business needs -- because they will be
3 forthcoming in an amendment before we
4 finish this -- the need for small
5 business relief, additional money that
6 includes the hospitality industry but
7 clearly there's some small business
8 needs throughout the City, in addition
9 to the Cultural Arts and Funds folks
10 have started to also start advocating,
11 so can you speak to that real briefly.

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Sure. Thank
13 you. And we have through our CARES Act
14 funding and other funds been attempting
15 to provide additional relief to small
16 businesses, but through discussions
17 we're happy to be able to collaborate
18 with you to identify an additional \$20
19 million in order to provide relief. The
20 way we're going to be able to do that is
21 first being able to direct more of our
22 stimulus funds, \$7 million, for that
23 purpose.

24 Unfortunately, we've received
25 federal relief but not enough to handle

1 all of our needs, but we really
2 understand the need to prioritize this,
3 and the things that we have to figure
4 out later, we'll figure out later. The
5 balance of that 13 million, the way we
6 are thinking about doing that is by
7 finding some opportunities to shift
8 within our Capital Budget to free up
9 some funds. We know that as we
10 mentioned there were some pressing needs
11 around the public health lab and others
12 that are sort of fast-paced, fast-moving
13 that we want to do now. So what we're
14 hoping to do sort of through a
15 multi-step process though is get those
16 projects moving right now, but then make
17 some changes within the existing Capital
18 Budget to sort of backfill and free up
19 dollars so that we can find the
20 additional 13 million so that we can do
21 those projects we need to do right now,
22 but at the same time do \$20 million
23 worth of relief.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

25 Thank you. And speak real quickly -- we

1 were talking about some of this capital
2 just because we will have to come back
3 to this Committee at some point -- how
4 are you re-aligning and prioritizing
5 some of the capital spending in our
6 COVID reality? Because I know there's a
7 lot of stuff on the books, we're going
8 to make some changes. I don't want
9 folks to be surprised later. But it's
10 sort of like we're going to prioritize
11 shovel-ready priority and everything is
12 going to get backfilled, but I just want
13 to make sure people understand what
14 we're trying to do.

15 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yeah. So
16 the things we're going to prioritize and
17 move faster, the things that are sort of
18 pressing needs today so, for example,
19 particularly once we were using our
20 recreation centers as access centers, we
21 got into looking at some new
22 requirements that said we needed to have
23 adequate fire safety systems and we
24 realize that is actually a system-wide
25 issue that we can take care of fairly

1 quickly on a system-wide basis, assuming
2 we have the funds to do it.

3 And what that means is fire
4 suppression where necessary or other
5 alarms and systems. And so, that which
6 we can do right away, we need to do
7 right away is something we would
8 prioritize. We're also looking to
9 prioritize the public health lab. The
10 existing building is in nonfunctional
11 condition. Nearly most of the staff is
12 already needed to move. The site has
13 been sold and we need to get out by
14 October, which is why part of this is
15 really pressing to move on now. And so,
16 we have a place to go and we have a
17 plan. We just need these funds in the
18 present to do it.

19 So what we will do is we'll
20 collaborate with City Council to look at
21 what projects were programmed and
22 planned for FY21 but haven't started
23 yet, aren't ready, and figure out which
24 ones that we can defer so that we can
25 move the ones that are ready to rock and

1 roll right now. And clearly, we're in
2 the middle a health crisis and having a
3 public lab that handles currently a
4 large amount of our testing and making
5 sure they're adequately resourced is
6 key, so we'll continue to work with you
7 on what hasn't started yet, but we might
8 be able to wait a bit longer so that we
9 can move on these.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
11 With the commitment that we'll still get
12 it done in year '21. It may have to be
13 part of the borrowing that was just
14 approved in the last election and
15 backfill it, so I just want to make sure
16 folks, particularly the department folks
17 know that this is about what's shovel-
18 ready priority, but eventually we can
19 commit to backfill most of that.

20 Okay. So I'm going to
21 recognize my colleagues. Again, we have
22 all of the Department folks on the line.
23 So as you're queuing up for questions if
24 there's a particular department, please
25 let us know because they're available.

1 I'm going to start with
2 Councilmember Oh. Councilmember Oh.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
4 Thank you very much, Chairwoman. I'm
5 going to leave my camera off just so I
6 don't have much Internet connection
7 problems. I'll start with some general
8 questions. And I will confess that I
9 did not get the materials until this
10 morning so I have a couple of basic
11 questions to start with.

12 The amount of the transfer
13 that's being requested in the General
14 Fund for '20 and '21, that appears to me
15 to be \$110 million roughly; is that
16 correct?

17 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Let me do
18 some -- so I know that the FY21 is a
19 total around 62 million, 61.7. Some of
20 that is offset by some new revenue, so
21 there's a \$57.3 million impact on fund
22 balance in FY21. For FY20, it is in the
23 General Fund about another 63 million.
24 So I would say between the two of them,
25 it's about 100, 125 equally between FY20

1 and FY21.

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. And then
3 for the Capital Budget, what is that for
4 the five years?

5 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So for the
6 Capital Budget, we're only making
7 changes to the current year. We have to
8 update the Capital Program for the
9 six-year program to reflect those
10 changes. And so, what that is is the
11 additional, the changes in Pay-As-You-Go
12 are then reflected in the Capital
13 Program. In the General Fund, there's
14 also \$81 million worth of appropriation
15 added in the Water Fund in the FY21
16 Capital.

17 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. So as
18 far as I know, that's \$206 million.

19 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Um --

20 COUNCILMAN OH: When I take
21 what you just said about the Capital,
22 add it to the 125, like 81 million plus
23 125?

24 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So I
25 wouldn't exactly do that, because like

1 63 of PayGo in the FY20 year-end, we're
2 showing that coming out of the Operating
3 and moving into the Capital.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Into the
5 Capital, okay.

6 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So it's just
7 a movement instead of adding them
8 together.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. So I
10 have that. Now, what is the term
11 Pay-As-You-Go? What are you referring
12 to?

13 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So Pay-As-
14 You-Go means that for capital
15 investments, which are our big
16 infrastructure things, typically
17 physical but sometimes can be large
18 computer systems, it means using dollars
19 we already have on hand as opposed to
20 borrowing. And there's some reasons
21 that we think that this is the right
22 thing to do for the City.

23 One, it helps us avoid
24 borrowing costs. So things cost more
25 when you have to pay interest, bond

1 counsel fees, all that, so we basically
2 get the same piece of infrastructure for
3 less money. And, two, by borrowing even
4 though you're like, oh, you can spread
5 it out over time, our concern there is
6 the City already has very high fixed
7 costs in our Operating Budget. So, one,
8 that gives us less room to maneuver when
9 we want to make adjustments there if
10 there's a lot of stuff that's locked in.
11 Also, having that high level of fixed
12 cost results in us having higher
13 borrowing cost when we do borrow it,
14 sort of like if you're close to the
15 limit in one credit card and you've
16 borrowed a lot of money, the rate that
17 you can borrow the next dollar is going
18 to be higher.

19 And so, the Pay-As-You-Go is
20 our opportunity to get the things we
21 wanted to get in terms of investments
22 but at a lower cost. And obviously,
23 there are trade-offs there against what
24 else we can spend that money on, but we
25 think this is a really important

1 approach to balance, you know, we borrow
2 \$128 million this year so we do both.
3 But we think that these instances, that
4 PayGo makes sense. But as we were just
5 discussing though, what we're going to
6 do is do the PayGo now to move the
7 projects that need to move now and then
8 we're also going to in order to be able
9 to free up money for the relief, go
10 back, revisit the money that we're
11 planning on borrowing in January, see if
12 we can shift that around a bit so that
13 we can still have some flexibility in
14 the Operating Budget while still getting
15 these needed capital projects now.

16 COUNCILMAN OH: So Council has
17 to approve this basically cash amount
18 for you to use as you move along to
19 address these things as opposed to
20 borrowing?

21 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yeah. And
22 as we discussed, we're doing this now in
23 part just to make sure that we can move
24 that money now, when we need it now and
25 it's shovel-ready and that's why we're

1 doing -- figure we're going to sort of
2 continue the conversation and revisit
3 what's in the Capital and what's
4 borrowed, so that we can work with the
5 timing.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. So I
7 recall when COVID first happened that
8 there was a request for emergency
9 funding for the greatest amount of
10 flexibility, I don't remember, I think
11 about \$93 million. It could have been
12 84. But anyway, it was a lot of money.
13 I really kind of said why don't we just
14 do 20 million at a time, but the overall
15 idea was we don't know what COVID is.
16 And so, I did vote for the entire amount
17 of money.

18 I don't know if the entire
19 amount of money was spent as we
20 anticipated would be spent. And I'm a
21 little concerned that this sounds very
22 similar to me as basically a request for
23 money. Because after we give the money
24 to the Administration, we don't exactly
25 know what happens to it and it doesn't

1 often get spent the way we're kind of
2 told it would be or we anticipated or
3 thought it would be.

4 And in addition, we just had a
5 budget that we voted on, a really ruckus
6 difficult budget, and that was six
7 months ago. And my concern always is
8 that the budget always has an amount of
9 money that just seems to me to be
10 unclear and there is money in the budget
11 that is misidentified, in the sense that
12 I don't think it's going to be used for
13 what reason is given, and it always gets
14 transferred out later like now.

15 And at the same time during the
16 budget when the issues are in front of
17 us, we're told that there's not a penny
18 more and yet we end up with 10 million
19 here, 20 million there, we can find more
20 money. And that makes me feel as though
21 this is a bad idea, that basically what
22 should happen is that the Administration
23 should come to Council for each item
24 that it needs when it needs it so we can
25 go more thoroughly through each request

1 and have a hearing and approve it rather
2 than giving these lump sums of money.

3 So I'm honestly just stating my
4 concern to everybody, my colleagues, you
5 know, the Administration, everyone that
6 I just don't see this is a good way to
7 do things. And by the way, the
8 Administration I think is supporting the
9 \$400 million bond for dealing with
10 issues within the communities and things
11 like that, so that is a borrowing. It's
12 a large borrowing.

13 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yeah. Thank
14 you. I appreciate that comment. And I
15 think that tension there about how much
16 we borrow and how much then we have as
17 fixed cost versus what we do in the
18 present is really a lot of what we
19 wrestle with here in trying to balance
20 this out. And I hear your concerns
21 about uncertainty.

22 And I'll be honest, this has
23 been a year where, yes, it's been
24 uncertain about how exactly we were
25 going to need money and what we were

1 going to need early in the year. We
2 needed funding for, you know, in that 84
3 million for a surge hospital. As the
4 situations evolved, as we're making
5 plans for the second surge, we now know
6 that what we'll need more is probably a
7 surge nursing facility. And so, as our
8 needs change, we do think it is really
9 important to engage with Council and
10 share. So we're happy to continue
11 providing information.

12 And as you may know this year
13 because of all of the added uncertainty
14 begun, in addition to our Quarterly City
15 Manager's Reports which show the
16 revenues, the spending, the leave usage,
17 overtime performance, we've actually
18 increased the frequency of our reporting
19 to include monthly expenditure reports.
20 And I'm guessing we'll be talking about
21 this in the afternoon hearing on Fiscal
22 Stability, but we're trying to make more
23 of that information available --

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you. I'm
25 not trying to give you a hard time. I'm

1 trying to be frank and honest and I'm
2 not trying to put you on the spot here.
3 So thank you for that. Thank you for
4 your answer.

5 Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
7 Councilman Oh, it's a conversation we've
8 been having about accounting practices
9 versus what traditionally folks have
10 done. And I agree with you, it's
11 something that I've also expressed to
12 the Administration, just because when we
13 give them discretion that limits our
14 ability to influence the actual
15 expenditure. So agreed, duly noted.
16 It's something that I've also expressed.
17 Having done this Committee for a while,
18 it's sort of like we need to get away
19 from that. It's an unprecedented time.
20 But nevertheless, we need to be more
21 clear around that.

22 So I'm going to recognize
23 Councilmember Domb. And then we're
24 going to have Councilman Thomas and he's
25 requesting that the Fire Department be

1 on standby for his questions.

2 Councilman Domb.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
4 Madam Chair.

5 And good morning, Marisa. Hope
6 you're doing well. Had a couple quick
7 questions. One was on the One Philly.
8 I wanted to refresh my memory. On the
9 One Philly original budget, do you
10 remember the original budgeted amount
11 for One Philly?

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I do not off
13 the top of my head, but we can certainly
14 get back to you with both the Capital
15 and the Operating. And just to be
16 clear, these were around the Operating,
17 sort of the staffing and support, not
18 the Capital, the system itself.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And this is
20 what I'd like to know is the original
21 budget for One Philly, how much more
22 money we've spent. Any idea of how much
23 additional money we've spent on One
24 Philly?

25 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Not off the

1 top of my head, but I can certainly get
2 the original versus where we are to
3 date.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is the number
5 somewhere between 40 and 50 million in
6 total? Is that possible?

7 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I am not
8 sure. And again, I would want to make
9 sure that I'm segmenting out the Capital
10 pieces versus the Operating.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. One of
12 my concerns is that we're still hearing
13 from a lot of City employees that
14 they're still having a lot of issues
15 with payroll. And I'm just concerned
16 that this \$922,000, I know you said it's
17 more required, but we should do whatever
18 it is required to get this fixed. And
19 I'm just wondering what that total
20 number might be so we can get our
21 payroll system working correctly.

22 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So in terms
23 of the staffing, the 922,000 that we are
24 requesting here is 50 percent of the
25 ask, and then we're going to continue

1 with OIT as they look at the rest of
2 their budget and try to adjust and make
3 adjustments so that they can provide as
4 much support as necessary for this as
5 well as balancing that out with the
6 other systems they need to support and
7 work they have to be doing.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So are you
9 saying that basically for another
10 900,000 on top of this, we can get these
11 issues resolved?

12 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I don't want
13 to say that. But I would say that what
14 the Department has identified as the
15 staffing level that they need to do the
16 required functions to fix those defects
17 and continue to work through, you know,
18 do tax rate changes, get the W2s out,
19 they did indicate that they would need
20 more.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I think from
22 my perspective if you said to me we need
23 another 900,000 to get this fixed right,
24 I'm in favor of it because this has to
25 get fixed correctly. So I just want to

1 make you aware.

2 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And another
4 question: I know it was something in
5 the paperwork that said something about
6 PennVest for the Water Department, \$81
7 million I believe. What are the
8 interest rates that we're getting on
9 those types of loans right now?

10 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I believe
11 they are lower than they would
12 otherwise, which is why they did that
13 program. I can certainly ask the Water
14 folks to forward that. I don't have the
15 exact rate.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And then the
17 other question has to do with I guess
18 Councilman Oh's question on the PayGo
19 capital, which is a new term I've heard.
20 With low, low interest rates in this
21 environment, is that really the way to
22 go to utilize our cash versus borrowing
23 the money at these historically low
24 interest rates?

25 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So as I

1 mentioned, I think it is a balance. We
2 do both. We are still going to be
3 borrowing. We are going to be coming up
4 with our FY22 Capital Budget shortly and
5 there was a lot of things that we
6 deferred in '21 when we had to pull back
7 the size of our borrowing. And so, we
8 do a mix in large part because while,
9 yes, money is cheaper right now, it
10 still has costs and it still has fixed
11 costs to our budget, so we want to make
12 sure that we don't so lock ourselves in
13 on the operating side that we lose
14 flexibility. And so, that's why we look
15 at a balance.

16 But as we were also discussing,
17 in order to free up some additional
18 funds to allow for that \$20 million
19 worth of business relief, we're going to
20 do that Pay-As-You-Go for those projects
21 that need to move now, but we're going
22 to look and see how we can maybe
23 reprioritize within the money we are
24 borrowing to sort of backfill some of
25 that and free up money, so we're

1 constantly sort of looking at the
2 balance of the two, balancing how much
3 we should be borrowing versus how much
4 we don't want to lock ourselves into too
5 many fixed costs.

6 MR. DUBOW: And --

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 Rob, if you want to add, yeah.

9 MR. DUBOW: And to the rating
10 agencies, one of the things that they
11 focus on is our level of fixed cost. So
12 the higher the fixed cost, the more
13 likely that that would be an impact on
14 the rating, which then affects the cost
15 of our borrowing, so we have to always
16 be careful about where that is.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm going to
18 assume that we've looked at all of our
19 borrowing and looked at every
20 opportunity for refinancing and lower
21 interest rates, because this is the
22 environment where you want to take
23 advantage of that.

24 MR. DUBOW: Yes, we have and
25 we've been doing a lot of refundings,

1 not just for the General Fund, but for
2 the other funds too. And we're
3 constantly on the lookout for that.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And
5 then one last question, I just want to
6 make sure I understand the numbers
7 correctly. From the Grants Fund, it
8 looks to me that \$16 million is going to
9 the Fire Department and 15.8 is going
10 for Police; is that correct? And then
11 from the appropriations, there's another
12 \$24 million going to the Fire
13 Department. So that's a huge number,
14 the total 64.9 million, and 24 million
15 is going to Fire. Why is that number so
16 high? It seems out of sync with
17 everything else.

18 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: So there's a
19 couple of different things going on.
20 Some of it is appropriations just moving
21 for Fire service at the airport, for
22 Water costs moving between the funds, so
23 I think that's a bit set aside from the
24 24 million in the General Fund, which
25 basically it fills about two-thirds of

1 the gap between what we anticipate the
2 full cost of the service would be at our
3 current service level for the balance of
4 the year versus what's budgeted. And we
5 know that if we don't fill any of that
6 gap, there's really no options other
7 than closing stations, engines and
8 ladder companies.

9 And so, what we're looking to
10 do is we've requested 24 million, and
11 this isn't to add service beyond what we
12 have now, it's just to cover most of the
13 existing level of service. We'll still
14 need to identify about \$11 million worth
15 of savings even at that additional
16 level.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I know we're
18 going to hear that this saves lives.
19 I'm going to be very open with this and
20 they're going to say that we need money
21 to save lives. I understand that. But
22 there's a certain point where based on
23 our financial wherewithal as a City, we
24 have to look at these numbers and say
25 how do we do this for less money and how

1 do we achieve the same results and how
2 do we be creative in that area. And
3 this concerns me, the amount of money
4 that's going out right now compared to
5 we had a very lengthy debate yesterday
6 about a number that was similar to this
7 number, 20 million or 22 million and
8 look at the investments that that can
9 make in the communities. And so, I
10 think it's weighing all of these
11 priorities, but I'll come back to you.
12 Thank you for all your work and thank
13 you to your department. Thank you.

14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 Thank you.

17 I'm going to recognize
18 Councilmember Thomas, and we'll probably
19 dig deeper a little bit in this Fire
20 discussion. Councilmember Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair.

23 And good morning, everybody.
24 I'm just going to jump right into it
25 just in the sense of time. The first

1 thing that just -- well, let me start
2 with agreeing with my colleagues
3 Councilmember Oh and Councilmember
4 Sanchez, our Chair, in the sense of just
5 feeling this is just rushed. So I'm
6 calculating as fast as I can. I'm
7 looking at this stuff. I know it's been
8 a lot of bills over the last couple of
9 weeks. So I am going to jump into Fire,
10 but let's start with the Wi-Fi.

11 I'm a big child advocate. I
12 love our young people. But just looking
13 at the number, it says that 25 access
14 centers will be getting \$175,000 a
15 year -- I mean \$175,000 worth of Wi-Fi.
16 That is \$7,000 per site per year.
17 That's \$500 a month on Wi-Fi. I'm just
18 confused on what high speed Internet
19 that we're going to be using that will
20 cost that much money.

21 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Sure. And I
22 may call upon the folks from either OIT
23 or PPR. We might need to get back to
24 you with more details. But, yes, that
25 is high. But luckily, that's not the

1 every year cost. That's not just a
2 monthly service charge. Most of that is
3 for sort of upfront one-time equipment
4 that we need. And what this is
5 providing is a higher level of service
6 because we have -- I know that at my
7 house when we've got a couple of people
8 on devices, once you've got a couple
9 people on, things get crowded.

10 If we're trying to have 50, 100
11 students be able to reliably be there
12 for distance learning, we need a higher
13 level, more robust service. And so,
14 this is what it gets us and we compare a
15 couple of different sources to say how
16 many students could have streaming
17 simultaneously, and this was the most
18 affordable option at that level of
19 service. But we don't expect it to be
20 that full 175 occurring to continue to
21 provide that. A lot of that is one-time
22 cost.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
24 Thank you. I just think that that's
25 important to explain that information

1 because you're talking about a one-time
2 cost for something that is already up
3 and running. We just want to make sure
4 that we're providing as much clarity as
5 possible when we have these numbers.

6 And I think if you could break that
7 down, that will be very important and it
8 will be helpful.

9 Going into the Fire now,
10 looking at some of the numbers and some
11 of the things that's been communicated,
12 how much -- and I know a lot of this is
13 overtime. How are we scheduling and
14 what is going on with the scheduling
15 where it seems like I guess it's
16 built-in overtime for people in the
17 schedule? I'm just again trying to run
18 numbers as fast as we can, but it seems
19 like that within the structure of how
20 things are scheduled, it's automatically
21 estimated about six hours of overtime
22 already built in the schedule.

23 Can you explain that and help
24 us understand why we're paying for or
25 why overtime is anticipated the way it

1 is and how it's built into the schedule
2 that way?

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 Marisa, can we have the Fire
5 Commissioner come up. That way we can
6 have all of these questions answered.

7 Thank you, Commissioner Thiel.

8 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Madam
9 Chair, thank you. I'm Adam Thiel, the
10 Fire Commissioner, Emergency Management
11 Director.

12 Councilman Thomas, that's
13 exactly right. There is built-in
14 overtime, what we call FLSA overtime to
15 comply with the Federal Fair Labor
16 Standards Act. And the reason that
17 exist is because firefighters and medics
18 work 12- to 14-hour shifts to ensure
19 that we have 24/7/365 round-the-clock
20 coverage. So we don't have 9:00 to 5:00
21 or 8:00 to 4:00 employees.

22 The reason that built-in
23 overtime exists is because we have to
24 maintain 24/7 coverage, also with our
25 dispatchers and our 911 center and we

1 also have to comply with the Federal
2 Fair Labor Standards Act, so that's the
3 "built-in overtime" to which you're
4 referring.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
6 I appreciate that.

7 Councilmember Domb kind of
8 asked a question. And in the midst of
9 the answer it talked about Fire services
10 at the airport as well as Water costs.
11 Can you elaborate on what we're talking
12 about as far as Fire services at the
13 airport and can you also explain why an
14 increase in Water costs would impact our
15 Fire budget?

16 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
17 Councilman, I'll have to defer the Water
18 Fund transfer question. I cannot answer
19 that. As far as the airport, airports
20 are required by the Federal Aviation
21 Administration to provide a certain
22 level of what we call aircraft rescue
23 and firefighting coverage, and the
24 Philadelphia International Airport
25 essentially pays the Philadelphia Fire

1 Department through an interfund
2 transfer, so the Aviation Fund actually
3 pays for the fire apparatus and the
4 staffing at the Philadelphia
5 International Airport that allows the
6 airport to comply with those FAA
7 regulations. Without that staffing,
8 without those people, there would be no
9 flights in or out of the Philadelphia
10 International Airport.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So I think
12 the part that's confusing is that we
13 thought we were seeing less traveling
14 and less activity, so that's why I think
15 what I'm trying to understand is why
16 would activity at the airport that you
17 just described see us have an increase
18 in cost and require the type of transfer
19 ordinance that's being asked if we have
20 less activities?

21 COMMISSIONER THIEL: The
22 regulations are agnostic to the level of
23 activity. If there is one flight that
24 lands and takes off, so that's two
25 operations, the coverage has to be there

1 and in place. Essentially, the Fire
2 Department functions not just to save
3 lives as Councilman Domb correctly
4 stated, but also to protect property, to
5 protect businesses, to protect housing,
6 and to protect in this case aircraft.
7 So that coverage has to be in place
8 regardless of the traffic levels at the
9 airport.

10 We also protect all the cargo
11 that's going in and out of the airport.
12 There have been fires before in cargo
13 aircraft. We also protect all of the
14 terminal facilities, so those assets are
15 not just there to protect the aircraft
16 that are landing and taking off.
17 Although that's their primary mission
18 because that's the regulation, they also
19 protect all of the airport
20 infrastructure and if somebody has a
21 heart or medical emergency at the
22 airport, those same units are the ones
23 who respond to that emergency and take
24 care of that person and transport them
25 to the hospital.

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So even
2 though we've had less activity, again
3 our cost is still rising. Okay. Thank
4 you for the clarity.

5 But last thing with the
6 overtime situation, again we're just
7 fiscally in a tight place and basically
8 where we are, it forces all of us to
9 kind of reimagine how we think, how we
10 operate, what we do. We know that there
11 are a significant number of people as
12 far as firefighters and paramedics who
13 put their lives on the line for us, we
14 know it's a very dangerous time right
15 now with the coronavirus pandemic.

16 I'm just wondering from your
17 perspective in just looking at the
18 overtime cost and how we're spending,
19 there is no other way that we can change
20 what we're doing and how we operate so
21 that we're not spending as much money in
22 the net fiscal year as it relates to
23 some of the overtime cost and
24 fluctuation in salaries that we're
25 seeing?

1 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Councilman

2 Thomas, I think again certainly our
3 primary mission is always saving lives
4 and we also protect property,
5 businesses. So from an economic
6 perspective, the Fire Department has a
7 lot to do with protecting our economy in
8 the City, with protecting affordable
9 housing. I don't know -- I did send a
10 slide deck. I don't want to take you
11 all through that entire slide deck
12 because it's pretty big, but I would
13 certainly encourage you all to take a
14 look at that and we're certainly
15 available for questions at any time.

16 I'm going to share briefly just
17 a couple of those slides. Hopefully,
18 you can see that. This is sort of --
19 this is what we do. And this slide,
20 hopefully you can see that, Can
21 Philadelphia Afford Fires, for us every
22 life matters and that is our primary
23 mission. However, there is an economic
24 piece to what we do. This slide is only
25 current as of yesterday. Regrettably,

1 we have to add to these slides and
2 update them every day because we have a
3 lot of fires in Philadelphia. We have
4 more fire deaths per capita than any
5 other city in the nation.

6 The bigger issue though,
7 obviously those fire deaths are huge,
8 but this slide as you can see it's fire
9 deaths, it's fire-related injuries.

10 Just this morning we had a fire at Broad
11 and Bigler where our firefighters were
12 able to rescue one person and
13 transported three people to the
14 hospital, so that number went up as of
15 this morning from 129 to 132. And that
16 716 families displaced, actually that
17 was current as of about a week ago. As
18 it stands yesterday, 734 families in
19 Philadelphia have been displaced by home
20 fires. That's more than 2,165 people
21 who've been basically burned out of
22 their home, men, women and children. So
23 without the level of service that we're
24 providing, those numbers would be a
25 lot -- they're already pretty bad, but

1 those numbers would be a lot worse. So
2 it's more protecting lives, it's
3 property infrastructure and the only way
4 to do that is with firefighters and
5 paramedics working 24/7/365.

6 We are understaffed, so we only
7 have about -- we have 79 percent of the
8 staffing that we need to maintain that
9 24/7/365 coverage at current service
10 levels without using overtime. So our
11 choices are we can either hire more
12 people, full-time employees to offset
13 the overtime or we can pay this
14 overtime. And this is all
15 notwithstanding the effects of COVID and
16 all the additional mission things that
17 we're doing for COVID and the COVID
18 impact on our workforce.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: And this is
20 my last question for you: So in a dream
21 world, you're actually telling us that
22 the dollars that we're spending right
23 now is really not getting the job done?
24 In a dream world, you're saying we need
25 either more staff or more capacity

1 because looking at the numbers that
2 you're showing this seems very alarming.

3 One last question and this is
4 just because, again I apologize, I
5 didn't get the opportunity to see this
6 slide. You said that we're looking at
7 this high number of fires and high
8 number of deaths. Do you know why we're
9 seeing these high numbers? Is it
10 because we are only at 79 percent
11 capacity? Is it how development is
12 being built? Why are these numbers so
13 high?

14 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
15 Councilman, it's a lot of things. Fire
16 is a complex problem. I think a lot of
17 it is driven by a lot of the same
18 challenges that affect all of the
19 different public policy priorities that
20 you all are talking about, and I realize
21 how difficult that is.

22 I think probably the biggest
23 thing that is different about
24 Philadelphia and drives a lot of this is
25 the fact that in contrast to many cities

1 that had great fires through the years,
2 everybody's heard about the Great
3 Chicago Fire in 1871, that fire actually
4 wiped out -- if that fire had not
5 occurred, Chicago's built environment
6 would look a lot like Philly's. There
7 would be wooden and what we call
8 ordinary construction rowhomes. Those
9 don't exist in Chicago anymore. As a
10 result, we have more fires than numbers.
11 Raw numbers, not per capita.

12 We actually have more
13 structured fires than any city in the
14 nation besides New York, raw number, and
15 that's because as we all know, as you
16 all know, the most common residential
17 building for us is a rowhome that was
18 built in the mid-1800s and they're all
19 connected, they've all become connected
20 over time, and so really that unique
21 built environment and the fact that we
22 have not had these massive fires over
23 the years means we're doing it -- well,
24 we did it this morning at Broad and
25 Bigler.

1 Yesterday morning, tragically I
2 started my day at 52nd and Chester at
3 6:00 a.m. where our firefighters were
4 able to rescue two children, thank God,
5 but were not able to rescue an
6 individual there who it appears died in
7 that fire. So this is truly a
8 challenging problem for us. And of
9 course, this is in addition to the
10 massive EMS service demand that we have.

11 The busiest ambulance in the
12 entire nation last year, last calendar
13 year was right here in Philadelphia, not
14 in New York, not in LA, not in Houston.
15 So we also have a massive amount of EMS
16 service demand. And that as you all are
17 aware is part of the broader healthcare
18 crisis that we face in the nation and
19 regrettably, the impacts of that fall
20 disproportionately on a lot of residents
21 in our neighborhoods, but we're there
22 for them 24/7/365 whenever they call
23 911.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
25 I appreciate that information. I think

1 a lot of people in the listening
2 audience also appreciate that
3 information as well. You guys are doing
4 great work. And if we're being asked to
5 spend as much money as we're going to be
6 asked to, I think it's important that we
7 do a deep dive as to what those dollars
8 will go to, especially while we're
9 facing the financial crisis that we are.
10 So thank you. I appreciate your
11 patience. I appreciate the information.

12 Madam Chair, I will forego my
13 time and hopefully come back for a
14 another round of questions just to allow
15 other members of the Committee to ask
16 questions that they may have.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
18 Thank you. Thank you, Councilmember.

19 Commissioner, I'm going to ask
20 you to go -- because I think it's really
21 important that we put this conversation
22 in context and we need to spend a little
23 bit of time -- and I don't need you to
24 go through your entire slide, but I
25 think it would be important for you to

1 put the slide, your chart, that shows
2 how much we've invested.

3 When this Administration came
4 five years ago, there was a recognition
5 that we had starved the Fire Department
6 for many, many years, but I don't want
7 people to leave this impression that we
8 haven't structurally tried to fund this
9 department, so the one on the annual
10 basis where you can see that we have
11 increased the funding to the Fire
12 Department by about \$120 million over
13 the last three years, you have it in
14 your slide deck. Because I think it's
15 important to put this into context,
16 because these are policy decisions that
17 we have to make. There you go. You
18 just passed it. There you go -- no,
19 that's not the one. That's the
20 overtime. So let's go to the first one
21 around how much we've structurally given
22 the Department.

23 COMMISSIONER THIEL: So, Madam
24 Chair, let me go here real quick and I
25 apologize for going through these so

1 fast. I'm not going to do the whole
2 thing, but let me pick out some slides I
3 think that will illustrate that. You're
4 exactly right, there was a decision four
5 and a half years ago by the
6 Administration with a lot of support
7 from Council to reinvest in the Fire
8 Department, and I think your words are
9 exactly right, the Fire Department had
10 been starved for many years.

11 And the goals essentially are
12 these goals you see before you. I won't
13 read them to you. You can read them
14 there on the screen. So we've been
15 moving down the road on these goals with
16 support from Council over the past
17 several years. Other things that have
18 driven that, obviously NIOSH reports
19 around the tragic deaths of our tragic
20 firefighters through the years. And
21 these are some of the operational
22 changes. These are some of the
23 reinvestments we've made.

24 You can see more frontline
25 response units, the four additional

1 engine companies. Those were actually
2 restored from cuts that happened during
3 the Great Recession 2008 and 2009, and
4 those were restored with assistance from
5 FEMA through a grant. We competed for a
6 grant. We successfully got that grant.
7 That only covered though about 50
8 percent of the costs of restoring those
9 companies that were much needed.

10 In fact, one of the fire
11 engines that was restored, Engine 1 on
12 South Broad Street was what we call the
13 second new engine on the rescue job this
14 morning, so they are making immediate
15 impact, a positive impact. In fact, the
16 Engine 14 in Frankford, the day after it
17 was opened, they were on a fire under
18 the El where they actually helped to
19 make rescues on that day. Otherwise,
20 tragic outcome.

21 We've added additional what we
22 call peak-time ambulances, so we are
23 doing this as best we can efficiently.
24 Those peak-time ambulances, those are
25 covering mainly daylight operations

1 because that is when we see our peak
2 service demand. We're still very busy.
3 We're one of the busiest DMS systems in
4 the nation in aggregate, and you heard
5 me say we have the busiest ambulance.

6 I'll turn to response units.

7 Both of those are actually funded
8 elsewhere. This is our attempt to
9 proactively address parts of the
10 healthcare crisis where we think we have
11 a role or equities. One of those is
12 serving Kensington what we call our AR-2
13 to deal with the opioid crisis in a
14 different way. The only one is actually
15 fully funded by Penn to help University
16 City or their area of University City,
17 which keeps the General Fund funded
18 assets in place to serve all of the rest
19 of our citizens.

20 Some of the scheduled changes
21 that we made to unify the Department to
22 be more efficient in management, some of
23 these additional roles that you see in
24 our overhead and our command structure,
25 these all come directly from those Line-

1 of-Duty Death Reports that I sped
2 through because you have all of that.
3 These are things, you know, fires are
4 extremely complex operations. It's not
5 as simple as it looks on television and
6 they have to be properly managed.

7 We also restored additional
8 infrastructure to help ensure that we
9 have that frontline management by
10 restoring some battalion, chiefs and
11 division, deputy chiefs that were cut
12 many years ago. So let me go to I
13 think -- so this is probably the one,
14 Madam Chair, you were talking about --

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER THIEL: -- a lot
18 of that investment, again most of what
19 we do we have had capital reinvestment,
20 our apparatus fleet, huge positive
21 impact on apparatus fleet, our ambulance
22 fleet. For the most part, what we do
23 requires people. All of this requires
24 people. There's not an app to put fires
25 out. There's not an app that you can

1 use or you can't send a drone to do
2 patient care on somebody.

3 So most of what we do to take
4 care of our residents, businesses and
5 visitors is put the right people at the
6 right place at the right time and we
7 need people to do that. So a lot of
8 that reinvestment has been in the form
9 of staffing, whether that's full-time
10 staffing or additional staffing for
11 overtime to bring capabilities or to
12 maintain capabilities at current service
13 levels. So you can see that trajectory
14 there with personnel costs. And again,
15 in an ideal world we would be fully
16 staffed. We would have -- there's
17 another one here, I think, that's --

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Go to
19 the overtime. Commissioner, again and I
20 know we had this discussion during the
21 budget time, but we're going to have to
22 drill down a little bit about those
23 numbers. Just to be clear if you go
24 back to that slide, Council over the
25 last three years has made over \$100

1 million in additional investments at
2 your request for your staffing levels.

3 Now, we go to your overtime
4 which is the issue at hand, so let's go
5 to your overtime slide because I think
6 some of the issues again that people
7 need to drill down on, and there has to
8 be a correlation between service levels,
9 the overtime and then the fact that
10 people are working out of class. And
11 what for me is important as Chair of
12 Appropriations and again as someone who
13 is readily wanting to support this
14 growth is how are we managing folks
15 working out of class and the overtime
16 piece that continues to be a problem?

17 We've given you all that you've
18 requested for new hires. District
19 capacity issue is one thing, but we
20 don't seem to be able to match that with
21 our ability to manage overtime, so
22 please speak to that.

23 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Madam
24 Chair, you're exactly right. We've had
25 a hard time catching up and replacing

1 overtime spend with full-time positions.
2 And this slide essentially demonstrates
3 the challenge. Our overtime is driven
4 by minimum staffing. It's not driven by
5 people acting out of class or acting out
6 of rank. It's actually something that
7 we do very little of. The only place
8 that we do that actually is at the
9 training academy for instructors.

10 Because we're understaffed at the
11 training academy, to bring instructors
12 to work through a nine-month recruitment
13 academy, we have to put them at a
14 certain level. So that's really the
15 only place that we do that besides to
16 maintain minimum staffing in our field
17 supervisors, our battalion chief ranks,
18 but that's a very small part of our
19 overtime spend.

20 Most of our overtime spend is
21 to address this staffing gap that you
22 see on this slide and the fact that only
23 79 percent of our budgeted positions are
24 filled in operational and that's
25 really -- you cannot send a fire engine

1 out with one person aboard. It has to
2 have four people to be effective. You
3 cannot send an ambulance out with one
4 person aboard. It has to have two
5 people to be minimally operational
6 effective.

7 So this is the challenge, this
8 slide. And until we're able to close
9 that gap, our attrition requires that we
10 put through at least one cadet academy
11 every year just to cover attrition, and
12 that takes nine months to get a
13 firefighter cadet from day 1 of the
14 academy through to the end, to the end
15 of the nine-month academy and coming out
16 as a firefighter EMT.

17 We need to do two of those
18 classes every year to be able to not
19 just cover attrition but to be able to
20 start building up our staff and closing
21 this gap. Until we close this gap,
22 we're going to have to continue to fill
23 it with overtime.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Can you go to your overtime slide,

1 please.

2 COMMISSIONER THIEL: And the
3 other thing that's driving FY21, stating
4 the obvious is the COVID-19 impact on
5 our workforce. Our folks have never
6 taken a break, no coronacations, no
7 staying at home. You can't telecommute
8 as a firefighter, EMT or paramedic. So
9 we are having to manage through COVID.
10 And again, great credit to our
11 firefighters, medics and EMTs, we have
12 not seen what a lot of the departments
13 have seen in terms of having to reduce
14 service because of COVID.

15 We've actually had to increase
16 service due to COVID because on top of
17 that, we've had the civil unrest or
18 hurricane, et cetera, et cetera. And
19 our folks have consistently stepped up
20 to do their jobs. When they do that
21 more than their scheduled work hours, we
22 have to pay them overtime. Again, it's
23 federal law.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 So in your slide deck as you put -- can

1 you go to the COVID slide deck that you
2 have? I had a question there about how
3 you're making COVID decisions around
4 quarantining. Not that one. I think
5 it's the one after that. The 14-day
6 COVID requirement, how is testing being
7 offered to staff and why are we doing
8 14-day quarantining when we can do
9 testing in five?

10 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Well,
11 that's been the CDC guidance, so we are
12 making decisions in concert with the
13 Philadelphia Department of Public Health
14 and according to CDC recommendations.
15 Now, CDC is actually getting ready to
16 lower this quarantine period, that
17 number of days, provided the right
18 testing regime is followed, so we're
19 excited about that because we also want
20 to be able to quarantine these folks for
21 less days. And frankly, they want to
22 come back to work. That's one of the
23 things about our workforce. They want
24 to work. And honestly, one of our
25 challenges has been when people are not

1 feeling well, for them to stay at home
2 because they recognize the impact that
3 COVID's having on our workforce and our
4 City. They want to come in and help and
5 we're encouraging them to stay home.

6 We have a great COVID-19 task
7 force that includes representation from
8 Local 22, our infectious disease folks,
9 and they are working very closely with a
10 number of clinics to provide testing and
11 also with the Department of Public
12 Health for contact tracing and other
13 aspects of managing this.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 Okay. I'm going to ask, because we have
16 queued up a bunch of folks,
17 Councilmember Henon being next, but I
18 don't know if of the folks that are
19 queued up, Councilman Johnson and
20 others, does anybody have additional
21 questions for the Fire Department or,
22 Councilmember Henon, were your questions
23 related to the Fire Department?

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, Madam
25 Chair, I have a question.

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 For the Fire Department?

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 Okay. Councilmember Johnson, proceed.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, just
7 a brief question.

8 Commissioner Thiel, first and
9 foremost I want to thank you and your
10 team for the work they have done out of
11 Eastwick during the flooding, so I want
12 to acknowledge that for my staff but
13 most importantly, the residents of
14 Eastwick, Southwest Philadelphia. I
15 want to give a shout-out to Engine 24
16 and Chuck McQuilkin and his team for
17 being on the case. We had several
18 devastating fires in the Grays Ferry
19 community recently in South Philadelphia
20 and they have been very, very responsive
21 in helping us and helping most
22 importantly the community to address the
23 family members who have been severely
24 impacted by those fires.

25 My question revolves around,

1 one, the Fire Department's operation as
2 it relates to -- and you touched on this
3 briefly but if you can just elaborate a
4 little more -- regarding COVID-19, the
5 challenges and the obstacles as it
6 relates to addressing the fires. Also,
7 you talked about how the lack of
8 staffing and overtime is basically
9 correlated in terms of the amount of
10 overtime that's need to basically fill
11 the gap. So what is the Fire
12 Department's strategy, right, to recruit
13 and build the bench that will relieve
14 some of that pressure that you're having
15 to rely on a significant amount of
16 overtime because of the lack of full
17 staffing of firefighters? Can you give
18 me an idea on those two things?

19 And then last but not least,
20 how are we addressing -- it may seem
21 like a small or minute issue, but I
22 think it's very critically important
23 regarding fire detectors and really how
24 in terms of outreach in the midst of
25 COVID-19, because I think currently in

1 policies you can't just go inside a
2 person's house anymore because of
3 COVID-19 -- and obviously I understand
4 that -- but how are we going about
5 really raising the awareness of making
6 people make sure that they're safe with
7 the fire alarms as well as the space
8 heaters as it relates to this upcoming
9 winter?

10 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Councilman
11 Johnson, I appreciate those questions.
12 And I will kind of move in reverse and
13 tell me if I miss anything. Smoke
14 alarms, obviously we have a very robust
15 smoke alarm installation program. Many
16 of you have participated in that with
17 us. When I arrived, we actually -- one
18 of the gaps I saw was our ability to
19 install smoke alarms 24/7/365. We have
20 such a fire problem here.

21 So we actually repurposed some
22 of our Fire prevention staff and created
23 these three community action teams.
24 Now, their first mission is to take care
25 of families that have been burned out of

1 their homes. Again, you heard me say
2 far too much of that, thank God we have
3 those cabs to take care of folks on
4 their worst mornings. The cab was out
5 yesterday, 52nd and Chester. And then,
6 Councilman, I was there in Grays Ferry a
7 couple of Saturdays ago, that morning.
8 Just absolutely tragic. I'm thankful
9 though that our firefighters that
10 morning, despite the loss of two family
11 members in that home, they were able to
12 rescue a couple of other folks and treat
13 them, our medics treated them on the way
14 to the hospital. So we would have had a
15 lot worse outcomes there, still
16 absolutely tragic in both cases.

17 Smoke alarms have a huge impact
18 on that. Great partnership with 311.
19 Great partnership with the Red Cross.
20 Having those cabs out there 24/7 has
21 really helped. COVID has been a
22 challenge. We took a pause from
23 proactive smoke alarm installations for
24 several months while we dealt with
25 COVID, both internal to our workforce.

1 The other piece of this is,
2 remember, especially in the early days
3 of COVID we had firefighters and medics
4 doing a lot of other things beyond our
5 core mission and we hope that eventually
6 we'll get reimbursed for some of that
7 from our federal partners, but it was
8 firefighters who built that surge
9 hospital, accepted the very first load
10 of medical equipment. We built that.
11 We staffed that in concert with Public
12 Health and DOD and others.

13 It was firefighters who staffed
14 our isolation and quarantine sites first
15 when we first brought those up. It was
16 firefighters and medics who transported
17 COVID-19 positive patients around, so
18 we've been both working to do that,
19 delivering laptops to kids, delivering
20 food, so that's been part of our mission
21 as well and we had to pivot some of our
22 staff for doing their regular mission to
23 that. We had just gotten back, we had
24 just started doing proactive smoke
25 alarms again about 60 days ago and we

1 did it for about 30 days and then we had
2 this resurgence of COVID and in
3 abundance of caution, we stood down the
4 proactive installations. However, our
5 members are still in power. We have
6 those cab teams out there.

7 If they go to a home on an EMS
8 incident or they go to a home and
9 there's a fire in one apartment, the
10 other apartments don't have smoke
11 alarms, we go ahead and install them at
12 that time. So we are installing those
13 with the proper PPE, with appropriate
14 social distancing, et cetera. I talked
15 a little bit about COVID in some of
16 those other missions. That's one
17 dimension of it.

18 The other dimension is
19 essentially the hit on our workforce.
20 Tragically, as many of you know,
21 Firefighter Eric Gore, we actually lost
22 one of our firefighters to COVID. That
23 was job-related. He had gone to several
24 incidents. We can absolutely track that
25 COVID exposure to his death. And again,

1 it's horrible. Our members have no
2 choice. When somebody calls 911, they
3 have to go take care of that person. We
4 provided the best personal protective
5 equipment we can. We were ahead of the
6 curve on that.

7 We got a \$5.8 million federal
8 grant to backstop some of the cost of
9 that. We've been very successful,
10 biggest grant award of any fire
11 department in the nation to backstop
12 that PPE. The challenges you've all
13 heard from Dr. Farley, we're in
14 community spread, it's all around,
15 everybody has to stay vigilant, continue
16 to wear those masks. But we've taken an
17 abundance of caution when we have
18 exposures at a firehouse. We completely
19 sanitize that firehouse. We move people
20 out of there. We do the sanitization.
21 We put them back in. That's happening
22 about once a day right now all around
23 the City.

24 We've had folks who have been
25 exposed multiple times, tested multiple

1 times. And again, to their credit we've
2 been able to maintain service, not just
3 our core service, but also fulfill some
4 of these other missions that nobody else
5 has been ready, willing or able to do
6 and that simply is because we have these
7 skills, we're used to wearing PPE.

8 We've been wearing N95s since before
9 everybody else knew what that is. So I
10 think that was COVID and smoke alarms
11 training. I have a slide up here about
12 training --

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I have one
14 quick question, Commissioner, before you
15 go into training. Will your staff play
16 a major role at some point in time
17 regarding the distribution of vaccines
18 when they are available? And I have to
19 ask that because obviously if your team
20 played a major role in addressing the
21 impact of COVID-19, the surge and so
22 forth, like you just mentioned setting
23 up the operation site and doing really
24 all the hard work behind the scenes that
25 people probably necessarily see that's

1 separate from actually putting out a
2 fire, which I commend all of the
3 firefighters for actually doing it as
4 well as EMT workers, but we also are
5 paying attention to what's going on
6 nationally and when a vaccine is going
7 to be available, there's going to be a
8 major operation to make sure from a
9 priority standpoint those who need the
10 vaccine will get the vaccine, but
11 obviously that's going to take manpower.

12 Is there any conversation with
13 you, your team, Office of Emergency
14 Management, City of Philadelphia on a
15 national level or the powers that be
16 regarding when vaccines will be
17 distributed in the City of Philadelphia?

18 COMMISSIONER THIEL:

19 Absolutely. We meet with -- our unified
20 commander on COVID meets every day with
21 Dr. Farley and we're actually integral
22 to that plan, totally onboard with their
23 plan, take our guidance from Dr. Farley
24 and support both in OEM, Fire, EMS every
25 way that we can.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

2 Thank you very much. On to recruitment,
3 what's the strategy to actually recruit
4 up that class so you don't have to rely
5 so heavily on overtime to fill those
6 positions?

7 COMMISSIONER THIEL: So we've
8 been doing better over the past few
9 years. And again, you can see some of
10 the changes that we've made there. The
11 principal change is that increasing
12 cadet classes from one per year to two
13 per year. That helps us cover attrition
14 and start to build what we call a relief
15 factor to acknowledge the fact that on
16 any given day we're always going to have
17 people who are off work for some reason
18 or another, whether they're using their
19 earned leave benefits, whether they're
20 sick, whether they're injured, whether
21 in this case they're exposed to COVID.
22 And generally on any given day, that
23 represents around 20 percent of the
24 on-duty workforce, people are gone for
25 whatever reason. Sometimes they're gone

1 for administrative reasons or training
2 that is required or mandatory that we
3 have to have them do. So we need to be
4 able to cover those daily to maintain
5 24/7/365 staffing without overtime. We
6 have to get to that 3300-ish level. And
7 to do that, we have to not just cover
8 attrition every year, but we have to
9 build our workforce.

10 So we've added -- our
11 recruiting unit does an incredible job
12 in bringing folks in. But this is a
13 long process, right. It's a two-year
14 list. Even when somebody is selected
15 off the list, it's takes a couple of
16 months to process them and it's a
17 nine-month cadet academy. And we've had
18 pretty good results with that. We
19 haven't had a lot of attrition.

20 We have been affected in our
21 academy by COVID, not as bad as I think
22 it could have been. And that's a
23 testament to our staff up there and
24 really to our cadets, but that slowed us
25 down a little bit too. Nine months is

1 long enough. If you have to take a
2 quarantine period out of that, it
3 extends it even further and it means the
4 overtime burden in the field increases
5 because those minimum staffing slots
6 have to be filled with overtime. But
7 for us to -- this is the sort of
8 conundrum that we're in right now.
9 We're very cash-strapped tactically.

10 It costs money to do a
11 recruited academy because we don't have
12 the staff that's just up there waiting
13 for cadets, so we have to bring people
14 in off the street, out of the field.
15 When we bring them in, we have to fill
16 their slots with the overtime while we
17 conduct the academy. And at the end of
18 the academy, those cadets go out in the
19 field as new firefighters and fill
20 spots, firefighter EMTs.

21 The instructors go back in the
22 field. But we have to immediately do it
23 again because I think as the Chair said
24 at the very beginning, we are literally
25 still catching up from the 2008, 2009

1 recession and even before that. So if
2 we delay a recruited academy this year,
3 we're going to be paying for that, City
4 Council, our citizens, we as citizens
5 are going to be paying for that in
6 overtime for years to come until we're
7 able to finally close that gap.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

9 Commissioner -- and, Madam Chair, just
10 one last question because I know I've
11 been on for a little bit.

12 Just one last question: You
13 talked about the funding that was
14 provided to firefighters over the last
15 several years prior to the actual cuts
16 taking place. Just give us a brief
17 update regarding the brownouts. I
18 remember that was a very, very big deal.
19 I was just getting into City Council and
20 your budget was cut significantly and
21 the word brownouts was a major buzzword
22 during that time.

23 How have you recovered just in
24 terms of addressing those particular
25 issues and as it relates to those

1 firehouses that were shut down? And
2 that's my last question.

3 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Well,
4 there were two things that happened.
5 There were a number of fire units that
6 were permanently closed or disbanded.
7 There were seven of those, five engine
8 companies and two ladder companies. We
9 were able to with the help from FEMA
10 restore four of those engines to get
11 back to that service level, which is
12 still sorely needed, we still need to
13 restore another engine and two ladder
14 companies into our system, so we still
15 have not recovered from the cuts.

16 The other thing that was cut
17 that's really germane to this
18 conversation, we did use to have a
19 number of positions that were above
20 minimum staffing that we called quota
21 positions that essentially were full-
22 time positions that were available to
23 cover those vacancies that inevitably
24 become available every day when somebody
25 takes their earned benefit, which we

1 schedule by the way. People can't just
2 take off whenever they want or they get
3 sick or they get injured, those
4 positions were also cut. So we did have
5 a very small relief factor before 2008
6 and 2009.

7 In addition to closing those
8 companies, cutting those relief
9 positions, there was this idea of
10 brownouts. It's not a term that you'll
11 ever hear me use because it's
12 essentially you're closing a unit. So
13 to me, a closure is a closure is a
14 closure. The brownouts had a really
15 tragic impact across the City and for us
16 in particular. Joyce Craig's death in a
17 fire was attributed by NIOSH in some
18 part to the brownouts. And again, that
19 report came out right after I got here.
20 And part of what we've been doing is
21 restoring that service to improve our
22 safety effectiveness and efficiency
23 really for our residents, businesses and
24 visitors.

25 So a brownout is essentially a

1 station closure for a station or a unit
2 closure for a smaller period of time
3 than disbanding it all together. All of
4 those things happened in 2008 and 2009.
5 The brownouts ended when Mayor Kenney
6 took office. There was a cost to that.
7 But the cost offsetting the negative
8 impacts of those brownouts, almost
9 immeasurable. And what we've been doing
10 since is trying to restore that
11 capacity, and that capability that was
12 cut not just in 2008 and 2009, but
13 before that. And again, I think as
14 Councilman Thomas said and the Chair
15 said, there's been a lot of
16 reinvestment, there's been a lot of
17 work. The reality is even with that we
18 are just barely holding the line and you
19 can see that objectively in the
20 comparisons to other cities, our
21 workload, et cetera, et cetera. I think
22 because I go to a lot of fires, I think
23 our citizens expect a level of service
24 and more that we're providing, but I
25 recognize the challenges of these

1 decisions.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
3 very much, Commissioner.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
5 Thank you, Councilmember Johnson.

6 Does anybody else have a
7 question? I know the next queue is
8 Councilmember Domb. Is this for Fire?
9 If not, I have a couple of questions for
10 Fire before I let him go, because the
11 next round is for Police.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It is for the
13 Fire, yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 Proceed, Councilmember Domb.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.

18 And good morning, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Good
20 morning.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I just want
22 to say thank you for everything you're
23 doing for us and your team does a great
24 job. I will say I watched you in I
25 guess the Emergency Management when you

1 were in charge of that, and I know I
2 felt very good to have you in charge of
3 that. You did a good job. So I just
4 wanted to commend you on that. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Team
7 effort, Councilman. I appreciate it.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Great. So I
9 just have a couple of questions that I
10 just want to clarify, and I guess this
11 falls back to Chairmember Sanchez's
12 questions. In the Class 100 cost if I'm
13 looking at the chart you provided, it
14 shows that from Fiscal Year 2017 we were
15 at 214 million. And I think our
16 projection now is 325 million, about a
17 50 percent increase in Class 100 over
18 the last five years. It's a PFD Class
19 100 -- there it is, that one. It goes
20 from 214 to 325, its about a 50 percent.

21 At 325, is that a level that
22 you feel that we are staffed correctly?

23 COMMISSIONER THIEL: I don't
24 believe so, Councilman. Again, we need
25 to close that gap that I showed on those

1 other slides and that's going to take
2 time no matter what. So I think if we
3 were able to somehow make magically 300
4 to 400 firefighter EMTs appear fully
5 trained and ready to go to work, that
6 would be enough. But that's not the
7 case for the foreseeable future. So
8 that's not enough. And again, this is
9 just to maintain current service levels.
10 So I don't think we're quite there.

11 What you see and what's in that
12 trend, what's driving that trend are all
13 the things we've talked about. Stopping
14 the brownouts, that cost money to
15 provide the appropriate staffing in
16 24/7/365 coverage at those companies
17 that were being browned out. So that's
18 a plus that's baked into this trend.
19 Even though FEMA covered 50 percent of
20 those four engine company restorations,
21 the other 50 percent is covered by the
22 City.

23 When we have to train people,
24 we have to bring them back and fill
25 their positions on overtime to train

1 those cadets. So this is -- I recognize
2 and appreciate the reinvestment for us
3 to continue to maintain current service,
4 we're probably going to need more,
5 especially with COVID, but we're hopeful
6 that that starts to get better with the
7 vaccine.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I guess one
9 of my questions was when we went through
10 the budget process back in I guess May
11 or June and we had to fill a big gap of
12 almost \$750 million, I was not aware
13 that there would be another \$24 million
14 needed for the Fire Department. Did the
15 Department have any idea this was coming
16 down the pike or it just came out the
17 blue?

18 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
19 Councilmember, I'm not sure how to
20 answer that question. But certainly, I
21 wasn't directly involved in those
22 conversations. If I had to summarize, I
23 would say that we're here today because
24 our FY21 Operating Budget was cut, our
25 FY21 mission has continued to expand,

1 emergency calls in FY21 have continued
2 to increase and COVID-19 is still
3 affecting our workforce. Again, some of
4 those things maybe could have been
5 foreseen and some of them maybe not.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I only bring
7 that up because we're trying to manage
8 the finances of the City and having all
9 of this information back then would have
10 been helpful to us in figuring this out.

11 Let me go to another chart I
12 just want to ask a question on and then
13 I'll be done. It says, Can Philadelphia
14 Afford Fires. This is the chart, and it
15 talks about economic impacts. There it
16 is. It says 30 fire deaths, 222
17 million. The 7.4 million, what does
18 that statistic really represent?

19 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
20 Councilman, that is the value that is
21 used in cost-benefit analysis by the
22 federal government by US EPA. It's a
23 statistical term called the value of
24 statistical life. So it attempts to
25 quantify the cost of a life. Now to me

1 as a firefighter and former paramedic, I
2 find that crass and disconcerting
3 because for us, every life matters.

