

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
4 BEFORE THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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6 - - -
7 Room 400, City Hall
8 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
9 Thursday, 9/21/00
10 9:25 a.m.
11 - - -

12 BILL 000539 - an ordinance authorizing transfers
13 in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 within the
14 Grants Revenue Fund from the Director of Finance -
15 Provision for Other Grants to the Department of
16 Licenses and Inspections.

17 PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI, Chair
18 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER, Vice Chair
19 COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
20 COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
21 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
22

23 - - -
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1 /00 - APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

2 I N D E X

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5 John Coates Director of Real Estate
6 Redevelopment Authority

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1 9/21/00 APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 000539

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.

4 The Committee on Appropriations is now in
5 session. Will the clerk please read the bill.

6 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000539, an
7 ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations
8 for Fiscal Year 2001 within the Grants Revenue
9 Fund from the Director of Finance - Provision for
10 Other Grants to the Department of Licenses and
11 Inspections.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Is there
13 anyone here to testify?

14 (Witness comes forward.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.
16 Would you please state your name for the record.

17 MR. COATES: Good morning, Madam
18 Chairwoman and members of the committee. My name
19 is John Coates. I am here on behalf of Herbert
20 Wetzel, from the Redevelopment Authority, and I'm
21 testifying in support of Bill 539. I'll read the
22 testimony.

23 Madam Chairperson and members of the
24 Committee on Appropriations, I am John Coates,
25 Director of Real Estate for the Redevelopment

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2 Authority, and I'm testifying on behalf of Herbert
3 Wetzel, the Executive Director.

4 As a result of the efforts of State
5 Representative William F. Keller of the 184th
6 Legislative District, the RDA will receive a \$1
7 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of
8 Community and Economic Development. This grant
9 will be for the sole purpose of demolishing
10 approximately 138 vacant and abandoned properties,
11 along with related activities, such as placing
12 stucco on remaining party walls, in Wards 1, 39,
13 and 48.

14 Because RDA is not legally able to
15 enter private property or place a lien on private
16 property for work performed, we have created a
17 relationship with the Department of Licenses and
18 Inspections whereby they will perform the
19 demolition and related work. RDA will, in turn,
20 reimburse their cost. Appropriately, Bill 539
21 increases the L&I budget by an amount precisely
22 equal to the grant; thus, these demolitions will
23 not be at the expense of the City of Philadelphia.

24 On behalf of the RDA, I ask for
25 favorable consideration of this matter and

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2 respectfully ask that Bill 539 be added to the
3 first-reading calendar for today's stated meeting.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

6 Is there anyone else here to testify?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are there any
9 questions from members of the committee?

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair.

12 I would just like to take this
13 opportunity for the record to publicly thank
14 Representative Keller. Representative Keller and
15 I, for about the last two or three years, have
16 done innumerable walk-throughs in the area of South
17 Philadelphia which I have been desperately trying
18 to get stepped-up enforcement and stepped-up
19 demolition, along with L&I Deputy Commissioner Bob
20 Solvibile. And it's through his efforts that we
21 have this million dollars today, which will
22 certainly go a long way in helping me realize a
23 vision I've had for South Philadelphia, in the
24 southern portion of my district, in creating new
25 housing.

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2 Already, we are starting to see the
3 results of the demolition that has already taken
4 place even before the million dollars in place,
5 where we're creating numerous side yards in the
6 39th Ward, taking over abandoned buildings and
7 vacant lots and putting them to good use, and
8 giving homeowners an opportunity now to grow.

9 So, again, I want to, for the record,
10 thank Representative Keller for all the time and
11 effort and energy put into this. And if you can
12 do this again next year, I'm certain I will have
13 some more nice things to say about you.

14 Would you like to say anything,
15 Mr. Keller?

16 (Representative Keller responds
17 off-mic.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Councilman
19 Clarke.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 I, too, would like to thank
23 Representative Keller, although it's not going in
24 my district. But, Representative Keller, I'd like
25 to ask you off the record at some later date how

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2 you did it so I can talk to my state
3 representative and see if we can get a million
4 dollars in my district.

5 MR. KELLER: Same way you do it,
6 Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right, all
8 right. That's helpful.

9 (Laughter.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are there any
11 other questions?

12 (No further questions.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
14 much.

15 MR. COATES: Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: That ends our
17 public hearing on Bill No. 539.

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19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Now we will go
20 into our public meeting.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair.

24 I move that Bill No. 000539 be reported
25 out of this committee with a favorable

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2 recommendation and a further recommendation that
3 the rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
4 first reading at our next session.

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those in
6 favor?

7 Opposed?

8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Therefore,
9 Bill No. 000539 will be reported out of this
10 committee with a favorable recommendation and with
11 a suspension of rules so as to permit first
12 reading at our next session of Council.

13 That ends our public meeting of the
14 Committee on Appropriations. Thank you all very
15 much for coming in. And, Councilman Keller,
16 again, thank you.

17 (Adjourned at 9:30 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Thursday, September 21 2000, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

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RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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BILL NO. 000539

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter