

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
4 Operating Budget HEARINGS - CONTINUED

5 - - -
6 Room 400, City Hall
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Tuesday, February 22, 2000
9 9:15 a.m.
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14 BILL 00005 - An ordinance adopting the Operating
15 Budget for Fiscal Year 2001
16

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18 PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
19 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
20 COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
21 COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
22 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
23 COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO
24 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
25 COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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I N D E X

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BILL 000005 PAGE

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Streets Department 1353

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Public Property 1525

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1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

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

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

4 This is the continued public hearing of the
5 Committee of the Whole regarding the Operating
6 Budget, Bill No. 005.

7 The first department to testify this
8 morning will be the Streets Department.

9 (Streets Department witnesses come
10 forward.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: Good morning,
13 Council President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Kindly
15 identify yourself for the record and proceed with
16 your testimony.

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, President
18 Verna, Members of City Council, ladies and
19 gentlemen, my name is Lawrence Moy, M-O-Y,
20 Commissioner of the Streets Department. I'm
21 pleased to be here this morning to present
22 testimony on behalf of Streets Department's Fiscal
23 Year 2001 proposed Operating Budget.

24 We are requesting a General Fund
25 appropriation of \$166,428,008 and all funds

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 appropriation of our proposed budget reflects a
3 net General Fund increase of \$3,707,287 and an All
4 Funds appropriation of \$146,678,008. Our proposed
5 budget reflects a net general fund increase of \$3,
6 707,287 and from Fiscal Year 2000 estimated
7 obligations. The overall request for the
8 department for all three major funds to sustain
9 operations General, County Liquid Fuels, and
10 Special Gasoline Tax, is a net \$3,720,287 higher
11 than Fiscal Year 2000 estimated obligations.

12 The increase in funding over estimated
13 obligations is a result of full funding of
14 authorized positions, funding of wage increases
15 through FY 2000, anticipated increases in street
16 lighting maintenance and sanitation disposal
17 contracts, and funding for streetscape maintenance
18 for the Avenue of the Arts. The Streets
19 Department authorized position level remains at
20 2,232.

21 I would like to briefly highlight some
22 of the goals that have been achieved in the areas
23 of refuse collection, recycling, street
24 maintenance and cleaning.

25 Collections and cleaning. Our

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Sanitation Division has used the addition of more
3 efficient vehicles and improved productivity per
4 crew to increase on-time collections and reduce
5 costs. We project on-time household collections
6 at a rate of at least 95 percent for FY 2000 and
7 FY 2001. We're continuing our staffing at the
8 same 1,480 positions as last year, and I am proud
9 to report that the results of this year's survey
10 conducted for Mayors's Report on City Services
11 showed that nearly 89 percent of respondents said
12 that their trash was collected on time either
13 always or frequently.

14 In addition, the budget request for
15 sanitation funds, the current scheduled
16 street-cleaning program for arterial and
17 commercial corridors and the pilot programs
18 initiated this year.

19 The Department is addressing several
20 impediments to effective neighborhood
21 street-cleaning through the pilot program. We're
22 combining ticketing and education with more
23 frequent cleaning and the permanent posting of
24 cleaning schedule signs to try to improve the
25 efficacy of our neighborhood cleaning program.

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2 Preliminary information indicates that the public
3 is supportive of this program.

4 Recycling. The curbside recycling
5 program which was available to only a quarter of
6 the city as recently as 1992 has been available in
7 every neighborhood since March 1994. In November
8 1996, the Department began citywide collection of
9 mixed paper. This has helped to offset the
10 national decline and tonnage of commingled mixed
11 recyclables as more plastics are used to replace
12 glass. In FY '99 43,668 tons of recyclables were
13 collected. In the current projection through FY
14 2000 and 2001 are 45,410 and 46,700 tons,
15 respectively. The increased tonnage is
16 anticipated to be a result of our pilot effort and
17 ongoing educational programs. This budget request
18 continues funding for the pilot program.

19 Additionally, recycling has been
20 instituted in 190 City buildings including
21 Municipal Services Building, Criminal Justice
22 Center, City Hall, branch libraries, Police
23 Headquarters, the Fire Administration Building,
24 and a number of health centers. This program will
25 expand to a total of 250 municipal buildings in FY

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 2001.

3 Also in FY 2001, we will continue to
4 support the community partnership program that
5 provides an outlet for citizens to recycle
6 materials not included in curbside collection
7 program. We are currently working with the
8 Administration to fill the vacant recycling
9 coordinator position.

10 Street repairs. The Highway Division's
11 reengineering efforts succeeded in improving many
12 of the services the division provides. In FY '99
13 Highway Division employees resurfaces 183 miles of
14 roadways compared to 158 miles in FY '98, plus 28
15 federal aid municipal miles and 108 miles in FY
16 '97, plus 68 contractor-repaired miles and 8
17 federal aid municipal miles.

18 In FY 2000 and 2001 the division
19 projects to resurface 156 miles of streets with
20 local funds in 42 and 29 miles, respectively, with
21 federal aid municipal funds. The increase in the
22 number of miles resurfaced in FY '98 and FY '99
23 results from simultaneously conducting the Hot In
24 Place or HIP asphalt recycling pilot while
25 maintaining three resurfacing crews.

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 In FY '99, in addition to increases in
3 street resurfacing, we restored 8,836 ditches.
4 Having that ditch backlog, our projection for FY
5 2000 and 2001 is to restore 7500 ditch openings
6 and maintain the zero ditch backlog at the end of
7 construction season.

8 In FY '99, we placed 1.12 million
9 square feet of pavement markings, an increase of
10 57 percent over FY '98 with projections for 1.33
11 million square foot in FY 2000 and FY 2001. This
12 translates into 2,009 intersections with new
13 crosswalks and 187 miles of streets with new lane
14 markings. In FY 2000 and 2001 we expect to place
15 new crosswalk markings at 2500 intersections.

16 The department repaired 16,202 potholes
17 in FY '99 and projects repairs to 30,000 in FY
18 2000 and 2001. Also in FY 2000 and 2001, we plan
19 to perform over a million linear feet of cracked
20 ceiling.

21 I am pleased to report that the results
22 of this year's survey conducted for the Mayor's
23 Report on City Services show that 74 percent of
24 the respondents said the streets in our
25 neighborhood were in good or mostly good condition

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 compared to 73 percent for FY '98 and 70 percent
3 for FY '97.

4 Street lighting. Between FY '91 and
5 the end of FY '99, the department replaced over
6 63,000 lights as part of its 12-year citywide
7 program to replace obsolete fixtures. Under the
8 program, old light are being replaced with
9 energy-efficient high-pressure sodium fixtures.
10 When the entire program completed in FY 2002, the
11 department projects that a total of 75,000 lights
12 will have been replaced. This program is enabling
13 us to see reductions in terms of repair and
14 maintenance that you can see reflected in our
15 productivity measures.

16 Traffic engineering. Between FY '98
17 and end of FY 2001, the department will have
18 modernized traffic signals at over 500
19 intersections in Center City and in the Northeast.
20 Modernization includes overhead replacement of
21 lights and the installation of state-of-the-art
22 solid state controllers that electronically
23 communicate with a centralized control center to
24 help improve traffic flow. This is part of our
25 ITS, the Intelligent Transportation System.

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 In FY '99, the Department and the
3 Municipal Energy Office completed a two-year
4 citywide installation program of red light
5 emitting diodes or LEDs and long-life incandescent
6 bulbs in all traffic signals. The LED
7 installation has reduced the annual electric bill
8 by approximately \$887,000. Future capital
9 projects will include green and yellow LEDs for
10 additional savings.

11 In conclusion, the employees of the
12 Department of Streets will continue working
13 diligently in the delivery of services to our
14 citizens and neighborhoods and improving the
15 quality of life in our City. I'm especially proud
16 of their tremendous efforts during our recent
17 prolonged snow and ice periods. We will continue
18 working closely with City Council to shape
19 effective programs and, therefore, we request your
20 favorable consideration of this budget.

21 I'm available to answer your questions
22 at this time.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
24 Commissioner.

25 In your testimony, you mentioned a

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 pilot program concerning recycling. What is the
3 status of this program and what are the findings?

4 COMMISSIONER MOY: We have preliminary
5 findings in terms of the pilot areas. What we --
6 and they are positive in the sense that there is
7 an increase in the results primarily in our area
8 four, which is the northwest and in Center City.
9 What we expect to do is to have information to
10 compare this with by June with the rest of the
11 City. The Managing Director had talked earlier at
12 the budget session there about looking at the
13 uptick in the pilot but he was concerned about the
14 downturn in the rest of the City, so we need to
15 look at both of those situations and determine why
16 that is happening and what can be done about it.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I guess my
18 question was, why are you only continuing the
19 pilot program in Fiscal 2001 and not expanding it?

20 COMMISSIONER MOY: Because we -- we
21 need to look at the cost of how much the unit cost
22 is to expand this kind of program citywide. The
23 numbers, the absolute numbers themselves may be
24 up, but the unit costs are going to be significant
25 and we also have to find out why in the non-pilot

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 areas we've taken a general downturn in recycling
3 reduction. We have to really look at this, and I
4 would expect in June, we'll be going over this
5 with the Administration and we would share that
6 with Council, certainly.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I don't
8 understand that, but on Page 4 of your testimony,
9 has your department maxed out on the average
10 tonnage collected per crew in the Sanitation
11 Division since you are projecting the collection
12 rate to be the same as it was in Fiscal 1999? Why
13 hasn't this increased as the department has
14 increased the number of high-density compactors?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: We think we've
16 reached close to the optimal range for reduction
17 per crew, Council President. Fourteen is probably
18 our number. We've been on the rise over the last
19 couple of years. Over the last eight years or
20 seven years, we came up from 11, and we are up to
21 14. We have decided that the 25-yard high density
22 is more of a vehicle of choice for us and we think
23 14 is about the number for us at this time for the
24 production.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Also on Page

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 7 of your testimony, street resurfacing, will your
3 department continue to use the hot in place method
4 for resurfacing? If so, what are the types of
5 resurfacing projects that this method will be
6 used?

7 COMMISSIONER MOY: It is our
8 expectation to continue to use the hot in place
9 recycling. It would be used in -- the areas where
10 it is very beneficial is when we have straight
11 sections of street, long sections of street where
12 there is pave back. When we get into cul-de-sacs
13 and where there's a lot of turning and curving
14 streets, it's not quite as clear-cut. The
15 benefits are there, but it's our expectation and
16 we also do testing where we have streets that have
17 a base that accepts recycling, which is basically
18 what this program is. So we will test those three
19 so you continue to use HIP wherever we can.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do you really
21 think that that's a successful method to be using?
22 Because I know last year several Councilmembers
23 saw photographs of streets that had been
24 resurfaced through this method. You would never
25 know that they had been resurfaced. I mean, they

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 were damaged as they were before the resurfacing
3 was done.

4 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yeah, the streets
5 that we saw last year, as my understanding, have
6 been repaired. We engaged in another program this
7 past year, and while there were a few bugs here
8 and there, for the most part, that was a
9 successful program for us.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Here and
11 there, but not 100 percent?

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: Not 100 percent,
13 that's right. And we're continuing to work with
14 the contractor here to get it refined to a point
15 where it works for everyone. I mean, there's a
16 lot of pluses to the program.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What are the
18 pluses?

19 COMMISSIONER MOY: The pluses, aside
20 from cost, I think a big thing is that the
21 conventional resurfacing used, we had at least a
22 two-step program where you have someone come in
23 and mill the street if it's existing material.
24 They'd have to then set boxes, and it takes a
25 number of weeks before you're able to come in with

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 the final resurfacing application. So there's a
3 risk involved in terms of the people that have to
4 ride on that surface. The alternative for a HIP
5 is that it is usually done within the same day
6 where they take a milling -- take that material,
7 inject it with an additive, a rejuvenator, and put
8 that material back down in the same day, sometimes
9 within a matter of hours so that people have a new
10 street to ride on. So it's cost-effective and
11 it's fast, and I think in many neighborhoods this
12 has been a welcome kind of benefit to the
13 residents and the commercials.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Why are you
15 projecting your disposal contracts to increase by
16 approximately \$2.1 million in Fiscal 2001?

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe that's a
18 cost of living -- a mandated cost of living raise
19 that's in there. I think that's a cost of living
20 raise.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That's what it is,
22 yeah.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Moy, on
24 Page 39-91 of the detail, it shows \$150,000 for
25 Hepatitis B vaccinations. Is this a new program

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 and who will be entitled to receive a vaccination?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: It is a new program,
4 and we have not worked out the details, but we
5 intend to work with Risk Management and there will
6 be a number of our sanitation workers particularly
7 that we expect would be expected to participate in
8 this.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Also
10 on Page 7 of your testimony, you say that "We will
11 continue to repair potholes reported during the
12 peak season from mid-February through mid-April,
13 within four days to six days during the rest of
14 the year."

15 I hate doing this to you. I don't want
16 to embarrass you in any way. But this is a folder
17 that I have had in my office with requests for
18 potholes, for depressions, for any number of types
19 of complaints of that nature. Some of them go
20 back to 1997. I have a couple from 1996. We have
21 written at least four letters. We called the
22 constituents or they call us, and we never get a
23 response.

24 Now, I don't know that your testimony
25 addresses the concerns of my constituents. If

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 they're done within days, these are years. And we
3 don't even have the courtesy of receiving a
4 response from the second highway district. I
5 think it's a disgrace.

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, Council
7 President, I think you and I spoke on late last
8 week.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I told you
10 about this. I want an explanation.

11 COMMISSIONER MOY: We are in the
12 process of reviewing all of those, that
13 correspondence that you sent over. A number of
14 these had been either addressed verbally, and I
15 apologize for not having written --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: They haven't
17 been done verbally. If they had been, the staff
18 would be more than happy to make that notation and
19 notify the constituent. That means that we're not
20 given a verbal report. Consequently, a member of
21 my staff has to write another letter and another
22 letter. And then the constituent calls says that
23 the complaint hasn't been addressed. I mean, we
24 have 60-plus requests here. I just give up --

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: We are looking into

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 it and we will give you a report on that within
3 the week, Council President.
4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Will it be
5 this week or next week or sometime next season?
6 COMMISSIONER MOY: It should be the end
7 of this week.
8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 DiCicco.
11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
12 Chair.
13 Good morning, Commissioner.
14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Good morning,
15 Councilman.
16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I just want to go
17 back for a moment on the recycling issue. What
18 I'm about to say are basically more comments than
19 anything else.
20 In the areas where there is not weekly
21 recycling, it is my observation because my
22 community, my neighborhood doesn't have it. We
23 opted for the on-street cleaning in the southern
24 end of my district. I notice that the majority of
25 the people are not putting out recyclables at all.

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2 So that might be attributing to the decrease in
3 the tonnage for some reason. I think basically
4 people think that if there's not any enforcement
5 going on or we don't continue with education, they
6 kind of forget that they should be putting out
7 recyclables. So I offer that to you as a comment.
8 I think what we really need to do is really
9 increase the educational sides of this. As an
10 example, where I live there are six house,
11 single-family houses, and six apartments and we
12 all share common area for trash. And I observe
13 the area where we have the recycling cans or
14 containers, and the majority of the people in
15 those 12 units do make an effort to put
16 recyclables in the containers, but they often mix
17 up things or put plastic bags, pizza boxes, and
18 things that really shouldn't be in there. So it
19 tells me that there are people who are concerned
20 about recycling but really don't have a full
21 understanding of the types of materials that
22 should be placed in there. And I really think it
23 just goes back to education. I know that from
24 time to time materials are put out, but I don't
25 think it is put out on a regular basis at least

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 enough to get people into the habit of and the
3 flow of doing weekly recycling, or even every
4 other week recycling. So I really suggest to you
5 that we make a concerted effort. I know we have
6 some additional money you're looking for in
7 education, but maybe we need to do a little bit
8 more there. And again, I don't know of anyone in
9 my community who has ever received a violation for
10 not recycling. While I know that can be
11 problematic for me going forward and I've got to
12 be careful what I wish for, I think if we do the
13 proper education, and I think you know about this
14 from the on-street cleaning that we're doing, give
15 everyone an opportunity the first few weeks of
16 that program who are being ticketed some
17 relaxation in the enforcement of that, but after
18 that I say all bets off. You can't have it both
19 ways. And although I still get complaints and
20 people screaming at me that they're getting
21 ticketed for not moving their cars on certain
22 days, I don't care. I want to get the streets
23 cleaned and I think that's what the majority of
24 the people want. So I really would like to see
25 some additional education and then follow-up

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 enforcement. Maybe a warning has to be put out
3 there that you haven't put out recyclables this
4 week, you're mixing with regular trash, and if
5 continues, then you're going to be cited. As
6 District Councilperson, I would have no problem
7 with that type of enforcement.

8 The other thing I just wanted to touch
9 on is that over the last four years since I've
10 been a Councilperson, we've had many heated
11 discussions in this chambers and on the phone and
12 in your office about some of the problems that we
13 have when we try to address the needs of
14 constituents who request different types of
15 traffic signals or signal devices at various
16 intersections. And we generally get the typical
17 generic letter saying, "Thank you for requesting"
18 -- and I'm not going to beat a dead horse. We've
19 had, like I said, some heated discussions in this
20 chambers. What I think like to see as the Chair
21 of the Streets and Services Committee going
22 forward is your department meet with either me,
23 the District Councilpeople, the people who are
24 making these requests, and we know that there's
25 State statutes prohibit signs at certain locations

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 because they're not warranted. I really think we
3 ought to sit down together and figure a way and
4 work together and figure out what we need to do
5 about changing some of the that legislation so
6 that you and Charlie and others don't have to hear
7 from me and other Councilpeople screaming and
8 yelling because constituents are yelling at us.
9 There has to be a way in which we can begin to
10 look at doing some amendments. If we have to go
11 to Harrisburg and speak to some of our friends in
12 Harrisburg about changing some of those laws,
13 whatever it is, I think we need to approach this
14 in more positive way rather than saying, "Well,
15 we'd like to do, but we can't." Because for me
16 and there are other people in this chambers have
17 been around here longer than I have been, they've
18 been hearing it much longer than I have. And I
19 think that that's what I'd like to see going
20 forward and maybe you and I and Charlie or
21 somebody can sit down in the next week or so and
22 figure out a way in which we can start approaching
23 this at the State level if that's where we need to
24 go. So when you come into Council, at least every
25 opportunity, every avenue, no pun intended, has

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2 been explored. If we have to say no, we have
3 attempted to the best of our ability to get
4 something done and not just open up the textbook
5 and say, "Well, it doesn't allow us." So I think
6 that we ought to look to do that.

7 The only other thing, I do want to
8 comment and commend your department for, at least
9 in my district, the way that the snow was removed
10 in the last storm. I know that that got caught by
11 surprise. And although everyone is not happy,
12 we'll never make everyone happy, but I think it
13 was a good job and for the most part people were
14 very satisfied with the department's snow removal
15 efforts.

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: Thank you,
17 Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I don't have any
19 further comments.

20 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you.
21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair.

24 Commissioner, I have three or four
25 questions I'd like to ask, but I'm going start off

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 with something that has been very, very
3 controversial in the Northwest section of the City
4 of Philadelphia. I just can't understand why
5 there hasn't been any movement in reference to the
6 repair of the Chestnut Hill Avenue Bridge that
7 crosses over the Wissahickon Creek. I kind of
8 lost track now how long it's been out of service
9 one way. For years, Councilman Longstreth reminds
10 me. That you were quoted or one of your staff was
11 quoted that before -- after this work starts,
12 we're looking at 33 months before this bridge is
13 completed, so we're talking about a long time that
14 that roadway has been out of service. Could you
15 bring us up to speed? Because, again, you might
16 have gotten copies of letters from the Chestnut
17 Hill Community Association and other interested
18 parties that just cannot believe it. And I don't
19 mean to be cute here, and I said this before, I
20 said the bridges in Kosovo have all been replaced;
21 and this one hasn't.

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, Councilman.
23 The situation has been equally frustrating for the
24 department and the residents here. We have been
25 working for some time in trying to come up with a

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 memorandum of agreement which is needed by the
3 Federal Highway Administration before we can
4 proceed the final design. We have been back and
5 forth with the Federal Highway Administration,
6 with PennDOT, and I think they in turn are dealing
7 with the community in we're trying to come to
8 accord. Before we can move into final design, we
9 must get that memorandum of agreement signed.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Are you satisfied
11 with the progress? I can't imagine that you being
12 responsible for these streets and bridges that
13 that's to me not a good answer. I'd like to know
14 what we're doing. If we have to drag the Congress
15 people into a room, United States Senators, but
16 that bridge cannot be left in the condition it's
17 inconveniencing the suburban community who wants
18 to come into the City, people leaving the City of
19 Philadelphia. It's starting to get deteriorated,
20 dangerous, the detour, and I would like to ask the
21 Managing Director or the Mayor personally to get
22 involved in this issue because this is
23 embarrassing to me as a City Councilmember.

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: We do have our chief
25 engineer and he's just going say thing about this

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 to you.

3 MR. SYRNICK: Good morning, Councilman.

4 My name's Joseph Syrnick, I'm Chief Engineer and
5 Surveyor of the Streets Department.

6 As you know, the Streets Department for
7 about seven years has been trying to build this
8 bridge. We've had it in Capital Program for many,
9 many years with the capital project and on that
10 operating project. Because there are federal
11 funds we, need to satisfy some federal regulations
12 regarding environmental and historic processes.
13 In my view, there are some people in the
14 neighborhood who prefer not to see this bridge
15 replaced, and they have been actually very -- this
16 is my view -- very effective in keeping us from
17 doing that.

18 To answer your question, what we need
19 to do is to get all of the people who want to see
20 that bridge replaced, that includes the Streets
21 Department, it includes PennDOT, it includes the
22 Federal Highway Administration, and I believe it
23 now includes a lot of people outside the City in
24 Lafayette Hill who are greatly inconvenienced. It
25 certainly includes the Chestnut Hill College who

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2 have been suffering with this bridge being closed
3 in one direction for at least five years. What we
4 need to do is get all the other people who really
5 want to see progress made on this bridge and put
6 some pressure on the people to sign a memorandum
7 of agreement, which I believe is very, very fair
8 which takes into account the environmental and
9 historic considerations of this structure. The
10 City has made all sorts of compromises and been
11 agreeable to putting in all sorts of language that
12 has never been in a memorandum of understanding
13 before. It is not -- I don't believe it is
14 acceptable to some of the opposition parties.
15 They want complete control over all the design
16 details, which is not what we nor the Federal
17 Highway Administration think they ought to have.
18 They have a right to discuss the environmental and
19 historic processes. We believe we're way beyond
20 that and we're into things that are safety issues
21 and we are unwilling to compromise any further as
22 it is any other highway agency.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Syrnick, you
24 just mentioned seven years the bridge has been out
25 now, one lane for five years. I think at some

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2 point you're going to have to exercise whatever
3 power government has to get project moving
4 forward. I understand that there is -- you do
5 have some ability to move this project forward. I
6 don't think we can wait any longer to try to
7 satisfy the needs of people that are not in
8 agreement with your design because you just can't
9 continue to leave this in this condition. I'm
10 going to ask something of you. This bridge has
11 been down now for years, traffic in one direction.
12 It was initially shut because it was deemed
13 unsafe. I would hope that there's ongoing
14 inspections of this structure for the last five
15 years so we don't have a bridge that collapses
16 entering in the City of Philadelphia. Even though
17 it's one way, I notice that a lot of heavy trucks
18 are violating the posted weight restrictions on
19 the bridge because they're coming from Montgomery
20 County and they kind of get trapped once they get
21 beyond Northwestern Avenue. So I would hope that
22 ongoing review of the detour route, the detour
23 route is full of potholes, the signage down. I
24 have to constantly call about that. So I'm
25 concerned about the last five years what's the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 further deterioration of that bridge because I'm
3 thinking that someday you're just going to have to
4 shut that whole bridge down and that would be a
5 major disruption to the City of Philadelphia.

6 MR. SYRNICK: Councilman, I understand
7 your remarks. Number one, we inspect the bridge
8 every two weeks, we go out and physically look at
9 it. You're quite right, th biggest problem right
10 now with regard to that bridge is the waterway
11 openings which are -- there's like eight spans,
12 but only maybe three of them are in the waterway.
13 When the snow melts and we have our spring floods,
14 there's quite a bit of stress put onto that bridge
15 with the water rushing through. It cannot get
16 through the openings. We do check it every two
17 weeks. You're right, at some point in the future
18 it is very likely that this bridge will have to be
19 closed in both directions. That would only add to
20 the burden of this neighborhood. I think you're
21 right, we need to get together and go to the
22 Federal Highway Administration and just say to
23 them that there is a provision that they can move
24 this thing forward without a memorandum of
25 understanding. In fact, former Mayor Rendell

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2 actually wrote to them and asked them to do that.
3 The Federal Highway Administration thought that
4 they could work out a compromise with the
5 community. So far they have tried to do that, but
6 they have been as unsuccessful as we have been.
7 So if people want to get together -- we can't do
8 this alone, we cannot do this alone. We need to
9 get out there and make sure everyone knows that
10 there are people out there that want this bridge
11 replaced. We are working on the design every
12 single day, but we technically cannot move into
13 final design until we get pass this hurdle for the
14 Section 106 process which is the provision under
15 the Historic Preservation Act.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

17 Madam Chair, I have additional
18 questions and I'd like to yield to the District
19 Councilperson Donna Miller, who has a question on
20 this issue.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Certainly.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
23 Miller.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
25 President.

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2 Thank you, Councilman Rizzo.

3 Good morning. Joe, I read last week in
4 the Chestnut Hill Local that someone from the
5 interested parties wrote that they're probably one
6 meeting away from coming to that level of
7 understanding that you're talking about. So one
8 of the things we'd like to do is pull a meeting
9 together again. You know, this problem met me
10 when I came to City Council. You were the first
11 department to come over and say, "Hey, this is
12 what's going on." I was here two weeks. And now
13 it's four years later and we're still talking
14 about the problem. Councilman Rizzo lives in the
15 area, so he's more directly affected. I'm
16 affected if I go to the mall out that way or
17 whatever. So we really want to bring a resolve to
18 this so we can move forward with this particular
19 bridge. And you have cooperated in the past and I
20 would appreciate your full cooperation in the
21 future.

22 MR. SYRNICK: Councilwoman, we're
23 certainly willing to meet anytime, anywhere, with
24 anybody to get this thing moving. And I would
25 suggest as a suggestion if perhaps we get together

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2 with some of the District Councilpeople and
3 Councilpeople-at-large that are interested in this
4 project. And it's certainly you two and a couple
5 of others, Councilman Longstreth has been involved
6 in this to some extent, and maybe we could sit
7 down and just review in-house where we are, what
8 needs to be done, so that we all have a clear
9 focus as to what we should be trying to get at
10 this meeting and then have a meeting with the
11 interested parties. And if that works, that would
12 be wonderful. If we can get moving on this, I'll
13 guarantee you that we will move this project to
14 implementation just as fast as we can. We have a
15 very attractive bridge design out there. This is
16 a wonderful area. We think we can win an award
17 with structure out there. Let's get together and
18 do it.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, I'll pull
20 that meeting together. Thank you.

21 MR. SYRNICK: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
23 Rizzo.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How about if I just
25 ask, if it's okay with the Chair, one more

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2 question.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: One more
4 question and then we're going to do a second
5 go-around because everyone's light is on.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. Commissioner,
7 I would appreciate it -- and I think a policy
8 issue more so than personnel issue. You have an
9 organization in the Streets Department that's, I
10 believe you call it your customer service or your
11 customer -- help me with that. What's the exact?

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: Customer service.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And it's open from 7
14 o'clock in the morning to 7 p.m. at night and they
15 take calls from constituents for issues that
16 affect the operation of your department. I think
17 you need to -- if you're going to have a meeting
18 about the bridge, I think really you need to have
19 a meeting about what they're charged and what the
20 responsibility of that group is, and I have some
21 very specific notes and situations that have been
22 reported to me and personally experienced where a
23 fire hydrant was knocked down on the highway and
24 the representative there was told and instructed
25 by their supervision to tell the constituent

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2 calling giving them the phone number of the Water
3 Department to report the hydrant that's knocked
4 over in the street. In my opinion, if it's in the
5 street, it's your responsibility to take the
6 information and refer it to the Water Department.
7 A person reports a pothole on a highway which they
8 are not aware is a state highway or not. They
9 call from their car, they're interested, want to
10 help, and there's a free number star fixed if they
11 call to report these problems to the Streets
12 Department and they're told that here's the phone
13 number for the State. You call the State. Well,
14 7 o'clock in the morning, 7 o'clock at night,
15 seven, eight people, six people work there. I
16 think that it would be more efficient, and I know
17 you're interested in making sure that state
18 highways within the City of Philadelphia are well
19 maintained, I think you really need to develop a
20 policy on what that organization does.

21 Just this morning I heard of issue
22 where the person called to report a pothole, a
23 major hole in an intersection, and trying to be
24 helpful said to the person that the gas company
25 was digging in the street there two weeks ago.

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2 The representative immediately said to the person,
3 "Well, you better call the gas company,"
4 immediately stopped the conversation. They were
5 trying to be helpful telling the person the source
6 of the problem was the gas company. You would
7 think that they'd take the information and if it
8 is the gas company's responsibility to make the
9 repair, communicate with them. So this is just my
10 observation. And again, I don't think it's the
11 people that work there, I think the direction that
12 they've been given isn't clear on exactly what
13 their mission is there.

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilman, I don't
15 think that is the policy, but we will review with
16 our folks there their understandings. And the
17 things that you described, I think we would set up
18 for change. So I'm sorry that you experienced
19 those kinds of things with the customer affairs
20 group.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Thank you,
22 Commissioner. I'll wait till the next go-around.
23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
25 As I said, we have just about every Councilmember

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 that would like to ask questions, so with the next
3 person we'll have five minutes. When the minutes
4 is up, we'll have a second go around.

5 At this point in time, the Chair
6 recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. Good morning.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good morning,
11 Commissioner. I have just two questions. On Page
12 1 of your testimony you speak about maintenance
13 for the Avenue of the Arts North. A, does that
14 include Avenue of the Arts North and South? And,
15 B, discuss or detail what that means, maintenance
16 of the streetscape for those two sections of Broad
17 Street.

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, the specific
19 reference that we are looking at is referring
20 primarily to the Avenue of the Arts South because
21 that was completed. That was all of that work,
22 the streetscape work that was performed, so we
23 have a commitment that Mayor Rendell made to sort
24 of pay for the funding for plannings and all of
25 appurtenances down on the Avenue of the Arts

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 South. There is a plan in terms of Avenue of the
3 art North, however. We have been meeting with
4 Councilman Clarke and a committee to develop what
5 should be done on that whole section of
6 streetscape work on Avenue of the Arts North, but
7 this has not been worked out yet. We just met
8 last week, as a matter of fact, with the
9 committee.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: When you say what
11 should be done, that includes maintenance
12 concerns, correct, with regards to the Avenue of
13 the Arts North?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Once we decide in
15 terms of what we want to do fold in maintenance
16 concerns also, yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.
18 Secondly, I join my colleagues who have expressed
19 both an interest and a concern with regards to the
20 recycling coordinator. In the early days of
21 recycling, the City made terrific efforts in that
22 area and I don't think went to lose any time with
23 that, so let us know where you are with regards to
24 the filling of that position, Page 32-100 of the
25 budget says that you currently have a grant that

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2 pays for half the salary of the recycling
3 coordinator, so give us some sense of where you
4 are.

5 And then the last part of my question
6 is you mentioned throughout your testimony the
7 need for education. Does that include tapping the
8 generation behind us so that we can get them in
9 the mind-set of recycling and what that means to
10 our environment. And specifically I'm referring
11 interaction, interfacing with the Philadelphia
12 Public Schools in any way around the issue of
13 recycling.

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, Councilwoman.
15 The first thing with respect to the hiring of the
16 recycling coordinator, as Managing Director had
17 said, he had requested of the Administration that
18 they conduct the search in the same way as they
19 are conducting a search for many of the filling
20 the positions for the vacancies.

21 The second thing with respect to
22 education, the recycling coordinator we had just
23 lost had in a point of fact been a teacher and
24 Joan had spent a great deal of effort doing just
25 what you were saying. They're trying to make that

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2 kind of connection with the schools trying to
3 address recycling to the next generation and
4 getting programs going within the schools. As we
5 look to the next recycling coordinator we would
6 try to at least continue that level of commitment
7 in education.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Further detail.
9 Within the schools, was that system-wide or was
10 there a model program happening in one of the
11 clusters? Or any additional details about that so
12 that we know what we can anticipate with the next
13 recycling coordinator as it relates to the
14 schools.

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: Steve Tilney, our
16 acting recycling coordinator may be better to
17 address the specifics of that.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very
19 much.

20 MR. TILNEY: Good morning, everyone. I
21 just want to respond that we did have ongoing
22 program throughout the School District. We've
23 been in touch with the School Superintendent as
24 well as all of the cluster leaders throughout the
25 school and there's a program going on at the

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2 Overbrook Cluster which has been, for lack of
3 better words, a model program that's been started
4 within the last year and a half and one that will
5 be ongoing as well as one that we'll be looking at
6 as a model for future activities.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Some assessment on
8 the activity currently in the Overbrook Cluster.

9 MR. TILNEY: Well, we've done
10 educational outreach in the Overbrook Cluster for
11 school programs with the children. We've
12 done composting bins and warm farming bins.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Repeat that last
14 sentence.

15 MR. TILNEY: I'm sorry. We've done
16 small composting bins and warm farming bins
17 vermiculture at some of the schools and areas as
18 well. We have six composting units out in the
19 schools as well as six vermiculture composting bins
20 in the schools, and we're trying to increase our
21 educational average with the schools as well.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. Then I'll
23 be paying close attention to that once I begin to
24 visit the schools, particularly Overbrook Cluster
25 throughout the year. Thank you.

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2 MR. TILNEY: You're welcome.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
6 Madam President.

7 Commissioner, as you well know, we
8 receive tons of information on recycling. There
9 are a lot of advocates citywide who really are
10 interested in expanding this program to more
11 regular pickups in every neighborhoods. I wanted
12 to specifically zero in on tires. Is it true that
13 two tires may be put out by homeowners with their
14 trash every week?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's correct,
16 Councilwoman.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'll tell you,
18 I just learned that today. And do you make that
19 information available so that if a person feels
20 they can put two tires out it won't be there,
21 that's not a special pickup truck or whatever,
22 it's just with your regular trash? You can do
23 that?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: It is a special
25 pickup, Councilwoman, and what we asked them to do

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2 is to call customer service who will arrange to
3 have that specially pickup in that case.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Because
5 certainly, I think if the public knew this -- I
6 just learned it this morning -- maybe we wouldn't
7 have such a problem with them abandoning them in
8 front of especially vacant buildings during the
9 year. Do you think that we could get more -- I
10 know when we have household hazardous waste at
11 times they put out information on tires, but could
12 we have more information available to the public
13 about that?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: We will include that
15 in our educational effort, yes, Councilwoman.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
17 I'll yield, Madam President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair. I was just getting an update on the latest
22 in phone technology from Councilman DiCicco.

23 Commissioner, can you get us a list of
24 the commercial corridors on the street-cleaning
25 schedule throughout the City?

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, we can furnish
3 that to you, Councilman.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what the day of
5 the particular cleaning is and the frequency?

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: I'd be happy to do
7 that.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And you may have by
9 now answered some questions on recycling. If I
10 missed the answer, you know, just tell me to move
11 along to the next one.

12 When you factor out commercial
13 recycling, what is the recycling rate in the City,
14 what's the household recycling rate?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: It's about 16
16 percent, Councilman. Just residential collection
17 is 6.46, I'm told, Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 6.46?

19 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's the curbside
20 collection, the diversion rate for us.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, when you say
22 "curbside," that gives me the impression that
23 there's some other system operating. You seem to
24 be making distinction between curbside and
25 something else.

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, there's
3 commercial which is a substantial amount of
4 diversion.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Was that the 16
6 percent rate? You were saying 16 percent earlier;
7 what's that rate about.

8 MR. TILNEY: The 16 percent rate is
9 after you back out construction and demolition
10 debris from the commercial sector and add in the
11 materials like tires in the City of Philadelphia,
12 organic waste material, household hazardous waste
13 material. So if you're just looking at curbside
14 collecting percentage, you're looking at that
15 6.46. Add materials to it, you come up to
16 approximately 16 percent. And then when you add
17 additional materials to it in the commercial
18 sector is where bring it to a greater percentage.
19 It depends on which numbers you're looking at for
20 which materials that you're putting into the mix.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Can you give that
22 to us through the Chair in a chart form and break
23 out all of those?

24 And then when you say that the
25 residential recycling rate is 6.46 percent, what

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2 does that mean? Does that mean that only 6.46
3 percent of the households are recycling? Does
4 that mean that 6.46 percent of everything you
5 collect in the course of a week is recycled
6 material? What does that number mean?

7 MR. TILNEY: It is a confusing number.
8 The 6.46 is the amount of material that's pulled
9 from the waste stream over a year's worth of time
10 and moved into a recycling marketplace. So if you
11 looked at what --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Based on curbside
13 collection, is that right?

14 MR. TILNEY: If you set a hundred tons
15 worth of trash in a year, for instance, just
16 example, 6.4 percent or 6.46 tons worth of
17 material would be the amount of material that was
18 recycled just from the residential sector.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What does that
20 number mean in the whole scheme of things? Is
21 that a good number, a bad number, average for
22 other major cities? I mean, relative to what?

23 MR. TILNEY: Well, if we look at
24 Philadelphia compared to the top 25 cities in the
25 country, as reported in Weeks News report which

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2 was just recently done in February, Philadelphia
3 ranked ninth of the major cities across the
4 country in its success in the recycling program,
5 and that was the numbers that were -- again, it
6 depend on what numbers you look at, but that's the
7 numbers that are used under the Environmental
8 Protection Agency's comparison methodology.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why don't you share
10 that with us just for the record, though, who was
11 first what was their rate?

12 MR. TILNEY: Jacksonville was first
13 with 52 percent, Chicago was second at 47 percent,
14 San Jose was at 45, Los Angeles was at 44, Seattle
15 was at 44, San Diego was at 42.3, San Francisco
16 was at 40, and Philadelphia was at 35.2. Again,
17 that includes commercial sector recycling in
18 addition to the residential recycling.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Why don't
20 you provide us with some information to explain
21 that information and maybe you can give us your
22 perspective on why we are where we are as compared
23 so some other cities.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
25 we'll have to come back to you. Your time is up.

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2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

5 Commissioner, I'm going to move back a
6 movement to some issues relative to streets,
7 resurfacing and reconstruction and the use of
8 outside contractors. I have received more than a
9 small number of complaints about the interaction
10 between residents and the workers and/or
11 supervisors for outside contracting companies who
12 are doing probably, I would think, almost a
13 hundred percent of that kind of work in the City
14 when comes to resurfacing or to a reconstructed
15 street. For example, if an individual operating a
16 backhoe drives up on someone's curb and cracks it,
17 if the street is resurfaced in a way that has
18 covered curb where it's created a gully in front
19 of the house that collects water, individuals who
20 approach the contractors or employees are often
21 cursed at, treated rudely, told to mind their own
22 business. And then when trying to get a
23 contractor back after there's a pool of water in
24 front of somebody's house for a year is almost
25 virtually impossible is my experience. What

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2 requirement do we have in the bid specs or in our
3 policy when it comes to dealing with the
4 citizenry?

5 Part of the problem in addition to the
6 work perhaps not being done properly is that
7 people believe -- have a hard time discriminating
8 between the fact that these are really not even
9 City employees, that these are employees working
10 for private company that treating them rudely even
11 to the point using foul language and telling them
12 to go back in the house, lady, and mind your own
13 business. What is our supervisor responsibility
14 in that interaction?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilman, on any
16 of the projects with the contractors -- first of
17 all, let me apologize for that unfortunate
18 interchange there. But the contract should
19 primarily be between the City representative on
20 the site, and usually if we have a contractor
21 there, there should be a City inspector on site.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are they there
23 every day?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: They're there every
25 say. So if the citizen has a complaint, it

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2 probably makes a great deal more sense to try and
3 deal with our inspector who then would have the --
4 basically has the paycheck there for that
5 contractor and he would then have the ability to
6 direct any repairs that should be made.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What kind of prior
8 interface happens before a major project, either
9 resurfacing or reconstruction? Do people go out
10 and knock on doors, do they meet with the
11 neighbor, do they meet with the committee person?
12 What do they do? They just show up one day and
13 start working?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: On City projects, I
15 think we put door hangers out. I'm not certain
16 that that is done on all of our contract work. On
17 a major project, we do that. On a small street in
18 South Philadelphia, though, I'm not sure that that
19 kind of advance activity is done with the blocks.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there anything
21 specifically in the bid requirements that indicate
22 that there needs to be some give and take when it
23 comes to complaints about damage that was done to
24 existing sidewalks and those kinds of things?

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: There must be a

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2 clause there that puts the responsibility on that
3 contractor, and we as the city see to it that --
4 we must administer that and must see to it that
5 the contractor responds. So that the agency
6 that's responsible is the Department the Streets
7 and then we have to get the contractor to make the
8 repair.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Could I possibly
10 get a copy of a typical street resurfacing
11 reconstruction bid package to see whether or not
12 there's anything in there that would require them
13 to either place money aside or to provide some
14 type of a process for people to complain about
15 work that's being done?

16 See, part of problem is if work not
17 corrected while they're there or if the damage
18 isn't corrected while they're there, once they're
19 off the site it's almost you bang your head
20 against the wall trying to get somebody out there
21 to redo it, especially when comes to areas where
22 the street's been resurfaced and perhaps should
23 have been replaced but is being resurfaced and
24 then you wind up with these little lakes in front
25 of people's homes that drive them crazy and then

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2 they in turn drive us crazy by calling us every
3 day.

4 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll certainly
5 furnish you with not only the spec, but some kind
6 of an explanation, a working explanation of how
7 that works.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Secondly, since
9 1992 I've asked this question, and I'll ask it
10 again. I ask it every year and I still don't --
11 maybe it's me, I don't know. What is the fee for
12 a plumber or some other contractor to open the
13 street? Is there a specific fee that they pay?

14 (Witness comes forward.)

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilman, it's
16 \$300 for the permit fee to open, and that entitles
17 them to a two square yard opening, and that's \$70
18 additional for every square yard.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What happens to
20 that money? Where does it go?

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: It goes into the
22 General Fund.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Why?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: Because that's the
25 policy of the City to take all revenues of that

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2 sort and put it into the General Fund.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is not that fee
4 clearly for the opening and then a proper
5 restoration of that particular ditch? I mean, to
6 me, I thought we were required also under City
7 charter and City policy to collect money to do
8 specific chores. We, again, Council President
9 mentioned it in her opening questions, we go
10 around trying to get these potholes and ditches
11 filled when the money was collected for the
12 restoration of the street once the plumber did the
13 work. And since I've been here, I've been asking
14 this question: Why are we not in some way putting
15 this money or at least earmarking it for the
16 specific purpose that it was paid for, and that
17 was the closure of the hole as opposed to waiting
18 for six months to eight months to a year when the
19 ditch now begins to sink, the rest of the street
20 around it gets damaged, and we collected the money
21 from ABC Plumbing Company when we gave them the
22 permit to open the street. This is clearly
23 identifiable money to fix this problem.

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilman, there's
25 two issues, I think. One is the issue of the

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2 policy of the Finance Department and why funds
3 aren't sent to a department. The other issue that
4 really is, do we have the funds to repair the
5 ditch. And I think in our budget we do. I think
6 there's a question of your telling us if there is
7 a problem with the timely repair or the proper
8 repair of the ditches.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It would seem to me
10 to be easier to reduce or waive the fee and
11 require the contractor who's digging the hole to
12 fix the street. I mean, it's -- you collect the
13 \$300, you collect the \$70, whatever it is, per
14 square foot, and then when guy leaves after he's
15 ne the plumbing work or whatever work he was doing
16 there, for six eight months that sits there and
17 disintegrates and deteriorates to the point where
18 we have to wind up spending more money to fix
19 street. To me, it's a very clear connection. You
20 pay the fee to get the street open and the purpose
21 of the fee is to put the dirt and the tar back,
22 but it takes six to eight months to do it and we
23 spend more money, I would think, in the end.
24 It's just a frustration that I've experienced
25 since 1992, and I'm just raising it again just to

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2 make myself feel better, but I imagine I'll ask
3 you the same question next year.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr. Dubow, do
5 you want to respond to the Councilman's question?

6 MR. DUBOW: I guess I'd give the same
7 answer that Larry gave which is that I think the
8 Department has been sufficient funding to close
9 the ditches. So I don't think it's really a
10 funding issue, I think we have a timing issue on
11 why it's not done.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Why don't you hire
13 a separate contractor to go fill the holes? It's
14 just -- I don't think there's a person in this
15 room that hasn't experienced this plumbing ditch
16 problem in the middle of the street, in front of
17 the houses. And if you have to take the money
18 that you have that's adequately funding this
19 program, allegedly, and hire a private contractor
20 to do nothing but go around filling holes and then
21 seaming back the macadam and getting the street
22 back in shape. It's just -- to me, it's insanity.

23 COMMISSIONER MOY: It may be helpful to
24 just explain for a moment thre the generation of
25 some of these ditches. Our goal is to get the

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2 zero backlog in terms of ditches. We can get
3 there at the end of the season, that is, the
4 construction season which may be around December.
5 The problem is that during that period in the
6 winter, we don't do permanent restoration of those
7 ditches, so many of the ditches that we see now,
8 for example, are temporarily restored. In the
9 severe winter that we've had, we've had a number
10 of them start to come undone. What we do is when
11 we come out of the box in the next month here in
12 March, we not only come on-line with heavy pothole
13 repair efforts, but we also come on with the ditch
14 repair efforts by the City forces.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm not going to
16 beat you to death with this. I'm just saying the
17 severe weather is I don't think is an issue.
18 There is a plumber's ditch in the middle of Tasker
19 Street at 12th and you could have sucked in a
20 Volkswagen Beetle into it that got worse after the
21 snow, but it was there for six to eight months
22 before the snow. All I'm saying is, if we're
23 collecting a fee to do something and we don't do
24 it in a timely manner, we shouldn't be collecting
25 the fee.

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: I agree, Councilman.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I would think
4 that the Streets Department has adequate funding
5 to address problems like that, and I understand
6 what you're saying, but it is also my
7 understanding we do not dedicate revenues under
8 the City Charter. So if in fact the Streets
9 Department did not have ample funding, it behooves
10 them to let us know that.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Or stop collecting
12 the fee inappropriately. Because if you're what's
13 collecting a fee to do a service and you're not
14 doing the service, why is the sense of collecting
15 fee? I mean, it just goes back into the General
16 Fund and we can't even identify where it is we're
17 spending the money.

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilman, we will
19 work on that system in terms of getting more
20 timely repair.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: See you next year.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you. Good
25 morning.

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Good morning.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I was trying to
4 think if I had any surfacing -- oh, one question
5 on the resurfacing. Do you know next year where
6 you're going to resurface streets throughout the
7 City?

8 COMMISSIONER MOY: I'm told we're
9 developing that list, and we're about three weeks
10 to four weeks away from having a reasonably firm
11 list of streets.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Can you identify
13 those streets by council districts?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: We can do that, yes,
15 Councilwoman.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could you let me
17 know the streets that --

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: We certainly can.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- in the Ninth
20 District what you are going to do?

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I appreciate that
23 very much.

24 Let me just go back to my favorite
25 subject. Your department reported that you

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2 replaced 5,000 street lights in the last two
3 years. Are they identified also by council
4 districts?

5 COMMISSIONER MOY: We could do that. I
6 believe we replaced 5,000 in your district. Is
7 that what --

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Now, let me
9 understand when you talk about street lighting.
10 Is that just the bulb and not the entire pole?
11 Because see, my thinking is that with a new pole,
12 but what is your -- what were you replacing, the
13 bulbs?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: That in general was
15 the program that we were engaged in was an
16 upgrading of obsolete lights in many cases where
17 you had existing light poles. It was simply
18 trying to get a more efficient bulb that spread
19 more light, and we when went through the City and
20 in the case of these 5,000, I believe that's the
21 case where we've replaced a more efficient bulb.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would they have
23 been done in replacing commercial districts versus
24 residential or main thoroughfares?

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: Let me ask our chief

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 lighting engineer to speak to the specifics of the
3 program.

4 MR. DOYLE: Good morning. My name is
5 Joe Doyle, I'm the City's Chief Lighting Engineer.
6 To answer your question, the replacement of the
7 light fixtures throughout the City was an ongoing
8 program that will total eventually about 75,000
9 lights. They were done progressively from
10 approximately southwest to northeast throughout
11 the City which was the original installation
12 program many years ago. They were used in both
13 commercial and residential areas, but those are
14 the lights that were attached to PECO utility wood
15 poles. Those were the lights that are essentially
16 the residential areas right now, but there are
17 some commercial corridors that continue to have
18 them. So the 5,000 lights that were replaced in
19 the 9th Councilmanic District were replaced in
20 last couple of years as our sweep, so to speak,
21 went through the entire northwest portion of the
22 City and did all of those, but primarily on
23 residential streets. And they were the
24 replacement of the light fixture, the entire
25 assembly that you will see up on the pole, not the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 pole. Those were utility poles that were already
3 existing this before.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Are these lights
5 brighter than the prior light.

6 MR. DOYLE: They are a better light,
7 they a better distribution of light. The older
8 fixtures tended to shine the light straight down,
9 so you had a big bright spot under the old fixture
10 and then very dark in between to the next fixture.
11 So as looked down the street there were a whole
12 series of bright spots, dark spots. The newer
13 equipment more uniformly spreads the light out ,
14 fewer dark spots, fewer very bright spots so it
15 appears be brighter and it is more uniform as a
16 motorist or pedestrian walks down the street.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could tell me how
18 you determine where to replace the lights.

19 MR. DOYLE: The program essentially was
20 a one-for-one on existing locations. So if there
21 was a street light on that wood pole, it was
22 replaced.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So they've only
24 replaced on wood poles?

25 MR. DOYLE: Yes. That program, other

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 lights have been replaced in various commercial
3 corridors for different projects.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Within the
5 residential area?

6 MR. DOYLE: Specifically the
7 residential neighborhoods were on wood poles and
8 those were the light that were replaced.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I think we had
10 this discussion before relative to lights in terms
11 of the East Oak Lane portion of my district where
12 there are a lot of trees and a lot of complaints
13 about not adequate lighting.

14 MR. DOYLE: Right. We have had contact
15 with several neighborhood groups in that area to
16 try to mitigate that problem. But you're right,
17 the Northwest has a very preponderance of trees
18 and that clearly has an impact on lighting. Trees
19 are a wonderful thing to have on the street, but
20 as their branches grow and their leaves come out
21 in the summertime, they do obstruct the light
22 coming from there. So we attempt to balance the
23 reality that we all want trees, but we do try to
24 trim them and cut back the branches to help the
25 light spread better. However, trees grow very

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2 quickly and we would appreciate any ongoing list
3 or locations that you might have. We went through
4 a year or two ago, I think, and did quite a few
5 tree trims up in that area. Please, if you have
6 some specific locations, we'll look at them again.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you. While
8 you're here, is the alley lighting program
9 completed?

10 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: No more alley
12 light?

13 MR. DOYLE: The program was completed
14 about two years ago.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman,
16 your time is up.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I have one more
18 question, then I'll be finished for the day. Let
19 me just ask.

20 When are the yellow flashing lights
21 program going to start again? We're getting a lot
22 of complaints about these lights not being placed
23 around the schools. What's the status of that
24 program?

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: Councilwoman, we

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 have laid out 20 additional schools and we started
3 construction on 15 of them presently. We could
4 let you know which schools are on that list.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you please?
6 I appreciate that very much.

7 And just one other question, Madam
8 President.

9 Relative to the question of what
10 Councilman DiCicco talked about the State
11 regulating installing traffic lights or stop
12 signs. We've had this discussion, I think, ever
13 since I've been here. I know it's an issue for
14 the state, Pennsylvania League of Cities because
15 other counties are complaining about it. So I
16 hope we will moving aggressively. It may protect
17 you in that we might not have to install them if
18 use State law as an excuse not to install them,
19 but certainly I think we ought to find some way to
20 dress address that issue. Thank you very much.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clark.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
24 President.

25 Good morning, Commissioner.

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Good morning.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Actually, I have
4 three questions. I'm going to get them real quick
5 within five-minute time.

6 On the Hot In Place pilot program,
7 resurfacing program, you indicate here in your
8 testimony that it's apparently allowed us to
9 surface more streets. My question is as it
10 relates to the cost effectiveness of this program,
11 I've actually seen this take place in the periods,
12 it appears to be like ten machines, it's like a
13 train, is that the one where you have the train in
14 the street? It's like maybe eight, nine different
15 vehicles and takes a substantial period of time to
16 set it up, and I'm wondering is it more cost
17 effective to do repaving in that way?

18 Let me get to other questions. The
19 other one is relatively quickly. Sanitation
20 officers in the Streets Department, is there any
21 coordination between the Streets Department
22 sanitation officers and the Police Department
23 sanitation officers?

24 The last one is more specific to my
25 neighborhood, Ridge and Sedgely, the former

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2 highway station, the building has been leveled and
3 the parcel of land has been sitting there for
4 sometime and I'm just trying to get a sense of
5 what's going to happen to that parcel of land.

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: With respect to
7 Ridge and Sedgely, it was leveled and we had not
8 come to an agreement on reuse at all there,
9 Councilman. We can talk further about that.

10 With respect to the HIP program, while
11 there is a train that is extensive, as you say, I
12 think the big -- it is more cost effective first
13 of all. And I think the big cost savings is
14 probably in that there is one operation, one long
15 operation that is fast. It comes in on the same
16 day instead of milling box preparation and then
17 resurfacing, this comes in in one day. It
18 recycles basically the same material in place and
19 finishes usually less than a day.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: On that program,
21 are we limited to large streets, major
22 thoroughfares, because of the inability to make
23 the turns.

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: Pretty much, yes.
25 Because of the size of that train, yes, you are

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2 limited to that kind of street.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So we will still on
4 the smaller streets continue the old process. Is
5 there any thought into possibly coming up with an
6 additional solution to change the smaller streets
7 such as we're doing -- we did such a great job on
8 the snow removal with the small vehicles. Are we
9 looking at possibly looking at some alternative
10 programs for smaller streets?

11 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, we were
12 looking at other kinds of things that are called
13 life extenders for asphaltting, I mean, where we
14 were trying to put in seals and in something
15 called novachip and other kind of surface
16 treatments that could help some of the smaller
17 streets since the HIP program is just too large
18 for those streets. But we are looking at other
19 alternatives to kind stretch the dollar.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: To extend the life
21 of the streets.

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

23 With respect to the street program,
24 Deputy Commissioner Tolson might want to respond
25 to that.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

3 MS. TOLSON: Good morning. My name is
4 Clarena Tolson, Deputy Streets Commissioner.
5 Councilman, sweep officers, as you know, cover
6 mostly, in general, our commercial corridors, the
7 pilot areas where we had the residential cleaning
8 pilot going on as well as the recycling pilot.
9 Areas outside of those boundaries are covered
10 usually by sanitation police officers. But
11 there's coordination between the two in terms of
12 the calls come in, service requests come in of
13 their policy issues. There's a dialogue between
14 sweep where my office an police to ask for
15 assistance when we're busily working.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Why is that
17 separation? Why use police officers in
18 residential areas and use the sweep program
19 officers in commercial areas? Why wouldn't we
20 just use the sweep officers throughout the City as
21 opposed to using police? In some people's mind,
22 we have a shortage of police to do police work.
23 Do you have a since of that?

24 MS. TOLSON: Well the sweep program as
25 grown exponentially in the last few years. For a

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2 number of years, we had only had one class of
3 sweep officers and they control generally the
4 Center City area and some commercial corridors
5 outside of Center City. It's only that in the
6 last year that we've grown to include areas
7 outside of those commercial corridors. And to do
8 that, you hired additional sweep officers.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Excuse me, Miss
10 Tolson, they can't hear you. Would you move the
11 mike a little closer.

12 MS. TOLSON: Surely. Because the sweep
13 program has grown a great deal in the last year
14 and a half, we've been able to do additional
15 areas. Additional areas being the recycling pilot
16 areas as well as the cleaning pilot areas as well
17 as the commercial corridors which we already had
18 and in addition to that the commercial recycling
19 efforts that we make.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Could it be
21 possible if can provide me with a breakdown, a
22 cost associated with the sweep officer performing
23 a service in a comparable area as a police
24 sanitation officer so I can gauge what is the most
25 cost-effective way of those people providing that

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2 service? I'm sure they essentially do some of the
3 things --

4 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Because I've had
6 this thing about using police officers for, you
7 know, sanitation police and writing up abandoned
8 vehicles and I just don't think that's an
9 appropriate use of a police officer. So if you
10 can give me a sense of the cost associated with
11 the sweep officer versus police officer, that
12 would be very helpful to me.

13 MS. TOLSON: Yes, I will do that.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
17 Councilman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
19 Miller.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair. Good morning again.

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: Good morning,
23 Councilwoman.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Commissioner Moy,
25 a couple questions regarding the sweep officers

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2 and whatnot. I think there is a law now that says
3 that businesses such as restaurants or coffee
4 shops that sell disposable items have to a trash
5 can in front of that business; is that true?

6 I know I'm a lawmaker here, but I can't
7 remember everything.

8 MS. TOLSON: Yes. In fact, I think you
9 voted for that last year.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I did, I know I
11 did.

12 What's happening, though, with the
13 enforcement? Because particularly when you go to
14 Broad and Erie and Broad and Olney -- I was at
15 Broad and Olney about two weeks ago just walking
16 around, actually shopping in and out of the some
17 of the stores. I could not believe how much
18 trash, of course, is on the sidewalk. And I have
19 sense enough to know that even though there's a
20 receptacle doesn't mean people will use it. But
21 if there's none there -- and I think right on the
22 corner of Broad and Olney they have a Dunkin'
23 Donuts, lots of stores and little restaurants, and
24 also at Broad and Erie the same way. How does the
25 Streets Department coordinate the receptacle issue

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2 along with SEPTA such as Broad and Olney, Broad
3 and Erie and some of the other Broad Street stops
4 on the subway that are also SEPTA bus stops? Is
5 there any coordination at all in terms of
6 receptacles between the Streets Department, the
7 sweep officers? Do they ticket the business
8 operators? Do they fine them? And what does the
9 Streets Department or how does the Streets
10 Department and SEPTA work together around the
11 trash issue and receptacle issues at bus stops in
12 particular?

13 MS. TOLSON: Yes. City Council passed
14 a fine bill with regard to litter baskets
15 approximately a year ago. What we have done in
16 the Department is to develop regulations that
17 support the enforcement of that. And what we
18 completed just in November was a lengthy revision
19 of our sanitation regulations, regulations to
20 support a law. Those were done in November, and
21 we have just most recently completed a survey of
22 the City to determine the locations where baskets
23 are needed. We have over, I think, 11,000
24 locations that do not presently have baskets that
25 we will be enforcing. We plan for warnings to

12 With regard to the SEPTA issue, this is
13 one as a matter of policy for SEPTA that probably
14 still needs to be addressed internally.
15 Presently, SEPTA, I believe, places cans on
16 platforms and there are a limited number of cans
17 that are placed at some bus stops that have
18 covers. As you know outside of, say, MSB, that
19 type of glass-enclosed bus stop. I do not believe
20 that at any other bus stop in total that SEPTA
21 takes responsibility for providing a can or to
22 help assure that riders have a place to place
23 their trash after exiting a bus or before entering
24 a bus.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, who would

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2 be responsible for the cleanliness of that bus
3 stop. If it's a store, is it the store operator?
4 If it's a home, is it a home operator? Because
5 realistically they could get a ticket from Sweep,
6 right.

7 MS. TOLSON: That's correct.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So who is
9 responsible for that?

10 MS. TOLSON: It is a challenging issue.
11 Right now we're in discussions with SEPTA with
12 regard to 52nd street, 56th Street and 60th
13 Street. I think there's a willingness for SEPTA
14 to try to do a little bit more at the locations
15 where the riders may be creating more trash than
16 is fair for the adjacent property opener to be
17 responsible.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Or is it the
19 business operator? When I think about Broad and
20 Erie, it's a large bus stop where lots of people
21 stand catching two buses and consistently people
22 are going there, and it would be -- I guess it
23 would be a disservice to that business operator
24 who also is a restaurant to get ticketed when
25 Dunkin' Donuts who is across the street their cups

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2 end up on his sidewalk because people are standing
3 there waiting for the XH or the H bus.

4 Well, I'd be interested in knowing when
5 starts to be enforced. I know you said June, but
6 could just kind of let me know? Because we want
7 to monitor some of these. I personally took about
8 eight guys, eight men down to Broad and Erie one
9 Sunday. I talked to Commissioner Moy, and it was
10 terrible. We must have gotten about 20 bags of
11 trash up. That's how bad it was at that location.
12 And Broad and Olney is not much better.

13 Okay, I have a couple more questions.
14 And this is mainly about trash pickup. We've had
15 some experiences out in our neighborhood and many
16 times we get calls from constituents that are not
17 able to get an appliance picked up in a timely
18 fashion; Three weeks, four weeks and more. And
19 all of these individuals, of course, have said
20 they have called. Many of them, we have called.
21 What is the realistic time line in picking up a
22 refrigerator and tires by your department and
23 other appliances like washers, dryer, etc.?

24 MS. TOLSON: The goal that we have,
25 Councilwoman, is five days, five business days.

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2 What realistically happens, though, is quite
3 different. And I say that is our goal because we
4 want to place the pressure on ourselves to be fair
5 to citizens to get materials up in a timely
6 manner. However, because our resources are shared
7 across the board with sanitation to provide all
8 the services that we provide, in fact, there are
9 some points during the year that we're not able to
10 pick up bulk on a regular basis. Our laws have
11 changed in recent years with regard to what we can
12 put in the trash. We used to pick up
13 refrigerators, tires, sofas, furniture all in the
14 trash truck and they all went one way. Now we are
15 no longer able to pick up tires with trash, we're
16 no longer able to pick up materials that have
17 refrigerants and put them in the trash. And we're
18 quite happy to comply with those laws, but what it
19 means is that it takes extra resources for us to
20 do that. So what we do is we send out a separate
21 complement of trucks to pick up what we call white
22 goods, the refrigerators, the washers, the driers.
23 And in fact, the system is further complicated
24 because the people that take, say, a hot water
25 heater do not take materials that have

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2 refrigerants. So that collection is even split.
3 And we don't take tires with either of those
4 things because the guy that takes tires, does not
5 take the metal materials. So our system gets very
6 complex, particularly during the leaf collection
7 season and the Christmas tree season because the
8 people that we normally have to pick up some of
9 those other materials like tires and bulk are
10 instead deployed to pick up Christmas trees and
11 leaves. Usually the delay that we have in bulk
12 collection during that time of the year, we try to
13 jump right back on it as soon as the Christmas
14 tree season is over. However, this year once
15 Christmas tree season was over, we had snow which
16 further thwarted the system. So this year has
17 been very, very bad in terms of what we really get
18 and how long some of the bulk has been sitting out
19 there. We once had a period when bulk as a
20 regular course may have been on the street
21 probably three to four weeks on a normal basis. I
22 think our time period now is probably closer to
23 seven to ten days before it is collected. But as
24 I said, our goal is to get it within five days.
25 And some of it we do get much shorter than that;

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2 however, on average we have not met the number
3 that we'd like to meet in terms of timeliness of
4 our collection.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And you want
6 people to call a few days in advance, the day
7 before, the morning of?

8 MS. TOLSON: What we need citizens to
9 do is to call once they place material out on the
10 street, because we do not have a system wherein we
11 can tell you when the collection will be
12 scheduled. So when the call comes into our
13 customer service center, it's entered into the
14 customer and it's dispatched to each of the
15 collection areas based upon the appropriate
16 responsibility for that group.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And the
18 collection areas are based on your trash pickup
19 day, your regular normal trash --

20 MS. TOLSON: Geographically based,
21 based upon your geographic area.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

23 MS. TOLSON: There's no relationship to
24 trash day and bulk collection or tire collection
25 day. And that is something that we've kind of

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2 tied to overcome in terms of -- that used to be
3 the practice many years ago. You know, ten years
4 ago, it was the people understood that you put
5 your refrigerator out on trash day. Well, in fact
6 in today's environment and with collection
7 practices, there's no relationship to trash day
8 and bulk or tire collection day. Bulk can go out
9 on any day of the week, it can be called on any
10 day of the week. We pick it up based upon how we
11 batch the calls as they come in geographically.
12 So though many people would want to call on trash
13 day because that's what used to, that's what they
14 grew up understanding, in reality there is no
15 relationship between bulk collection day and trash
16 collection day in our present environment and
17 within our present collection rules.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So people
19 just have to call once they put their refrigerator
20 whatnot out. And if in fact a month later it
21 hasn't been collected, should they call you?

22 MS. TOLSON: They should call if it
23 hasn't been collected within five days.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Oh. You'll get a
25 lot of calls.

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2 MS. TOLSON: Well, we're there to
3 receive calls. In fact, we receive 151,000 calls
4 a year. I think it's fair for citizens to expect
5 that and to remind us if we've forgotten it, if we
6 lost it, whatever the case may be and to expect
7 that the service should occur. And sometimes we
8 give an answer that may not be liked, such as, we
9 don't have a truck out. And sometimes when we're
10 honest, that gets us into trouble as well, but
11 those are the facts in terms of what we're working
12 with and how we're trying to manage all of the
13 material that we have out there. But I think it's
14 fair for citizens to call any number of times that
15 they feel comfortable in calling in.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you. I
17 have more questions, but I'll wait for the second
18 round. Or do I have time?

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: No, your time
20 was up about three minutes ago.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
24 We'll come back to you.

25 Councilman Cohen?

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam

3 Chair.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Certainly.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there anything
6 that prevents the replacement of no-truck-parking
7 signs next to parks, say, on the side of park
8 land?

9 MR. TRAINOR: Good morning, Councilman.
10 Charlie Trainor, Chief Traffic Engineer.

11 In answer to your question, 24-hour
12 prohibition of truck parking would require a
13 specific Council ordinance. We do have the
14 authority to post no-truck-parking 6 p.m. to
15 6 a.m. if there is a residential property within
16 100 feet of where we're talking about. That would
17 only take a letter from either a resident of the
18 street or from an elected official.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But to ban it 24
20 hours a day would require an ordinance by the
21 City?

22 MR. TRAINOR: That is correct.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And that would be
24 followed by the Streets Department?

25 MR. TRAINOR: We would post the signs

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2 on a trial basis AND then prepare the ordinance,
3 yes.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And that no-truck
5 ban would apply to the trailers and tractors?

6 MR. TRAINOR: Currently, trailers, if
7 they are parked on the street more than 24 hours
8 without a tractor attached to it is considered an
9 abandoned vehicle under the State vehicle Code.
10 They are not a vehicle unless a there is a tractor
11 attached to it, but it would include the tractor.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.
13 Let me go back to a favorite subject of
14 mine which involves driveways and retaining walls.
15 What's the situation with respect to the
16 availability of contractors?

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: Usually if we have
18 driveways or alleys or retaining walls that are
19 declared hazardous and if that's what you're
20 talking about, I guess where the residents have
21 gotten together and asked the City to go so far as
22 to go into a contract, we have not been able to
23 get contractors to bid and assume the bills,
24 assessment bills, as payment for the work done.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Has the City come up

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2 with an alternative proposal?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: No, but I believe
4 that Councilman Nutter has introduced a resolution
5 that is addressing many of the questions that I'm
6 sure all of us have about what can be done in
7 terms of retaining walls particularly. And we had
8 agreed, I think our department had agreed we would
9 furnish a great deal of information and have an
10 exchange at that time on that resolution. We're
11 doing research right now, as a matter of fact, on
12 trying to get a handle on the number of driveways,
13 the number of retaining walls an so on.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, isn't the
15 research really more important, not with respect
16 to the number because there are many, many
17 everywhere in the city, isn't the research needed
18 on how we're going to deal with the problem?

19 COMMISSIONER MOY: I think both answers
20 are necessary. I think that the funding --
21 there's the issue of the technical piece of how
22 many are there and whether we have to deal with,
23 but in addition to that there is the policy issues
24 of that Finance and the Law Department would have
25 to engage in in terms of various alternative

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2 funding options.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Have you ever
4 considered a funding option which would retain the
5 responsibility of the homeowner to pay his or her
6 proportionate share but to back up the contractor
7 with respect to those people who don't pay?

8 COMMISSIONER MOY: The primary problem
9 with that is a budgetary one. Our budget at the
10 present time doesn't provide that kind of funding
11 for the department to advance the money and then
12 have the City try and collect the bills.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, has there ever
14 been a study made as to how much that would
15 involve as to what percentage of people don't pay?

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: I don't think there
17 is an official study. I think what you would find
18 is that in different parts of City, it probably
19 would vary. Certainly, where you're in the Center
20 City if you had any kind of situations that
21 required assessment where there was high real
22 estate value, you would probably get a higher
23 compliance rate than you would in some other parts
24 of City where you may have abandoned houses, where
25 you may have absentee landlords and so on. So

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2 there's not a specific study that I know of that's
3 been done, though, Councilman.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there one being
5 done now?

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: Not on that specific
7 subject. There is data that's being gathered to
8 discuss at the hearing.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The reason I raise
10 it is I don't think there's a lack of data; I
11 think there's a lack of will. Because the cost --
12 about two-thirds or more of the people on average
13 pay, they meet their responsibilities. A smaller
14 percentage, and it varies, I agree with you, in
15 different parts of City, don't pay. But it seems
16 to me that the cost would not be very high and we
17 could certainly have tried in all of these years
18 while these retaining walls have been increasingly
19 crumbling and creating much more serious problems
20 and the center areas of the driveways have been
21 deteriorating, seems to me we could at least
22 developed a pilot program so that the contractor
23 who is in no position usually to absorb that
24 financial problem that we can develop some kind of
25 a program with contractors to help share the

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2 burden. Doesn't the City, when the City performs
3 work on a house on an emergency basis where
4 there's safety involved, doesn't the City have a
5 system for collecting money and forcing judgments
6 against homeowners who don't pay for the work that
7 is necessary?

8 COMMISSIONER MOY: I'm not that
9 familiar with that. I guess that's L&I's area,
10 and I'm not familiar with their specific
11 mechanics, Councilman. But I think this is a
12 legitimate question for the Administration to
13 address, and I think it will be covered at
14 Councilman Nutter's hearing.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, Councilman
16 Nutter introduced a bill last year and it passed.
17 Council passed a bill requiring the correction of
18 retaining walls on a specific property. Was
19 anything done by the Streets Department with
20 respect to that Council action?

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: No. I think without
22 the funding, Councilman, we are unable to advance
23 any kind of a program.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, it wouldn't
25 take a whole lot of funding would it, to do one

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2 single property?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: I think once we
4 start down that slope, I think it can become a
5 very slippery slope in terms of the precedent. I
6 think we do have to know sort of the universe
7 we're dealing with, and I think that's why we're
8 trying to get that information and make it
9 available and we would share it with Council here
10 as to how many driveways there are, how many
11 alleys, how many retaining walls.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, there are
13 thousands of them.

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, there are.
15 We're talking about hundreds of millions of
16 dollars.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Nobody needs to do
18 research. It's all over the City, and those that
19 are barely decent now are going to, in the next
20 couple of years, deteriorate. The infrastructure
21 wherever there are common driveways and or
22 retaining walls. Sometimes it's both, sometimes
23 it's only one in an area that needs attention.
24 They're just going to continue to get worse. The
25 values, the property values of the homeowners are

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2 deteriorating badly. People have told me and we
3 get calls in the office that people can't get
4 anybody interested in buying their home because of
5 the condition. And in addition, when you have
6 broken up center area driveways, they just become
7 a repository for all kinds of abandoned cars and
8 trash because they're no longer able to be used as
9 driveways, and the same thing applies if the
10 retaining walls are deteriorated. And this is not
11 a new situation.

12 Could you tell me, sir, the last time
13 the City approved and proceeded to have center
14 driveways or retaining walls fixed by a
15 contractor? When was the last time the City
16 advertised? And secondly, when was the last time
17 the City got a contractor?

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: The last time the
19 City got a contractor, I believe, was in a curb
20 and sidewalk project in the Northeast.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm not talking
22 about curb sidewalks.

23 COMMISSIONER MOY: But that was the
24 last time we had an assessment contract where the
25 contractor accepted bills, which in that case he

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2 knew he would be paid for because there was
3 commercial development alongside. But before
4 that, it's many years since we have advertised and
5 actually had bids taken with a contractor for that
6 kind of repair, Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because I think this
8 may very well be very heavy legal liability that
9 threatens the City in these cases because the City
10 has been participating in permitting the values of
11 homes to go way down, and I think the City has a
12 responsibility. The City is certainly responsible
13 for permitting dangerous conditions to continue
14 and always the fining of the Streets Department
15 inspection group doing their job, they never
16 approved anything unless it was dangerous, and
17 suddenly there's a halt. I think it's a good ten
18 years, maybe longer, since the City has ever
19 approved. Whenever the City representatives come
20 out, they seek to discourage the people because I
21 guess of the difficulty of getting contractors and
22 in the few cases the people have themselves
23 managed to put it together, but it's very, very
24 difficult to do that. It would seem to me the
25 City is derelict in its duty and I'd like to urge

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2 prompt attention on this.

3 How soon do you expect that material
4 will be ready for this hearing?

5 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe we
6 indicated about 45 days or so we will be
7 submitting it.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The beginning of
9 April?

10 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Or thereabouts.
12 Well, the City would condemn them in the --

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: (Inaudible,
14 off mike.)

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, I think the
16 Health Department in point of fact does the actual
17 condemnations of health hazards there with our
18 technical advice.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. And that
20 material will be presented at the hearing also
21 when we have a hearing on the resolution that you
22 referred to that was introduced by Councilman
23 Nutter? I'm very much involved with Councilman
24 Nutter in that study because I had to ask him to
25 amend a resolution that he had introduced on a

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2 general subject and he recommend instead a
3 separate consideration of a resolution and, in
4 fact, it's a joint resolution by Councilman Nutter
5 and myself because I've just felt the City is very
6 derelict in its duties but nothing seems to have
7 helped.

8 To go on another thing, I've been
9 raising for years. Councilman Kenney reminded me
10 when he said he had raised a favorite subject of
11 his since 1992. Mine might have even been raised
12 before, and that's the absence the street signs
13 all over the City. And we get constant
14 complaints, and I have personal complaints as a
15 Councilman-at-Large going all over the City. I
16 sometimes go to areas where I haven't been in two
17 or three years and if I can't find my way and have
18 somebody with me, we often don't know where we are
19 because there are no street signs. And I've
20 always gotten some kind of promises, but there's
21 never been in any action. Is there any program?
22 Do we know what street signs are missing in the
23 City?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: The answer is yes
25 and no. I think that there is a program that we

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2 have with respect to street designation signs. We
3 have a regular preventive maintenance inspection
4 program where folks will travel different parts of
5 City and check out specific traffic sign omissions
6 and other problems there and report them back into
7 work orders.

8 Having said that, the funding for
9 street designation sign materials is limited in
10 our budget. We have not -- this had been funded
11 out of the Capital this year.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I didn't get that
13 last statement.

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: This had been funded
15 out of Capital.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You say it is
17 funded?

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: There's a small
19 amount of money that grew smaller this year in
20 terms of the funding for street designation signs.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And that's Capital?

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: The material
23 acquisition was funded out of Capital, that's
24 correct.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Wouldn't that be

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2 Maintenance and Repair?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: The people that
4 repair it are paid out of Operating. But in any
5 event, we have the program in place and if you can
6 help us or someone can help us with specific signs
7 that are omitted from locations, we can go out
8 and --

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There's no way of
10 doing it. There are thousands of streets that
11 don't have signs. Isn't that the function of the
12 Streets Department, to be responsible for having
13 street signs designated?

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's correct. And
15 I had the impression that for the most part that
16 our folks have gone through and they did have
17 signs, but if you have a specific area, we'll go
18 back over that and look much more closely. And if
19 in the Northeast, if you could define a part of
20 the northeast, we will certainly go over that
21 portion.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I find it in almost
23 every part of the City, South Philadelphia, North
24 Philadelphia, Northwest, Southeast, every area of
25 the City has many, many blocks with no street

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2 designation signs at all.

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: We will --

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And I would like to
5 ask the Streets Department to furnish a list of
6 all streets that are not designated by name.

7 COMMISSIONER MOY: I don't think we
8 have that list, Councilman. I don't think that's
9 the point. If you would help us with some of
10 those omissions, we will address them.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I wouldn't
12 know what street it is, because you look up there
13 and on all four sides there's no street sign. How
14 could I designate it?

15 (Laughter.)

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: Give us an
17 approximate boundary.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I'm requesting
19 because I think it's necessary for the Streets
20 Department to make a study of every street in the
21 City and to make certain that every corner is
22 designated with a street sign.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Councilman, will
24 you yield for one second?

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If Reilly Harrison
3 here from Fleet Management, can we get a global
4 positioning monitor in Councilman Cohen's car and
5 then --

6 (Laughter.)

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I know --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: NASA will always
9 know where Councilman Cohen is. We do it right by
10 the coordinates. I'm just trying the help out,
11 Councilman.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yeah, I'd be
13 prepared to do that, but I'm fearful that
14 Councilman Nutter has a side motive. He wants to
15 keep me away from other issues and have me spend
16 my time designating the streets.

17 (Laughter.)

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Were I elected to do
19 that, Councilman Nutter, I would be very pleased
20 to do it. But I would very much like to request
21 from the Streets Department a list of all the
22 street corners that are not designated and would
23 like a reply from you with respect to that
24 respect.

25 With respect to the signs that you've

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2 designated on the Avenue of the Arts on Broad
3 Street, only real young people like Councilman
4 Nutter can probably read the signs because what
5 you've done is they've made them artistic but
6 illegible to people maybe two or three years older
7 than Councilman Nutter and thereafter.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And I would like to
10 suggest that I believe there can be signs that are
11 both artistic and legible and would like to ask
12 the Department to consider that in developing the
13 next set of signs.

14 COMMISSIONER MOY: Okay.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

16 We have a follow-up question.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'll be on the next.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, we'll get
19 you for the next go-round. Councilman Rizzo is
20 next, but we have a follow-up question.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you. I just
22 have one additional sign request. I call these
23 signs the of wheel of fortune signs. They're the
24 ones where one or two or three of the letters in
25 the sign is faded as a result rain and elements.

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2 It's like, can buy a vowel so I can figure out
3 what sign it is. I asked this maybe last year or
4 the year before. We had a contract with somebody
5 to do that, and I don't know if there was a
6 warranty or what was there, but in a relatively
7 short period of time certain letters on certain
8 signs faded off. I thought originally it was
9 vandalism where people were climbing up the pole
10 and spray-painting green just to confuse people.
11 But the more and more I looked at it, it's clear
12 that certain of the white letters had faded as a
13 result of rain or other elements. Is there some
14 way we can also get a report on whether we're try
15 to get a reimbursement or these signs are being
16 replaced at the contractor's cost because of a
17 defect in the sign?

18 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman Kenney, I
19 believe you were referring to Harbison and
20 Aramingo Avenue which you raised a question about
21 last year. If I recollect our answer at that
22 time, those signs that we have up there, sir, are
23 over ten years old. The life expectancy of --

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: To me, they look
25 like the newer design size-wise.

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2 MR. TRAINOR: What you're calling a
3 newer design sign, sir, has been installed since
4 1973 that I'm aware of.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Right.

6 MR. TRAINOR: So right there it's,
7 what, 27 years.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I've lived in the
9 City my whole life. I'm 41. I've seen all kinds
10 of different signs from the white ones with the
11 black letters on forward. The signs that I'm
12 talking about are not 27 years old.

13 MR. TRAINOR: No. The type of sign
14 that you're talking about, what we call the metro,
15 signs, Councilman, some of them -- we started that
16 program over 27 years with the metro street name
17 signs. The signs that were installed up on
18 Aramingo and Harbison, the ones that we looked at
19 specifically did not have any paperwork behind
20 them still in our records. So they were exceeding
21 the seven-year life expectancy of the engineer
22 grade material that used for that type of sign.
23 Currently, the sign that we're using now is a high
24 intensity material which we expect to last about
25 ten years, and they are done in-house.

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2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And this is just
3 anecdotal, just my own personal experience.
4 Growing up, I never remember seeing letters off
5 signs. They were the light color, the white
6 background black letter sign and I've never seen
7 any faded -- I've never seen any of the individual
8 letters off. To me -- well, maybe that's the
9 answer, I don't know. But it's not just Harbison
10 Avenue, it's other streets throughout the City
11 where you see an occasional letter or two that are
12 gone from the sign. And it just -- I mean, maybe
13 there are 27 years old, but they look awful new.

14 MR. TRAINOR: The black-and-white signs
15 that you're talking about --

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No, not the
17 black-and-white signs.

18 MR. TRAINOR: No, the older ones that
19 you were talking, they were paint; they were not a
20 particular material that were stuck on there, but
21 they did not have the reflectivity at night that
22 the current signs do.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So what you're
24 saying for the record is that there's no problem
25 with any of the newer signs that have been

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2 installed, they're just fine?

3 MR. TRAINOR: No, Councilman. I agree
4 with you that the lettering does fade over time
5 and it fades depending on the direction that the
6 sign is facing. A sign that is -- a two-sign
7 bracket which one sign facing toward the South and
8 one facing to the north, the sign on the south
9 side will fade quicker, deteriorate quicker than
10 the sign on north side.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there some
12 process we can employ to paint them or to do
13 something? Is there reflective paint that's
14 available that would keep this from happening, or
15 we got to keep buying these signs and replacing
16 them?

17 MR. TRAINOR: Even the reflective
18 paint, the parking signs that we use do have some
19 reflectivity and they're a painted sign and they
20 also fade over time.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: All right. Thank
22 you, Madam Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

24 Councilman Rizzo.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam

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2 Chair.

3 Commissioner Moy, first of all, I thank
4 you. We received quite a few letters, and I think
5 I've forwarded a few of them to you, for the
6 relief, some relief to the traffic congestion on
7 Germantown Avenue so that went over big I wanted
8 to thank Charlie Trainor for all of the effort
9 that went in resolving that problem.

10 Councilman Nutter in jest was talking
11 about a global positioning system. And I know
12 that you know that the City is about to install a
13 new communications system that's costing well over
14 \$50 million, and I see that you requested or it's
15 been proposed to you a global positioning system
16 for the Sanitation Division, and I'd like to know
17 why we need a global positioning system. I think
18 I know we have one customer that might be able to
19 use it, but I'd like to know with this
20 state-of-the-art, and I don't think there's going
21 to be a finer two-way radio system in the world
22 after this is installed and that's not
23 exaggerated, that need a global positioning system
24 to keep track of your employees when they have
25 two-way radios in their trucks and most of the

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2 time employees are always behind the wheel. So I
3 don't understand the pilot program and expense of
4 \$150,000 for global positioning for sanitation
5 vehicles.

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe a request
7 had been made in the Capital program for global
8 positioning on a pilot basis there, Councilman. I
9 don't think that that was retained in that budget,
10 if I'm not mistaken. But the point had been to
11 try to use this as a pilot to see if it would work
12 on certain kinds of vehicles and whether it would
13 be worth while expanding into the fleet. It was
14 only a small number, maybe we would start with
15 buck trucks or things like that, the ones that
16 were most important to us in terms of
17 communications. Eventually there are things that
18 as we get into more acceptance of GPS that when we
19 go into snow routes and things like that, this
20 kind of equipment may become more commonplace. I
21 think there was a number of jurisdictions that are
22 experimenting with GPS throughout the country.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But, again, where
24 you have this very fine communications system that
25 would be utilized by the Streets Department, so I

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2 don't personally see the needs for both. And
3 since it's been knocked out of the -- it has been
4 knocked out of the budget.

5 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's right.
6 That's my understanding.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I hope stays out
8 because I don't really personally see a need for
9 it. If you do, that's fine.

10 My next question is I know that there
11 was a resolution, I'm not sure exactly what it
12 was, but lots of municipalities throughout the
13 country have adopted a rigid container policy on
14 trash being put out at the curb by businesses and
15 residents in a trash can with lid. When I ride
16 through the City, especially in Center City, I see
17 trash just strewn all over the place. People just
18 though plastic bags out at the curb, dogs get in,
19 animals get into these bags, and it just seems to
20 me that trash day is the day that we get our
21 streets the dirtiest where there's just things just
22 blowing all over the place. Have we ever done a
23 pilot or do we plan to do anything? Have you ever
24 considered a rigid container regulation like any
25 other municipalities or boroughs have?

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2 MS. TOLSON: Councilman, in fact, we
3 have tested a rigid container in parts of the
4 City. A few years back, we installed what we call
5 Toter Containers, that's a company that made them,
6 and tested in Mt. Airy and part of Roxborough.
7 The intent of this program was to see whether we
8 could minimize injuries as well as possibly pick
9 up our speed and reduce our crew size. The
10 container that the City provided to residents was
11 101-gallon container, and we had a truck with a
12 specially outfitted lift that was to come in,
13 collect the container, the truck did the lifting
14 and tipped the container. That process is a lot
15 slower. And also, we found in terms of our
16 citizen use, because of our particular City's
17 culture with regard to trash allowances is that
18 that container was not enough for our citizens to
19 put all of their materials in. In fact, even with
20 a large container, we still get other trash in
21 bags or other cans alongside the large container
22 that we provided. Council has in the past talked
23 having an ordinance which would require that all
24 residences and businesses that have City
25 collection would have a firm container, even if it

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2 was a 32-gallon normal size container that you
3 could buy at a Home Depot or Sears or a hardware
4 store. I think, if remember some of the
5 discussion, there was concern that rigid
6 containers don't necessarily meet needs or don't
7 necessarily fit into the life styles of many of
8 our citizens because they require storage space
9 either outside or inside a house. They do take up
10 a significant amount of space and everybody
11 doesn't have that provided to them. There is a
12 lifting requirement that some households cannot
13 handle with regard to carrying a can versus
14 carrying a bag. There's a different dynamic to
15 carrying a can. There is also a cost feature.
16 For many property owners buying cans from a
17 hardware store seems more cost prohibitive because
18 there is an up-front cost that is fairly
19 significant when you compare that to buying a box
20 of bags as well as the fact that in many areas of
21 our City, most areas of our City, cans do get
22 stolen which is why people put their addresses on
23 them and sometimes put their name. However, they
24 still, you know -- I've seen people walking on not
25 the right block with a can going someplace else.

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2 Because of that, I think our citizens presently
3 have a choice about how they set their trash out,
4 and we go with whatever choice they have, whether
5 it be bags or cans.

6 In terms of our collection practices,
7 and around the country this has been proven, the
8 fastest way of collecting trash is rear-loading or
9 side-loading with bags. Cans will always slow the
10 process down. However, in the communities where
11 people choose to use cans, it is not a problem.
12 By and large we find that it is generally on a
13 community-by-community basis that people either
14 select cans or not select cans based upon how they
15 feel the cans will be received in their community
16 and their ability or desire to have them in their
17 household.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

19 Could I ask one more?

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: (Nods.)

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, to
22 follow up on Councilman Kenney's question about
23 ditches, my personal observation is that the City
24 of Philadelphia is one of the bigger violators of
25 the entire ditch restoration process. I know just

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 this morning, I observed a ditch that was dug by
3 PGW and not backfilled properly, just the earth
4 through back in. I noticed that they drilled
5 holes in the entire intersection many weeks ago,
6 did not repair those holes where water can flow
7 and undermine the street. I know the Water
8 Department is, again, a violator of a proper
9 restoration of a ditch. I don't think there's
10 anything worse than a rainy dark night that a
11 person in their vehicle has to run across one of
12 these ditches, so I think that the utility
13 companies, the gas company, the Water Department,
14 really need to get their act together in filling
15 these holes properly.

16 And just to add to that, when the
17 Streets Department or any other agency lends out a
18 contract, I think where some of the contractors
19 pick up a few dollars is where in the contract it
20 says that they're supposed to put barricades up
21 with flashing light, that they're supposed at the
22 ends of the day put covering plates down to
23 properly protect some of these excavations; they
24 don't do that. And in my opinion, there's nobody
25 telling them to do that. So I don't know what

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2 kind of project management we have, but I can tell
3 you that today if in a late-model automobile one
4 of our constituents hits one of these ditches,
5 they're going to create a lot of damage to their
6 vehicle. And I know Risk Management, every year
7 it's one of my pet questions, Risk Management
8 tells me that there's supposedly a committee of
9 the utility companies, the water, gas, etc., that
10 have been trying to address this problem, and I
11 have seen no improvement in that situation
12 throughout the City.

13 Example: Hillcrest Avenue, a major
14 project. Every week after a rain storm I had to
15 personally call to make sure that the contractor
16 went back there to backfill that situation, and
17 again, it's just something that I haven't seen any
18 progress or haven't seen any improvement in how we
19 leave the streets after we do work on them.

20 Thank you, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: Okay, thank you,
22 Councilman.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Question,
24 Commissioner or Miss Tolson. We have some
25 residential blocks, not a lot, but some who want

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2 cans. Now, if they can get trash cans, will the
3 City empty them? The residential block, not a
4 commercial corridor.

5 MS. TOLSON: Councilwoman, I want to
6 offer an answer cautiously. With our block
7 captain program, which I think is a wonderful
8 program that I hope can spread throughout the
9 City --

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I agree.

11 MS. TOLSON: We do have an
12 adopt-a-basket program, and we actually provide
13 cans to citizens, to our block captains that want
14 them. Usually it's because these blocks have lots
15 of children on the block, they may have a
16 mom-and-pop store on the corner, they may have a
17 school nearby, and they feel this would help them
18 take care of their litter problem. What we really
19 suggest to people with their cans is that they
20 don't use a City container, a wire basket, because
21 what eventually happens is the baskets become
22 magnet for trash. Citizens, when they find out
23 the City has given a basket or there's one that's
24 provided out there, as they see it collected will
25 then place their household trash in them on a

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2 regular basis. This is a problem that we have on
3 commercial corridors and corridors that abut
4 residential blocks or even apartment houses or
5 just a few houses in a commercial area. What we
6 suggest to people is instead take, you know, a
7 little can that you get from a hardware store,
8 from a supermarket, and then as you empty it, put
9 it with your household trash and we'll get that on
10 the once-a-week collection schedule. However, any
11 time that we've ever gone in, tried to service
12 cans, the cans are always abused. Citizens will
13 put out, you know, smelly fish debris, you know,
14 crabs when they have them in the summertime,
15 household trash that they don't want to keep in
16 for a long period of time, and ultimately we have
17 people who get turned off with regard to having
18 cans and then they're asking that it be removed.

19 What we found that has works best is
20 when citizens put out a normal-looking household
21 container and their neighborhoods tend to respect
22 that a little bit better with regard to abusing
23 it.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

25 MS. TOLSON: But I think also that once

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2 we start to move with enforcing our litter can law
3 on the stores that sell take-out food that we
4 should see a little bit of relief for some of our
5 blocks, our residential blocks, and it should get
6 a little bit better for them.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

8 Councilman Nutter.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair.

11 Commissioner, let me go back to a topic
12 that you covered earlier. With regard to street
13 resurfacing and potential or alleged curb damage,
14 we've had a number of conversations about that,
15 but one of your answers intrigued me. When the
16 job is -- I think usually there's a posting that
17 goes up because, obviously, you want people to
18 move their cars, so there is some level of advance
19 notice, maybe three or four days. Do we put out,
20 I guess, kind of a dear citizen, dear neighbor,
21 this is what we're doing in your block, we're
22 going to resurface it, we expect the job to the
23 start on X date, finish on Y date. The contractor
24 is so and so. This is their contact phone number,
25 and the City inspector on this job is Mr. or Ms.

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2 Williams, Jones, whoever, whatever their name is,
3 with a phone number for that person to contact
4 them so that they can tell that person either at
5 the site or know who to go to at the site for
6 these curb damage issues? Do we provide that
7 information up front?

8 COMMISSIONER MOY: I'm told on our
9 resurfacing jobs we do stuff mailboxes with a good
10 deal of the information that you just outlined. I
11 think we need to check and make sure it does all
12 of the things that you suggested. I think we tell
13 them that we're coming in with milling and
14 resurfacing and giving them a point of contact.
15 I'm not sure it addresses curb specifically, but
16 we do have some kind of an overall alert to the
17 residents to --

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Did you say when
19 the City is doing that work?

20 COMMISSIONER MOY: When the City is
21 doing it.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What about the
23 private contractors?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: It goes in before
25 the milling, which is always private contractor,

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2 so yes, we do it.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Can you get us a
4 copy of that notice or a sample one that has
5 actually gone out?

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: Certainly.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let's talk about
8 street lights. How do you measure -- what's the
9 proper terminology, I guess, for the measurement
10 of light or illumination that comes out of the
11 bulbs? Is it lumens, is it wattage?

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: Joe Doyle can
13 probably answer that better.

14 MR. DOYLE: I'm sorry, Councilman,
15 would you ask that question again? I was moving
16 up here.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the
18 technical term for the measurement by however you
19 measure it for light that comes out of a light
20 fixture, is it lumens, is it illumination, what's
21 the technical term?

22 MR. DOYLE: There's a couple different
23 terms. Probably the one that we would be most
24 familiar with would be footcandles, that would be
25 the measurement of light as it actually falls on

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 the surface that's being illuminated.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Is that then
4 called footcandle power or footcandle --

5 MR. DOYLE: Footcandles is a number
6 relatively low 1, 2, 3 footcandles is sort of a
7 typically roadway lighting situation.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So what's the
9 footcandles for an average city street in the
10 City?

11 MR. DOYLE: That's a good question. It
12 varies. The footcandle reading on the street is a
13 function of a number of factors. One is the total
14 output of the light, what the mounting height of
15 the light is, how far apart the lights are, trees,
16 other things. Probably in the range of a quarter
17 to a half footcandle very, very broad average
18 would be the number.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. So
20 let's say, for instance, in an average block in
21 West Philadelphia, 55 houses on the block, parking
22 on both sides of the street, travel lanes in each
23 direction, usually three no more than four cobra
24 street lights on one side of the street, what's
25 the footcandle reading on that block?

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2 MR. DOYLE: Approximately a quarter to
3 a half footcandle.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Quarter to a half
5 footcandle, okay.

6 I notice in the Commissioner's
7 testimony that the department has funds for
8 streetscape maintenance for the Avenue of the
9 Arts; is that correct?

10 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How much is that?

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: \$250,000.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what is that
14 for?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: It basically
16 reimburses the series of contractors that the
17 Avenue of the Arts hires to take care of the
18 streetscape kinds of things, the sidewalk
19 appurtenances there, I think the flower plantings
20 through the different seasons and I think
21 restoring some of the pots that have been changing
22 over some of the street furniture down this.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry, I got
24 lost somewhere. Who are we paying?

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: We're paying Avenue

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2 of the Arts, Incorporated, which is the nonprofit
3 agency that's administering work along the Avenue
4 of the Arts.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And why are we
6 paying for this?

7 COMMISSIONER MOY: Because it was in
8 agreement with the Mayor to fund the maintenance
9 there.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How long?

11 COMMISSIONER MOY: There's a contract
12 which is a yearly contract.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How long do you
14 anticipate that we're going to pay this?

15 COMMISSIONER MOY: Pardon me?

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How long do you
17 anticipate we're going to pay this?

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: It's an annual
19 contract that is recurring.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So as in forever?

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: Could be.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do we have
23 contracts of this same type in other parts of
24 City? Is that maintenance contract for
25 streetscape?

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: I don't think we
3 have -- if we have any, we certainly don't have
4 many, Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the
6 footcandle reading on the Avenue of the Arts?

7 MR. DOYLE: Approximately four to five
8 average.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Four to five.

10 MR. DOYLE: Four to five, yes.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Four to five.

12 What's the footcandle Walnut Street between Broad
13 and 16th.

14 MR. DOYLE: About the same range, four
15 to five footcandles, perhaps a little bit less.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the reason for
17 this seemingly great disparity between those areas
18 and the average neighborhood in Philadelphia is
19 what?

20 MR. DOYLE: They were designed at
21 different times and for different reasons. The
22 design that was finally adopted for South Broad
23 Street looked at having a relatively high light
24 level with a high frequency of poles. As you're
25 probably aware, South Broad Street has street

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2 light poles that are probably 50 to 75 feet apart.
3 That's overall at least twice the density of the
4 pole locations that we're used to seeing on
5 residential streets.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that,
7 but we're talking about light power now. So is
8 more light better than less light for pedestrians
9 and other people who are out and about?

10 MR. DOYLE: Up to a certain limit, yes
11 that's --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the limit?

13 MR. DOYLE: Well, you can have a street
14 that's overly lit and creates a glare problem.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is a reading of
16 four or five overly lit.

17 MR. DOYLE: No, I would not say that.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is a reading of a
19 quarter to a half underlit.

20 MR. DOYLE: That's arguably the case.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry?

22 MR. DOYLE: I think you can make the
23 argument for that situation it might be considered
24 underlit.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, you're the

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2 street lighting technical person, right?

3 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. If you had
5 your choice, would you rather walk down a street
6 quarter to a half or one that had four to five.

7 MR. DOYLE: Probably the four to five.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And we don't
9 have any of these similar contracts anywhere else
10 pretty much in the City? If we did, they'd
11 probably pop right off the top of your head,
12 right, the maintenance contracts we talked about
13 earlier?

14 MR. DOYLE: I'm sorry, Councilman. The
15 streetscape maintenance cost was not related to
16 lighting that I'm aware of. That's for other
17 functions.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I didn't make any
19 connection between the two. I'm back to a
20 different question.

21 MR. DOYLE: Oh, I'm sorry. The only
22 contract that we have for maintenance of street
23 lighting is what we presently have in place with
24 PECO Energy, and they provide a service for
25 replacing defective lights that are out of

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 service.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do we have -- is
4 there any plan or program anticipated to get the
5 footcandle power up in our residential
6 neighborhoods to some higher, brighter, and
7 potentially safer level?

8 MR. DOYLE: Right now, we have -- our
9 first efforts have been to replace the older
10 equipment with better lighting to improve that
11 number. As far as the density of lighting, that
12 is not something that we have any large-scale
13 program underway.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I know the
15 buzzer has buzzed on me a while ago. I'll come
16 back to this particular area.

17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 Commissioner, I was struck by the
23 response to Councilman Nutter's question regarding
24 Philadelphia's ranking with regards to recycling.
25 My notes indicate that Philadelphia ranks

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 number 9?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's correct.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Could you please
5 for the record provide me as well the background
6 data on the other cities, who they are and the
7 ranking, so that I can look to see what they are
8 doing that Philadelphia may or may not be doing?

9 And then secondly, follow-up on the
10 recycling education activities happening in the
11 Overbrook Cluster, I'm unclear on what that is,
12 what that means. So provide to me, preferably by
13 the end of this month because the School District
14 comes before us next month, a program description,
15 what those activities that are happening in the
16 Overbrook Cluster.

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll be happy to do
18 that, Councilwoman.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please provide the
20 name of the point person on your staff for the
21 recycling effort.

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: Steve Tilney.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Steve?

24 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, Steve Tilney
25 who was here is our interim recycling coordinator.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very

3 much.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You're

6 welcome.

7 Councilman Kenney, did you want to be

8 recognized?

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is

11 Councilwoman Miller still in the room?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilman

14 Cohen?

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Are tires being

16 recycled? Or how are they disposed of, is it

17 through recycling or other forms of disposal?

18 MS. TOLSON: Yes, tires are moved to a

19 separate facility, they are not trashed.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you speak

21 louder?

22 MS. TOLSON: Tires go to the a facility

23 that crumbs them, chips them up, and sells it to

24 recycling firms to power companies and the like.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm sorry, I'm

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 unable to hear you.

3 MS. TOLSON: The tires that the City
4 collects goes to a firm that chips the tires up
5 into very small pieces or crumbs the tires. That
6 recycler then takes the materials and sells it to
7 firms that use recycled rubber or to power
8 companies that use it as an alternative fuel to
9 power their plants.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Does the City get
11 some compensation?

12 MS. TOLSON: No. However, the rate
13 that the City pays actually is fairly good
14 compared to a number of cities around the country.
15 Our cost is approximately 55 cents a tire. There
16 are some cities that are paying as much as \$1.50 a
17 tire for disposal. We pay by ton, but I'm
18 breaking that per tire cost for you.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Whose responsibility
20 is it to pick up the tires that are on pavements
21 or on streets when they're dumped there?

22 MS. TOLSON: That is the responsibility
23 of the Streets Department. Someone asked a
24 question about how they should be properly
25 identified, and through a number of mechanisms.

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2 We certainly appreciate calls that come from
3 citizens to identify when they set out the
4 materials. However, in Philadelphia -- I should
5 also say that we also identify them when our
6 supervisors are on the street and they see them,
7 they identify them as well and then they're picked
8 up by a separate fleet of vehicles that are trash
9 compactors, however, when they go to work, the
10 only thing that put on their trucks is trash.
11 They're not allowed to take tires with the trash.

12 In Philadelphia we have a big problem,
13 however, with tires that are thrown out on the
14 street after they have been legally dropped off
15 with an auto shop or garage or something like
16 that. When you go in and buy new tires, the
17 vendor receives your old tire, in fact, charges
18 you a fee for it that's allowed by the State,
19 charges you a small fee and the tire is then
20 supposed to be properly recycled. What many of
21 these vendors do, however, is they receive the
22 tire, they receive the fee, and at some later
23 date, the tires end up either in a pile someplace
24 near the auto shop, and that's where many of our
25 tires come from, near a small garage; or some

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2 vendors will go as far as ringing fire hydrant in
3 the neighborhood and just spreading them around
4 the neighborhoods. We had that problem in South
5 Philadelphia last summer. It was a very big
6 problem. You don't have household with 20, 30
7 tires at one time. These are coming from
8 unscrupulous vendors who are taking money for
9 proper disposal and then they are dumping the
10 tires out, in their mind, for free on the street.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Does the City have
12 some kind of campaign against that form of -- it's
13 an illegal dumping isn't it?

14 MS. TOLSON: It surely is
15 short-dumping. It's very difficult to check. It
16 makes our collection process more difficult
17 because you can, in fact, find tires at any
18 location. It might be leaning against a house, it
19 might be thrown against a curb, on a sidewalk,
20 anyplace other than just the collection site where
21 trash might be normally set out. So the system is
22 challenged in that way. We do have responsibility
23 to get it, which is why we have the separate
24 complements of trucks that goes out and collect
25 them. Right now, because there's no individual

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2 market, per se, for tires which would encourage,
3 say, scavengers to get it or anybody else to get
4 it, tires wind up staying on the street for the
5 City to get.

6 What we have done in the past and what
7 we plan to do this year is to have a tire roundup.
8 It's a program that we started approximately four
9 to five years ago. And through this program, we
10 work with block captains, boy scout troops, girl
11 scout troops, and many nonprofit neighborhood
12 organizations around the City, and it has in the
13 past been a public-private citizen cooperative
14 effort. An by that, I mean in some years we have
15 had citizens collecting the tires. The City
16 receives the tires, properly disposes of it, and
17 we've actually had some generous members of our
18 private sector who have funded a bounty for those
19 tires. In the absence of private sector funding
20 the bounties, the City has funded the bounties.
21 We have paid as much as 50 cents per tire for
22 citizens to bring those tires to us. We've
23 supported that program and encouraged it because
24 what it does is it eases the collection system for
25 us. We don't have to hunt for tires. It helps

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2 the community groups because they get to clean
3 their communities up. It helps them also from the
4 standpoint of when they are funded 50 cents per
5 tire, they're allowed to collect \$250, \$500 in
6 moneys for the communities that they then funnel
7 back into community programs such as troops for
8 children in the community, buying trees, buying
9 planters, buying brooms, shovels, and cleaning
10 equipment, whatever is appropriate for that
11 community group. That program will happen again
12 this year in July and August.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Does the City have
14 any power to check the records of these private
15 garages or repair shops? Because they generally
16 charge \$5 if you buy a tire from them and they ask
17 you do you want your old tire disposed of, the
18 charge is frequently \$5, it may be higher, it may
19 be lower in a few cases. Does the City have any
20 power to check their records? Do we have any
21 supervision over these tire shops.

22 MS. TOLSON: Not from that standpoint,
23 I don't believe. The manifest system for tires
24 does leave some room for improvement. Unlike,
25 say, some hazardous waste, there's no requirement

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2 that's enforced that requires vendors who receive
3 old tires to document and state exactly where each
4 of those tires wind up.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Who they got it
6 from, how many, and who they send it to?

7 MS. TOLSON: That's correct, that's the
8 manifest.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So that we can check
10 with who they send it to whether they received
11 them or not?

12 MS. TOLSON: Right. There's no strong
13 system in place for that right now, and it
14 probably would require some State legislation,
15 maybe possibly City legislation as well.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: They're under State
17 jurisdiction?

18 MS. TOLSON: In terms of managing tire
19 disposal statewide, yes. Because given that our
20 borders are so, you know --

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Along Lindley
22 Avenue, between Bellfield and Old Stenton Avenue,
23 just before Lindley becomes Logan, there's one
24 garage there and there's almost every day a heap
25 of tires that keeps getting bigger and bigger,

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2 about 100 yards from the shop as well as right
3 across the street where there's a park.

4 MS. TOLSON: Right.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It's always there.
6 I saw a group of people today trying to clean up
7 near the park side, and that may be one of the
8 volunteer groups that you referred to.

9 MS. TOLSON: I think the bigger issue
10 there is the fact that, and you're kind of I guess
11 supporting what I said earlier, is that close to a
12 number of garages you're going to find short dumps
13 where they probably collect their tires in a day
14 and then at night before they go home or on the
15 weekends when nobody's looking, they're going to
16 go out and dump the tires. Tires don't carry
17 identifying marks, they're not required, so it's
18 difficult to trace where tires come from.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Neighbors in the
20 area are convinced that comes from this garage on
21 the corner of 20th Street and Lindley Avenue
22 because the tires not on the park side but on the
23 garage side appear about 50 yards from the garage
24 shop right underneath the bridge overpass.

25 MS. TOLSON: They're probably right and

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2 I'll work with the Police Department to keep an
3 eye on this location to see if we can try to
4 determine who's short-dumping there and to put a
5 stop to it.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right, thank
7 you.

8 Now, could I now go onto recycling?
9 How much money does the City itself put into the
10 recycling budget? I calculate in this budget that
11 we're dealing with that the figure is \$900,000 of
12 City money out of the budget of about close to
13 \$150 million for the Streets Department. Am I
14 wrong? And tell me if I am by how much.

15 MS. TOLSON: Councilman, that number's
16 a little off. Substantially, there's a lot more
17 that we spend. I can give you the exact number,
18 but just with our operations and our
19 administration, not including processing costs,
20 things like that, the number's closer to 4.5
21 million.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is what?

23 MS. TOLSON: 4.5 million.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And that's
25 State-City money.

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2 MS. TOLSON: State City money.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Not State grant
4 money.

5 MS. TOLSON: No. That includes no
6 grant money.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 4.5 million.

8 MS. TOLSON: And that does not include
9 processing costs.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What does that
11 support.

12 MS. TOLSON: That supports on-street
13 collections and the planning and program staff.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And then there's the
15 5 million additional from the State.

16 MS. TOLSON: The State grant money can
17 vary year by year, but, surely, yes. State grant
18 money would be on top of that.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Would I be able to
20 get from you, say, in the course of this week, a
21 list of all of the City monies and where it's
22 located in the budget?

23 MS. TOLSON: Surely.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because I have
25 trouble seeing anything beyond the \$900,000. What

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2 I see is 5 million altogether for recycling, of
3 which 4.1 comes from the State grant.

4 MS. TOLSON: No, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: No, all right. If
6 you could work out just the recycling budget for
7 me.

8 MS. TOLSON: Surely.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And does that State
10 grant, is that a continuing grant or is that a
11 grant -- could you compare it with State grants in
12 the last, say, two or three years before this
13 current year that we're dealing with?

14 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The pilot program
16 that exists now, do you know what the recycling
17 residential rate was when we had once a week
18 collection? Didn't we have once a week collection
19 throughout the whole City at one point in time?

20 MS. TOLSON: We had once-a-week at the
21 start of the program ten years ago. And in an
22 effort to try to move to collections throughout
23 the entire City, we dropped once-a-week
24 collections and plastics and moved to
25 every-other-week collections through the entire

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2 City.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, I missed what
4 you said just before you said, "We moved to
5 twice-a-week collection." Said ten years ago we
6 started once-a-week collection and then when we
7 got to the point of covering the whole City, then
8 I missed something you said, and then you said we
9 went on to twice a week.

10 MS. TOLSON: We had once a week
11 collection a portion of the city when program
12 started.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Right. Did we ever
14 have -- was there ever a time when we had once a
15 week throughout the whole City.

16 MS. TOLSON: Never.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Never. What was the
18 closest approximation of the whole city? What
19 portion of the City?

20 MS. TOLSON: Two of our sanitation
21 districts had -- two of our six sanitation
22 districts had weekly, while the rest of City had
23 nothing. We expanded over time to the entire
24 City. Now everyone has every other week. Save
25 for now the pilot program which we started last

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2 May.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm just not getting
4 what you're --

5 Yes, I'll yield to Councilwoman
6 Blackwell.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
10 Madam President.

11 You said that when it was a pilot
12 program you collected both newspapers and
13 plastics? What did you say?

14 MS. TOLSON: I'm sorry, Councilwoman.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What did you
16 say you collected on the pilot before you went to
17 every other week.

18 MS. TOLSON: When we first started the
19 program and after the pilot when the determination
20 was made that we were going to do recycling in the
21 City, we collected newspaper, plastic, glass and
22 metals.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Now you don't
24 collect --

25 MS. TOLSON: Now we don't collect

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2 plastic. In an effort to move from just having
3 collections in two of the six sanitation areas and
4 to have collections throughout the entire City,
5 we've dropped plastics, which are very costly to
6 collect, and we dropped every other week service
7 in those to areas. And we now have any other week
8 through the entire City except for the two areas
9 that we're piloting or testing weekly collections.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Do we have it
11 in City Hall?

12 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: In the
14 municipal buildings.

15 MS. TOLSON: Yes we do have municipal
16 recycling.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is it the same
18 type of system? How does it go in the municipal
19 buildings?

20 MS. TOLSON: In municipal buildings we
21 have added -- I guess we added in in '95 mixed
22 paper. City Hall, you're collecting all of those
23 mixed papers.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Do we have a
25 mandatory system within municipal government?

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2 MS. TOLSON: Pardon me, I'm sorry.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Do we have a
4 mandatory system within municipal government?

5 MS. TOLSON: Yes. City Hall has been
6 recycling now for maybe eight years. There was a
7 big step-up in that effort in the last couple of
8 years.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I know we have
10 it, but I didn't know whether or not it was
11 mandatory. And obviously, because other people
12 take out our trash, we don't do it directly.