4 As I stood there and watched,
5 on and on and on that's how I've started
6 the past -- every week it seems like
7 I've been standing at a fire death and
8 watching somebody put in a body bag
9 despite our firefighters and medics best
10 efforts, so I really have a difficult
11 time with that. However, that is a
12 statistical value that is used in
13 federal cost-benefit analyses.

14 The other numbers, fire-related
15 injuries, the economic impact of those
16 in a healthcare system. There's some of
17 the most horrific injuries, the most
18 expensive injuries to treat and of
19 course the displacements, the family
20 displacements I talked about, more than
21 2,000 people so far, 734 families that's
22 borne by a lot of different folks in the
23 economic system.

24 And I think the thing that we
25 have not -- really it's difficult to

1 quantify and frankly, we haven't
2 quantified this across the service.
3 Before COVID, we had teed up a project
4 with the Federal Reserve here in
5 Philadelphia to quantify the economic
6 impact on business interruption and
7 bankruptcies from fires. But you all
8 know anecdotally, that fire there,
9 that's Bridget Foy's. And Bridget Foy's
10 is thankfully being rebuilt. I think
11 it's almost rebuilt. But in the
12 intervening time period, what was the
13 cost of that.

14 When we had the four-alarm fire
15 across from the Museum of the American
16 Revolution on Chestnut Street, that
17 entire block was shut down for months.
18 Now, had it not been for the resources
19 that we had done and our firefighters
20 and medics, we would have lost that
21 entire block. That first picture on
22 there, that's Lippincott lofts, vacant
23 old warehouse. That was the very first
24 slide. Our firefighters made an
25 incredible stand between that building.

1 That fire was so big it was creating its
2 own weather and an entire block of
3 rowhomes, that had it not been for them
4 making that stand. That was a very
5 dangerous situation. I was standing
6 there with them. We would have lost
7 that block of rowhomes.

8 So again, there is this -- I
9 hope at some point we can quantify the
10 impact on businesses from fires, but our
11 folks save a corner store, save a
12 rowhouse, save a family and we don't
13 make distinctions between those things.
14 However, there are folks that do,
15 economists do and this is an attempt to
16 speak their language a little bit, even
17 though I find it crass and
18 disconcerting.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: But if we use
20 that number in relationship to the 460
21 homicides, we would be at \$3.4 billion.
22 The numbers get out of sight here. I
23 mean that's out of context.

24 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
25 Councilman, I think that's -- I

1 recognize and I think to our law
2 enforcement partners as well, every life
3 matters. We would not put a price tag
4 on it. It's just sort another way of
5 looking at this. To me, one of the
6 really key issues we have here in the
7 City is that families displaced and
8 people who are burned out of their
9 homes, that just didn't happen in other
10 places at the level that it happens
11 here.

12 The Red Cross House only exists
13 in Philadelphia. It's been full for the
14 entire year. So there's nowhere for
15 these folks to go. The Red Cross takes
16 care of them. Where does that money
17 come from? A lot of people stay with
18 family. If you lose your home, you
19 don't have insurance, so these are all
20 real challenges that we have in
21 Philadelphia that are not faced at the
22 same scale in other cities. Without the
23 swift effective response, and that goes
24 back to response time, in having the
25 resources to put them there at any of

1 these places that I've mentioned and
2 more 24/7/365, I don't know how much
3 worse it can get. You can look at the
4 slide that shows the death statistic.

5 But look, even if it's not
6 that, your firefighters are protecting
7 our housing stock, our businesses, our
8 corner stores, buildings that are going
9 to be redeveloped, high-rises, pick a
10 thing. So this is much bigger than just
11 saving lives, although that is always
12 our first and foremost priority anywhere
13 in the City at any time.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm just
15 bringing this up because, look, we want
16 to say every life, myself and my
17 colleagues. But we're going to be faced
18 with making choices and the homicide
19 rate is out of control right now in the
20 City, so that's why I'm bringing that
21 piece up.

22 Let me go to the other question
23 just to clarify. The 716 families
24 displaced, that's not a cost to the
25 City? I'm assuming that's probably paid

1 by insurance or the homeowner?

2 COMMISSIONER THIEL: No, sir.

3 A lot of our homeowners don't have
4 insurance. So that's really, that
5 number like I said today is 734. The
6 Red Cross -- so this is essentially an
7 attempt to quantify the impact on the
8 entire economy of the City. So, yes,
9 somebody has to pay that. That's the
10 GSA hotel rate times the average stay.
11 The Red Cross pays for some of that
12 because the Red Cross shelters and takes
13 care of some of those people. But some
14 of that actually, this is quantifying
15 the impact. But a lot of these folks
16 end up staying with friends or family or
17 God forbid, they end up homeless.

18 The reality though is more than
19 2,165 people, residents of Philadelphia,
20 have been displaced in home fires so far
21 this year, period. Where do they go,
22 what do they do? It depends on their
23 personal means. It depends on their
24 access to services by Red Cross and
25 others. To me, that is a real

1 challenging statistic for us.

2 The other thing because our
3 firefighters know this, they know that a
4 lot of our residents don't have
5 insurance, so our firefighters accept a
6 much higher level of risk than
7 firefighters in other jurisdictions.

8 I've worked in places where if there was
9 a home fire, yes, the family walks out
10 of the home, they take their -- pick a
11 gold card and they go stay at the Ritz
12 for six months and the insurance company
13 pays them back for that, true story.
14 That does not happen here.

15 Most of the folks that are
16 burned out of our homes, they have
17 nowhere to go. We take care of them
18 with our community action teams. The
19 Red Cross takes care of them as best
20 they can and then what happens. It is
21 absolutely tragic. We'll probably end
22 up with, I don't know, 2200-plus people
23 who have been affected by home fires,
24 not to mention the post-traumatic stress
25 and the challenges of that experience

1 for them and the social fabric of our
2 communities. So to me that's a very
3 difficult statistic as well, regardless
4 of who bears the economic cost and also
5 the societal cost and that's a lot of
6 what we're fighting back against too.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So to answer
8 my question, maybe this is a help, maybe
9 it's not, but I'm looking at 177 a night
10 and saying to myself, that's about \$5200
11 a month. I know the City negotiated
12 some really good terms with a lot of
13 hotels in the City of \$30 to \$35 a
14 night. I'm just wondering if any of
15 those hotels that the City had
16 negotiated with could either be utilized
17 or could we do something like that for
18 these families going forward? We
19 actually have facilities on a permanent
20 basis that would be a lot less expensive
21 and save us money over the long run.

22 COMMISSIONER THIEL:
23 Councilmember, the Red Cross House -- at
24 one point, I know that the National Red
25 Cross was asking questions about the Red

1 Cross House and the cost of that asset.
2 Thankfully, they're taking care of
3 60-plus people every night. So this is
4 quantifying the impact on the broader
5 City economy. And again, you can go
6 another level on this, but this is not
7 something that we're doing.

8 We basically take care of
9 people, give them shelter from the cold
10 in our cabs, take them where they need
11 to go, hand them off to the Red Cross
12 and somebody else bears the cost of this
13 or the residents are essentially left to
14 their own devices and that is really
15 difficult for us. But that is something
16 certainly -- it's not a service we
17 provide at that level. But our goal
18 would be to reduce that number of people
19 who are displaced. And we do that by
20 arriving faster at fires with more
21 people, with better training and better
22 equipment, but maintaining the
23 dedication and service of our members
24 that already causes them to risk their
25 lives.

1 In other cities, the mantra,
2 the doctrine for firefighters is risk a
3 lot to save a life, but don't risk your
4 life as a firefighter to save property.
5 That's not how we do it in Philadelphia.
6 Our firefighters understand that for
7 many of our residents, everything they
8 have is in that building, they don't
9 have insurance. And tragically, we've
10 paid a price over the years. Any of our
11 firefighters will tell you that's what
12 we do.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.
14 And I will say on a personal level,
15 Commissioner, my mother passed away in
16 September and she was living with me and
17 EMS had come out a few times to assist
18 her and they did a phenomenal job. So I
19 just want to commend your members, they
20 were amazing and I was very impressed
21 with them. So thank you.

22 And thank you, Madam Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
24 you.

25 I just want to recognize for

1 the record that Councilmember Henon had
2 stepped way, but he will be forwarding
3 some additional questions as far as this
4 part of the Fire Department
5 presentation.

6 I think it's important to note
7 to Councilmember Domb, this request that
8 is being asked today is not everything
9 they're going to need for the year.

10 There's an estimate of 35 million. And
11 again, Commissioner, every life is
12 important, we are in a middle of a
13 pandemic and a crisis and I know the
14 Fire Department has been on the
15 forefront of this. But my fear is that
16 we will get to February and March and
17 that 35 million number, which we're not
18 dealing with today, is going to turn to
19 50.

20 And as Councilmember Domb said,
21 we have all of these other priorities.
22 So we've given everything you've
23 requested on the staffing side and we
24 still have this overtime. We got to get
25 to a different place, because it's like

1 what comes first, the chicken or the egg
2 around this. So we're in a very
3 difficult situation, and these are big,
4 big round numbers. Our budget already
5 is 28 percent uniform between Police,
6 Fire and others. So it's not that we
7 don't value the work and appreciate the
8 work. It's just we're going to make
9 tough choices.

10 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Madam
11 Chair, I understand the magnitude of
12 those choices and I don't envy your
13 position.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 That doesn't make me feel any better.
16 The other issue and I don't want to
17 address it today, but I don't want to
18 leave you without -- because I know
19 you're very committed to this, the
20 issues, you and I have had this
21 conversation before, around the issue of
22 diversity and inclusion in the
23 Department.

24 Can you real quickly speak to
25 what are we doing? This fall there was

1 a lot of tension within your ranks. How
2 are you dealing with that and how are we
3 proactively committing? I know we talk
4 about the Police Department, but the
5 Fire Department we do not press upon and
6 we have bigger tensions there. I have a
7 lot of friends as you know that are
8 personal friends of mine that are
9 firefighters. What are we doing? I
10 know you're committed to this.

11 COMMISSIONER THIEL: Madam
12 Chair, I appreciate that. Kind
13 of folding in Councilman Domb's last
14 comments, our medics and EMTs, also the
15 busiest in the business, the busiest in
16 the U.S., busiest ambulance, one of the
17 things we've been doing, that's a
18 critical staffing shortage for us as
19 well. So some of our minimum staffing
20 shortage is actually on ambulances and
21 medic units, and we are staffing that.
22 Fortunately, a lot of our firefighter
23 EMTs are filling a lot of that gap,
24 albeit with overtime to keep those 60
25 units responding to the highest volume

1 of emergency medical services calls of
2 any city in the nation per capita.

3 So to do that, we've had a real
4 challenge hiring paramedics to keep that
5 staffing in line. And we've been doing
6 a lot of things to build our own
7 pipelines, to grow our own EMTs,
8 advanced EMTs and paramedics here. So
9 we completed a very successful effort
10 with 1199C organization.

11 We've totally revamped in
12 concert with the School District our
13 program at Randolph, very successful.
14 We just had the Advisory Commission
15 meeting to that. Can't say enough about
16 the School District there and our
17 dedicated staff for that program. We
18 also did a program, an EMT program,
19 community EMT program with the West
20 Philadelphia Skills Initiative. So
21 again, this is us building our own
22 future EMTs, EMT advanced, paramedics
23 and firefighter EMTs and paramedics.

24 So we have a full-time
25 recruiting unit. We added an EMT

1 provider for the first time of the
2 recruiting unit. And their goal really
3 is to ensure that we have a diverse
4 equitable and inclusive workforce and
5 work environment. We're doing a lot of
6 work internally. Frankly, your allusion
7 to the tension there, that was really
8 within the local union. That was where
9 a lot of -- I think that's a credit to
10 our members, it's a credit to all of our
11 organizations.

12 Again, we meet as a leadership
13 council every month to work through
14 issues and discuss issues. And we
15 didn't see any challenges really from
16 that, that affected our service
17 delivery. Obviously, there's still a
18 dialogue there within Local 22, and
19 that's not something that we get
20 involved in. And it's a credit to our
21 members that they've continued to stay
22 on mission, stay focused 24/7 and we
23 don't really have a choice given the
24 volume, 900 to 1,000 emergency incidents
25 every 24 hours. But we've been doing a

1 lot of training. We've been doing
2 kitchen-table training, something we
3 call TLC, which is teamwork, leadership
4 and communications.

5 So we've been going out kitchen
6 table by kitchen table even with COVID,
7 properly masked and socially distanced
8 to have this dialogue, have these
9 difficult conversations while we've
10 continued to invest in recruitment and
11 retention to ensure that we have a
12 diverse and inclusive work environment
13 into the future and we still have work
14 to do, so that's another area of
15 investment and priority and focus for
16 us. I'm very happy at the pipelines
17 that we're building and I think those
18 will bear fruit in helping to close that
19 gap and also helping to ensure that the
20 ranks of our workforce reflect our City.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

22 Well, we want to encourage and support
23 that work with the 1199C. I always
24 enjoy the Fire Explorers. I think you
25 guys are the coolest with the best flag

1 and uniforms. There's a lot of work to
2 be done here.

3 Again, what we do with our
4 budget and our budget challenges is no
5 reflection of the commitment by your
6 department and the men and women who
7 work in that department. It's just
8 those tough choices that we have to
9 make, but we appreciate all of the time
10 and thank you so much.

11 We've included all of the data
12 that you've sent us to the entire
13 Appropriations Committee, and we
14 encourage folks to look at that as we
15 continue to talk through. But I think
16 the context is important about how far
17 we've come and acknowledging we still
18 have challenges moving forward. But
19 this Council has been really committed
20 and this Administration really
21 committed. We just had a really deep
22 hole to fill. And so, we're not quite
23 there yet. So thank you very much. I
24 don't see any other questions for the
25 Fire Department. Hopefully, we

1 will (inaudible) for the rest, but I
2 assume you're going to stay on call.

3 I want to recognize
4 Councilmember Thomas and he has a
5 request related to the Police
6 Department. I don't know if anybody
7 from the Police Department in addition
8 to Marisa is available.

9 Councilmember Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
11 Madam Chair. I appreciate it.

12 I'm hoping that we can do
13 similar to what we just did with the
14 Commissioner and just kind of do a dive.
15 These are the two biggest line items as
16 it relates to the request that we're
17 being asked to vote on. So if the
18 Commissioner or somebody from the
19 Administration can start with just a
20 deeper dive into where we are and why we
21 need such a large transfer.

22 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I can start
23 by talking a bit about where the Police
24 Department is in terms of the transfer
25 ordinance. Actually, we're not looking

1 to add any additional dollars. What
2 this is, is moving some money between
3 classes, and I see Deputy Commissioner
4 Coulter is here and could talk a little
5 bit more, but it's just allowing a
6 little re-alignment at the current level
7 as opposed to adding anything new.

8 I don't know -- Commissioner
9 Coulter?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
11 Sure. Good afternoon, folks,
12 Councilwoman Sanchez and the rest of the
13 Committee. Yes, we had discovered and
14 we talked about it with budget moving
15 earlier in the year that we were going
16 to have a shortfall in our body-worn
17 camera money, and that mainly has to do
18 with storage, not the cost of cameras,
19 but with more officers having cameras we
20 have more storage costs. So that
21 request is to move money from Class 300
22 and 400 over to Class 200 to pay for
23 those costs. So it's an interdepartment
24 transfer using funds that would have
25 been used for other items that we need

1 during the year, but we didn't need them
2 as much as we would need those
3 additional storage costs for body-worn
4 cameras.

5 Just to give you a little bit
6 of background, we're actually ahead of
7 our roll-out schedule body-worn cameras.
8 After the initial infrastructure
9 problems we had, ongoing problems when
10 we started the 22nd District, it seemed
11 like it would take us forever to get
12 cameras rolled out to all 21 districts.
13 But as we stand now, we have three
14 divisions that are completely done.
15 We're moving into additional divisions.
16 But with that, with our accelerated
17 pace, payment accelerated cost for that
18 storage, so I think it was something
19 that needed to be done.

20 Every time something happens or
21 is alleged, the first question is did
22 the officer have a body-worn camera.
23 And in some instances, it's awful the
24 officer didn't do what they should have
25 done but when the officer doesn't have a

1 camera, it's clearly not their fault,
2 but it would have been able to tell the
3 whole story. So that cost is merely to
4 try to ensure that we keep pushing that
5 roll-out forward and getting every
6 officer who's in patrol and operations
7 moving forward with a camera.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So just to
9 be clear, Commissioner, the 17.7 million
10 that we're looking at as far as the
11 request is basically just a transfer
12 that's asking for body-camera footage?

13 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Actually,
14 let me -- I'm sorry. So the FY21, the
15 current year, is just moving the funds
16 around within the current budget, no
17 increase for current level. In the FY20
18 Year-End Transfer Ordinance, that's just
19 where we're cleaning up the books from
20 the end of the last year, so it's not
21 for any funding, but those are I guess
22 costs already incurred.

23 And the reason that there are
24 some additional costs in the Police
25 Department that weren't anticipated in

1 FY20 is obviously a couple of different
2 things, but the 17 million actually
3 matches up with the line item in their
4 Department for overtime related to civil
5 unrest. And normally, that line item in
6 past years was about 1.7, 1.5 million.
7 Following the killing of George Floyd
8 last year, that did lead to additional
9 work by the Police Department. And so,
10 that is just the FY20 Year-End Transfer
11 Ordinance doing the cleanup on the books
12 so we can close those for FY20.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So for
14 clarity purposes, can you give us what
15 the number is for FY21? We get that the
16 FY20 number is the 17.7 million. What
17 is the FY21 as it relates to the
18 transfer for body cameras?

19 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: The net
20 number is 0. However, it is moving some
21 money around. So there is \$1 million
22 moving out of Class 300 and into Class
23 200 for the body-worn cameras.
24 Basically, that's the difference between
25 instead spending on equipment, spending

1 it on the storage for the video or the
2 stuff, and also shifting 51,000 out of
3 Class 100 and moving it into their Class
4 200 for Homicide Unit technology, and
5 that's for cell phones, laptops to allow
6 them to be more mobile. But the net
7 impact on the Fire Department budget for
8 FY21 is 0.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay. And
10 I guess this question is more maybe for
11 the Managing Director or someone like
12 that. I'm just having my ear to the
13 ground and I'm thinking about all the
14 different things that Philadelphians
15 have experienced over the last couple of
16 months, and I'm wondering if someone can
17 help us justify to the citizens of
18 Philadelphia why we're going to spend
19 another 17.7 million on policing when we
20 have so many issues, we have so many
21 questions and a lot of citizens feel
22 like the Department isn't working to the
23 best of its ability. So if somebody can
24 help us just with that narrative.

25 I know me personally, I've ran

1 into a number of issues and I know that
2 there's been a number of success stories
3 as well too. But I don't understand how
4 we get to the point where we have \$17.7
5 million that we're asking for when we're
6 specifically talking about overtime
7 because of the unrest. I know for me
8 before I would vote for that, I just
9 would need a lot more information than
10 what's provided as it relates to how we
11 got to this point, because we have some
12 transparency issues based on where we
13 are right now.

14 And I would say, again thinking
15 about the hearing that we just had, we
16 just had our first hearing on Police
17 budget and if we listened to what was
18 communicated from the citizens of
19 Philadelphia in that hearing, and I sat
20 for the entire hearing, I listened to
21 every single testimony that was
22 provided, I'm just wondering if someone
23 can help us with this.

24 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you,
25 Councilmember Thomas. I think our

1 Budget Director just tried to explain
2 that what we're asking for in this
3 transfer ordinance is actually a net 0.
4 It's more moving money around for PPD.
5 The 17 million you're referencing is
6 money that was already spent, money that
7 was expended because of the civil unrest
8 and costs that we're using to clean up
9 the books.

10 Certainly, that's costs from
11 Police, that's costs from employee hours
12 spent and work that the Police
13 Department and the members ultimately,
14 sort of the time they served and the
15 benefits that they get out of serving
16 that time. Certainly, we agree with you
17 that there is deeper discussions to be
18 had around police reform and some of
19 that work that's ongoing from the
20 Department through Commissioner Coulter,
21 that'd be Commissioner Coulter or
22 Commissioner Outlaw and their executive
23 team.

24 We came into this transfer
25 ordinance trying to be -- Police wanted

1 to be responsible stewards of their
2 finances, right. So they didn't try to
3 ask for any more money. They just
4 wanted to be able to transfer items
5 around for things that we think is
6 important. Certainly, Commissioner --
7 DC Coulter talked about the body-worn
8 camera piece and the need to have
9 additional storage for that so we can
10 continue pushing those cameras out to
11 each of the districts and each of the
12 divisions around the City.

13 Certainly, some of the
14 transfers into the technology around the
15 Homicide Division is important. I think
16 we can all agree of the situation we're
17 having as it relates to gun violence and
18 us trying to make sure that our Homicide
19 Division has the upgrade that they need,
20 that they can be more responsive to
21 victims' families, that they can be more
22 responsive to others as we're doing
23 these investigations and trying to close
24 some of these cases during the time of
25 COVID and just during normal times as

1 well. So we certainly agree with you,
2 we could work with you to try to get you
3 more information that you may need as it
4 relates to the closing out of the
5 year-end funding and be able to answer
6 any other questions that you have.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

8 I appreciate it. I definitely would
9 appreciate that. Because again, when
10 you're looking at that 17.7 million, if
11 that's nothing but personnel salaries,
12 it sounds like there's some other
13 initiatives in that 17.7 million based
14 on the list that you just gave us. If
15 that's nothing but personnel salaries, I
16 think we need to understand how do we
17 get to that point. Because based on
18 what you're saying, I'm assuming this
19 money, using your own words, has been
20 already spent. So if we don't
21 appropriate this money, it will put us
22 in a position where we can be fiscally
23 liable for even more money.

24 Let me ask this while I have
25 the Administration here: I introduced a

1 bill a little while back that talked
2 about the Motor Vehicle Code in the City
3 of Philadelphia. And we think looking
4 at that from a fiscal lens if we can
5 work together with the Administration,
6 that can put us in a position where we
7 can save a lot of dollars as it relates
8 to the manpower and the hours that
9 police officers spend dealing with minor
10 traffic violations.

11 Our research and estimates
12 essentially suggests that the average
13 police officer could spend the
14 equivalence of 14 days dealing with
15 minor traffic violations, which 98
16 percent of the time doesn't even lead to
17 a ticket. So I'm wondering if that's
18 something we can explore next year as it
19 relates to ways that we can be more
20 efficient as it relates to how the
21 Department is ran, and how would police
22 in neighborhoods and we can do to put
23 ourselves in a position to be as
24 fiscally responsible as possible.
25 Again, this is a tight time for all of

1 us and I think that we have to be
2 innovative in our thinking as it relates
3 to how we deal with the fiscal issues
4 that we're facing.

5 MR. ALEXANDER: Councilmember,
6 certainly we look forward to having
7 those discussions. We're trying to set
8 up some internal discussions about that
9 bill and then look forward to engaging
10 with you and your office and your
11 legislative staff on conversations
12 around that legislation.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay. Also
14 again, we got a lot of information last
15 minute and I'm thinking about when we
16 talked earlier throughout these fiscal
17 dialogues after the civil unrest took
18 place, I remember us asking the
19 Administration how much did they feel
20 like we spent in civil unrest. And I
21 really don't remember it being anywhere
22 near \$17.7 million.

23 So I'm wondering again, when we
24 do go and look at the items that we're
25 talking about, if we can do a dive back

1 into our prior conversation, because I
2 do remember Councilmembers asking
3 leading up to the moment that we're in
4 right now approximately how much have we
5 spent because of the civil unrest, so
6 I'll actually stop right there. I know
7 that there are Councilmembers queued up
8 in the chat, but I do reserve the
9 opportunity to come back and ask more
10 questions.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 Managing Director, before you move and I
13 move on -- I have Councilman Kenyatta
14 Johnson on the queue -- I think it's
15 important to ask you, this overtime
16 situation in all departments has been
17 problematic. PICA's spoken about it.
18 We've spoken about it. Can you real
19 quickly tell us what you're going to be
20 doing differently to help us get a
21 better management? Outside of the stuff
22 we can control, what is it that we're
23 doing to try to incentivize folks from
24 managing this better? And I don't want
25 to say penalize. I want to say

1 incentivize people managing this better.
2 What can you share with us here on
3 Council?

4 MR. ALEXANDER: I will say that
5 we have been talking, working with both
6 Finance and the Budget Office and the
7 departments on working on how do we
8 better as an Administration manage this
9 in working with each individual
10 department and sort of coming up with a
11 tailored plan for those folks.

12 It's cooperation. And like you
13 said, some of it is unexpected, right.
14 I think we're in a time where none of us
15 foresaw and certainly didn't foresee the
16 challenges that we're facing. But there
17 are areas where we can manage our way
18 out of. We're working with departments
19 sort of to make sure we do that.
20 Whether that's more resources we need to
21 put in the front end as it relates to
22 staffing or that's more resources as it
23 relates to other things, we're looking
24 to do all of those and be able to come
25 up with those plans and be able to

1 effectuate those plans when we come up
2 with them.

3 All of that being said, there
4 will still be challenges that we will
5 have to handle as it relates to
6 emergencies, as it relates to crises and
7 I think we do a great job on doing that.
8 But ultimately, it will be a team effort
9 and a lot of that work has been ongoing.
10 So I know when we had the hearing a few
11 months ago, we talked a little bit about
12 that. Our departments have come up with
13 their own individual plans. And now,
14 it's just a matter of us making sure
15 that we're talking about those plans,
16 making sure we're holding people
17 accountable for those plans and we're
18 ultimately managing it and working it
19 through.

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
21 So another question, which I think is
22 important in our new COVID reality and I
23 didn't see much of that in this transfer
24 ordinance but I'm sure this afternoon in
25 the fiscal stability conversation we'll

1 have it, how are people doing program
2 re-alignment in light of the fact that
3 some stuff is not activated?

4 I'm concerned that I haven't
5 seen us, or at least in this transfer
6 ordinance you don't see savings.
7 Outside of the brick and mortar utility
8 stuff, we don't see program re-alignment
9 and savings in these departments. What
10 is the conversation there? Because our
11 fund balance is low. We got to make
12 priority. How are you making sure
13 people are really not just continuing to
14 spend money when the reality has
15 changed?

16 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. I think
17 it's not only whether or not they're
18 continuing to spend money. It's whether
19 or not we're continuously providing
20 those services. So certainly even in
21 this reality, we've tried to provide
22 every service that we have to.

23 And in addition, you've heard
24 Commissioner Thiel talk about some
25 services that went above and beyond what

1 fire departments generally do that they
2 provided. I will tell you that a lot of
3 our departments have been doing that.
4 We've had members of the Community Life
5 Improvement Program that's been doing
6 everything from dropping off laptops to
7 schools to managing the food warehouse,
8 making sure food distribution is
9 happening. You have Office of Children
10 and Families that's doing work around
11 access centers.

12 So one of the things for us, we
13 want to make sure that we are providing
14 the services to folks and then we want
15 to make sure that our folks that are
16 supposed to be working are working. I
17 think we're doing a good job of that.
18 We also did a good job on trying to move
19 our folks to doing remote work, right.
20 So where are areas where folks can work
21 remotely, we've been making sure we've
22 been incentivizing that, making sure
23 they have all of the resources they need
24 to do that. When there are areas where
25 we have a bunch of departments that

1 can't work remotely that need to be out
2 there providing those services, we're
3 making sure we're providing for that.

4 So it is looking at some -- it
5 is what you said. It is looking at some
6 programs and wondering do we have to do
7 this now. And I think what we've been
8 doing is sort of reconfiguring those
9 folks and having them work on not just
10 not working or staying at home not
11 working, but having them work on core
12 services that we need to deliver.

13 We certainly saw a lot of that
14 work around the election operations when
15 we had a bunch of City employees and
16 also employees from all over to sort of
17 pitch in and help with that work. So I
18 think the main focus for us is providing
19 services. We understand the financial
20 crisis we're in. We understand that the
21 level of services may cut down, but we
22 want to continue to at least in our
23 forefront make sure that we're
24 continuing to provide those services
25 that folks are expecting.

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 We got rid of 500 positions. If we want
3 to make sure that we're in a better
4 place and we don't have to result to
5 that, a lot of that re-alignment is
6 going to be required for us to look at
7 that. And, look, our frontline staff,
8 our CLIP, we've dumped those people
9 everywhere. And I want to make sure
10 that other people who could be -- we
11 need those guys doing what they do,
12 because they're visible and they're
13 impactful and quality of life in the
14 neighborhoods.

15 I just want to make sure that
16 we take a holistic approach around that
17 so that we can avoid layoffs, right.
18 Because ultimately, if we don't re-align
19 some of this Class 200, we might see
20 ourselves in March or April having a
21 different discussion about potential
22 layoffs. I think that's an incentive
23 for people to say, you know, to your
24 point we want to continue to provide
25 services, it's a critical time, there's

1 a big need. But we also got to be
2 really smart about how we do it if we
3 want to avoid future layoffs and other
4 things related to that.

5 So again, I want to see us with
6 savings that are just that brick and
7 mortar utility. I want us to really
8 reimagine what a COVID new government
9 looks like, right, long-term. And some
10 of that will have upfront costs, but
11 some of it has to lead to some
12 efficiency.

13 So I want to recognize
14 Councilmember Johnson who's been
15 waiting. Councilmember Johnson.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 I just had a couple of
19 questions regarding this transfer
20 ordinance and the overall budget for the
21 Philadelphia Police Department. Tumar,
22 if I'm correct, the budget is around 740
23 million or 750 million, or Deputy --

24 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: I can help
25 you --

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: --
2 Commissioner Christine Coulter, or if
3 you want to start, Marisa, to get the
4 correct number. And I just want to get
5 an idea. And I think I asked this at
6 the last hearing, just the percentage of
7 the budget that goes toward salaries and
8 the percentage of the budget that goes
9 toward overtime.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
11 Yes, Councilman, I can answer that for
12 you. Good afternoon. The total Police
13 budget is \$727 million. Of that, 704
14 million is Class 100, which is salary,
15 overtime and benefits.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
17 that's close to 90 percent, correct?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
19 Yes, sir.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Give or
21 take. Okay. And so, I just want to get
22 an idea, obviously you have seniority
23 and you got it down to rank-and-file
24 individuals, right. So the typical
25 person that's an entry-level police

1 officer makes how much? And then let's
2 go up to Deputy Commissioner ranks,
3 Commissioner, give me an idea of what
4 the salary looks like.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

6 The starting salary for a police officer
7 is about \$58,000 a year. And then you
8 have 14 percent increases for the
9 individual ranks above that. So a
10 sergeant makes 14 percent more than a
11 cop, a lieutenant 14 percent more than a
12 sergeant, a captain 16 percent more,
13 going up to the rank of Deputy
14 Commissioner, which is --

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
16 Thank you very much. I just wanted to
17 get an idea. And just for clarity, the
18 percentage that goes toward salaries and
19 overtime --

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

21 Now, the --

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- and
23 also just-

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

25 I'm sorry. Councilman, go ahead.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead.

2 I was listening to you. Go ahead.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

4 The lion's share of overtime is only at
5 the rank of police officer. Only
6 lieutenants and below are eligible for
7 overtime. Captains and above just work
8 the additional hours. They do not get
9 paid overtime.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. All
11 right. Thank you very much.

12 And this is always the tricky
13 issue when we talk about issues around
14 budget, police reform, because obviously
15 I'm an advocate for public safety,
16 right, because right now we have what,
17 450 homicides here in the City of
18 Philadelphia. And so, I think it's also
19 important that when we talk about
20 reform, things of that nature, we also
21 take in consideration that we are living
22 in some very dangerous times, right,
23 here in the City of Philadelphia around
24 this issue of gun violence.

25 And so, just clarifying for me,

1 I know part of the transfer ordinance is
2 going to help the Homicide Unit and I've
3 been an advocate with some mothers who
4 have lost their loved ones to gun
5 violence to really beefing up their
6 Homicide Unit, but I support all the
7 other aspects of what the Philadelphia
8 police officers are doing. But
9 particularly this area of solving
10 homicides, making sure the homicide
11 detectives have cell phones to
12 communicate with the family members who
13 have lost loved ones to gun violence,
14 making sure that they are overburdened
15 in terms of the ratio of homicides to
16 the detectives, right, so they're not
17 burned out.

18 So give me an idea of this
19 investment, how much of this 17 million
20 is going to go towards the Homicide
21 Unit. I know we talked about tech
22 improvements. What are those tech
23 improvements moving forward that will
24 help us in solving these homicides and
25 make sure the detectives over there have

1 all the tools they need necessary to be
2 an up-and-running and strongly efficient
3 unit.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
5 Councilman, that 17 million is not part
6 of this homicide or body-worn camera
7 piece. That had to do with the civil
8 unrest that happened in May of 2020,
9 that's to rightsize the books. The
10 transfer that we're asking for now which
11 is 0 impact on the '21 budget will go
12 towards homicide. We're just
13 redirecting some of the money to make
14 sure that they have just those things
15 that you talked about, the technology
16 that they're asking for to be able to
17 adhere to the recommendations from
18 (inaudible) and get into the hands of
19 folks, things that will make their jobs
20 easier.

21 When it comes to the workload
22 and the burden, this year has been a
23 year that has really been certainly
24 challenging, that even though we had
25 added an additional 9 or 10 detectives

1 to Homicide, their workload actually
2 increased, not decreased because of the
3 significant increase in homicides.

4 And we're very mindful that
5 always looking to as somebody's
6 retiring, replace people, based on the
7 challenges to take them, they're the
8 rank of detective, we would have to be
9 moving them from a detective division
10 where their work is also needed. So
11 it's really trying to find that balance.
12 But this transfer, which is within our
13 own funding, is to ensure that they do
14 get that technology and that equipment
15 that they're looking for, taking it just
16 from some other needed items but not as
17 pressing.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. I
19 just want to go on the record
20 particularly around this issue of
21 homicides, and really being supportive
22 of that unit. I'm an elected official.
23 I'm on the ground. I'm in the mix. I'm
24 talking to parents. I'm talking to
25 children and I'm looking them in the

1 eyes and there's a lot of hurt and
2 there's a lot of pain out there.

3 And so, again I know we're in
4 some trying times. We're talking about
5 reform on one end, but also I still live
6 in Point Breeze. I still live in South
7 Philly in the neighborhood in which I
8 grew up in, so I see the homicides on a
9 daily basis. I'm talking to parents and
10 young people on a daily basis. And I
11 think if we can continue to figure out
12 how we zero in and support that
13 particular unit, because again 450
14 murders, we're not at the end of the
15 year yet. Hopefully, we don't reach
16 500. But nevertheless, it got to be the
17 level of support of the needs and in the
18 state and the context of everything else
19 going on but the fact that these
20 homicides need to be solved.

21 The mothers and father who lost
22 loved ones need closure. And so, I just
23 want to put that out there on the
24 record, and in any way I can be
25 supportive in terms of how we are

1 solving homicides and supporting the
2 Homicide Unit, whether it be staff, I'm
3 available to do so because it's
4 critically important for us to have a
5 safe city because everything else really
6 doesn't matter, to be quite frank with
7 you.

8 How many businesses we bring to
9 the City, how many construction projects
10 that we engage in as a result, the very
11 piece of legislation that we pass, if we
12 don't get a hold on this, nobody wants
13 to stay here. Folks will say, you know
14 what, I would rather move somewhere else
15 where it's much, much safer.

16 And so, I do just want to say
17 we want to be supportive of those
18 efforts. Because at the end of the day,
19 you all have a tough job and it's a lot
20 going on as it relates to the
21 relationship between the police and the
22 community. But I never lose sight of
23 the fact, especially when looking a
24 mother in the face or some child who's
25 crying because they lost a loved one,

1 that the work that you all are doing is
2 also critically important as well. We
3 need not lose sight of that.

4 So I just want to go on the
5 record in saying that and thank you,
6 Deputy Commissioner, for what you're
7 doing as well. Thank you.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
9 Thank you, Councilman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
11 Thank you, Councilman Johnson, for your
12 work in that.

13 Last night I hosted a town hall
14 over about 120 people talking about gun
15 violence, particularly in the Latino
16 community and how we can better support
17 some of the city-wide efforts. I can
18 tell you that one of the main issues was
19 Homicide and their clearance rate, and
20 it was reiterated over and over about
21 bringing closure to help folks with the
22 trauma.

23 Tumar, can you quickly come
24 back on. Just because I know you've
25 made some public statements around this

1 violence, can you add to, I think
2 Councilman Thomas said, the narrative
3 about what we're doing smarter, more
4 efficiently to deal with some of this
5 gun violence issue?

6 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and
7 Councilman Jones have really tackled
8 this. You've made some public comments
9 around this. What is it that we're
10 going to do more effectively that you're
11 working on that you can speak to given
12 this issue?

13 MR. ALEXANDER: I think --
14 thank you, Councilwoman. Thank you,
15 Chairwoman. I think it's a little -- if
16 I can indulge, it's a little bit
17 premature to dig in that. As you know,
18 we did some reorganization in the
19 Managing Director's Office where we
20 created a cluster of strategic
21 initiatives for public safety. So the
22 Office of Violence Prevention, Office of
23 Criminal Justice, Office of Reentry
24 Partnerships and Town Watch all come
25 under a single point of contact. Erica

1 Atwood is the Senior Director of that
2 office.

3 Right now Erica has been sort
4 of working I guess on her third week
5 with those offices, particularly the
6 Office of Violence Prevention, as we
7 look to close out the year and we look
8 to redefine what that Roadmap to a Safer
9 Community 2.0 looks like.

10 So I would say, if you can
11 indulge me, stay tuned a little bit for
12 that. We certainly will have more to
13 say going towards the end of the year.
14 But just like Councilman Johnson, I want
15 to just echo what he said and agree, all
16 of the great gains we make in this City,
17 and this is a great city, they mean
18 nothing if we keep losing young people
19 at the rate we're losing young people
20 today.

21 And, Councilwoman, you're
22 right. This isn't only a Black thing.
23 This is a Black and Brown thing, and
24 we're all in this together and trying to
25 work this through together. So we

1 definitely will have more to say about
2 some of the changes we will make.

3 We definitely figured out ways
4 and trying to work ways on how we're
5 during the time of COVID, how we're
6 doing some of this outreach as it
7 relates to both our Group Violence
8 Initiative and how we're working with
9 some of the boots-on-the-ground folks.