13 Then my last follow-up, and I'll yield
14 back to Councilman Cohen is, has any attempt to
15 put into place an educational program in public
16 schools on recycling? Because it would be a great
17 part of an environmental class schedule.

18 MR. TILNEY: Excuse me, Councilwoman.
19 For the last 13 years that I've been with the
20 recycling office, we've consistently tried to make
21 outreach efforts into the schools. We've tried to
22 step up those efforts over the last couple years,
23 and we also have in plan for the next few years to
24 continue our outreach efforts into the public
25 school system. I will say that there are not as

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2 forthcoming as we'd like them to be. If we can
3 get the schools to start notifying us about visits
4 that they'd like, classroom educational programs
5 that they'd like to have take place at specific
6 schools, we'll try to put them into accomodation
7 schedule.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: On the same
9 issue, has any --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Excuse me,
11 excuse me. I don't believe you identified
12 yourself So that the record would reflect who is
13 speaking.

14 MR. TILNEY: I'm sorry. My name is
15 Steven Tilney, and I'm the interim recycling
16 coordinator and the recycling program
17 administrator.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Has any effort
20 been made to withdraw recycling from the Streets
21 Department and to some other are or entity to
22 focus more attention on it? Are there any plans
23 to do recycling differently or on a major basis
24 since it's becoming such a big area?

25 MR. TILNEY: I could only say we're

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2 fully supported where recycling is concerned
3 within the City. We have some new initiatives
4 that were taking place, for instance, an organic
5 waste composting program which is just now being
6 kicked off as a backyard composting program. We
7 have some additional outreach into the school
8 systems and we're continuing to do educational
9 outreach in the general public and, again, trying
10 to support the pilot program that's going on as
11 well.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And finally,
13 what about the replacement of the recycling
14 coordinator? Where and when how is that search
15 being conducted?

16 MS. TOLSON: Our recycling coordinator
17 left a few weeks ago. I think our intention is to
18 do the proper search and find the best and most
19 appropriate person for that position.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
21 Councilman. I yield back to you.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: With respect to the
23 recycling coordinator, when is it anticipated that
24 there will be a real live full-time recycling
25 coordinator?

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2 MS. TOLSON: We have an interim
3 coordinator right now who is quite familiar with
4 the program and he's fulfilling all of those
5 duties presently, so we're not -- there's no lapse
6 in any services.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And he has the full
8 authority of a recycling coordinator?

9 MS. TOLSON: Absolutely.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So that we can
11 expect him to be performing as a recycling
12 coordinator until such time as he is either
13 permanently appointed or somebody else is
14 permanently appointed?

15 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That's right?

17 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So there should be
19 no lack of ability to go forward?

20 MS. TOLSON: Absolutely not. In fact,
21 we're stepping up our speed.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So that means that
23 there will not be funding problem when a recycling
24 coordinator comes in? Are there funds now
25 available for a recycling coordinator?

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2 MS. TOLSON: Councilman, we anticipate
3 no problems whatsoever.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, with respect to
5 the pilot program again, now we have a pilot
6 program for every-week recycling, right? What
7 percentage of the City is covered by that?

8 MS. TOLSON: The pilot program is now
9 occurring in the Northwest section of the City as
10 well as Center City. The genesis for that
11 program, as you might remember, is that we came to
12 City Council last year to --

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could I interrupt
14 because I really do -- I'm not at this moment
15 interested in that. I would like to follow
16 through. What percentage of the City do you
17 estimate is covered by the weekly recycling
18 program?

19 MS. TOLSON: About 80,000 households
20 out of, say, out of 560,000 households.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 80,000 out of --

22 MS. TOLSON: 506, about one-seventh.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 560, that's about a
24 seventh?

25 MS. TOLSON: Yes, sir.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you have any
3 statistics that give us the percentage of
4 residential recycling currently where the
5 recycling is weekly?

6 MS. TOLSON: Yes, sir. One moment.

7 (Pause.)

8 MS. TOLSON: In the diversion rate in
9 the pilot areas it's 26 percent.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 26 percent?

11 MS. TOLSON: No, no. I'm sorry, sir.
12 Give me one moment please. I'm looking at a table
13 and I'm answering a different question. That's
14 the wrong answer.

15 In order not to slow the process, can I
16 give you that answer after Council and provide it
17 in our response so I can give you an accurate
18 reflexion of all of our activity? Is that you
19 suitable to you?

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What's that?

21 MS. TOLSON: May I give you an answer
22 after session so that -- I'm looking at tables and
23 I'm answering the wrong question. I do have the
24 answer here, but I do not want to delay your
25 proceedings with giving the right answer, and I

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2 don't want to give you the wrong answer either.
3 May I give it to you even this afternoon or would
4 you like for it to come in with the replies?

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I would like
6 to get it during this hearing.

7 MS. TOLSON: Okay, I will pull it out
8 for you.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Getting information
10 later usually makes the information worthless
11 because you can't carry through with any thought.
12 It's my opinion that it's very obvious that the
13 recycling rate in a weekly collection is going to
14 be vastly greater than in the twice-a-week, and I
15 don't know why anybody needs a pilot program. If
16 there's done twice a week, you got to remember
17 which week is it, is it this week or is next week
18 that we're going to put out the recycling. It
19 places a great burden on households.

20 MS. TOLSON: I think we could actually
21 state surely tonnage has gone up which is what the
22 Commissioner indicated earlier. And what will
23 happen in May or June of this year was a full
24 analysis of how that has changed in total, how our
25 tonnage has changed as well as cost per unit to

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2 collect those tons. I'm looking for diversion
3 rates, and I have the percentage changes in
4 tonnage, but I was looking to give you the answer
5 to the question that you asked.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, could we set
7 up a meeting? I don't really --

8 Madam Chair, we could go on this, but
9 this seems to me to be such an obvious thing that
10 if you have single weekly collections rather than
11 biweekly collections you're going to increase
12 enormously.

13 MS. TOLSON: Okay, I have the answer
14 for you, Councilman.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And if you're really
16 interested in the recycling program, it would seem
17 to me that you would have moved quickly to get
18 weekly collections, because then it's fixed in
19 everybody's mind just like the trash collection.
20 The idea of collecting trash and recycling in the
21 same day is a great idea. I don't know why we all
22 didn't think of it initially, but it makes it very
23 easy for households to do both at the same time.
24 And they can plan for it each week. I'd like to
25 see us move into it right away because I think

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2 it's quite clear that you can't make recycling
3 economically feasible until get it to a certain
4 level, say, about 25 percent is my understanding.
5 Is that your understanding?

6 MS. TOLSON: I'm not sure.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What percentage of
8 recycling would be needed at the residential
9 level, say, to make it cost-effective.

10 MS. TOLSON: If you mean in equaling
11 the number of tons per year, I'm not sure of that
12 answer right here and I gladly can find that for
13 you.

14 I do have the answer to the previous
15 question you asked about our diversion rate. In
16 the non-pilot areas, 1999, our the diversion rate
17 was 5.7 percent.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: In the twice a week?

19 MS. TOLSON: In the every other week
20 areas. That was a decrease of 4 percent. In the
21 pilot areas, where we have weekly collection, the
22 diversion rate is 8.9 percent.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 8.9 percent.

24 MS. TOLSON: 8.9 percent versus 5.7
25 percent.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Seems to me to be a
3 vast difference. Would the Streets Department --
4 you know, there's always been a question as to
5 whether or not the Streets Department seriously
6 supported the recycling program. And in the
7 recycling community outside of the Streets
8 Department, there is a very grave doubt that has
9 been building and building for a long time. Would
10 it be possible to bring together people from the
11 Recycling Advisory Committee, the Solid Wastes
12 Advisory Committee, the Streets Department and the
13 community adherence and sit down and spend a
14 couple of hours talking about these figures
15 without getting involved, you know, at the
16 budgetary hearings so we could get a
17 cross-pollination of ideas and we maybe can put to
18 rest the concerns in the community and get
19 everybody supporting a program? Because there is
20 lots of suspicion. When I believe that when the
21 recycling law was first passed that Philadelphia
22 was the first City in the nation that had a
23 mandatory curbside collection that we led the
24 country in it, and now we tail behind. Wasn't
25 there a study recently that --

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2 MS. TOLSON: Absolutely.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: -- nationally that
4 indicated that Philadelphia was way down at the
5 lower echelons of the City, and that's very
6 disturbing because we ought to be out in front.
7 And we can make it economically feasible if we
8 give the program enough support.

9 Would you be agreeable to kind of
10 sponsoring the working together to make it
11 possible to bring all the parties together?

12 MS. TOLSON: Absolutely, Councilman. I
13 think that the advocates for our environment
14 within the Streets Department are fully supportive
15 of that. In fact, recycling was occurring in the
16 City even prior to there being a recycling office
17 or program. The Philadelphia Streets Department
18 was a front runner on recycling materials such as
19 Christmas trees long before it even became a
20 notion or fully supported within our government.
21 So we would be glad to sit and work with any
22 interested parties to try to move ahead with our
23 program here.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
25 Cohen, your time is up. Are you finished?

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: At this point.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 I want to talk about street repaving,
8 and I know, Commissioner Moy, you knew I was going
9 to bring this one up. I've been here four years,
10 and four years we've been talking about Chelten
11 Avenue and also Seymour Street from Green to Wayne
12 and we've been talking about Mt. Pleasant, and I
13 know that most recently there was some type of
14 problem on Mt. Pleasant Avenue that you responded
15 to. I think there was some buckle or something in
16 the road, and buses and whatnot had to be
17 detoured.

18 Can you give me an update on the status
19 of Chelten, Seymour, Mt. Pleasant?

20 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, Councilwoman.
21 On Chelten Avenue, that's a federal aid street,
22 and I believe that's scheduled for this season in
23 terms of construction. I'm sorry that it's been
24 taking so long and I understand the frustration
25 for getting that kind of federal program moving,

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2 but that project is scheduled for this
3 construction season.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So what is season
5 meaning?

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, from March
7 through November. And I believe this is late
8 spring or early summer, like maybe June, July in
9 that time frame.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So by the fall,
11 it should be competed.

12 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, I would think
13 so. It's in a group of other streets, but that's
14 a logical time frame, yes.

15 Seymour, I'm not certain what the dates
16 are on Seymour. I'd have to ask our people. I'll
17 to get back to you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER MOY: Mt. Pleasant is also
20 a federal aid project which is 2001. I believe
21 they did the repairs to kind to keep it safe, as
22 you say, in the last few weeks. But that is a
23 project that would be scheduled for next season.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So that means
25 next March?

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, it will be
3 next season. I don't know right now whether we
4 can say March. We would try and get it as soon as
5 possible, but it's something that we don't control
6 directly in the City.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So season, I just
8 want to understand.

9 COMMISSIONER MOY: The season is
10 generally as soon as the weather breaks, and they
11 might start March 15th. Or if it's a bad winter,
12 they might go to April 1 or something, but
13 somewhere in that time frame they can start the
14 prep work.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So we're
16 spring-summer of 2000 and spring-summer of 2001.

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: That's correct.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So Mt. Pleasant
19 could possibly be started spring of 2001.

20 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, and I'll try
21 and keep you informed of the progress on Mt.
22 Pleasant in the interim.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We really need to
24 get more information on Seymour Street. I think
25 when I asked you before, it had to do with some

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2 other work that needs to be done. I'm not really
3 sure what the delay was because everything around
4 in about Seymour Street was done, and that street
5 was not done. It's two blocks -- actually, it may
6 be three blocks primarily because some other work
7 had to be done, but there's been no movement. I
8 was just recently in that area and decided to
9 drive down, and it's the same, it's absolutely the
10 same.

11 COMMISSIONER MOY: All right.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: In fact, when we
13 first started that, my daughter was in there
14 elementary school. Now in high school, so that's
15 how long it's been a problem. So I really would
16 like to get that information.

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll get you an
18 answer on that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I want to talk a
20 little bit about special services districts. What
21 is the trash pickup schedule for a special service
22 district?

23 MS. TOLSON: The districts usually run
24 along the same lines on whatever surrounding
25 community is for trash collection.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So they don't get
3 special pickups once a week or, I mean, every day?
4 What does Center City get?

5 MS. TOLSON: That we collect, they get
6 once a week.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Center City
8 Special Services District has collection once a
9 week?

10 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

12 MS. TOLSON: The businesses that we
13 collect, we get once a week.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So you don't
15 collect all districts?

16 MS. TOLSON: No, we don't collect all
17 businesses.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Oh, the
19 businesses that you collect, okay. So whether
20 you're in a Special Services District or not,
21 trash pickup doesn't matter? I mean, it's still
22 once a week?

23 MS. TOLSON: That's correct. Say for
24 the portions of the City, they have twice-a-week
25 collection.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Because
3 people are under the impression that with the
4 Special Service District you get additional trash
5 collection, and that evidently is not true; that's
6 what you're saying?

7 MS. TOLSON: Correct.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Also, what
9 about additional trash cans in a Special Service
10 District?

11 MS. TOLSON: We work with the Special
12 Services District to address their needs and
13 concerns. If they're concerned with regard to the
14 number of cans we spoke with them to survey the
15 district. In the commercial areas, we supply the
16 cans and we'll service them. In some of the
17 districts as well they work with us -- I shouldn't
18 say some of them; all of them. Many of the cans
19 they will empty as they clean their corridors and
20 replace liners.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: If they're
22 cleaning every day and emptying the can, then that
23 means there's bags of trash along commercial
24 corridors all week if you only pick up once a
25 week.

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2 MS. TOLSON: Yes. We service cans on
3 multiple days of the week, but we only collect
4 trash on normal trash collection day.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, how many
6 days a week do you service the cans?

7 MS. TOLSON: In most of the areas, it's
8 every day.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Germantown and
10 Cheltenham is every day? Germantown Special Services
11 District.

12 MS. TOLSON: Every day. And in fact,
13 on a couple days it may be twice a day because it
14 gets so much -- there's a lot of abuse there. By
15 abuse, I mean businesses are putting out their
16 trash as well because they know that we come to
17 collect the can and they know that we do it
18 overnight so when close up at night you'll find
19 non-trash can trash out at the corners with the
20 trash can. You could find cardboard boxes and
21 bags and many other matters and debris.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. You know
23 that I was a part of putting together the
24 Germantown Special Services District.

25 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: There seems like
3 there's trash receptacle -- trash can issue has
4 been one that's been ongoing. I think they right
5 now need additional cans between Germantown and
6 Wayne on Cheltenham, so that's 100 up to 300 block of
7 Cheltenham Avenue. You know, other groups up there
8 are really working hard to help keep that area
9 clean, but it's going to take a while. I mean,
10 after all, in the Center City budget was great and
11 our money is not even a drop in the bucket
12 compared to what Center City has for their
13 district. So we have people such as the Y and
14 other groups of people that are helping out to try
15 and impact the cleanliness of that district.

16 MS. TOLSON: I think in that block,
17 too, there may be some food vendors as well. So
18 we will work with them to get the cans that they
19 are supposed to have as well as we will survey for
20 the cans that we should be putting out and we'll
21 take care of that.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman,
23 I'm sorry, your time's up.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Can I ask one
25 more question?

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: One more
3 question and that's it.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Basically, it's
5 about whose responsibility is it for park
6 lighting, like the various parks in the area? Who
7 puts up their lights?

8 MR. DOYLE: I'm Joe Doyle, City Street
9 Lighting Engineer.

10 It varies. The parks are owned by
11 numerous different City agencies. The lights
12 within those parks are sometimes owned by that
13 agency or they overlap with two agencies. The
14 Streets Department itself maintains some lighting
15 in some parks. There's no clear simple answer to
16 your question. Specifically, we know where our
17 lights are on specific parts. If you have a
18 location and you want us to look into it, we'll be
19 glad to do that.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I know we
21 requested you do a survey in one particular park.
22 What I think I'd like to do is get a list of the
23 parks in our area, only because a lot of these
24 people that work in the park, different programs
25 are coming to me to ask me to fund their lighting

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2 out of Capital money. And if that's your
3 responsibility, I don't want to use my money to do
4 that.

5 MR. DOYLE: Well, it's difficult to
6 answer. It may be Recreation, it could be
7 Fairmount Park.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right, I'll give
9 you a list.

10 MR. DOYLE: Fine.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All right, thank
12 you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
14 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Tasco.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam Chair, can I
17 just a follow-up on something the Councilwoman
18 said?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
20 Rizzo.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

22 Commissioner, a question about
23 something I've noticed occurring more so following
24 up on what the Councilman said. I've noticed at
25 various locations, especially on asphalt-covered

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 streets, that the asphalt is starting to get like
3 wavy. Giving a example of a location, Umbria and
4 Leverington, when you make that right turn from
5 Umbria Street to Leverington, it's like -- it's
6 just incredible. The roadway is just got big
7 waves in it. And I've noticed it now occurring in
8 other locations throughout City. Is that result
9 of tractor-trailer traffic or improper
10 installation of the roadway surface? Are you
11 familiar with this phenomenon I'm talking about
12 where the asphalt just has just like waves in it?
13 If ever negotiated that particular intersection,
14 it is very, very -- you could actually -- if
15 someone is exceeding the speed could actually lose
16 control of their vehicle there. What's causing
17 all that to occur?

18 COMMISSIONER MOY: Well, there's
19 something in asphalt that occurs frequently at bus
20 stops or where you have trucks stopping there were
21 you shoving or shovelling that occurs due to the
22 breaking action. And it occurs more in the summer
23 months as the asphalt gets soft. We'll take a
24 look if you have specific locations.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That particular

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 location is to the point where it's very, very
3 dangerous, but I was just wondering what could be
4 done. Why, and you answered the question. I was
5 more concerned that the surface wasn't being
6 prepared or the subsurface properly, but I could
7 understand on the turn a heavy vehicle, and that's
8 where a lot of our , I believe, Streets Department
9 trucks use that back way out, and that might be
10 contributing to it. Just wondered about that.
11 Thank you.

12 Thank you for the --
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
14 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Tasco.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: In keeping with
17 that line of questioning, is there any evaluation
18 given to the contractors who are successful in
19 getting the bids through the Procurement
20 Department for their quality of street work? If
21 you receive a number of complaints about work
22 that's being done by any one particular contractor
23 or several and they continue to receive these
24 bids, I mean, what coordination is there with the
25 Procurement Department to see that they may not

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 get the bid?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: There is a rating
4 system that is used. As projects develop, there's
5 a final rating of the contractor's performance.
6 And this contributes to the decisions as to
7 whether a contractor is qualified to bid again.
8 If there's a series of unsatisfactory performances
9 by a contractor, particularly in more than
10 Streets, if we can get a series of departments, we
11 have been able -- it's not easy, let me say this,
12 to disqualify a contractor from bidding. But we
13 have been able in certain situations to disqualify
14 contractors.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Have you ever
16 disqualified a contractor?

17 COMMISSIONER MOY: Have we? Yes.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Based on the poor
19 rating?

20 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes. Now, as I
21 said, it's not easy because you must get some
22 very, very strong documentation, understandably,
23 to prove that someone is not able to perform the
24 work.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Let me talk to you

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 about this commercial trash pickup in
3 neighborhoods, say, Fifth Street something,
4 Wadsworth. At what point are these merchants
5 required to have their own dump and at what point
6 does the City pick up their trash?

7 MS. TOLSON: The facilities that we
8 service have to come into the volume and type
9 requires for the materials that we pick up from
10 households. So we pick up businesses to the
11 extents that they can put out the same amount that
12 households put out or the volume that we allow for
13 households and put out similar type materials.
14 Hairdresser shops and even food establishments
15 that can put out the appropriate volume, which is
16 no more than four cans or twelve bags. We allow
17 them to have City collection. In all cases in
18 Philadelphia, we have been lenient from time to
19 time for people who on occasion need to put out a
20 little bit more, not house clean-outs, but just a
21 little bit more because of what may go on in an
22 individual week.

23 For businesses that need extra set out
24 more than that on a regular basis, we ask them to
25 move over to private collection and then they can

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 have the volume that they need to set out
3 collected and they can have the frequency that
4 they need as well, something other than once a
5 week.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm going to talk
7 to you, not today, but I want to talk to you about
8 Fifth Street. As you know, we have had increase
9 in a number of wholesale businesses on Fifth
10 Street, and there is a lot of trash that's being
11 generated and I see City trash trucks picking up
12 this trash. Of course, we have moved to curb the
13 increase in the number of wholesale shops on that
14 street because it's really a commercial strip and
15 it's causing us a lot of stress on that street,
16 not only in terms of the traffic volume with the
17 tractor-trailers double parking and with the
18 increase in trash and then lack of the ability of
19 neighbors to purchase in those stores. So I want
20 to talk to you more about that because there has
21 to be some way to determine that they use private
22 dumpsters.

23 MS. TOLSON: Okay, yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The other question
25 in keeping with that is the pilot sweep cleaning

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 program that's going to start soon, I believe, in
3 March.

4 MS. TOLSON: Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: At what point do
6 you think that may go citywide. Because now
7 people are picking up on it and they're asking me
8 when -- I know the pilot hasn't started yet, not
9 in my district but maybe some other district, do
10 you see that this kind of cleanup program will be
11 citywide soon?

12 MS. TOLSON: This is a pilot program to
13 determine whether or not it can really be
14 successful in Philadelphia. It's a partnership
15 program between the City and citizens. The City
16 has installed numerous signs and poles to identify
17 areas where we will be providing weekly mechanical
18 cleaning. We're also providing education and
19 enforcement for our sweep officers. What we're
20 asking citizens to do is to move their car, to be
21 more diligent with their sidewalk sweeping and
22 cleaning, and place the recyclables and trash out
23 on the right days so that we can do better job.
24 Our hope is in the end between our partnership
25 that the neighborhood is cleaner more beautiful,

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 pride is developed. The way the pilot is designed
3 right now based upon the input that we got from
4 City Councilmembers in figuring out where we went
5 to, we have maximized the resources that we have
6 within the Streets Department in terms of
7 mechanical brooms. So if the pilot were to be
8 successful, we would have to evaluate how we would
9 look to doing any expansions.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Councilman Mariano
11 and Councilman Nutter and I constantly get
12 complaints about driveways and neighbors who want
13 to repair driveways, but we also know that a
14 number of the driveways are used for trash public.
15 Now, have you ever thought about -- has there been
16 any discussion held around addressing the
17 deterioration of the driveways?

18 MS. TOLSON: The driveways are private
19 property and we're there at the consent of the
20 private property owners. These driveways are used
21 by any number of vehicles, whether it be cars, oil
22 delivery trucks, as well as trash trucks.
23 Whenever there is a concern by the citizens that
24 the trucks are doing damage to the driveways, we
25 have asked our Highways Department to investigate

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 it analyze it. If there's a real issue or
3 sometimes even if there's not a real issue, we
4 will vacate collects in the rear. Quite honestly,
5 if I were to just look at the sanitation
6 collection process, it's faster and safer for us
7 to collect in the rear. However, as a system on a
8 whole, it may be something that we have to look at
9 to determine whether or not in future we should
10 continue to do that if the driveways -- and many
11 of these driveways are 40 to 50 years old at this
12 point -- if there's some concern that there may be
13 deterioration to the those driveways because of
14 trucks or other vehicles that travel on them.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It's more of a
16 request as opposed to a question. The other day
17 we had the Police Department in, and we get a lot
18 of complaints about tractor-trailers, large
19 tonnage trucks parking on residential streets and
20 also school buses that are being parked illegally
21 on residential streets. The Police Department
22 will say to us or to the individual making the
23 complaint that there are no-truck-parking signs.
24 Your department will tell us that there is no need
25 for a no-truck-parking sign or no-bus-parking sign

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 because the state law or the code requires that
3 trucks over a certain tonnage should not be parked
4 on residential streets and school buses can only
5 park in the school bus zone. All I'm asking in
6 more than a question is what better coordination
7 you can have with the Police Department to keep
8 them informed of the code so that we can get them
9 to enforce the no-parking in residential areas of
10 tractor-trailers? And I pointed out Stenton
11 Avenue. It's not for you to enforce, it's just
12 that there needs to be a better exchange of
13 information between the Streets Department and the
14 Police Department in terms of what the law
15 requires.

16 MR. TRAINOR: As far as specific
17 locations and the interpretation that we have of
18 the codes, we will convey that information to the
19 Police Department if we know that they're
20 interpreting it wrong or what we think is wrong.
21 A bus, whether it's a school bus or a regular
22 commercial bus, is only allowed to park in a bus
23 zone that's been authorized for them to park.
24 They're not allowed dollar to park in a
25 residential street at somebody's house while

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 they're wait to pick up kids that afternoon or
3 something like that.

4 A truck prohibition, we can post -- a
5 sign is required for a truck prohibition. Again,
6 we can post no truck parking 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
7 within a hundred feet of a residential location.
8 For to us prohibit parking 24 hours a day requires
9 a specific ordinance for that block.

10 We also receive complaints regarding
11 trailers that are not attached to a tractor, and
12 that may also be a boat trailer which is not
13 attached to a car. They are not vehicles. If
14 they're on the street for more than 24 hours, they
15 are illegal and they're abandoned. Again, we can
16 convey that information specifically to the
17 district if someone lets us know where they're
18 talking about. We normally ask, though, that
19 especially for boats that the complaintee talk to
20 the community relations officer at the district so
21 that you don't have two neighbors going head to
22 head that you'd have a police officer involved in
23 it. But we would be glad to inform the captain or
24 community relations officer of any district.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, I think it

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 just should be uniform piece of communications to
3 the Police Department, period, without having us
4 having to call because to let them know what the
5 law is and so they can pass it on to their
6 officers because we are constantly, you know,
7 writing you and complaining to you about these and
8 you'll say, "Well, you don't need a sign. And we
9 say, "Well, the Police Department is saying
10 there's no sign there so they can't enforce the
11 law unless there's a no-truck-parking sign ther or
12 no-bus sign there. It's very frustrating.

13 MR. TRAINOR: We'll convey that
14 information to the Police Department through their
15 chain of command.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Councilwoman
18 Tasco, I'm sorry, your time is up.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair. Commissioner, you or one of your staff
24 called to our attention a new initiative tire
25 roundup, and I want to seize the moment to

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 register for the record and for your department
3 one area of the City I know Councilwoman Blackwell
4 worked on diligently even while I was a resident
5 of that area, and that is Mantua Avenue from 34th
6 that runs up to 32nd and Spring Garden. Can you
7 tell us if there's been -- my experience was that
8 there was always a disconnect with Conrail.
9 Conrail saying, no, that's the City's property;
10 and the City's saying, no, that's Conrail's
11 problem. So what improvement, if any, has
12 happened with regards to that area of Mantua
13 Avenue? Because that was a heavy tire-dumping
14 area and the residents there, of course, were
15 outraged.

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe that
17 Drexel also took an effort in cooperation with
18 Conrail and we helped with the cleanup there with
19 Drexel along that same strip, if I'm not mistaken.
20 I believe it may be Conrail's property, a good
21 deal of it is. But it usually ends up as a
22 partnership between the community and Conrail and
23 ourselves.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. Then so
25 that strip will be added to this tire roundup

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 initiative?

3 MS. TOLSON: I may have not been clear
4 about the tire roundup program. Citizens can cut
5 the tires from any illegal dumping location. We
6 don't tell them where to go. However, let's say a
7 boy scout troop or block captains in the Mantua
8 area want to participate in the cleanup, they can
9 go to Mantua Avenue clean it up, bring us the
10 tires and then we'll give them the money for it.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Brochures or
12 whatever exist on that? Is it so new that you
13 don't have printed material yet?

14 MS. TOLSON: No, we've done this every
15 year.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. Could you
17 please forward to the Chair so that Members of
18 Council can get that?

19 MS. TOLSON: Yes, the material will be
20 ready for this year -- and we do announce it to
21 the Councilmembers every year when we have the
22 program. They probably will be ready in May.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

24 MS. TOLSON: For July-August program.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 much.

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You're
5 welcome.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair.