10 And I think I said yesterday to a
11 question around violence that it's an
12 everyone issue. And I don't think
13 anyone is immune from being a part or
14 wanting to be a part of coming up with
15 solutions for this issue and we
16 certainly want to engage with anyone
17 around the issue of gun violence.

18 And just to what Councilman
19 Johnson said, it's just too important to
20 us and too important to the City. And I
21 want to take a minute to thank you all
22 on your leadership around that issue and
23 your support and willingness to be a
24 part of the solution along with us.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 Well again, folks don't enter those
2 professions if they're not committed to
3 improving the quality of life for folks.
4 I always remember and I shout him out,
5 Commissioner Johnson, who always said
6 whoever wants to be a police officer
7 believes that he can improve the quality
8 of life of folks and if that's the
9 framing, everything else that you do
10 helps support and show the support and
11 the empathy for the residents that they
12 represent. And I took that to heart and
13 I share that constantly with the Police
14 Department.

15 I have Councilmember Thomas,
16 and then I think we will be through with
17 this panel. We have a lot of public
18 testimony that is scheduled. So,
19 Councilmember Thomas, you had an
20 additional question?

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes. Thank
22 you, Madam Chair.

23 And I just echo everyone's
24 sentiments as it relates to the homicide
25 issue. I especially commend our

1 colleague Councilmember Johnson for the
2 work he's doing. And I agree with our
3 Managing Director who's doing a good job
4 when he says it's an everyone issue. I
5 agree with that 100 percent.

6 But just thinking about this
7 issue that we're talking about right now
8 at hand, especially when we're talking
9 about homicides, what is our arrest rate
10 right now? Where are we at as far as
11 our arrest rate? I remember the number
12 was a pretty high number. I know once
13 the pandemic hit, our number dropped
14 extremely low, to as low as 20 percent
15 arrest rate on homicides. What is our
16 arrest rate on homicides right now?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
18 Councilman, today it's about 45 percent
19 clearance rate.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So 45
21 percent of the -- can you explain that
22 number? Can you elaborate, please?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
24 Sure. If you look at it in pure numbers,
25 it would mean that of every 100 people

1 were murdered, 45 of them there is a
2 clearance on of this year's murders.
3 Now, you have to be mindful of the fact
4 that some of them just occurred in the
5 last couple of days, so those jobs are
6 still being worked on, as are the ones
7 from last year or the year before, so
8 there will be additional clearances of
9 the jobs that happened. But the murders
10 that happened in calendar year 2020, so
11 far about 45 percent have been solved
12 and cleared.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Do we know
14 how -- I commend the Department. That's
15 amazing. Do we know how and what
16 happened to be able to get that spike in
17 a sense that you're comfortable
18 communicating that? Clearly, you can't
19 talk about crime-fighting tactics. I'm
20 not asking for those types of details,
21 but I'm just curious.

22 Last time we spoke, that number
23 was definitely 30 percent or lower. I
24 know it went to as low as 20 percent.
25 And for it to go up to 45, I think it

1 speaks to some good work that's been
2 done by someone. Can you tell us how we
3 got there?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER: I
5 think a lot of it has to do with the
6 hard-working men and women of the
7 Homicide Unit. They do work tirelessly
8 on these jobs. Some jobs they have
9 greater success than others. It's a
10 matter of available witnesses,
11 technology, video. And the more cameras
12 we have available, the more technology
13 that we have available, the better that
14 we'll get. So I know that there has
15 been an increase this year.

16 Like I said, Commissioner
17 Outlaw working with Deputy Nash with an
18 additional 10 people into homicide, 9 or
19 10, so you have some new -- I don't want
20 to say aggressive, but very anxious
21 detectives working to supplement with
22 the detectives that are already there
23 doing, and I think that all contributes
24 to it. But in the end, the greatest
25 success of our clearance rates will come

1 from that working relationship with our
2 communities, where they occur in. The
3 more people that come forward, the more
4 people that work with us and trust us,
5 the greater our clearance rate will
6 become.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
8 Commissioner. That's great news.
9 That's great information. And for those
10 of us who --

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can I have
12 a point of information if that's okay,
13 Madam Chair?

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 Absolutely, Councilman Johnson.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
17 wanted to follow up on what Councilman
18 Thomas just mentioned, particularly when
19 you say, Deputy Commissioner Coulter,
20 that this good work is being done and
21 some of it is based upon people coming
22 forward because of the working
23 relationship with the police. I just
24 want to note for the record when we
25 address issues of police reform, we are

1 not trying to personally attack our men
2 and women in blue. We want to be
3 supportive of them, but the more there's
4 a transparent and accountable
5 relationship between our law enforcement
6 community and the community at whole and
7 at large, I believe that increases our
8 level of improving public safety in the
9 City, because you have more people
10 willing to come forward, more people
11 they can trust, the individuals they're
12 bringing this information to and I just
13 wanted to state that for the record, and
14 thank my colleague Councilman Thomas for
15 highlighting the arrest rate around
16 homicides.

17 And again thank you,
18 Commissioner Coulter, for just
19 highlighting what the key facts are
20 right now as it relates to staying on
21 top of this issue of homicides and gun
22 violence. Thank you very much.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

25 Thank you, Councilman.

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Thank you.

3 Councilmember Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes, ma'am.

5 Thank you. And I agree with
6 Councilmember Johnson 100 percent. In
7 the sake of time, I'm just not going to
8 repeat what he said, but just echo my
9 support for that statement.

10 As we close out, I think that
11 one of the things that I would ask, and
12 I am very new to this body and I'll be
13 honest in admitting that and my
14 colleagues do a great job of helping me,
15 teaching me and mentoring me. As we
16 look through all the different requests
17 that we've seen today, it's interesting
18 that some of the requests you're
19 basically telling us that the money has
20 already been spent.

21 And I'm wondering if we can get
22 to a space and a place where before the
23 money is spent, we can have conversation
24 and dialogue. Because at the end of the
25 day, some of the items that we're

1 talking about voting on, you're telling
2 us the money has been spent. And if the
3 money has already been spent, the
4 question becomes what exactly are we
5 voting on. And I think that information
6 is part of the trust and transparency
7 that a lot of members of this
8 particular body has communicated
9 throughout the course of this hearing,
10 which has already been about six hours.

11 So I just want to go ahead and
12 put that out there -- well, maybe not
13 six. My math is off, but I just want to
14 go ahead and put that out there -- it
15 will probably be six -- because that's
16 important. And I want us to get to a
17 space and a place where before the money
18 is spent, we're having conversation. I
19 know that there's a number of important
20 legislation. There's a lot of different
21 initiatives taking place right now, but
22 I think that that's going to continue to
23 improve our rapport with the public and
24 how we operate and what we're doing as a
25 legislative body.

1 Thank you, Madam Chair. I
2 appreciate you. Thank you,
3 Commissioner, and thank you to the
4 Administration. I know we have to move
5 on. I appreciate you answering all of
6 our tedious questions.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 Marisa, did you want to respond that?

9 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Yeah. I
10 want to just -- thank you and I do
11 appreciate it, because we are dealing
12 with four different bills today, I know
13 there's a lot and I wanted to just take
14 one more chance because I worry I didn't
15 do it clearly enough in the beginning.

16 So for the Operating Budget,
17 we've got two things. We've got the
18 FY20 year-end, and the Operating Budget
19 part of that is clearing up stuff that
20 happened at the end of the year, and
21 that actually is like a very, very small
22 fraction. But sometimes things do
23 happen at the end of the year that we
24 couldn't anticipate and it's not in
25 Classes like 200, 300, 400 because in

1 order for us to be able to spend on
2 those classes, Council absolutely must,
3 must, must approve those before there's
4 any expenditures.

5 But for things that happen at
6 the very end of the year that added to,
7 say, overtime budgets, that's not stuff
8 we can really account for early on.

9 Obviously, we hadn't budgeted for the
10 unrest before it happened. And if it
11 had happened earlier in the fiscal year,
12 we would have been able to make
13 adjustments. We would have been able to
14 look at what we were doing and toggle
15 and sort of come back from that and
16 adjust. But for items that happened at
17 the very end -- so we hear you.

18 Our goal really is to through
19 these hearings, through our
20 conversations over the course of the
21 year ensure that the absolute vast
22 majority of what is in there is
23 something that we discuss before it
24 happens, and that's why we do have them
25 at FY21 mid-year transfer ordinance that

1 we're also doing right now, because
2 those are for adjustments that we're
3 anticipating for the last seven months
4 of the year and we want to come to this
5 body, discuss those before they happen.

6 And I think that chance to
7 readjust and toggle during the year is
8 really important and gives us some
9 flexibility, but obviously with the
10 constraints and engaging Council. So we
11 will continue to try and update you as
12 much as possible. But I do just want to
13 be clear, the FY20 year-end, that is a
14 fairly standard sort of more accounting
15 type document that is not that
16 interesting.

17 The FY20 mid-year is really
18 where we're wrestling with the questions
19 of what should we be doing, what are we
20 going to be doing, so I'm happy to
21 continue those conversations.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I
23 completely understand all of that. But
24 at the end of the day, you're still
25 asking us to approve \$17.7 million that

1 you've already spent. And that's just
2 the reality of it. So I get all of
3 that, but we have to put those things on
4 the record and we have to communicate
5 our frustration because you're asking us
6 to do it.

7 So thank you, Madam Chair. I
8 appreciate it.

9 And I appreciate your
10 explanation. I completely understand.

11 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Great.
12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
14 Thank you, Councilmember Thomas. And I
15 agree with you. Look, we moved these
16 hearings that were traditionally
17 Thursday mornings to its own day,
18 normally Wednesdays, just so that we can
19 have more broader conversations around
20 this. The learning curve on this budget
21 is huge.

22 I've been doing this for five
23 years and there's a lot of different
24 details. COVID has exasperated some of
25 the pushing and pulling, but we will

1 attempt to get as much information
2 beforehand. And we may need to do
3 another similar hearing.

4 I know you have the Fiscal
5 Stability hearing this afternoon that
6 allows us to be more proactive in
7 looking at what departments and looking
8 at how we're managing and making some of
9 these policy decisions. So, yeah, it's
10 a lot of information and we will keep
11 advocating on behalf of the Committee to
12 have as much information and as much
13 detail as possible ahead of time so that
14 we can make thoughtful decisions around
15 this stuff.

16 We are now going to get ready
17 for the public testimony that we have on
18 hand. I just want again for the record
19 for Appropriations, and Marisa put this
20 up and it's in the packet, there are a
21 number of departments that have major
22 transfers related to the City
23 Commissioners and the Election Board.
24 They did a phenomenal job as we've heard
25 and have some allocations there.

1 This Committee will have to
2 have a conversation moving forward about
3 this new normal around the City
4 Commissioner's Office and some of the
5 other independent offices, Register of
6 Wills, the Sheriff's Department and the
7 DA's Office.

8 And we appreciate the
9 Administration, in particular Marisa and
10 her team for working with the
11 independent offices, the courts and
12 others to align the budget in the new
13 COVID reality. And again, if we took
14 this department by department, we would
15 be here for 12 hours, not 6 hours. And
16 so, we appreciate everyone's patience.

17 I'm going to ask Councilmember,
18 my Vice-chair Johnson, to lead this
19 discussion. Our Clerk Mariana will and
20 our Tech staff -- again, I appreciate
21 the patience. The public has been
22 waiting patiently to testify since 9:30
23 this morning. We're going to take a
24 five-minute break so that we can prepare
25 for this public testimony and our Tech

1 staff can make sure people are online.
2 Councilman Johnson will be facilitating
3 this part of it and I will join you
4 momentarily. So five-minute break so
5 that we can get to our public.

6 Councilmember Johnson, I'm
7 going to turn it over to you.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
9 Madam Chair.

10 After a five-minute break, we
11 will come back and hear testimony from
12 the public.

13 (Brief recess.)

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
15 very much, Lonnie. We will now hear
16 testimony from the public.

17 Mariana, will you please call
18 the first panel.

19 THE CLERK: Yes. The first
20 person commenting is Chris Cannito.

21 MR. CANNITO: Hi. Good
22 afternoon. Can everyone hear me?

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, we
24 can hear you, Chris.

25 MR. CANNITO: Oh, cool, cool.

1 Thank you so much for your time. My
2 name is Chris Cannito. I'm a West
3 Philadelphia resident and member of Penn
4 Community for Justice and social worker
5 who was attacked on I-676. From my time
6 in the field, it's very clear that
7 communities in need, organizers,
8 nonprofits, even public institutions
9 such as education are required to
10 operate under resource constraints and
11 financial scarcity time and time again.

12 Currently, our Health
13 Department doesn't have the capacity to
14 properly track and trace COVID-19 cases
15 because we have under 200 contact
16 tracers and case managers in the entire
17 City during the pandemic. The PPD's
18 Appropriation fund is directly tied to a
19 period of traumatic unrest our nation
20 and city experienced. A period our City
21 that needs to be treated vastly
22 different than in the past if you want
23 to break cycles of violence tied to
24 modern policing and systemic racism.

25 These funds should have been

1 invested towards community-centered
2 police oversight and uplifting programs
3 tied to the social determinants of
4 health, such as housing, education and
5 nutrition. I only ask we're not using
6 these funds for crises in the present.
7 I have some questions: Where exactly
8 this money will go? How much of this
9 money will directly go to officers who
10 participated on 52nd Street and I-676?
11 How much of this money will officers who
12 pulled triggers, released pepper spray
13 and dragged demonstrators down the
14 embankment receive? What about the
15 personnel who drove around in armored
16 cars in Philadelphia streets? Are the
17 officers who let men roam the streets of
18 Fishtown with bats and stand with long
19 guns in South Philadelphia -- how much
20 of the money will officers and their
21 supervisors who took photo-ops kneeling
22 yet remain silent to even rights abuses
23 on 52nd Street and I-676 receive?
24 \$17.7 million will
25 significantly benefit communities

1 struggling during COVID-19 and begin to
2 disrupt cycles of trauma, connected to
3 our current public safety systems within
4 the PPD. I say this not to vilify or
5 punish officers or their families'
6 well-being. But by using these funds
7 differently, you can take an impactful
8 step in transformative direction.

9 Imagine how the public would
10 feel if that 17.7 million was boldly
11 used for community engagement, healing,
12 reconciliation and a process of
13 reimagining our public safety system and
14 acknowledging our systemic ills. If we
15 do not act outside of the norm of budget
16 practices, policies and methods in the
17 field, what is going to happen when the
18 next George Floyd is caught on camera?
19 What is going to happen if that happens
20 in our City yet again? Thank you so
21 much for your time and I hope you have a
22 great one ahead.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Mariana, will you call our next

1 witness.

2 THE CLERK: Cindy Miller.

3 MS. MILLER: Good morning. Can
4 you hear me?

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, I can
6 hear you.

7 MS. MILLER: Good morning.
8 Thank you for giving this long-time
9 resident of Philadelphia the opportunity
10 to comment on Bills 200620 and 200621.
11 I understand that City Council is
12 considering transferring an additional
13 \$17.7 million to the police for overtime
14 for the protest this summer, and I want
15 to register my opposition.

16 The police do not need yet more
17 money designated to them from our
18 budget. We need the funds to be
19 directed towards libraries, schools, rec
20 centers. This is a time of COVID and
21 people have lost their jobs and have no
22 income. Frontline and essential
23 workers, who tend to be Black, should
24 receive hazard pay. Black people are
25 disproportionately affected. Where is

1 the reparation money?

2 With 17.7 million, there could
3 be 100 free COVID testing centers. Many
4 were brutalized by the police, whether
5 on 52nd, on I-676, and now the police
6 are demanding to be paid for these
7 favors. Police stood by and watched or
8 sided with White vigilantes in Fishtown
9 or at the Columbus statue. Police tear-
10 gassed and falsely arrested and cracked
11 heads and we're supposed to pay them for
12 this? No way.

13 We've seen police officers in
14 tanks, on weaponized bicycles, wearing
15 camouflage outfits, Jack boots, beater
16 gloves, face shields, full body armor
17 and helmets. How much does this all
18 cost? I denounce the militarization of
19 the PPD. I strongly object to giving
20 the police more money and demand
21 community control of the PPD -- oh, also
22 abolish the FOP. Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Will the Clerk please call the

1 next witness.

2 THE CLERK: Erica Gould Bustos.

3 MS. GOULD BUSTOS: Hi. Can
4 everyone hear me? Hello?

5 THE CLERK: We can hear you.

6 MS. GOULD BUSTOS: Okay. Good.
7 Hello. My name is Erica Goul -- hello.
8 My name is Erica Gould Bustos and I am a
9 community member of Philadelphia and the
10 direct victim of and witness to PPD
11 police brutality on numerous occasions.
12 Councilmembers may remember my testimony
13 from the FOP hearing.

14 Shout-out to Councilmember
15 Thomas reminding everyone these issues
16 and testimonies overlap. Some of which
17 I'm about to repeat for the record here
18 today because it's literally life and
19 death when we discuss police budgets and
20 it needs to continuously be repeated
21 until the community is heard and
22 something is done to stop it.

23 I have watched as the police
24 target and overpolice Black and Brown
25 and otherwise marginalized communities

1 with impunity, especially the way
2 excessive force is given to those
3 fighting for Black and native
4 liberations. I have watched teenagers,
5 who as a reminder are children, sustain
6 head injuries from police for kneeling
7 peacefully at a protest.

8 I've watched a pregnant Black
9 woman almost lose her baby because the
10 police brutalized her while picking her
11 up for a curfew violation as she made a
12 quick run to the corner store while
13 those of us on the bus with her
14 frantically screamed in terror for
15 medical help. I'm a biracial indigenous
16 woman with passed privilege from a White
17 parent, which I mentioned because
18 proximity to Whiteness holds power and
19 privilege and yet I personally have
20 still been hit with a baton, flipped
21 over a bike, held on by several
22 officers, antagonized and told by an
23 officer as he was brutalizing me that
24 quote, "he hopes my mother gets cancer
25 of the butt in her mouth," which isn't

1 even physically possible.

2 Not a single one of those
3 situations has had consequences for the
4 PPD, and they are unfortunately able to
5 cause such incredible and irreparable
6 harm because of already having more
7 funds than community resources are
8 given. The PPD has an overinflated
9 budget that should be defunded and
10 reallocated to the communities they have
11 caused trauma to. And for a department
12 that caused the City several lawsuits
13 just this summer for the way they
14 brutalized community members in mass to
15 request an even higher budget for any
16 reason, let alone to cover protest costs
17 which is where they've caused some of
18 the most public violations of human
19 decency, is disgusting and audacious,
20 especially on stolen land in a pandemic.

21 These kinds of acts of violent
22 and excessive force related to protests
23 should not be rewarded physically or in
24 any manner for that matter, even within
25 the system we have. How dare money that

1 could go to schools, housing assistance,
2 pandemic relief, mutual aid, food
3 insecurity, addiction, just to name a
4 few, be sent to an area that has
5 actively caused terror in our City and
6 cost the City money while doing so.

7 Do better, see better and I
8 wish the entire PPD to have the
9 consequences they caused the community
10 to reflect back on them and, therefore,
11 be abolished. Thank you. And once
12 again, have a good day your actions
13 deserve.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
15 very much.