9 Commissioner, let me run through a
10 couple of things rapidly so we put you out of your
11 misery. Commissioner can you coordinate with the
12 Commissioner of L&I, who I know L&I will be coming
13 up shortly. I have received over the years
14 conflicting information about who is responsible
15 for enforcement as it relates to dumpsters. There
16 seems to be some level of cross-jurisdiction
17 between Streets and L&I. It seems to revolve
18 around whether the dumpster is in the street or
19 whether the dumpster is on the pavement, but it
20 has never been particularly clear who is
21 responsible for what starting with the permitting
22 process of the approvals as well as enforcement
23 depending on what's going on with the particular
24 dumpster. And I don't want to use up my precious
25 few minutes trying to get a response to that. If

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 you could have a coordinated, clear, detailed
3 response, cite chapter and verse in the
4 Philadelphia Code as to who's responsibilities for
5 what that would be helpful.

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll do that.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me go back to
8 street lighting for a second. It seems at times
9 exceedingly difficult to get a new street light at
10 a location that did not already have one. I'm not
11 talking about a bulb burned out or defective light
12 on pole. I'm talking about there may be three
13 lights or three poles on a block and for whatever
14 reason the neighbors believe they need more light.
15 At times there's a pole available that doesn't
16 have a light on it, but there seems to be a long
17 arduous process. What is the policy of the
18 Department to increase the number of lights on a
19 street, first with a pole that's available, and
20 secondly, without a pole?

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: Do you want to go
22 ahead?

23 MR. DOYLE: Councilman, this is Joseph
24 Doyle, Street Lighting Engineer.

25 As a result of the decision that was

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 made last year, some additional funds were
3 provided for adding street lighting in the City.
4 Right now, we do investigate the location and make
5 a determination whether that light is appropriate
6 there or not. And if it is appropriate and kind
7 of practical, we'll install it.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why wouldn't it be
9 appropriate?

10 MR. DOYLE: Well, if there was a
11 request for light that was, let's say, 25 feet
12 from an existing street light, that's normally the
13 spacing on there would not really justify having
14 an additional light in that block.

15 One of the elements that we attempt to
16 do is uniformity.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Suppose there's a
18 dark spot on that street?

19 MR. DOYLE: That's why we would look at
20 the location and make determination whether it was
21 appropriate, either the specific location that was
22 asked for or somewhere nearby which would be a
23 better design.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Mr. Doyle, I
25 would like to put on the record that over the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 years from time to time we've had exceeding
3 difficulty getting responses back when letters
4 have been written with regard to street lighting
5 requests. I was recently contacted by a
6 constituent who represents the Umbria Street
7 Neighbors Association. They wrote to us sometime
8 last year. I wrote to the Commissioner last year
9 and have not received, to this day, a response
10 with regard to the request for a street light that
11 would light up some steps in the Umbria Street
12 area. I'd be glad to give you a copy. These are
13 the Fountain Street steps. The Umbria Street
14 Neighbors Association, it's a longstanding
15 request. Recently Susan Syrnick (ph) on behalf of
16 the Umbria Street Neighbors Association wrote to
17 me asking what the response was. To the best of
18 your knowledge and records, we've never received a
19 response to that particular request. I'll give
20 you a copy of those documents.

21 I'd like to talk about traffic
22 signalization and signs. Commissioner, can you
23 give me a current status on the City's efforts to
24 coordinate with Lower Merion Township and PennDOT
25 to change the timing of the lights at the Green

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 Lane Bridge and the Schuylkill Expressway?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: Charlie Trainor's on
4 his way up here.

5 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, regarding the
6 PennDOT and Lower Merion Townships changing of the
7 timing at Belmont Avenue and the Schuylkill
8 Expressway, I have no knowledge as to where
9 they're at on that. I believe they're waiting for
10 a PennDOT contract to come through. They need to
11 change the control box to accept a third program,
12 which it only has two now. That's the best I can
13 give on that. We can find out where it's at,
14 where their project is.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I'd
16 appreciate an update. I mean is this a money
17 issue? Is this a contracting issue? Why is this
18 taking so long?

19 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, it's a -- it
20 could be a combination of them both. From what I
21 understand, this is not just the intersection of
22 Belmont and the expressway that they're looking
23 at, they're looking at the full Belmont Avenue
24 within Lower Merion Township to upgrade their
25 traffic signals. And the last word I heard was

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 that was where they were going to attach it to.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Have we offered to
4 provide any additional support or funding to help
5 assist in this particular project?

6 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, no, because
7 this is totally outside the City of Philadelphia.
8 We would not be --

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, what is the
10 nature of our agreement with Lower Merion Township
11 as it relates to traffic signalization on City
12 Avenue? Don't we have an agreement with them
13 either for operating or maintenance costs or the
14 hard costs of signals on City Avenue?

15 MR. TRAINOR: The traffic signals along
16 City Avenue from the intersection of Presidential
17 Boulevard West are a shared responsibility as far
18 as Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is
19 concerned. We have taken the responsibility to
20 operate and maintain the traffic signals along
21 City Avenue from Presidential West while the
22 Township pays the power for those traffic signals.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So if a signal goes
24 out on City Avenue, whose responsibility is it to
25 fix it?

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2 MR. TRAINOR: It is the City of
3 Philadelphia's.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aren't those
5 signals outside the City's boundaries.

6 MR. TRAINOR: They're an actual border
7 street, they're halfway in the City and halfway
8 out of the City. The traffic signal on City
9 Avenue --

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, if I stand at
11 the intersection of City and Bryn Mawr in front of
12 what used to be the Van Sciver or the Firestone
13 Store, aren't I, in fact, in Lower Merion Township
14 and isn't the signal that's on that corner, in
15 fact, in Lower Merion Township?

16 MR. TRAINOR: Why, Councilman?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And don't we fix it
18 if there's something wrong with it?

19 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So what is the
21 difference between that signal and one on the
22 Green Lane Bridge if you are standing on the other
23 sides of the street, aren't you in fact in Lower
24 Merion Township?

25 MR. TRAINOR: The signals on City

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Avenue are shared -- City Avenue is a border
3 street.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

5 MR. TRAINOR: The border of the City
6 and the Township is the center of the street.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Don't we border
8 right over there at Green Lane and Main, one side
9 of the street ours and one side of the street is
10 theirs?

11 MR. TRAINOR: The border is the river.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that.

13 MR. TRAINOR: Green Lane and Belmont is
14 totally within the township. I was going to refer
15 to the City Avenue and Schuylkill Expressway
16 off-ramp. That signal there, the signal west of
17 Presidential Boulevard --

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's about 100 feet
19 outside of Philadelphia.

20 MR. TRAINOR: That signal is totally
21 within the township and it is their signal, it is
22 not our signal.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that.
24 But the problems created by their signal clearly
25 impact tremendously Philadelphians. Our own

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 traffic study which we paid for told us that. So
3 in the City, out of the City, border street,
4 non-border street, in the reality of what happens
5 out there, there is not that much difference
6 between the signal at Belmont and the Schuylkill
7 Expressway location and Green Lane and Main versus
8 City and Bryn Mawr in the City or out of the City.
9 We are still ultimately talking probably about 50
10 to 100 feet, right?

11 MR. TRAINOR: No, Councilman, you're
12 talking a further distance than that and you're
13 also talking about at Belmont Avenue -- or Green
14 Lane, you're talking about two distinct specific
15 intersections, whereas on City Avenue you are
16 talking about one intersection where you have
17 corners of that intersection and that
18 signalization separate.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But Mr. Trainor,
20 notwithstanding this discussion which could go on
21 forever, you clearly understand that I am making
22 the point that all of these areas are border
23 areas. We share a border with Lower Merion
24 Township. We have various agreements with them
25 about signalization. And the fact that this

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 particular location is solely within the
3 jurisdiction and boundaries of Lower Merion
4 Township does not negate any level of concern or
5 responsibility on behalf of the citizens of the
6 City of Philadelphia to get resolution to that
7 particular problem. You wouldn't disagree with
8 that, would you?

9 MR. TRAINOR: I will not disagree with
10 that, sir, but the only thing we can do is what we
11 have been doing in the past, which is to ask
12 PennDOT and Lower Merion to move this along.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'd like to get a
14 specific answer to what the problem is. And if it
15 is in fact a funding problem, I'd like to know the
16 answer to that particular question; and then I'd
17 like to know whose funding problem it is; and then
18 like to know if funding was made available, how
19 soon can the signalization change be made.

20 MR. TRAINOR: I will ask those
21 questions of PennDOT.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

23 What's the status of the installation
24 of various stop signs and traffic signals at
25 intersections in Philadelphia? These are all in

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Philadelphia, I can assure you. The various stop
3 signs and traffic signals that have approved by
4 ordinance of this City Council and signed by the
5 various mayors of Philadelphia? What's the
6 installation on those?

7 MR. TRAINOR: With the stop signs, the
8 installation is within the next month. The
9 traffic signals, we have had a contract that has
10 been let and there will be installers as a part of
11 that contract.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So all of the stop
13 sign and traffic signal bills that were passed by
14 this Council and signed by the Mayor are all being
15 taken care of?

16 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the dates are
18 when?

19 MR. TRAINOR: The stop signs should be
20 installed by the end of the month, and I cannot
21 give you a specific date on the signals, but the
22 signals were a part of a contract that has been
23 let, we have received bids on it. We have not --
24 we are in the process of awarding that contract
25 and we have not started it.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

3 Commissioner, what is the Department
4 doing to comply with Section 5-500d of the City
5 Charter to institute and conduct an educational
6 and public information program for the purpose of
7 promoting the safety and unimpeded movement of
8 vehicular and pedestrian traffic?

9 COMMISSIONER MOY: There is a program,
10 Councilman, that we've worked with the Mayor's
11 Office in terms of streets and pedestrians, and
12 I'd have to check and get you a better report on
13 the specifics. Is there something specific that
14 you have in mind?

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'd just like to
16 know what the Department is doing to be in
17 compliance with the City Charter in that
18 particular section. If you have materials, I'd
19 like to see them. If they are promoted in
20 different places, I'd like to know what the
21 activity is. If there's an educational program,
22 I'd like to see what that is.

23 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll check and get
24 back to you.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The last question,

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Commissioner, is there's been a lot of discussion
3 about retaining walls. Again, this question has
4 been asked. I would like as much detail as
5 possible, both in written form as well as in a map
6 form, of a listing of every known retaining wall
7 in the City of Philadelphia broken out by
8 Councilmanic District. I'd like to know what
9 information the department has compiled over the
10 years with regard to complaints about those
11 retaining walls, either any that have already been
12 deemed dangerous or been condemned by the Board of
13 Health or any other reports that you have about
14 dangerous or damaged conditions of the retaining
15 walls throughout the City. I'd like the
16 department's estimate on what it would cost to fix
17 those retaining walls and any other information
18 you have with regard to driveways or blocked or
19 damaged alleys in the same information, in format
20 as the retaining wall information.

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: We're preparing
22 something along those lines, Councilman.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Great. Thank you
24 very much.

25 Thank you, Madam Chair.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just a few
5 follow-ups. On paving the streets, what's the
6 situation on Ogontz Avenue between Chew and
7 Cheltenham where only the center areas were paved
8 and the sides were not? Which makes traffic on
9 Ogontz always extremely heavy because cars can
10 only go in the paved areas.

11 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe that is a
12 federal aid project, and I'd have to check on the
13 specific status as to when and get back to you on
14 that, Councilman.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Get we back to that?

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Promptly. Thank
18 you.

19 Second, on the street signs, I'm coming
20 back to the question of the signs on the corners
21 of the street. You mentioned that in the Capital
22 budget there is an appropriation for materials.
23 How much is that appropriation and how many signs
24 will that produce?

25 COMMISSIONER MOY: I believe it's

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2 250,000.

3 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, the
4 appropriation in the Capital budget, I believe, is
5 for \$100,000.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How much?

7 MR. TRAINOR: \$100,000.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: One hundred?

9 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, Councilman.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many signs would
11 that produce.

12 MR. TRAINOR: That could produce around
13 1500 signs.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What was the budget
15 last year?

16 MR. TRAINOR: Last year, I believe, it
17 was around \$250,000.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And you reduced the
19 sum?

20 MR. TRAINOR: We reduced the sum, yes.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why?

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: That was not our
23 decision, Councilman.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Whose decision was
25 it?

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: We made a request to
3 the Planning Commission of our budget, and the
4 final outcome is \$100,000.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What was it that the
6 Streets Department requested of the Planning
7 Commission?

8 COMMISSIONER MOY: For this item it was
9 \$250,000.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you check
11 that? Because I don't want to be dealing with
12 them on a misnomer.

13 How many signs did we bring budgeting
14 for? 1500? It sounds to me like it would be
15 about 4,000 on the 250,000.

16 MR. TRAINOR: The signs run about \$50
17 to \$100 a piece, depending on --

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How much.

19 MR. TRAINOR: \$50 to \$100 depending on
20 whether we have to put a pole in. So there's two
21 sets of signs, so it's \$100 an intersection.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: \$50 each, you're
23 saying?

24 MR. TRAINOR: For each blank. We put
25 signs up at mid-block intersections, four signs up

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2 at hundred change intersections.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: A hundred what?

4 MR. TRAINOR: Where the address range
5 changes we four signs up, two signs designating
6 each street.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Where there's a
8 hundred change?

9 MR. TRAINOR: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And two signs where
11 there is less than a hundred?

12 MR. TRAINOR: Correct.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What portion of the
14 Streets Department deals with that? Is there a
15 separate unit that has the responsibility for it?

16 MR. TRAINOR: It is part of the
17 Traffic Engineering Division's responsibility.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Part of the what?

19 MR. TRAINOR: Part of Traffic
20 Engineering's Division's responsibility.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Sign, is that the
22 name of the unit?

23 MR. TRAINOR: It's the Traffic
24 Engineering Division.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Traffic Engineering

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2 Division. Is there a sub unit?

3 MR. TRAINOR: The investigation is made
4 by the engineering section which investigate all
5 signs, whether the street name signs are
6 regulatory signs, the signs are made up at our
7 traffic sign shop and are install by the sign
8 installers.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The Streets
10 Department makes up the signs themselves?

11 MR. TRAINOR: That is correct.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And who does the
13 installing?

14 MR. TRAINOR: Streets Department
15 traffic employees.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you keep a record
17 of the signs you put on?

18 MR. TRAINOR: There is a work order
19 issued for each intersection where we are
20 installing signs, yes.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you have a master
22 index?

23 MR. TRAINOR: There is a master index,
24 digitized index. I believe that's about 12 months
25 to 18 months old. Prior to that, there was no

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2 master index.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What do you do after
4 the 12 or 18 months.

5 MR. TRAINOR: The database that we have
6 only has about the last 12 to 18 months' worth of
7 information knit.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why is that?

9 MR. TRAINOR: That is when we started
10 the database. Prior to that, when the work order
11 was finished, it was installed into the file
12 system by location.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And you had no
14 master list?

15 MR. TRAINOR: No, sir.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, that looks
17 like maybe some progress, having a master list.
18 Or am I wrong?

19 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, that is what the
20 database to some extent is leading to so that we
21 know when we installed those signs the last time.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And how many signs
23 approximately are in your database now?

24 MR. TRAINOR: That, I do not have any
25 idea. I really can't tell you on that.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you have any
3 database that could tell you what percentage of
4 the City signs exist in accordance with the
5 formula what you expressed, the two and four
6 system?

7 MR. TRAINOR: Not specifically, no. We
8 only have a gut feeling as to what we're looking
9 at out there, and I believe we're probably down to
10 about 10 percent where we need to either install
11 signs because they are missing or replace signs,
12 maybe another five percent for replacing signs.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You only do that on
14 complaint?

15 MR. TRAINOR: No. We have a preventive
16 maintenance program where visiting each
17 intersection approximately twice a year throughout
18 the City, and one of the areas that are being
19 checked is the street name sign, whether it's
20 there, the visibility of it, and the condition of
21 the street name sign. Besides the street name
22 signs, they are also checking out the stop signs,
23 one-way signs, the no-turn-on-red signs, etc.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And the
25 name-of-the-street signs.

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2 MR. TRAINOR: That is one of the areas
3 they're supposed to be checking out, yes, sir.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So you're saying
5 that somebody from the Streets Department twice a
6 year visit every corner in the City?

7 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, sir.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, can't you ask
9 them to note where there is a failure of the two
10 or four signs?

11 MR. TRAINOR: That is one of what
12 they're supposed to be doing when they're out
13 there, but we can reinforce that issue at our next
14 staff meeting.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And then what do you
16 do with that information?

17 MR. TRAINOR: With that information,
18 the investigator will write up a work order to
19 replace that particular street-name sign. That
20 work order then is sent to our shop where it is
21 entered into the database. A sign is subsequently
22 made up and then installed.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There's a big gap
24 somewhere. How long has the visitation been going
25 on twice a year.

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2 MR. TRAINOR: The visitation, the
3 preventive maintenance program started, I believe,
4 really back in 1993. The initial thrust of the
5 preventive maintenance program was for control
6 signs, specifically stop signs and one-way signs.
7 This was the first time that it has been ever been
8 done to the City where we did a preventive
9 maintenance program. It was not until, like,
10 1995, '96-ish that we felt comfortable with the
11 regulatory signs at the intersections that we are
12 able to expand to start looking at other
13 non-regulatory signs, including the street-name
14 signs.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You know, I'm amazed
16 that it's never -- as far as I can recall, I've
17 never heard about this, and I've been asking every
18 year about these signs and always got met with a
19 total blank, that we don't know about any missing
20 signs and we don't really think there are any
21 we're talking about.

22 MR. TRAINOR: Well, I know I have
23 approximately -- I have over a thousand work
24 orders sitting at our shop right now for
25 street-name signs.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: For streets?

3 MR. TRAINOR: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: To make sure that
5 you meet the two and four combination?

6 MR. TRAINOR: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could I get a list
8 of your work orders? Could you put them together
9 what's being covered?

10 MR. TRAINOR: I believe I can give you
11 a list of our database as to what we've done and
12 also a list of what we still have outstanding.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I would very much
14 appreciate it, because I think maybe we're going
15 get somewhere on that because the Capital budget
16 can be amended. Sometimes it doesn't even need
17 formal amendment if there's a transfer of capital
18 funding or even operating funding, you know,
19 within the category, within the classification.
20 I'd very much appreciate getting that material.

21 I heard your response to Councilman
22 Nutter asking about the traffic signals and the
23 stop signs. Does that mean now that when an
24 ordinance is passed by City Council, it will
25 require an ordinance but that the ordinance will

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 be carried out with respect to the placement of
3 traffic signals and stop signs?

4 COMMISSIONER MOY: I think there was
5 also a conversation or a statement made by
6 Councilman DiCicco which I think made a lot of
7 sense, and that was to convene a meeting so that
8 we could go over our next steps, where we go from
9 here in terms of making both our lives a little
10 easier in terms of complying with State law or if
11 we have to change State law addressing that and
12 finding out just how we can work something out
13 with Council, and we agreed with Councilman
14 DiCicco that that made a lot of sense, to meet and
15 develop a procedure.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, what was the
17 procedure used with respect to the ordinances
18 already passed.

19 COMMISSIONER MOY: We've agreed in this
20 case to work with Councilman Nutter on his
21 ordinance. And what I'm suggesting is in the
22 future, you asked for in the future --

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes. We've been
24 holding up some. I've had about four revolutions
25 at York Road and Champlost because of what

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2 appeared to be senseless decisions by your
3 department denying either stop signs or lights in
4 which the people are terribly upset and feel that
5 there's a need for signalization. That's a new
6 large word I learned today. And we've never been
7 able to understand why it's been turned down.
8 You're saying the direction is at least to move in
9 the direction of honoring the ordinances?

10 COMMISSIONER MOY: I said we would do
11 that, certainly, with Councilman Nutter's and then
12 we are going to meet with Councilman DiCicco to
13 address the subsequent --

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just remember, I'm
15 vice-chair of the Streets Committee and would like
16 to be included in those meetings.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner,
18 when that meeting is scheduled, I'd like you to
19 notify me because I think we would like someone
20 from our technical staff also present.

21 COMMISSIONER MOY: We certainly will,
22 Councilwoman.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 And whatever information that you're

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 providing to Council as a result of the meetings
3 today, if you would forward them to me, I would
4 make certain that each of the Councilmembers
5 receives a copy.

6 COMMISSIONER MOY: Fine. We will do
7 that.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
9 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'll make it brief,
11 Madam Chair.

12 Commissioner, I'm pleased, but I was
13 aware that the department conducts an audit of
14 facilities that are installed, signs, etc. And
15 that leads me to a question that I think I've
16 asked you to consider before. Can you explain
17 who's responsible for seeing the things that I see
18 on my way to work, my constituency see every day,
19 stop signs knocked down, one-way signs that are
20 not lagged properly or vibrate loose? In the
21 Streets Department if we had a position in each of
22 the highway districts that would be out there
23 inspecting these Streets Department facilities to
24 see the sign that's missing that Councilman Cohen
25 pointed out or to see the damaged sign. I've

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2 reported now numerous occasions a sign that was
3 knocked down by a vehicle. A member of Council
4 had to see it and report it. But why can't we
5 have a person in each of the highway districts
6 whose responsibility is to be out in that highway
7 district to observe the conditions that I know you
8 see and I know that your top staff see every day,
9 to be proactive rather than have a member of City
10 Council have to call four days in a row to report
11 a stop sign that's being run over by traffic,
12 laying in the street, or other Streets Department
13 property? I think it makes sense to either assign
14 that additional responsibility to a supervisor of
15 the Highway District or supervisors or create a
16 position that puts a person out there in the field
17 dealing with these issues that are constantly --
18 that you're being nagged. It would be great for
19 me to call -- and I think you're already on to
20 this. I think it would be great for me to call
21 and someone say to me "Yeah, we know about that
22 and we're on our way out there." I get that
23 answer anyway even if they don't know. Why can't
24 we give that responsibility to see the things that
25 the citizens and visitors of Philadelphia see and

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2 take care of them or create a position?

3 COMMISSIONER MOY: I don't disagree
4 with anything you say, Councilman. And we are
5 looking to our highway inspection force that is
6 available, as it's available, to call those kinds
7 of things to our attention. But I would say
8 whereafter everyone else, all the citizens and the
9 Council themselves to help us because there's such
10 a large inventory, which you acknowledge, of
11 street furniture and it's always something on the
12 way down. If you call it to our attention, we try
13 and get it as promptly as we can.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My final concern is
15 something that really needs to be dealt with, and
16 I don't know whether the Streets Department can
17 adopt this type of regulation or you'd need
18 Council. It's in the area of dumpsters. Does a
19 dumpster that is being used by a contractor that's
20 being left to remove construction debris that's
21 placed out on the roadway require a permit or
22 notification of the Streets Department.

23 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes, I believe it
24 does, Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It does?

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2 COMMISSIONER MOY: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What I would like to
4 see is that you develop a specification that
5 requires reflective devices on these dumpsters
6 that people that are driving, especially when
7 they're left in area that is not normally a
8 parking area, I see dumpsters, 40 cubic yard
9 dumpsters, left along the curblin with no -- I
10 don't mean to go to the extremes -- battery
11 powered flashing lights or at least reflective
12 tape on those. Is that something that you can
13 require all suppliers of dumpsters within the
14 county of Philadelphia to make sure that these
15 Dumpsters are visible?

16 COMMISSIONER MOY: We'll look at our
17 permitting. It sounds reasonable to require that
18 in the permit, and we will do that.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: A contractor just
20 can't call ABC and have a dumpster dumped on the
21 street without a permit?

22 COMMISSIONER MOY: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

24 Thank you Madam Chair.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 welcome. Are there any other questions from
3 members of the committee?

4 (No further questions.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you,
6 Commissioner.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: At the
8 request of the stenographer, we're going to take a
9 ten-minute break.

10 (Break taken.)

11 - - -

12 (Proceedings resume.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Committee of
14 the Whole is now back in session. The next
15 department to testify is Public Property.

16 (Public Property witnesses come
17 forward.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
19 afternoon. Kindly identify yourself for the
20 record and proceed with your testimony.

21 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Andreas Perez, Commissioner of the
23 Department of Public Property. Council President
24 Verna and Members of the City Council, it's a
25 pleasure to appear before Council today in support

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 of Public Property's budget request for Fiscal
3 Year 2001. With me today are Joseph James, Deputy
4 Commissioner for Communications; John Herzins
5 Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Joan
6 Schlotterbeck, Facilities Management Director; and
7 George Hee, Fiscal Officer; and Chris Zearfoss,
8 Director of Transit Operations and Planning
9 Division.

10 In my testimony I just want to briefly
11 skip through the submitted written document and
12 touch on a few highlights.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 stenographer will get a copy of your testimony so
15 it will be in the record. So if you could just
16 summarize what you've given us, it would be
17 appreciated.

18 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The Department of
19 Public Property Fiscal 2001 budget request totals
20 \$204,462,938 in all funds. An increase of
21 \$7,347,120 from your our Fiscal Year 2000
22 estimated obligations.

23 In the General Fund in Class 100 we're
24 requesting \$9,380,423, an increase of \$258,160
25 from Fiscal Year 2000 obligations resulting from

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 the contractual pay raises which are scheduled in
3 the spring.

4 In class 200 we are requesting
5 \$144,693,626, which is a net increase of 5.2-plus
6 million dollars from Fiscal Year obligations
7 resulting from increases in our telecommunications
8 costs, increases to the SEPTA subsidy, both of
9 which have been partially offset by decreases in
10 our space rental expenses.

11 In Class 400 we're requesting \$123,000,
12 which is a decrease of \$1 million from the Fiscal
13 Year 2000 obligations resulting from the deletion
14 of the City's non-recurring equipment expenditures
15 for the Republican National Convention.

16 We're requesting \$16 million in Class
17 800, which is unchanged from prior year, from
18 Fiscal Year 2000 obligations.

19 In General Fund request includes
20 \$63,625,312 for City support of SEPTA; \$15,041,000
21 space rentals; \$29,007,000 for utility charges;
22 \$13,855,000 for telecommunications services; and
23 \$49.6 million for court departmental operations.

24 In the water fund we're requesting
25 \$3,339,572 in Class 200, An increase of 320,000

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 from Fiscal Year 2000.

3 In the Grants Revenue Fund we're
4 requesting 16.5 million, which is unchanged from
5 fiscal 2000 obligations.

6 And in the Aviation Fund we're
7 requesting \$13,482,500 which is an increase of
8 approximately \$2.5 million from Fiscal Year 2000
9 obligations.

10 Very briefly, we've completed the final
11 phase of the real estate plan where the bulk of
12 our savings has occurred. There are still a few
13 small moves and relocations that will be taken
14 care of during Fiscal Year 2001, and the expenses
15 represent the estimated lease costs and those
16 related costs that are running borne through the
17 leases for those improvements that we anticipate.
18 All told, the department estimates that at this
19 point, we'll generate about \$12 million in savings
20 in our space rental accounts for a cumulative
21 total of \$58.3 million since we began this in
22 about Fiscal Year 91-'92 and over the length of
23 the Five-Year Plan, projected into the Five-Year
24 Plan.

25 We have continued the program of

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2 improving facility maintenance operations. Y2K
3 problems did push us into converting our
4 computerized maintenance system, so we're
5 beginning the new Fiscal Year, the current Fiscal
6 Year moving into the new Fiscal Year with an
7 improved computerized building maintenance systems
8 database an system, more user-friendly, again,
9 with the intent of continuing the improved
10 maintenance support of our major facilities.

11 With the full collaboration of the
12 Capital Program Office, the department and the CPO
13 were able to acquire the former PECO Energy
14 Philadelphia Operations Center and convert that
15 into an operations building for the Police
16 Department Internal Affairs Bureau. That was
17 largely completed in the main building this year.
18 They're occupying it presently. There are two
19 other aspects to that project which will be
20 completed by CPF with the department's support
21 through the balance of the year and going into the
22 first quarter of the next fiscal year.

23 The contract services program, which we
24 began some years ago, goes forward in another
25 cycle of renewed contract, rebid ,or new proposals

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2 submitted in another cycle of support. We
3 estimated that the current package of contracts is
4 saving us a million dollars in the coming fiscal
5 year against prior-year expenses and projections
6 against prior-year expenses.

7 The communications division has, of
8 course, since our last presentation before
9 Council, actually moved ahead with the
10 800-megahertz program, the replacement of the
11 radio system and related support elements. We are
12 approximately on track to continue that
13 implementation through into the next fiscal year.

14 A number of departments have also been,
15 as a consequence of those smaller moves, been
16 provided with full communication systems
17 conversions, as has been our program since the
18 upgrade of facilities began.

19 The City net program, which again was
20 gun some years ago through the Department of
21 Public Property, has matured to the point where
22 not only have all the City's agencies mounted
23 their technology seen as a platform, but we've
24 also expanded that to support the Philadelphia
25 Housing Authority, the Philadelphia Parking

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Authority, and the School District of
3 Philadelphia.

4 The 911 call answering and dispatch
5 infrastructure for police and fire continue to be
6 supported again, as in years past, by the
7 Department of Public Property. And in the most
8 recent couple of years and moving again into the
9 next year continued technology upgrades with the
10 collaboration of police and fire as well as the
11 eventual tie-in to the 800-megahertz system.

12 Franchise agreements, of course, with
13 Council's support, have been renewed for all the
14 areas of the City at this point. The approval was
15 also obtained for the acquisition of Greater Media
16 by Comcast, and we expect the following year to be
17 primarily a transition year because current
18 franchise is still run for about another fiscal
19 year before the new franchises actually take
20 place.

21 We continue estimating revenue from the
22 cable franchises to be in the amount of
23 \$8,800,000. The subscriber base for -- the
24 aggregate subscriber base for the franchises is
25 approximately 313,000 accounts.

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2 We, again, continue to support special
3 events, activities which have increased in the
4 last couple of years. We are looking forward, of
5 course, to the spin-off activities providing some
6 increase demand, spin-off activities from the
7 Republican National Convention coming to the City.

8 The transit operations and planning
9 division is where historically the SEPTA-related
10 funding, which is funneled through the Department,
11 is contained; and as in years past, I don't
12 comment on the detail other than that what has
13 been provided in the written testimony. However,
14 Mr. Zearfoss and a representative of SEPTA is
15 available for questions, if necessary.

16 And that, in fact, closes my overall
17 testimony, and I'm available for questions. Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you,
20 Commissioner. Commissioner, can you tell us what
21 the total cost to your department for the
22 Republican National Convention is in FY 2000 and
23 2001?

24 MR. JAMES: Good afternoon, Council
25 President. My name is Joseph James.

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

3 afternoon.

4 MR. JAMES: Deputy Public Property
5 Commissioner.

6 The total cost has not been determined
7 yet, but I can tell that you in our 2000 budget,
8 we have approximately \$2 million that was put into
9 budget to cover the costs for equipment, hardware,
10 and supplies as part of the City's commitment to
11 the Republic National Convention, and there is no
12 funding in 2001 for the Republican National
13 Convention.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So you do not
15 anticipate that you're going to need any money in
16 the 2001 budget?

17 MR. JAMES: I believe there will
18 probably be some carryover expenses in 2001, but
19 they will probably be absorbed in our Operating
20 Budget. Since majority of the work will be done
21 prior to the convention, we anticipate there won't
22 be a substantial amount of expense to the
23 department.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 Commissioner Perez, why is the cost of

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 the prison contract maintenance presigning by \$1.3
3 million in Fiscal 2001, and can you also tell us
4 what services are provided under this contract?

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Generally
6 speaking, it's a replica of the triplex contract.
7 Although it's a different vendor where a full
8 package of overall maintenance services are
9 provided except they're provided in the prison
10 environment and specifically in the current
11 Fromhold facility.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What are
13 those services?

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Mechanical
15 support, repair services, general repair services.
16 I believe we don't provide custodial because
17 that's an inmate -- I believe that's an inmate
18 provided activity. But full support of the
19 building, it is a three-quarter million square
20 foot building and it does include a massive food
21 preparation facility that supports the entire
22 prison complex with a capacity of 41,000 meals a
23 day. The details of it, I could ask Mrs.
24 Schlotterbeck to come forward and explain it in a
25 little bit better detail what the general package

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2 of services is. The increase that we're looking
3 at is anticipation of, I believe, the combination
4 of a rebid and including some forecasted
5 experiences related to the construction of the new
6 women's facility. So as the women's facility
7 comes on line near the end of our Fiscal Year
8 2000, we of course have to be ready long before
9 then to take over the building and support it in
10 the same fashion.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 On Page 5 of your testimony, you
13 mentioned that you would like to create a master
14 redevelopment plan for the Suburban Station and
15 the adjacent Penn Center concourse area. Will
16 such a master plan require City Council approval?
17 And will the City be providing any operating
18 and/or capital funds in this area? And if so, how
19 much?

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The master plan
21 language is actually referring to SEPTA's master
22 plan for the concourse, which has been evolving
23 over a number of years. Several years ago the
24 concept of combining spaces under one management
25 agency was developed. That is, there are Public

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2 Property jurisdictions in the concourse as well as
3 areas that are exclusively SEPTA jurisdictions.
4 Often they butt each other in purely hypothetical
5 boundaries and the ordinary citizen doesn't know
6 the difference from one or the other until they
7 try to make a complaint about something that needs
8 to get fixed. The concept was that the funding
9 that Public Property and perhaps some other
10 City-related agencies may have been spending and
11 may continue to spend in supporting the concourse
12 overall conditions, at least those that are
13 entirely ours, would be combined with SEPTA's
14 resources and the revenue produced or a portion of
15 the revenue produced by the new rental
16 arrangements by private owners and SEPTA
17 throughout the concourse into an organization
18 which would be a replica of the Mall Maintenance
19 Corporation which engages in those activity on the
20 east side underneath the gallery.

21 That was the concept and it's taken
22 years to advance itself. It goes back to a policy
23 consideration for the current administration to
24 decide how we're going to move forward. I don't
25 believe that I've got targeted funds in my budget

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 or in my future-year budget to support that other
3 than what I would ordinarily do through
4 maintenance activity if it ever comes to being
5 transferred to this Concourse Management
6 Corporation or proposed Concourse Management
7 Corporation.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

9 Can you tell us why the SEPTA subsidy
10 is being increased by \$2.8 million?

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It's being
12 increased to meet the City's required match of the
13 anticipated increase from the State.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The State.

15 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And, of course,
16 the number is generated from the Finance
17 Department in collaboration with SEPTA.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 Commissioner, could you state for the
23 record the policy that you have for advertising on
24 the SEPTA shelters, the passenger shelters
25 specifically as it pertains to alcohol and

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2 program operate pursuant to a concession agreement
3 which is about ten years in length. It will
4 expire in December of 2001. The contract does has
5 a provision where the Commissioner can have an ad
6 removed which was libellous, obscene, offensive --
7 I forget the other terms of art that are used.
8 That has only been invoked maybe two or three
9 times over the years.

10 The tobacco ads have been removed from
11 the shelters pursuant to larger bans that have
12 been imposed at the national level. The shelters,
13 however, do continue to have ads from time to time
14 for alcoholic beverages.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Again, for the
16 record, tobacco is no longer advertised at all in
17 any of those.

18 MR. ZEARFOSS: That's --

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How many do we have?

20 MR. ZEARFOSS: We almost 270 citywide
21 with commercial ads and we have about another 26
22 in Center City that have public service cultural
23 posters only.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The Center City
25 District?

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2 MR. ZEARFOSS: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So tobacco is --

4 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Tobacco is out
5 because of the national ban.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But alcohol is
7 still --

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Alcohol is still
9 legal and the definitions over my discretion don't
10 include it. However, Chris, Mr. Zearfoss did
11 mention that it's up for rebid in about a fiscal
12 year's time.

13 MR. ZEARFOSS: Yes, that's correct.

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And the time to
15 close any widows or loops that we feel we've got
16 is actually now as we begin preparing the
17 paperwork for that competition.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Great.
19 Commissioner, my last question. In the budget in
20 the Operating Budget there is a proposed \$16
21 million and it's payments to other funds. Could
22 you explain what \$16 million payments to other
23 funds is?

24 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Well, it's
25 basically the -- excuse me for a moment. I'll ask

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2 Rob Dubow to support me on this one, but there

3 are --

4 (Rob Dubow comes forward).

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That particular

6 pot of money, the 16 million, is really the

7 receipts from the 911 surcharge, and it's always

8 presented in the budget for appropriation

9 authorization.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Say that one more

11 time.

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It's the 911

13 surcharge receipts from the 911 surcharge.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's titled

15 payments to other funds?

16 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I guess that's the

17 way it's categorized, yes.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you can

19 understand why I question it.

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,

22 Commissioner.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're

25 welcome.

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2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Good afternoon.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Your testimony
8 talks about a redevelopment plan and a
9 multi-phased concourse improvement initiative. I
10 don't get a chance to ride the City Transit
11 Division a lot. Every now and then from time to
12 time, I ride the commuter rail lines as well. And
13 it is clear to me that there is a distinct
14 difference between the areas where the commuter
15 railline comes in and people come up a set of
16 stairs that if you're going to City Hall that lead
17 to the City Hall area versus coming up out of the
18 City Division areas and a whole -- I don't know
19 what the area is called, but generally in the
20 Dilworth Plaza area and then underneath the
21 overhang, if you will. Can you provide us a map
22 of the entire concourse area, the open area and
23 the covered areas of Suburban Station to show, I
24 guess, in different colors who's responsible for
25 cleaning what area? Because in the City Transit

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2 Division area under the concourse, it is clearly
3 one of the most disgusting areas of the City. And
4 the fact that it's attached to this building or to
5 the triplex concourse or however you guys
6 characterize it, I mean I am literally afraid at
7 times that you're either going to catch something
8 down there or something's going to catch you. And
9 I really think that it's just not the way you want
10 to start your day getting into the City Hall area.
11 Between the smells, the fluids, the trash, the
12 debris, and all kinds of other stuff that you have
13 to jump around, it's just -- it's not presentable.
14 So if you could show me on a map who's responsible
15 for what and then what the cleaning schedule is
16 and what the maintenance schedule is, I would like
17 to know that.

18 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That shouldn't be
19 a problem at all.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

21 In the same area, your testimony
22 indicates that SEPTA's going to fund the initial
23 \$11 million for the \$46 million concourse project.
24 Who's paying the other 35?

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I actually don't

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 know the factual answer, but it's SEPTA funds.
3 Whether it's SEPTA receiving State, Federal funds
4 or even other City capital funds directly to their
5 budget, I don't know how that sorts itself out.
6 You'll probably get a much better answer when
7 they're here for their budget presentation.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I'd be more
9 than happy to ask them, but why don't we do this:
10 As Commissioner of the Department of Public
11 Property, and if this is situated within your
12 technical jurisdiction, is raised in your
13 testimony, you could touch base with SEPTA, get a
14 detailed explanation of the source --

15 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We'll get you an
16 explanation.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That would be
18 great. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The Planning
20 Commission is also very much involved.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. With
22 regard to surplus property, the notices that we
23 get about the availability or the request to
24 determine whether a piece of property is surplus
25 property, the lead time on those notices is not

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2 particularly conducive to trying to be responsive.
3 I received a notice sometime last year, for
4 example, a memo dated September 22nd, which was
5 received on September 29th, and required a
6 response by October 8th. Now, I mean, I certainly
7 can't know all of the circumstances --

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Certainly, that
9 timetable was tight and it's not standard because
10 we do try to do it on a 30-day response basis, and
11 I don't know if there were particular reasons why
12 we accelerated that particular property.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, the other
14 issue is, on these lists, how often are they
15 updated or do people check to see what the real
16 status of that particular property is? I get
17 lists from time to time for property that is under
18 a current lease with one of our authorities for an
19 active operating parking lot.

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That -- I know the
21 notice you're referring to. Unfortunately, a
22 recently hired employee was given a task of go put
23 together a list of surplus properties to sell,
24 wasn't given a lot more instruction, and a number
25 of active, in-place, in-use facilities ended up on

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2 that list. Of course, it was -- I won't say
3 recalled, but no action was taken.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But you can imagine
5 the confusion, if not the anxiety that results
6 when people find out that the property that
7 they've been using or have under active lease has
8 now ended up on a City surplus property list.

9 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That's right.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Which once get in
11 computer system from which it can never been
12 extracted, it's never clear whether you're off the
13 list, still on the list, somebody's thinking about
14 you, or there's, you know, the usual conspiracy
15 that goes with any of these things that it's only
16 a matter of time before they get you.

17 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: In this case there
18 was a compound error. I've been around a long
19 time and I require those lists be reviewed by me
20 personally before they get circulated to
21 departments, agencies, and officials. I saw the
22 errors at my first glance, and it got ahead of me.
23 And I apologize to you and I've already apologized
24 to a number of other individuals who were very
25 distressed by that situation.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I appreciate that.

3 Let me now focus on an area of
4 particular interest which has to do with your
5 communications side of the house, and specifically
6 cable television. I believe that last year around
7 and about this time, I had asked for a relatively
8 detailed memo and explanation for a step-by-step
9 plain-English explanation of what is needed and
10 what's require and who has to do what with whom
11 and where --

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- on the
14 establishment of Public Access Television
15 Corporation, which naturally go from an ordinance,
16 articles of incorporation, full establishment of
17 the Public Access Corporation. That's a kind of
18 quick, general overview, but naturally, there are
19 steps and many details between those steps. To
20 the best of my knowledge, I've not received that
21 kind of detailed documentation for what needs to
22 happen to go from start to finish. Can you tell
23 me where things are on that and who's working on
24 it?

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It had been -- the

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2 response had been worked on, of course, not only
3 by Mr. James and Mr. Costello from my department,
4 but also the Law Department. My recollection is
5 that the Administration, through the Law
6 Department, was going to provide, you know, the
7 final response to Council. I'm sorry to say I
8 didn't know that that didn't happen. I don't know
9 if it actually didn't happen, but there's no
10 problem going back and readdressing that issue one
11 more time.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I would
13 certainly like to have it. And as I said, it's
14 the kind of thing that, you know, would have kind
15 of stood out in the mail. If it had come on a
16 particular day, I actually would have probably
17 read it a couple times, so I didn't notice it
18 coming in. If we could get an updated copy of
19 that, I would greatly appreciate it.

20 Along with that, were there ever
21 articles of incorporation for the Public Access
22 Corporation drafted and developed back at that
23 time.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: May I interrupt for
25 a moment to tell to you to speak directly into the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 microphone.

3 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'm sorry,

4 Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: When you're faced in
6 that direction, your voice goes there and it's --

7 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Certainly.

8 I'm going to ask Joe James to respond.

9 MR. JAMES: Councilman Nutter, if I
10 could just verify your question, are you're asking
11 about whether articles of incorporation drafted
12 last year when you made request for memo or are
13 you talking about initially?

14 Initially, when the issue the public
15 access was before Council when the franchises were
16 first being established there was a bill and there
17 were articles of incorporation drafted. They did
18 not go to the State and they did not get
19 formulated.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, as a part of
21 the earlier information request, I would like a
22 copy of those articles of incorporation attached
23 as attachment exhibit tab whatever you want to
24 call it as a part of that particular package.

25 MR. JAMES: Okay.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thanks.

3 Now, what is the Department's current
4 estimate on the cost to operate a full-blown
5 public access TV system here in Philadelphia?

6 MR. JAMES: I believe last year, it
7 might have been a little bit longer, when we
8 first looked at this issue and this issue was very
9 prominent during cable renewal discussions, we
10 looked at a budget and forecasted a budget
11 anywhere from half a million dollars depending on
12 how minute we would like to operate it, anywhere
13 from a million and a half to 3 million depending
14 on if we went to the full that was in the renewals
15 or in the actual cable documents of nine studios
16 throughout the City with vans and so forth.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And did any -- how
18 did you do this research or information? Who did
19 you talk to to try to figure it out?

20 MR. JAMES: I believe much of then
21 information we researched with other cities,
22 Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C., other cities who
23 already have public access and looking at their
24 budget numbers as far as the positions and the
25 salaries that they were paying, the type of

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2 equipment and what it would cost.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Have you had any
4 meetings or discussions with the Philadelphia
5 Community Access Coalition?

6 MR. JAMES: No, we haven't.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Would you have some
8 meetings with the Philadelphia Community Access
9 Coalition as a group of people here in
10 Philadelphia who have probably more than any other
11 group of people and probably with the exception of
12 Councilman Cohen, maybe Councilman Ortiz, have
13 spent more time and effort working on this issue
14 than anyone else in the City? You're not adverse
15 to meeting with them, are you?

16 MR. JAMES: I don't think the
17 department is adverse to meeting with them. We
18 have been assisting maybe a year or so ago when it
19 was then-Council President Street had meetings
20 with the members of the organization you
21 mentioned. We provided some technical information
22 and sat in on the meeting to answer some of the
23 background questions on the history. And
24 certainly at those discussions, we would be glad
25 to participate in.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, let me go
3 back to the earlier question. Notwithstanding
4 that earlier discussion, you will be glad to sit
5 down and meet with that group of people to talk
6 about these particular issues on an expedited
7 basis.

8 MR. JAMES: I don't think we're adverse
9 to meeting with that organization.

10 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We will do that,
11 Councilman.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could I hear that
13 answer again?

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We will do that.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Councilman Nutter,
16 would you yield a moment?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Sure, Councilman.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Would you agree at
21 that meeting to have Councilmembers present, at
22 the meeting?

23 MR. JAMES: I don't --

24 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I have no
25 objection to doing that.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Very good. Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
5 Nutter.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you. Last
7 question, Madam Chair.

8 The general programming on the
9 government access channel, which as we know during
10 the budget hearing process and every Thursday,
11 naturally, for Council sessions, the Department
12 makes arrangements to broadcast these particular
13 sessions. But once a Thursday and for a couple
14 months during the budget hearings is when you have
15 primarily have live broadcasts; is that correct?

16 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That is correct.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: During other time
18 there are various screen displays, or I think your
19 more technical language might be kind of be a
20 scrolling screen and then you have all of the
21 fade-aways.

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Bulletin boards
23 and other kinds of information.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Has there been any
25 discussion within the department to put public

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2 access on hold for one second, just the City's
3 general use of that particular channel as, I
4 guess, a medium to communicate with the public in
5 a variety of different fashions? I mean, you
6 have, I mean, the power of television for the
7 government, and I'm not saying the government
8 should do anything inappropriate or try to
9 influence people, I'm not talking about reviewing
10 scripts or trying to get a message through
11 different TV shows, but I mean we have ten
12 operating department, Fairmount Park, and a wide
13 variety of entities, the alphabet soup agencies
14 and the like. Has anyone had any discussions
15 about getting out more information about those
16 entities, maybe having someone interview the
17 Commissioner of Streets or the library person or
18 anybody to talk about in a kind of a more direct
19 person-to-person fashion about what those agencies
20 are and what they do and how to communicate with
21 them and what services they provide and all of
22 that kind of stuff?

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It's occurred,
24 it's occurred rarely from time to time where that
25 kind of a short presentation has been put on.

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2 And, of course, those are not necessarily
3 advertised ahead of time. They're used, again, to
4 fill in time between the scrolled information. We
5 can try --

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you're just kind
7 of a surfer --

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We can try
9 collaborating with the other departments to see
10 what we can come up with.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I mean, other than
12 if you wanted to watch a rebroadcast of a Council
13 session at 7:30 on Thursday or watch it live at 10
14 o'clock in the morning or see this activity,
15 you're just kind of left to -- if you can surf up
16 to 64, take a chance, you might kind of maybe see
17 something that might possibly be of interest to
18 you?

19 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We can explore
20 that. The limitations in the past with the other
21 agencies when we've tried to do this in a sort of
22 coordinated, collaborative way has been the time
23 available, the staff with the interest for it, and
24 the eventual cost of producing materials. I would
25 dare say that probably in 1999, if we revisit

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2 that, it might be easier and cheaper to do it than
3 when we first tried it almost eight years ago.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Or if there was
5 just a philosophy and perspective. I've never had
6 a cable TV discussion with Mayor Street, but it
7 seems to me that if the philosophy and the
8 perspective of the Administration is "we want to
9 do these things," I couldn't imagine that any
10 Commissioner would show anything short of joy and
11 glee when directed properly to allocate a half
12 hour, 45 minutes to putting on some program for
13 taping that's going to provide good information
14 for citizens of this City. Since the people who
15 are watching are the people who are paying the
16 bill, right?

17 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So you'll
19 get back to us on that?

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman, I
22 think this would be a great avenue also to use.
23 We keep talking about an educational program
24 regarding the recycling issue. Why couldn't we
25 use the avenue of TV? We could talk about any

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2 number of things. If people have to go into L&I
3 for a permit, how much it's going to cost; the
4 type of information they will have to provide when
5 they go for their permit. I mean, there are a lot
6 of issues that can be explained to people before
7 they attempt to even come to City Hall or the MSB
8 Building, and I think a lot of cities do that.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: People like to
10 watch TV.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mm-hmm.
12 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair.

15 Last June the Law and Government
16 committee, of which I'm the Chair, held a meeting
17 on public access and invited the City. We were
18 under the clear impression that your department
19 was coming, and then right toward the very end, we
20 received notice that you were not coming. Was
21 there any reason why your department stayed away
22 from the hearings? You were the most important
23 City department involved in public access. Did
24 you get instructions from the then-mayor not to
25 appear? Was it a decision of your department?

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2 I'm not going to embarrass you.

3 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'm on the record
4 and I'm trying to recall. I recall the hearing, I
5 recall the issue of the hearing, I just --

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I think it was the
7 last public hearing that Council held. The room
8 was packed with adherence of public access. It
9 was by far the largest group that had ever
10 appeared at a Council hearing on behalf of public
11 access. The testimony seemed to me to be directly
12 on point and very important, and the most
13 important people who should have been in the room
14 were not there.

15 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: My recollection is
16 that we were present, but not testifying.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You were what?

18 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We were present,
19 but not testifying.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why would that have
21 been?

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I don't recall.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You recollect that
24 you received any instructions from the then-mayor
25 not to participate?

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2 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: No, not
3 specifically. I'm sorry.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, the reason
5 it's important is we're trying to find out why a
6 law passed by City Council in 1992 is totally
7 unenforced, whether it was stalled by your
8 department, and as you've testified, you've been
9 the Commissioner for many years; or whether it was
10 stalled by somebody else. And that's the reason
11 for the question. Could you give an answer to
12 that? Is your department in favor of public
13 access?

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I don't believe
15 I'm at liberty to take that kind of a broad public
16 policy statement entirely on my own. I can answer
17 your question a bit differently by saying that in
18 my budget submissions, I have not included the
19 expenses estimated to support public access.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that your own
21 decision?

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It has been for
23 the past couple of years.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Why.

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Because it hasn't

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2 been supported and provided in the past.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I don't understand
4 that.

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Budgets are target
6 figures. When I received my target figure and the
7 things I feel need to be done exceed that number,
8 I've got to eliminate items or reduce expenses
9 where there's discretion to reduce expenses. It
10 ends up being a fruitless endeavor for me to add a
11 million dollars -- I'm just picking a number of
12 right now -- on a budget where I already know that
13 my instruction is to keep it at 1.5 percent lower
14 than the prior years. And so there is that
15 element of the process where, you know, I have
16 other priorities that I can't get in there that
17 I'd rather take care of now than later. And so
18 supporting public access at the expense of what
19 some of those other priorities may be doesn't make
20 any sense to me.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well --

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I don't mean that
23 is a policy statement, just as an operations
24 manager with a fixed budget forecast.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, didn't the

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2 original agreement provide for payment of funds by
3 the cable companies to whom we gave permits?
4 Didn't it include funding for public access?

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The funds that
6 keep being referred to are not available to us as
7 a department to staff and operate and support.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But you were aware
9 of, weren't you --

10 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: -- of the funding?

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And how much funding
14 was that on a yearly basis?

15 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Let me ask Mr.
16 James. 300,000.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that what came
18 from the are 5 percent fee?

19 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And when this -- let
21 me refer to Mr. James a moment. When you refer to
22 making studies as to what the cost would be for
23 public access, when were those studies made?

24 MR. JAMES: Councilman, that
25 information was collected over about a year or so,

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2 maybe around the time when you're referring to the
3 hearing or maybe a little bit before that. We've
4 been collecting information on the topic for the
5 last two years.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And did you, as a
7 result of those studies, decide that the 5 percent
8 fee was not enough, that it would only generate
9 \$300,000 and that therefore you would want to
10 increase that amount coming from the cable
11 companies?

12 MR. JAMES: I believe what was in the
13 franchise agreement is for a fixed amount of
14 dollars to come directly from each franchise area
15 to fund public access operating costs as well as a
16 fixed amount of dollars for the capital cost. The
17 operating dollars could be recovered from the
18 revenue collected from the 5 percent franchise
19 fee. So one could argue you could make it as much
20 as you want, you're just deleting those revenues
21 that would go into the General Fund.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I got everything
23 except that last --

24 MR. JAMES: You have 5 percent to work
25 with, so 5 percent of whatever gets collected.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: For operating
3 sequences.

4 MR. JAMES: Five percent is the
5 franchise the City receives from the cable
6 operators. That money goes to the General Fund.
7 You can then dedicate the 300,000 out of that 5
8 percent or more if that's the decision, but it
9 would all come out of the same source of funds
10 which would be that 5 percent franchise fee.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, does the
12 300,000 figure that Mr. Perez refers to, is that
13 the cumulative amount from all of the companies
14 together at the time we have had the four
15 companies?

16 MR. JAMES: Yes, that is the cumulative
17 number.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And how would that
19 number stack up today?

20 MR. JAMES: Well, as I said, the
21 original documents envisioned nine cable studios
22 with a cable van in each area and studio
23 facilities. 300,000 is not going to cover, I
24 would say, the operating cost for the salaries for
25 the people you need to operate it, let alone the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 equipment cost and the utility cost for running
3 nine different studios.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many would it
5 cover?

6 MR. JAMES: Depending on the operation,
7 you could size it down to a smaller scale maybe
8 one studio with limited resources and maybe not as
9 fully staffed as you would want. It's a matter of
10 how you design the studios that's going determine
11 the operation cost.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, why wouldn't
13 the City when it negotiated this new contract that
14 it just negotiated, why wouldn't the City have
15 asked for what it considered an adequate amount?
16 Did the City feel rich enough, knew it was going
17 to have this big surplus, therefore, wanted to add
18 the money and didn't want to charge the cable
19 companies more? Wasn't this a perfect time to ask
20 for more funding?

21 MR. JAMES: Certainly it was. At the
22 time we went through the cable renewal
23 negotiations with all the cable operators, we
24 basically carried forward the obligations that
25 were originally established from the original 1984

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 franchises, and through that process of
3 negotiations, there was no impetus on our part to
4 increase that amount and there was no direction
5 from Council to increase that amount as we went
6 through the process, so the amount did not get
7 increased as part of those negotiations.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: They really got a
9 good deal, didn't they, the cable companies.

10 MR. JAMES: Well, it's not really a
11 deal for the cable operators. The cable operators
12 will pay what we determine as what we want to
13 spend on public access. It's coming out of the 5
14 percent franchise fee. It really doesn't make a
15 difference to them. There's really no hardship to
16 them because all we're doing is using the revenue
17 that gets generated from the franchise fee to fund
18 the public access.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there anything in
20 the agreement that would prevent the -- you mean
21 the cable companies really weren't paying
22 anything, they were passing it on to the consumer?

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: In the end that's
24 correct. In the end there's a bite out of the
25 City's revenue.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The cable companies
3 seem to be rolling in wealth, aren't they? They
4 have tremendous cash flows.