16 Will the Clerk please call the
17 next witness.

18 THE CLERK: Daniel Hawkins.

19 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT:

20 Mr. Hawkins dropped off the line.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will the
22 Clerk please call the next witness.

23 THE CLERK: Devron Washington.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: Hello.

25 Hopefully, you can hear me. My name is

1 Devron Washington. I live in West
2 Philly. The audacity of the
3 Philadelphia Police Department asking
4 for close to 18 million more in public
5 funds cannot be overstated. To be
6 clear, this is what systemic white
7 supremacy looks like. It forces
8 individual-elected officials who are
9 Black, Brown and White to say yes when
10 commonsense says, this City agency and
11 its racism, misconduct and terroristic
12 track record needs to be incrementally
13 disbanded and its billion-dollar budget
14 aggressively invested in community-led
15 violence prevention.

16 Here's a quick recap of the
17 last six months of transgressions by the
18 PPD, who went out of their way to treat
19 Philly's residents like a king. In
20 June, PPD tear-gassed the residents of
21 52nd Street in their homes, forcing
22 them, literally children, to flee for
23 their safety. Staff Inspector Joseph
24 Bologna was caught beating protesters
25 for fun.

1 And then the Philadelphia
2 Police Department also gassed protesters
3 on 676. And what happened with that is
4 that the Police Commissioner Danielle
5 Outlaw lied for weeks about what
6 actually happened to protect or shield
7 the Police Department from
8 accountability, right. Then they
9 murdered Walter Wallace, which his name
10 has not been said yet with regard to
11 whether or not they deserve 18 million
12 more dollars, right. That caused a
13 bunch of different -- that's what caused
14 more uprisings, right.

15 And during those protests after
16 Council already reduced the use of less-
17 than-lethal munitions, the Police
18 Department turned around and were
19 beating women, nonbinary folks, Black
20 folks, Black residents in this street on
21 52nd Street, right. I've never seen
22 anyone get beat in public the way the
23 Philadelphia Police Department, groups
24 of them, beat on protesters that night,
25 right.

1 And so, to put a point on this,
2 yesterday the ACLU of PA sent a letter
3 to the UN calling out the actions of the
4 Police Department for human rights
5 abuses, and these are the people that
6 turned around and they spent money that
7 they did not have, right, and now are
8 coming back to our elected officials
9 asking for more money and it is
10 completely ridiculous.

11 So my point is that the PPD is
12 trying to cash out on the nights that
13 they spent terrorizing our community
14 while Council feels pressured to honor
15 that with a contract, citing fears of a
16 lawsuit. And I ask how much taxpayers
17 have already been forced to pay over the
18 past decades stemming from police
19 misconduct and brutality and where is
20 the concern for those lawsuits and their
21 impact on the City's major budget.

22 And the last thing I'll say,
23 with regard to the \$900,000 that the PPD
24 wants to spend on tasers and the five-
25 year plan to get every officer tasers,

1 right, I have to remind everyone that
2 tasers still kill people. Just last
3 year, the Philadelphia Police Department
4 killed somebody with a taser, and they
5 killed at least five other people prior
6 to that.

7 And what's worse, Walter
8 Wallace, Jr. was experiencing a mental
9 health emergency and tasers are
10 inadequate solutions to the systemic
11 failure that led to his death. And, in
12 fact, Black people with disabilities are
13 most likely to experience and be killed
14 by police brutality. And Axon, the
15 manufacturer of the Philadelphia Police
16 Department's tasers, warned against its
17 use on people with disabilities or
18 people who are under the influence which
19 makes up a large portion of the people
20 who interact with the Philadelphia
21 Police Department.

22 So before we even allow for the
23 Police Department to get more tasers, we
24 need to understand that their use is
25 going to be put at the feet of our City

1 government and we're going to be
2 responsible for lawsuits, because Axon
3 has already warned against their use
4 and, therefore, is shielded against
5 legal liability. So I thank you for
6 your time and for hearing what I had to
7 say. Have a good one.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
9 very much.

10 Will the Clerk please call the
11 next witness.

12 THE CLERK: Gus Grannan.

13 MR. GRANNAN: Hello. Thank
14 you. My name is Gus Grannan. I am a
15 resident of North Philly and I'm
16 addressing the current proposal to
17 restore the minimal cuts to the PPD
18 budget. The punitive justification is
19 to pay for the overtime that led to the
20 behavior that the Mayor and the Police
21 Commissioner have both sought to deny
22 responsibility for.

23 Tear gas was used both on the
24 highway and on protesters nowhere near
25 the highway. I can report firsthand.

1 There are three legs of civil
2 government, operational, executive and
3 legislative. The first two have tried
4 to evade responsibility for these
5 actions. This responsibility is
6 available to City Council for the low,
7 low price of \$18 million.

8 I live in North Philly and work
9 with residents here. Understand,
10 Council will be purchasing
11 responsibility not just for these acts,
12 but for those my colleagues and I are
13 exposed to every day. You can fund the
14 chaos or fund the community. Choose to
15 fund the community. Refuse the \$18
16 million budget restoration for the
17 Philadelphia chaos department. Fund
18 housing, not cops who roll up on
19 homeless Philadelphians and use their
20 car speakers to demand they go home.

21 Police also interfere with
22 City-funded public health measures on an
23 industrial scale. These actions create
24 risks and costs for the sanitation and
25 sewer workers of the City as well as

1 public health outreach. In closing, let
2 John McNesby hold a bake sale to pay for
3 the overtime. Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
5 very much.

6 Will the Clerk please call the
7 next witness.

8 THE CLERK: Kate Hess.

9 MS. HESS: Hi. My name is Kate
10 Hess and I'm a community member living
11 in the Germantown part of Philadelphia.
12 I was moved to speak during this hearing
13 because of the painful history of police
14 violence against the Black community in
15 Philadelphia. The fact that the police
16 want \$18 million to cover the overtime
17 cost from the police brutality protest
18 from this past summer is angering,
19 insulting, but not at all surprising.

20 Time and time again the
21 Philadelphia Police Department makes it
22 clear that they are above the law with
23 no regard to the community that they are
24 supposed to serve. Instead of giving
25 the police a raise, those funds should

1 be used to help our marginalized
2 communities and the frontline workers
3 who need it most. We are still in the
4 midst of a global pandemic and there are
5 so many people struggling and trying to
6 stay afloat, restaurant workers,
7 business owners, people who can't afford
8 to make rent and are being evicted.

9 Our federal government has
10 failed to provide us any sort of
11 financial relief so this is where
12 Philadelphia can step up. This is where
13 the \$18 million should be allocated
14 instead of the police. How can you keep
15 giving more money to a bloated
16 department that doesn't make positive
17 changes and causes deliberate harm to
18 our most vulnerable communities, our
19 neighbors, our families and our friends.
20 The cops don't need a raise. Our
21 communities do.

22 City Councilmembers, I urge you
23 to vote no on Bill No. 200620 and Bill
24 No. 200621. That's all I have to say.
25 Thank you for your time.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
2 very much.

3 Will the Clerk please call the
4 next witness.

5 THE CLERK: Mariana Garcia
6 Godoy.

7 MS. GARCIA: Hi. Can you hear
8 me okay?

9 THE CLERK: We can hear you.

10 MS. GARCIA: Good morning. My
11 name is Mariana Garcia and I'm here as a
12 citizen of Northeast Philadelphia to
13 speak out against this endless funding
14 for the Philadelphia Police. The true
15 "clean up" associated with our recent
16 protests are not in balancing budget.
17 They are in the trauma suffered by our
18 communities after having encountered a
19 police force that is undeniably out of
20 your control, no matter how much you
21 pretend it is.

22 This City has made national
23 news several times over the past few
24 months over recorded instances of police
25 brutality and you are asking the victims

1 of this harm to pay for it out of their
2 tax dollars. For the record, we are not
3 responsible, fiscally, morally or
4 otherwise to the consequences of this
5 City mobilizing a militarized police
6 force against its own citizens. Any
7 support of this particular funding is a
8 deliberate move against poor Black and
9 Brown communities and have to see their
10 abusers being awarded for the harm they
11 brought against them.

12 Organizers have continued
13 working overtime to fill the role of
14 caring for our communities in ways this
15 City Council never truly appreciates the
16 unempty rhetoric. The people ensuring
17 that we are protected are underpaid or
18 not paid at all by the City. And the
19 only reason they have to do this work is
20 because you refuse to prioritize us over
21 your fear of backlash. It is public
22 information that several elected City
23 Councilmembers have accepted campaign
24 donations from the Fraternal Order of
25 Police in recent years. And it is

1 unacceptable in the face of the FOP's
2 blatant efforts to overpower our voices.

3 There are dozens of houseless
4 people living about three blocks from
5 your offices and hundreds of victims of
6 the ongoing opioid epidemic all over the
7 City. And I don't know how you can
8 begin to justify almost 18 million
9 additional dollars in police spending
10 when there are people in desperate need
11 of these resources. Your refusal to
12 thoroughly question this call from
13 anything other than a fiscal perspective
14 is a completely transparent attempt to
15 avoid the comprehensive demands your
16 constituents have made regarding police
17 funding. You owe us more than you can
18 pay for what happened in this
19 (inaudible) --

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Are you
21 still there?

22 Hello, Lonnie? Just checking
23 for a connection. Hello, Lonnie, are
24 you there?

25 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT:

1 Councilman, it looks like we have a
2 problem with the connection. Please
3 give us a moment.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
5 Just checking.

6 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: We're
7 back.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Go
9 ahead, ma'am. You can finish your
10 testimony.

11 MS. GARCIA: All right. Thank
12 you. In conclusion, you owe us more
13 than you can pay for what has happened
14 in the City in response to residents
15 asserting their control over the
16 communities this past summer and fall.
17 But this instance is an opportunity to
18 let us know who you're truly working for
19 in office. And as far as getting ahead
20 in future police funding, you can expect
21 the people of Philadelphia to stay in
22 the streets until change is made. Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
25 very much.

1 Will the Clerk please call the
2 next witness.

3 THE CLERK: Maria Candros.

4 MS. CANDROS: Hi. Good
5 morning -- good afternoon. Hello,
6 Councilmembers. Thank you so much for
7 your time. My name is Maria Candros.
8 I'm a volunteer with Reclaim
9 Philadelphia and a resident of West
10 Philly. I'm here to testify -- hello?

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes,
12 you're here. We can hear you.

13 MS. CANDROS: Sorry. I heard a
14 phone ringing so I wasn't sure if you
15 hung up.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
17 We're sorry.

18 MS. CANDROS: Sorry about that.
19 I'm here to testify about Bills 200620
20 and 200621, and specifically asking that
21 City Council does not provide an
22 additional 18 million to the
23 Philadelphia Police Department for
24 raises and bonuses, resulting from their
25 mishandling of the protest last summer.

1 The PPD failed to serve the
2 citizens of Philadelphia. They gassed
3 and attacked peaceful civilians
4 exercising their First Amendment rights.
5 They treated Philadelphia citizens like
6 enemy combatants. Their failure was so
7 blatant, City officials had to apologize
8 for their behavior. Turning around and
9 rewarding them for their failure with an
10 additional 18 million completely negates
11 any apologies issued by the City. Not
12 only that, it provides positive
13 reinforcement to the officers' egregious
14 behavior.

15 When someone fails at their
16 job, they do not get punished with a
17 raise. Not only will the additional 18
18 million reward police abuse, it would
19 reward gross financial mismanagement.
20 The Philadelphia Police Department's
21 budget has grown 30 percent since Mayor
22 Kenney took office in 2016, and yet gun
23 violence continues to grow. Additional
24 money has not made them more effective.
25 It has not made us safer.

1 If the PPD need ideas for how
2 to cover the funding gap, they should
3 look to their own mismanaged budget for
4 additional funds. They can eliminate
5 automatic annual raises. They can
6 eliminate the 14 percent mandatory pay
7 differential between classes of
8 officers, which result in the 93 percent
9 differential between the highest and
10 lowest ranking officers. They can look
11 to the 1100 per-year per-officer
12 clothing allowance or they can sell some
13 of their military equipment, which is
14 completely inappropriate for use on City
15 streets.

16 We're in the middle of a
17 pandemic where small businesses,
18 renters, all essential workers are all
19 struggling for survival. Giving an
20 additional 18 million to the police is
21 not an effective use of taxpayer funds.
22 Thank you for your time today.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
24 Will the Clerk please call the next
25 witness.

1 THE CLERK: Marta Guttenberg.

2 She's the last one on this panel.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
4 very much. Ms. Guttenberg.

5 Ms. Guttenberg, are you there?

6 MS. GUTTENBERG: I think I'm
7 able to speak now. My name is Marta
8 Guttenberg. I live in Center City,
9 Philadelphia. My words are following
10 the people that preceded me, which I
11 agree very much with. I'm opposed to an
12 \$18 million reward to the Philadelphia
13 Police Department. I was present on
14 Broad Street on May 30th, and I watched
15 the police fail to control a very
16 controllable group of people.

17 The police took construction
18 materials from in front of the Art
19 Street Church and created street
20 barricades and then ran their own
21 vehicles up against them blockading
22 themselves in. They were so busy
23 keeping peaceful protesters from
24 speaking out that they forget to look
25 down Walnut Street where looting was

1 already starting to happen. There was
2 no leadership. Nobody seemed to be
3 looking at the big picture and seeing
4 what was happening. It's hard for me to
5 even think what movie the officers
6 thought they were participating in.

7 Over the next days, we had
8 massive influx of militia. The National
9 Guard came in and they set up barricades
10 around, as you know, City Hall, the
11 Municipal Service Building. And at that
12 point, the police began their overtime
13 activities massing in 10, 15 officers
14 per street corner throughout Center
15 City, laughing, often unmasked,
16 picnicking, having pizza parties on the
17 grounds of the National Constitution
18 Center.

19 I feel that they displayed
20 extremely unprofessional behavior. It
21 looked to me like spring break. I think
22 that they should not be rewarded for
23 this with any City money and they should
24 find their own money. Thank you for
25 letting me share.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
2 very much.

3 Before we go to the next panel
4 of witnesses, are there any questions or
5 comments from members of this Committee?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Hearing
8 none, we will take a brief break and
9 wait for the next panel of witnesses to
10 be set up.

11 Mariana, are you ready?

12 THE CLERK: Yes, I am.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
14 Thank you.

15 (Brief recess.)

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We are now
17 going to continue our testimony from the
18 public.

19 Will Mariana please call the
20 next panel of witnesses.

21 THE CLERK: Larissa Mogano.

22 MS. MOGANO: Hi. This is
23 Larissa. Can you hear me?

24 THE CLERK: We can hear you.

25 MS. MOGANO: Thank you. Good

1 morning, Councilmembers -- I'm sorry.
2 Good afternoon, Councilmembers. Thanks
3 for the opportunity to testify today.
4 My name is Larissa Mogano. I'm here to
5 ask Council not to approve the \$17.7
6 million, \$5 or any other further budget
7 increases for the Philadelphia Police
8 Department.

9 I'm a Philadelphia homeowner
10 and a taxpayer, one who voluntarily
11 doesn't take advantage of the tax
12 abatement because I believe in funding
13 our schools, despite the fact that I
14 don't plan to have any kids. I'm one of
15 the lucky few with a steady income,
16 assets and a fair amount of job security
17 so it's a sacrifice worth making since
18 we're "all in this together."

19 As a community organizer, I
20 essentially work a second job without
21 pay bringing resources to an
22 historically underfunded community.
23 It's the same community that 35 years
24 ago was blown by its own leadership and
25 who this summer had these wounds

1 reopened by the very police force under
2 a new Commissioner not yet acquainted
3 with this ugly part of our history.
4 Right now all of us know someone who's
5 been laid off, furloughed or is
6 struggling themselves. The audacity of
7 the PPD asking for money to pay for
8 their dry cleaning and for Council to
9 entertain the request in a City where a
10 quarter of its residents lived well
11 below the poverty line before the global
12 pandemic is insulting and gross.

13 So long as our tax dollars pay
14 for millions annually in legal
15 settlements lodged by victims of the
16 PPD's abuse, including within their own
17 ranks, the residents of this City should
18 not also be expected to fund their
19 limitless wish list or lax financial
20 management. We need evidence that
21 they're here to protect our communities
22 rather than serve their fraternity and
23 is remarkably unacceptable and
24 compensable leader. And the burden
25 should be on them to prove to us that

1 they're spending their money
2 efficiently.

3 In June, Commissioner Outlaw
4 openly admitted the only way that she
5 could make budgetary cuts would be
6 through a loss of personnel or payroll,
7 something every industry in the country
8 is experiencing right now, including
9 health care. Just last week, 10 percent
10 of Sayre Health Center staff in West
11 Philly either quit or was let go because
12 their skeleton crew couldn't keep up
13 with the demands of their make-shift
14 COVID testing site and still perform
15 their regular duties after months of no
16 relief.

17 Frankly, I would much rather my
18 tax dollars fund them than the cops who
19 admit they are poorly trained and who I
20 continue to see patrolling my
21 neighborhood without masks. If they
22 can't protect and serve us by
23 prioritizing the simple measure and
24 model of appropriate social behavior as
25 indicated repeatedly by our incredibly

1 underfunded Public Health Department,
2 why should any of us believe that they
3 are going to be frugal or responsible
4 with yet another budget increase.

5 In April, Temple University
6 reportedly asked all of administration
7 making more than 100,000 to take a
8 10-percent pay cut for the good of the
9 University. With nearly 340 PPD
10 employees making that much or more, they
11 should be expected to make the same
12 sacrifice as the rest of us do for the
13 good of their own department and for the
14 good of taxpayers who fund their
15 paychecks, and for the good of the City.
16 Finally, as for the City, one quick way
17 to reduce the police budget would be for
18 Temple, Drexel and Penn and others to
19 disband PPD presence on their own
20 campuses. Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
22 very much for your testimony.

23 Will the Clerk please call the
24 next witness.

25 THE CLERK: Nicole Hanson.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Nicole,
2 are you there? If you have mute on, you
3 can press star 6 to unmute yourself.

4 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: It looks
5 like she dropped off.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will the
7 Clerk please call the next witness.

8 THE CLERK: Nikki Grant.

9 MS. GRANT: Hello. Can you
10 hear me?

11 THE CLERK: We can hear you.

12 MS. GRANT: Good afternoon,
13 Councilmembers. My name is Nikki Grant
14 and I'm the Policy Director of Amistad
15 Law Project. In June this year in the
16 wake of the murder of George Floyd,
17 Philadelphians on the streets
18 articulated a very clear demand, defund
19 the police. Over 30,000 people from
20 almost every zip code across the City
21 signed Amistad petition demanding that
22 City Council not give the Philadelphia
23 Police Department more money while
24 cutting the budget of everything else
25 that keep our communities safe, healthy

1 and strong. And while it was not nearly
2 enough, we celebrated the tiny step that
3 this body made that of not giving the
4 PPD an additional \$19 million.

5 So you'll hopefully understand
6 why I say that I am confused. I am
7 confused as to why six months later
8 during a pandemic surge, after the
9 Philadelphia police murdered Walter
10 Wallace, Jr. in front of his mother in
11 my neighborhood, while we've had to beg
12 for basic things like an extension of
13 eviction moratorium and for our
14 struggling schools to get funds they
15 need by ending the tax abatement, why
16 this Council seems poised to give the
17 PPD \$18 million for, let me check my
18 notes, staffing during the protests
19 where people were protesting them and
20 they tear-gassed people on the highway
21 and they tear-gassed me and my neighbors
22 on 52nd Street and after tear-gassing
23 was banned by the City, they simply
24 started brutally beating protesters in
25 West Philly, I'm having a hard time

1 understanding why this City is
2 prioritizing this spending right now.

3 I'm having a hard time figuring
4 out why the concept of defunding the
5 police to invest in our communities is
6 so difficult for this body to embrace.
7 How is it possible to so easily defund
8 our schools, defund public health,
9 defund the Fire Department, defund rec
10 centers, defund libraries, deny hazard
11 pay for our sanitation workers. When
12 the cops who kill us with no
13 accountability ask for more money, this
14 body can say, sure, that's no problem.
15 How?

16 In closing before you vote on
17 these transfer ordinances, I would ask
18 you to remember that the PPD's budget
19 has increased by an unacceptable 30
20 percent since 2016. If they are having
21 problems balancing their budget, I will
22 suggest the solution is not to give them
23 more money, but to audit them to see how
24 they can better allocate their enormous
25 resources. Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
2 very much for your testimony.

3 Will the Clerk please call the
4 next witness.

5 THE CLERK: Sergio Cea.

6 MR. CEA: Hey. Can you --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Sergio,
8 are you there?

9 MR. CEA: Can you hear me now?

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I can hear
11 you now, Sergio. I can hear you now.

12 MR. CEA: Okay. Great. Thank
13 you. Good afternoon. My name is Sergio
14 Cea. I'm a community organizer with
15 Reclaim Philadelphia and Democratic
16 Committee person in the 46th Ward. On
17 May 31st, I along with many of my
18 neighbors in West Philly were tear-
19 gassed by the police days before the
20 primary.

21 The police a week before the
22 General Election brutalized West Philly
23 again in what is coming a pre-election
24 tradition for the PPD, which is why I
25 raise in opposition today. I feel like

1 the police are spitting in the face of
2 everyday working-class Philadelphians of
3 all races with this request for 18
4 million in new funding.

5 Our City has been confronted by
6 many crises this year that have deepened
7 inequalities and strained the City
8 budget. Social services, libraries,
9 arts, things that actually invest in our
10 communities are being cut, but police
11 are asking for millions more. After
12 listening to the police earlier in this
13 session, I'm wondering should we just
14 push those departments to go over budget
15 and mismanage money like the PPD is
16 doing.

17 Why do we punish working people
18 and the poor and reward a department
19 that kills us, beats us, using chemical
20 weapons on us and use our children for
21 propaganda, like they recently did when
22 they ripped a family from the SUV and
23 separated the scared child from their
24 parent. The Police Department is
25 already overfunded. Mayor Jim Kenney is

1 largely responsible for the 30 percent
2 to the budget since he took office. And
3 from City Controller's offices, we know
4 that even though that budget grew
5 yearly, it did nothing to put a dent in
6 the increasing homicides that grow to
7 this day.

8 Those engaged in violence will
9 tell you what they need is more social
10 services, like housing, not policing.
11 And that's why focused deterrence
12 programs failed and why the rebranded
13 GVI will too. I was excited to learn
14 that City Council announced
15 participatory budgeting plans with a
16 commitment to focus on issues of racial
17 and economic justice in the next cycle.

18 Still the 1 million this plan
19 budgets is still 17 million less than
20 what the police are asking for today.
21 If we are committed to racial equity
22 when it comes to our budgeting, we must
23 not invest 18 million into a
24 disgustingly overfunded and abusive
25 police department. We know our people

1 are struggling and we know that \$18
2 million should go to the people of
3 Philadelphia through better resources
4 and investment in programs supporting
5 our youth and community-based violence
6 prevention.

7 After a year of mass
8 mobilization taking to the streets,
9 chanting in a unified, loud and clear
10 voice to defund the police, we ask City
11 Council do you hear us. We would not
12 have unrest if police stopped killing
13 us. And they won't stop killing us
14 without accountability and when they are
15 instead rewarded with millions more for
16 brutalizing our communities and going
17 over budget.

18 I encourage Councilmembers to
19 read the letter from ACLU to the U.N.
20 about the violence our City has suffered
21 before approving any more money to the
22 Police Department. Thank you,
23 Councilmembers, for your time to testify
24 today.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you

1 very much.

2 Will the Clerk please call the
3 next witness.

4 THE CLERK: Samantha Daniels.

5 MS. DANIELS: Hi. Can you hear
6 me?

7 THE CLERK: We can hear you.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, we
9 can hear you.

10 MS. DANIELS: Hi. Can you hear
11 me?

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, we
13 can hear you. You can go ahead and
14 start your testimony.

15 MS. DANIELS: Great. Thank you
16 so much. Good afternoon. My name is
17 Samantha Daniels. My pronouns are
18 she/her/hers and I'm a social worker in
19 Philadelphia. I felt compelled to
20 testify today because I am profoundly
21 concerned about the ask to increase
22 police funding in this moment. If our
23 communities are to truly have the
24 opportunity to shape our City budget
25 with more power and the City is earnest

1 in its commitment to focusing on issues
2 of racial and economic justice in the
3 next budget cycle, then they must
4 address overspending on a police force
5 that disproportionately brutalizes Black
6 and Brown, disabled and mentally-ill
7 people and members of the LGBTQ
8 community, and tear-gassed peaceful
9 protesters who had the audacity to speak
10 truth to a more just future for all.

11 The people spoke at the polls.
12 We want robust police oversight, not
13 racists. Ethically as a social worker
14 and as a human being with a deep love
15 for this City, it is time to invest in
16 community-based resources and programs
17 across Philadelphia, the very resources
18 that have been drastically underfunded,
19 housing, health care, mental health
20 care, child care, schools and not to
21 mention supportive resources during this
22 devastating pandemic. Where a City
23 spends its money reflects who is truly
24 valued, and I fail to see how the
25 humanity of all Philadelphians have been

1 taken into account. Thank you so much
2 for the opportunity to testify.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
4 very much for your testimony.

5 Will the Clerk please call the
6 next witness.

7 THE CLERK: The last person on
8 this panel and the panels in general is
9 Daniel Hawkins.

10 MR. HAWKINS: Hi. Am I
11 audible?

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, I can
13 hear you loud and clear, Daniel. You
14 can go ahead and proceed with your
15 testimony.

16 MR. HAWKINS: Am I audible?

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, I
18 hear you loud and clear, Mr. Hawkins.
19 You can go ahead with your testimony.

20 MR. HAWKINS: Thank you,
21 Councilmembers, for this opportunity to
22 talk over where we put our resources and
23 thus, what we believe in. I'm dodging
24 out of work to testify here because I
25 feel it's really important. Please do

1 not give the police more money, not 17.7
2 million now for expenses already
3 incurred this summer, not 14 million as
4 Budget Director Waxman explained spread
5 over the next several years.

6 This summer I saw squads of
7 militarized police descend on my
8 neighborhood so geared up and violent
9 and anonymous that they looked like the
10 private army of a James Bond
11 supervillain. I saw them brutalize
12 people on 52nd Street. And late in the
13 day on my way home to dinner, I heard my
14 neighbors screaming at them trying to
15 reach them through their riot shields
16 and helmets and bearcats, imploring them
17 to just go home so that things could
18 settle down.

19 They responded as we all know
20 with rubber bullets and tear gas. And
21 the next day, as we all know they
22 exacted such unsolicited violence on
23 protesters on 676 that Mayor Kenney and
24 Commissioner Outlaw had to issue an
25 apology. Police should not be paid for

1 overtime, creating, exacerbating and
2 expending conflict, not for brutalizing
3 my neighbors, not for brutality that
4 requires an apology.

5 There is so much pain in my
6 neighborhood right now. You don't need
7 me to tell you this. Amidst all the
8 stresses of a global pandemic, my
9 neighbors have not only been physically
10 brutalized by the police, but also
11 subjected to constant police
12 surveillance and intimidation. These
13 are not essential operations. It's paid
14 harm. So much would be better if the
15 police just went home.

16 Please do not reward them
17 instead for harm. Please do not give
18 them more money to harm us further. I
19 believe in my neighbors. Given care and
20 opportunity, my community could do
21 extraordinary things. We need care and
22 opportunity in the forms of so many
23 other citizens talked about so
24 eloquently on this call, especially now,
25 not more policing and this includes

1 tasers.

2 Tasers do not offer care or
3 opportunity. If the police need tasers
4 to do less harm or they need to cover
5 expenses from the summer, they can do so
6 through their enormous \$725 million
7 budget. They can cut overtime like
8 Commissioner Outlaw proposed in June.
9 They can do an interdepartmental
10 transfer like Deputy Commissioner
11 Coulter talked about and draw down all
12 that high harm James Bond supervillain
13 army gear.

14 As Councilmember Thomas
15 described next year, they can be more
16 innovative and efficient within their
17 budgets or as Councilmember Quinones-
18 Sanchez suggested, simply manage their
19 budgets better. In any case, I
20 understand that the police budget has
21 increased by almost a third in the last
22 four years. Let's not give them still
23 more for brutalizing us this year.

24 Maybe I don't understand the
25 details of how budgets work. Maybe this

1 isn't the way City money moves. I don't
2 think ultimately that really matters.
3 This is bigger than that. I want to
4 believe in my elected officials and
5 believe that you believe in us too, and
6 that you will listen to us like
7 Councilmember Thomas described and will
8 act on it.

9 Don't give the police money for
10 hitting us. Don't hit us with more
11 policing. If we as a City invest still
12 further in the police, we're investing
13 against us. Please believe in us.
14 Please do not give the police more
15 money. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
17 very much.

18 Mariana, are there any more
19 witnesses to testify?

20 THE CLERK: No, that was the
21 last one.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
23 At this particular time, I'm going to
24 turn the meeting back over to Madam
25 Chair.

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. I
3 want to thank everyone so much who is
4 here.

5 Is there anyone else that we
6 failed to call who is here to testify on
7 any of the bills?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

10 Are there any additional comments from
11 the Committee? Anyone else?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

14 Okay. So we are working on an amendment
15 that will be circulated in about 10
16 minutes. I'm going to take a 10-minute
17 break, make sure that folks have the
18 amendments and then we will come back on
19 and we will ask our Budget Director
20 Marisa Waxman to go through the line
21 items that are amended before we go into
22 our public meeting. So for the Tech
23 staff, thank you so very much. We will
24 resume at 2:05.

25 At this point, I also want to

1 ask anybody who is here for the meeting,
2 if folks want to log off, they can at
3 this time. We will resume at 2:05.
4 Thank you.

5 (Brief recess.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

7 Thank you. Thank you, everyone, for
8 your patience. I will ask that we
9 continue the Appropriations hearing.

10 To the Committee members, we
11 have circulated an amendment. I'm going
12 to ask our Budget Director Marisa Waxman
13 to briefly discuss the big item on the
14 amendment so that we can close out our
15 hearing.

16 Thank you, Marisa. Thank you
17 for your patience.

18 MS. GOREN WAXMAN: Oh, no
19 problem. Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 So what this concludes and
21 enables is a \$20 million commitment to
22 small business, including the
23 hospitality sector to provide additional
24 relief to those we haven't been able to
25 reach so far. And the way that we are

1 accomplishing this with the amendment is
2 a \$13 million increase in the General
3 Fund for the FY21 Operating Budget to
4 the contributions line for the Finance
5 Department, so that's 13 million.

6 The other 7 million will be
7 coming directly from the City's CARES
8 Act CRF Fund. So all together, that
9 enables us to make that \$20 million
10 commitment.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

12 Thank you. And we will work through
13 some of the various subgroups that have
14 been working with the different
15 industries in addition to hospitality
16 and some of the small business
17 conversations with the Commerce
18 Department and some of the Arts and
19 Culture folks, so we will do the best we
20 can to extend that money given where we
21 are today.

22 Are there any questions
23 related -- there were some other minor
24 amendments that were programmatic that
25 were circulated. Any members of the

1 Committee have a question?

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: Madam Chair,
3 it's Bobby Henon. I have a question on
4 the small business appropriation. Will
5 that be going to the Finance Department
6 in a particular program that already
7 exist and would it be the intent to
8 clear the backlog that we have of
9 applications that are in the process or
10 new applicants that we can try to reach
11 that don't qualify or hasn't been
12 eligible to date that are also
13 suffering?

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 So we have a multitude of questions and
16 in order to piece the money together, 7
17 million of this, as the Budget Director
18 said, is from stimulus so there's some
19 parameters around it. And the 13
20 million is from the stimulus fund.

21 So, Councilmember, we will have
22 discussions with the Administration with
23 all the different requests and then
24 figure out the most efficient way to get
25 that out. But we wanted to send a

1 strong message and the Administration
2 did too, that we hear you and we know
3 that both you and Councilman Domb and
4 Councilman Johnson have a work group, so
5 yet to be identified and determined.
6 We'll have to go back to those
7 departments and figure out the most
8 efficient way.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Well, I
10 appreciate you leading the charge of
11 this through this hearing. I have
12 several businesses in my District alone
13 that started GoFundMe pages and that is
14 very, very sad to see that their
15 advertising is not a 20-percent discount
16 to come in and patronize our business,
17 but this is my GoFundMe page so I can
18 pay employees and pay the rent.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 No, no. It's very dire. And one of the
21 things that we want to do and if we've
22 learned anything from this pandemic is
23 that this is going to go for a long time
24 and I think we have to be strategic in
25 how we help and get to some of those

1 folks who did not have the capacity to
2 do some of the PPP stuff. There was a
3 lot of back-office issues related to
4 some of the smaller neighborhood-based
5 businesses.

6 So I think this gives us a
7 placeholder to have those discussions
8 and try to make sure we can get to the
9 maximum number of people that are in
10 dire need, taking into consideration who
11 were forced to close during that time.

12 So I just wanted to make sure that we
13 had the tools and we can figure out over
14 the next 10 days how to best utilize the
15 money.

16 COUNCILMAN HENON: That will be
17 great. And I hope we can expedite these
18 conversations after this is finally
19 appropriated through Council's approval,
20 so thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 No, thank you so very much and to all of
23 the folks who have been working with all
24 of the different business sectors in the
25 City.

1 So if there are no other
2 questions of our Budget Director, then
3 this will conclude our public hearing.
4 We will now go into our public meeting
5 to consider the actions before us.

6 I'm going to ask the Clerk Eric
7 to please do a roll call as we end our
8 public hearing and now enter the public
9 meeting of the Committee of
10 Appropriations. Will the Clerk call the
11 roll.

12 THE CLERK: Councilmember
13 Quinones-Sanchez.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
15 Here.

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember
17 Johnson.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present.

19 THE CLERK: Councilmember
20 Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Present.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember
23 O'Neill.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

25 THE CLERK: Councilmember

1 Henon.

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: Present.

3 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Present.

5 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember

6 Domb.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Present.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 Thank you.

10 The Chair will now recognize
11 Councilmember Johnson for a motion to
12 the amendment that has been circulated
13 and as discussed with our Budget
14 Director to Bill No. 200620.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
16 Madam Chair.

17 I offer an amendment to Bill
18 No. 200620. A copy of the amendment has
19 been circulated to all members of the
20 Committee. I move that the amendment to
21 Bill No. 200620 be approved.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 I need a second.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Second.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 The motion has been moved and properly
2 seconded that the amendments to Bill No.
3 200620 be approved.

4 All those in favor will signify
5 by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

11 The ayes have it. The motion carries
12 and the amendment to Bill 200620 all has
13 been approved.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Johnson for a motion on
16 Bill 200620 as amended.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Madam Chair.

19 I move that Bill No. 200620 as
20 amended be reported from this Committee
21 with a favorable recommendation and
22 further move that the rules of Council
23 be suspended to permit first reading of
24 this bill at the next session of
25 Council.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Second.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 It has been properly moved and seconded
4 that Bill No. 200620 as amended be
5 reported from this Committee with a
6 favorable recommendation and further
7 move for the rules of Council to be
8 suspended to permit first reading of
9 this bill at our next Council session.

10 All those in favor of the
11 motion will signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

17 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Johnson for a motion to
20 Bill 200621.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair.

23 I move that Bill No. 200621 be
24 reported from this Committee with a
25 favorable recommendation and further

1 move that the rules of Council be
2 suspended to permit first reading of
3 this bill at the next session of
4 Council.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Second.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

7 The motion has been moved and properly
8 seconded that Bill 200621 be reported
9 from this Committee with a favorable
10 recommendation and further move that the
11 rules of Council be suspended to permit
12 first reading at the next session.

13 All those in favor will signify
14 by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

17 Those opposed?

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm a nay
19 on that one, Councilmember.

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

21 For the record, Councilmember Thomas has
22 voted no on Bill 200621. The ayes have
23 it and the motion carries.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Johnson for a motion to

1 Bill No. 200622.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
3 Madam Chair.

4 I move that Bill No. 200622 be
5 reported from this Committee with a
6 favorable recommendation and further
7 move that the rules of Council be
8 suspended to permit first reading of
9 this bill at the next session of
10 Council.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Second.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
13 The motion has been moved and properly
14 seconded that Bill No. 200622 be
15 reported from this Committee with a
16 favorable recommendation and further
17 move that the rules of Council be
18 suspended to permit first reading at the
19 next session.

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Johnson for -- oh, we
4 already did that. We did 200623, right?
5 Am I right?

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We did --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No, we
8 didn't do --

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: 622, not
10 623.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We didn't
12 do 623 yet.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
14 Okay. I'm sorry. I got so many sheets
15 here. My apologies.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Johnson for a motion on
18 Bill 200623.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair.

21 I move that Bill No. 200623 be
22 reported from this Committee with a
23 favorable recommendation and further
24 move that the rules of Council be
25 suspended to permit first reading of

1 this bill at the next session of
2 Council.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Second.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 The motion has been moved and properly
6 seconded that Bill 200623 be reported
7 from this Committee with a favorable
8 recommendation and further move that the
9 rules of Council be suspended to permit
10 first reading of this bill at the next
11 session.

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

15 Any opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

18 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

19 Again, this concludes the
20 business before this Committee. Once
21 again, I want to thank the
22 Administration for working with us.
23 This has been a really, really busy
24 week. It feels almost like a budget
25 week. We have a little bit more work to

1 do.

2 I just want to assure the
3 members of this Committee that we heard
4 you. We want to over the next month or
5 so -- and I know that there's a
6 discussion forthcoming that
7 Councilmember Domb will chair around
8 Fiscal Stability. We will do the best
9 we can to get as much information to all
10 the Members. Any outstanding questions
11 that you have, please forward it to the
12 Chair and we will assure that you will
13 get written responses to the issues that
14 have been brought forward. So I want to
15 thank everyone, the staff and all the
16 technical folks working behind the
17 scenes, and have a good afternoon.

18 Councilmember Domb, do you want
19 to state for a time certain that your
20 Fiscal Stability Committee will begin?

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: We're going
22 to start if it's okay at 2:45, in about
23 seven minutes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Thank you very much. We will all be on

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1 there.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good job,
3 Madam Chair.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good job,
5 Madam Chair.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good job,
7 Madam Chair. Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
9 Thank you.

10 (Committee on Appropriations
11 concluded at 1:15 p.m.)

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

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

TANEHA C. CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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