5 MR. JAMES: Well, yes, their income is
6 up, but the obligation really it doesn't depend
7 whether or not they are successful or wealthy,
8 it's the obligation that's in there to fund public
9 access. The City has to make a decision whether
10 it wants to do public access and then decide
11 what's the right amount of funds and what's the
12 right amount of operations that the City would
13 feel to be appropriate for that particular
14 activity.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But a good
16 negotiator for the City would have made the cable
17 companies pay something for public access. We're
18 giving them a license to do things, so didn't we
19 have a right to say that out of their profit
20 should come a franchise fee?

21 MR. JAMES: Well, as in most cases
22 throughout the nation and through the Cable Act at
23 the federal level, there's really not a lot of
24 leverage municipalities or cities have and in
25 imposing any sort of additional obligations on

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 cable operators for public access, any fees that
3 we collect from them that we use for public access
4 is going to come out of the revenue that they pay
5 us. They're not going to be putting out any money
6 other than the capital costs which is one
7 obligation that we maintain which is directly
8 their are dollars to be spent for the capital
9 construction cost of the studio.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Have they paid
11 anything for that?

12 MR. JAMES: Well, they have, as we
13 mentioned many times before, it's a line
14 obligation in the franchise agreement. There are
15 no monies set aside, there's been no money put in
16 reserve, and there's been no money being expended.
17 They will appropriate those funds when we tell
18 them that we're ready to do public access.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What funds will they
20 appropriate?

21 MR. JAMES: I think the total number
22 for all four franchise areas is around \$2 million.
23 Now \$2 million dollars is probably not going to
24 build you nine cable studios with vans. So if the
25 City wants to go forward with public access

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 initiative, there's going to have to probably be
3 some refocus on how either there will additional
4 City dollars put in there to build the nine
5 studios or a lesser scaled-down model of what that
6 should look like that is more appropriate to what
7 we have to spend.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I think I
9 would have -- it seems to me as if the City did an
10 extremely poor job of negotiating. I would have
11 to be convinced to the contrary that you somehow
12 negotiated to the maximum ability of the law. But
13 it seems to me that we would not be limited for
14 operational purposes for public access by federal
15 law to a measly sum of \$300,000 a year.

16 MR. JAMES: Well, not by federal. We
17 negotiated based upon what were the priorities at
18 the time to be negotiated. Public access was not
19 a priority. What we did was maintain an
20 obligation and carry it forward. We did not
21 increase that obligation because this is no public
22 access, there was no public access, and at the
23 time that they were negotiating, there was no
24 immediate impetus on anyone's part to do public
25 access. So we negotiated what was in our best

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 interests for the City, the best things that would
3 be of value to the City. And I think we did a
4 very good job in negotiation. Maybe not to public
5 access point of view, but some of other things
6 that were negotiated, I think we did quite well in
7 comparison to a very competitive market and to an
8 arena where federal regulations or more to the
9 industry's favor as they are to the
10 municipalities. In a lot of cities, public access
11 is funded out of the citizens in addition to the
12 money that they collect.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. James, you have
14 a lot of convincing to do to convince me. It
15 seems to me that what happened was that the Mayor
16 of the City, whoever the mayor was during these
17 periods of time, found this as a good source of
18 separate income for which he decided -- I can say
19 he because there was no female mayor at the time.
20 He decided he just wanted to appropriate that
21 money. And that in the private business world had
22 that been done, it would have been pure theft, the
23 taking of money that had been granted for one
24 purpose was being used for an entirely different
25 purpose despite the existence of a law which

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 required the creation of public access. I'm not
3 holding the department responsible for that,
4 because I don't believe you had anything to do
5 with it. But the franchise fee has been paid each
6 year?

7 MR. JAMES: Yes. I think we collect it
8 quarterly.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many years is
10 that?

11 MR. JAMES: Since 1985.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That's 15 years.

13 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Nearly 15 years.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 15 years times
15 \$300,000 plus interest that that money would have
16 earned if it had just not be tampered. That looks
17 to me like a pretty good kitty of maybe better
18 than \$5 million in the Operation Fund which the
19 City has diverted although the money came to it.
20 I question the legality of the City using the
21 money for other purposes because I don't think
22 we're permitted to use a tax that we levied on
23 some private company for one purpose, I don't
24 think we're permitted to use it for another
25 purpose, but we'll let that be for the time

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 being.

3 Secondly, how about the Capital Fund,
4 that's just never been paid?

5 MR. JAMES: It's never been spent.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It's never been
7 spent, but has it ever been turned over to the
8 City?

9 MR. JAMES: No. It's an obligation,
10 and the money would be given by the cable
11 operators when the City was ready to be public
12 access.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So the City in
14 enabling the cable operators in addition to
15 utilize that money in any way they want for any
16 purpose and they've had that also for 15 years?

17 MR. JAMES: Well, I don't think we've
18 allowed them to use that money. There is an
19 obligation in there for them to make an
20 expenditure when the City decides to do this
21 activity. If the City does not do the activity,
22 they don't appropriate the money or make the
23 expense. But it is not like there is money that
24 was given to them or money that they held in a
25 reserve just for this activity never to be spent.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. James, I think
3 some people in the financial world would say that
4 in effect we gave them a gift of \$2.5 million and
5 have permitted them to be using it at a time when
6 they were under a legal obligation, the City had
7 the right to collect that fund.

8 It seems like a strange, strange tale
9 for Philadelphia to want to hide from the ability
10 to notify people because the public access would
11 not be only of great use to the community, but as
12 Councilman Nutter pointed out, but of great use to
13 the City to publicize information about the City,
14 to develop constructive programs on its own behalf
15 because we know so many people don't know things
16 about the government and we often have great
17 difficult reaching them. We spend millions of
18 dollars in various outreach programs, and we could
19 save a lot of that money or cut down the cost of
20 it and probably be much more effective if we had a
21 public access program. We don't know how to get
22 information about lead problems in the homes to
23 people. We have all kinds of delinquencies in gas
24 and water bills, and the City has no means of
25 getting any information as to why these bills are

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 delinquent. There's so many different needs we
3 have for reaching people, and just to be friendly
4 to cable operators and/or to use a few hundred
5 thousand dollars each year for its other uses, it
6 just doesn't make any sense at all.

7 How long is this -- do we have any
8 right to renegotiate any part of this new contract
9 that we just entered into last year, I think it
10 was? Was it done many years in advance?

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The process was
12 started at different times by each of franchises.
13 I believe Comcast started two years ahead, and we
14 just completed Wade, so they're both renewed. Our
15 options for reopening the contracts, best opinion
16 is going to have to come from the Law Department.
17 My layman's opinion is that we probably don't have
18 any options that are already built in there.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You said we don't
20 have any?

21 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How many years?

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: It's a 15-year
24 agreement.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Looks to me like it

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 was a real sweetheart agreement from the point of
3 view of the cable companies.

4 Has there been any discussion between
5 your department and the Mayor with respect to
6 public access?

7 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: The Department of
8 Public Property at this point early in this
9 Administration has not had a policy and plan
10 review session in any aspect of any part of my
11 department's responsibilities. We expect that
12 that will, you know, happen at a not-too-distant
13 date, but the simple answer is no, not yet.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: In the new franchise
15 agreement, is there a timetable for building
16 public access facilities?

17 MR. JAMES: Yes. There was, as in the
18 original, there were forecasted time frames for
19 meeting those obligations.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, in the current
21 franchise --

22 MR. JAMES: Yes, in the current there
23 are similar ones.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Was there any
25 discussion during the negotiations with respect to

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 the building of those facilities?

3 MR. JAMES: The only discussions
4 through the negotiates was ensuring that the
5 obligation was carried forward and that all of the
6 language that was in the original was carried into
7 the new agreement, and there was agreement by the
8 cable operators to meet those obligations and they
9 understood as we understood that it depended on
10 certain actions on the City's behalf, and once
11 those action would occur, then the City would be
12 asking the cable operators to expend those funds.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What is the nature
14 of that agreement? What are the cable companies
15 going to pay? There are just two cable companies
16 in the City now?

17 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Legally it's still
18 four franchises, but yes, there's one corporation
19 that owns three franchises.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And is the payment
21 supposed to be equal amongst all of the companies?

22 MR. JAMES: Yes. It's by franchise
23 area, the public access obligation is by franchise
24 area.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So that one company

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2 would have to pay three quarters of whatever is
3 paid. What is to be paid? How is that to be
4 determined?

5 MR. JAMES: There is a fixed amount. I
6 don't have the actual numbers in front of me, but
7 I can certainly provide you a copy of an appendix
8 that spells out specifically what it's for, but
9 there is money set aside for each one of those
10 obligations as the cost for a studio, the cost for
11 a van, the cost for camera equipment, the purchase
12 of that, that is the capital portion of it. And
13 then each franchise in the original agreement
14 annual renewals call for a two access studios in
15 each of the four franchise areas and the cable
16 operators who own those franchise areas are
17 funding the cost for those facility and then
18 they're funding a fourth of the cost for one
19 central studio which would be centralized between
20 all four franchise areas.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And that's how you
22 got to the figure of nine?

23 MR. JAMES: That's correct.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And does the -- I'm
25 talking capital costs now. What is the obligation

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 of the cable companies? Do they have the
3 obligation to provide all of the equipment?

4 MR. JAMES: They have the obligation to
5 provide the funds. They don't provide the --

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: How do they know
7 what funds to provide?

8 MR. JAMES: Spelled out in the appendix
9 how much they have to provide for each segment of
10 the funds, the cost for studios, the cost for the
11 van, the cost for the camera equipment.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And the City would
13 be obligated to provide them with a statement of
14 the costs?

15 MR. JAMES: Yes. It's in the franchise
16 agreement.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Then they would have
18 to pay that amount?

19 MR. JAMES: That's correct, up to the
20 dollar limit that's in the agreement.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And agreement lists
22 the equipment that the franchise-holders would
23 have to pay for?

24 MR. JAMES: It spells out in general
25 terms the type of equipment. It's not saying

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 that's the exact equipment that --

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, in your
4 judgment, would their capital contributions pay
5 for the full costs of capitalization aspect of the
6 nine studios?

7 MR. JAMES: I don't think the amount of
8 money will cover the cost for nine studios. I
9 said that before. There's not enough capital
10 costs in there if you include the cost for bricks
11 and mortar and finding a building and building the
12 building from ground up and then putting in all
13 the equipment. I don't believe there's enough
14 capital cost to --

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, was the
16 intention originally to cover all the costs?

17 MR. JAMES: In the original agreement,
18 yes.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, why isn't
20 there coverage now if it's the same provision?

21 MR. JAMES: Well, I think if you look
22 at the cost of money -- and as we said, we rolled
23 forward the obligation. There was no difference
24 made for time value of money, there was no
25 increase in the amount of money, it was just kept

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 the same obligation carried in.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You mean there were
4 the dollar amounts put in the original?

5 MR. JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You mean dollar
7 amounts for 15 years ago were put into --

8 MR. JAMES: The same dollar amounts
9 that were in there 15 years ago were put in the
10 renewal documents.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You can't tell me
12 that was good negotiating.

13 MR. JAMES: Well, as I said, there was
14 not an impetus to do public access, there was no
15 clear direction that public access was going to
16 occur, and the only discussions we had was
17 maintaining what was there in case the City at
18 some point in time in the future decides to do it,
19 knowing full well that if it hasn't occurred in
20 1985, those dollar values are probably not going
21 to cover what's going to be needed. But then
22 again maybe we don't need nine studios in the year
23 2000.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you really think
25 this was right? You know, you say there was no

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 priority, no push. There was all of those years,
3 there's been a push to get public access. The
4 only way we didn't know about it was you shut the
5 door. When I say "you," I mean the Mayor and the
6 people under the Mayor, just shut the door so
7 isn't hear anything. And you could say, well,
8 there was no this was great demand for it.
9 There's great demand for it all this time.

10 MR. JAMES: Well, I said as we went
11 through the process, as you recall, we had a
12 public hearing, we came before Council, we gave
13 the terms to Council what was negotiated. There
14 was no change by anyone made to change any of the
15 dollar amounts or numbers or anything, and Council
16 voted on the franchise renewal document as we
17 submitted it.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But this was a
19 Council during those years that was bewildered by
20 the charisma of the Mayor and therefore paid no
21 attention. Between the Mayor and the then-City
22 Council President, there was never discussion or
23 disagreement with anything the two officials
24 agreed on and the public was secluded and laws
25 were just cavalierly disobeyed, like the law

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 against billboards, just paid no attention to it,
3 the law for public access paid no attention to it.

4 MR. JAMES: Not to disagree, but I --
5 through the process, the Public Access Coalition
6 folks made themselves very well known through all
7 of the renewals from Comcast and Greater Media and
8 Wade. They participated in all the community
9 meetings and spoke and went on the record so that
10 their voice was heard throughout entire process.
11 They were not excluded, they were a part of the
12 process. They had an opportunity to voice their
13 opinion and make a record, and the renewals were
14 approved as we negotiated them.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mm-hmm. It's a
16 shame thought to say, but I think in the history
17 of the City to have a law passed in 1985 providing
18 for public access and here in the year 2000
19 nothing having been done except that articles of
20 incorporation having sat on then-Mayor Goode's
21 desk for a long time, and then following that,
22 Mayor Rendell's desk a long time, and just being
23 totally ignored even though it had been passed by
24 City Council and directed to take place.

25 Madam President, I have no further

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 questions at this time.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
4 Councilman.

5 Are there any other questions of the
6 Public Property Commissioner?

7 (No further questions.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing none,
9 thank you, gentlemen.

10 MR. JAMES: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Fleet
13 Management will testify next.

14 (Fleet Management witnesses come
15 forward.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
17 afternoon, gentlemen. Thank you for your
18 patience. We do have a copy of your testimony
19 which has been given to the stenographer, so if
20 you would just summarize it, we would appreciate
21 it.

22 MR. HARRISON: Thank you, President
23 Verna and distinguished Members of City Council.
24 My name is Riley P. Harrison, Fleet Manager for
25 the City of Philadelphia. With me today is Robert

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Fox, Director of Administrative Services, and
3 Nadine Glover who is my Budget Officer.

4 Submitted for the record is my written
5 testimony, and I'd like to now just summarize key
6 points therein. The office of Fleet Management
7 for Fiscal 2001 is requesting \$57.6 million for
8 the General Fund, with an additional 6.4 million
9 for the Water Fund, and 8.9 for the Aviation Fund
10 budget request.

11 OFM continues to develop and implement
12 best fleet management practices and policies while
13 maintaining active fleet size of approximately
14 5920 vehicles at an average availability rate of
15 92 percent. Furthermore, OFM is meeting or
16 exceeding all vehicle targets for our client
17 departments.

18 The City of Philadelphia has a very
19 diverse fleet in terms of its size, complexity,
20 and function. In fact, if we were rated with the
21 top 100 transportation companies in the United
22 States, we would be rated No. 15. Amongst all
23 municipalities, we are rated No. 4 in size. With
24 an asset value exceeding \$238 million, the fleet
25 represents a significant investment of public

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2 funds.

3 We are also requesting for Fiscal Year
4 2001 an additional \$18 million for vehicle
5 replacement. Of course, two-thirds of that is
6 directed annually to the purchase of public health
7 and safety equipment to meet their daily needs for
8 their delivery of critical services.

9 OFM has always emphasized preventive
10 maintenance as important of effective fleet
11 management. To maintain high availability and
12 reliability, OFM will continue its preventive
13 maintenance schedules and compliance program.

14 Some of our major accomplishments
15 include implementation of a fleet accounting
16 computer tracking system and a fuel management
17 system, a continuing education program and a high
18 school internship program, expansion of the
19 automotive service excellence master's
20 certification program, and a workplace safety
21 program.

22 In conclusion, the Fleet Management
23 will continue to provide quality service in a
24 fiscally prudent manner and continue to make
25 Philadelphia a world-class model for Fleet

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2 Management.

3 Thank you again for the opportunity to
4 appear before you, and I'll be happy to answer any
5 questions you may have.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
7 Mr. Harrison. What is the recommended life cycle
8 for police and fire vehicles and what is the City
9 replacement cycle for these vehicles?

10 MR. HARRISON: There are many opinions
11 relative to life cycle on different types of
12 vehicles. Some municipalities use a three-year
13 life cycle for marked patrol vehicles. Some
14 municipalities use a 40-month life cycle. Some
15 municipalities use a 50-month life cycle. Our
16 position is that we have a flexible replacement
17 cycle in that with good preventive maintenance we
18 have allowed our radio patrol cars to benchmark a
19 five-year life cycle. And on fire apparatus,
20 we've benchmarked front-line service application
21 with an additional 10-year reserve status. On
22 sedans and other vehicles, it depend on the class
23 or the mission of the vehicle, but we prefer in
24 Philadelphia a flexible life cycle policy based on
25 specific missions and based on maintenance

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2 required for that equipment.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 On Page 3 of your testimony, you
5 indicate that you will be looking into regional
6 facilities that would reduce overhead expenditures
7 and mitigate the need for probable capital
8 renovation costs at existing facilities that
9 continue to require significant structural
10 maintenance.

11 Does the proposed capital program
12 contain these funds? And if not, why not?

13 MR. HARRISON: It does, Madam
14 President, contain the start of the funding for
15 infrastructure to our current facilities. We
16 basically maintain the same structure as we've had
17 eight years ago, 17 repair facilities. So we have
18 requested and receive, you know, authorization to
19 start the process of rehabilitation and adding
20 safety facilities, fire alarms and ventilation to
21 those targeted facilities.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: With the jump
23 in diesel fuel and gasoline that we have
24 experienced in the last few months, how are you
25 planning at spending the same amounts in Fiscal

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 2001 and you spent in this current year?

3 MR. HARRISON: Diesel and fuel prices
4 concern us. Last year when I sat before this
5 Council, I made the statement that a gallon of
6 gasoline -- a cup of coffee costs more than a
7 gallon of gasoline. I sit in front of this
8 Council today saying that we are concerned about
9 where these fuel prices are going into Fiscal Year
10 2001. We have budgeted approximately \$4.6 million
11 for gasoline and diesel fuel for Fiscal Year 2001
12 as oppose to I believe it was 3.4 million for the
13 previous fiscal year. We will in essence have to
14 manage our resources if the fuel prices become
15 uncontrollable in that we would have to shift
16 resources from our other classes to protect our
17 fuel expenditures or our fuel purchases.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Can you give
19 me the status of the transfreight location and
20 when you anticipate that you would be moving at
21 that location?

22 MR. HARRISON: My understanding on the
23 transfreight site is that this April, there will
24 be Phase I of a movement Seventh and Pattison
25 repair facility as well as the Streets Department

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2 operation into that facility at transfreight.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The beginning
4 of April?

5 MR. Harrison: The target date is April
6 1st.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And at our
8 previous public hearing, I think a question was
9 asked, will there be any painting done at that
10 location?

11 MR. Harrison: This will be no painting
12 done at that facility.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Can you tell
14 me exactly what will be done at that facility, for
15 the record.

16 MR. Harrison: For the record, at that
17 facility the same type of repair activities that
18 are being conducted at Seventh and Pattison.

19 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Well, tell us what
20 they're doing at Seventh and Pattison because the
21 record doesn't know what you're doing at Seventh
22 and Pattison.

23 MR. Harrison: We do preventive
24 maintenance on light, medium, heavy-duty trucks
25 that includes oil changes, grease jobs, tire

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2 changes, washing, preventive maintenance
3 activities. We may do transmission repairs and
4 replacement there or rear ends. We would mount
5 salt spreaders or mount plows, depending on what
6 season it. We would have refueling capability at
7 a site. And that's basically -- basically, it's
8 preventive maintenance and repairs.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And that will
10 be a five-day-a-week operation?

11 MR. HARRISON: We are looking at five
12 days. We're also planning, if it's necessary,
13 when our Streets Department has to slip their
14 mission to a Saturday pickup. We move our
15 operation to support them on Saturdays. We
16 anticipate that it will be an initial five-day,
17 two-shift except for when the Streets Department
18 has to work Saturday because of a Monday holiday.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What will
20 those hours be of operation?

21 MR. HARRISON: Pardon?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What will the
23 hour of operation be?

24 MR. HARRISON: Approximately 7:00 in
25 the morning until midnight.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 Just I have to comment, and I think Mr.
7 Fox smiled when you were talking about replacement
8 cycle. I had a detective in the Police
9 Department, Mr. Harrison, call and ask me if I
10 could use any of my influence to get him a classic
11 car tag for his police car, his unmarked unit. I
12 say that in jest because I know we've dumped a
13 tremendous amount of money into some 1988 and '87
14 vintage Plymouth Grand Furies. To me, that's
15 beyond the realm of trying to manage a fleet, and
16 I'm hoping that your budget reflects some money to
17 replace some of those old vehicles. Some of them
18 may already be gone and replaced, but I hope that
19 never put ourselves in a situation again where we
20 have to keep vehicles on the road. You mentioned
21 five years. We're talking decades in this City
22 sometimes that we keep some of our cars. Just
23 spot-checking to see some of the money that we've
24 spent in trying to keep those cars on the road is
25 just horrendous. But I know you were under a

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2 situation where you couldn't buy any replacement
3 vehicles to replace some of those older --
4 especially those police cars, those unmarked
5 police cars.

6 The other point that I'd like to make,
7 I don't think it's any secret that I like cars and
8 have been interested in cars and trucks my entire
9 life, and I can tell you, and I want to say this
10 publicly, before I came to City Council, I was
11 responsible, indirectly responsible, for a fleet
12 of vehicles, a large fleet of vehicles. And I can
13 tell you, looking at the new compactors and our
14 fleet of fire engines, the police cars are in a
15 different world of their own, but I don't think
16 I've seen a more attractive, well-maintained fleet
17 anywhere in the country. When I see a
18 Philadelphia fire truck at a parade, I feel good
19 about it because I don't think I've seen even
20 comparing to some of the volunteer companies out
21 in the suburbs. And I think that reflects the
22 people also that you've got working at Fleet
23 Management. I visit the shops and I'm glad that
24 you're modernizing and enhancing some of the
25 facilities in those shops because your people

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2 work, I think, under some of the worse
3 circumstances that you could even describe. I
4 walked into a facility where there was a picnic
5 bench actually in the center of the shop where
6 they had to eat their lunch. You quickly, when I
7 brought that to your attention, corrected that
8 situation. So I just tell you, the attitude, the
9 concern about the fleet of this City is obviously
10 the people that work with you do a great job in
11 keeping this fleet on the road, and I'm proud to
12 be associated with it. It's an excellent fleet.
13 I know you've had your problems. I just kidded
14 with you about the age of some of the equipment,
15 but on -- just what I described, I think you
16 should be very pleased with what's going on, at
17 least from my perspective.

18 MR. HARRISON: Thank you very much. We
19 have some of the best technician and professional
20 people that I have ever worked with in the last 35
21 years. Under some of the conditions initially,
22 like you said, Councilman, eight years, A, I've
23 made the statement that this was one of the worst
24 fleets that I have ever seen as far as maintenance
25 repair. And all it took was giving people an

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2 opportunity to be trained, challenged, provided
3 the resources even under some of those conditions.
4 And today I'm very proud to look back. Hindsight,
5 I guess, is 20/20, but some of the finest people I
6 ever had to work with has been here in the City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: It's obvious. So
9 thank you from me.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 Mr. Harrison, I'd like to read this at
13 the issue of the transfreight site. We were told
14 very emphatically that the hours of operation
15 would be, I believe, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Your
16 testimony today indicates to the contrary. You
17 said that they would be in operation from 7 a.m.
18 till midnight?

19 MR. HARRISON: That's the present
20 operation for Seventh an Pattison operation.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That will
22 never do. There was an agreement that was reached
23 and it was supposed to be from 7 to 5. Now, if
24 that's been changed, I want to know it.

25 MR. HARRISON: I will go back to the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 drawing board and rethink and relook at our
3 operation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, you
5 better rethink about that very soon. Certainly,
6 before they make settlement on that property.

7 MR. HARRISON: Madam President, if that
8 is the agreement then, that is the agreement that
9 I will adhere to on behalf of the Office of Fleet
10 Management.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I want that
12 in writing. I want that in writing from you, if
13 you don't mind.

14 MR. HARRISON: (Witness nods.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Just one major
18 question. Mr. Harrison, can you explain the
19 genesis of the high school internship program
20 that's mentioned in your testimony? It wasn't
21 clear when that started. But I first just really
22 want to commend you for having such a program and
23 it's certainly something that would be most
24 interesting to try to replicate in some of our
25 other departments. It's a tremendous opportunity

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2 for a young person. And again, according to your
3 testimony, 67 students have participated in the
4 program, 23 of whom have become employees. It's a
5 great way, I guess, from your perspective to
6 literally train and grow your own talent.

7 MR. HARRISON: Thank you very much,
8 Councilman. The genesis was back in 1992 when I
9 first met with District Council 33 and Local Union
10 1637 where a concept of developing a mentorship
11 program, an internship program. They asked me
12 would I support such a program, and I said
13 absolutely yes because I'm a product of a type of
14 academic program back in the '50s and '60s, which
15 I couldn't be a rocket scientist, I couldn't be,
16 you know, a doctor or lawyer but I was interested
17 in automotive mechanics and it gave me an
18 opportunity to get in on an mentorship program and
19 work as a hands-on intern. And here I am 40 years
20 later a fleet manager for a large city.

21 We worked out the details with the
22 District Council 33 and developed different
23 criteria and skill sets, and the principal high
24 schools that we approached, Edison High School and
25 other these high schools already have an

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2 automotive program and it was natural for us to
3 select, you know, candidates that really want to
4 be a part of our profession, mentor them with
5 skilled master auto and master truck technicians,
6 and give these young people an opportunity to see
7 light, as I call it, at the end of the tunnel. No
8 more part-time programs where it's just summer
9 school, summer work and then go back to school.
10 We wanted a program that if they dedicated
11 themselves to our profession, we would encourage
12 and see that they receive a full-time civil
13 service position. And the nice part about it is
14 that we can train them to our standards on
15 complication and diversity of equipment that you
16 never will find in the private industry. And the
17 skill sets that they are developing, they are
18 become a tremendous resource to us. And these 23
19 persons that are now full-time civil service
20 employees represent 7 percent of our technical
21 workforce, and that gives us additional resources
22 considering that it's a technician market in the
23 United States. There's approximately 61,000
24 automotive and truck technicians positions that
25 remain vacant because of the economy and because

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 of the cost it takes to enter our profession. So
3 it's a way for us to draw from Philadelphia's
4 resources in the high schools, give young people
5 an opportunity to have a full-time position in
6 Fleet Management.

7 And I'd like to call upon Christine
8 Derenick who is my personnel officer who has
9 talked to other City agencies as well as to SEPTA
10 as well as to even some other municipalities
11 within Pennsylvania and outside of Pennsylvania.
12 This is the only successful internship program in
13 Philadelphia or in the State.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I was going to ask
15 you, have you had an opportunity to share this
16 information or this program, for instance, with
17 some of the other operating departments for
18 whatever it is they do? There may be young people
19 who want to have an opportunity. For instance, I
20 saw L&I Commissioner Ed MacLaughlin come in.
21 There might be some people who want to get into
22 that kind of work, and with the exception of
23 having them maybe going around with Dominic Verdi
24 or Richard to some of their nighttime activities,
25 there might be some good learning experiences for

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 young people in a wide variety of departments in
3 the City. So I'd be interested, not necessarily
4 for the record, but if you could maybe give us a
5 page or two or three on how you put together such
6 a program, what were the details, the meetings,
7 the discussions, and give us some indication of
8 how we might be able to expand this throughout the
9 city government.

10 MR. HARRISON: It's a great program and
11 I will respond to you. Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

13 Lastly, just a technical question. Mr.
14 Harrison, when I call you either early in the
15 morning or very late at night with some emergency,
16 does Fleet Management have any particular role in
17 the removal of abandoned vehicles?

18 MR. HARRISON: Right now, Fleet
19 Management does play a minor role with supplying
20 records and the car carriers to support the
21 Operation Sunrise project, and Fleet Management
22 has been a part of the task force that the
23 Managing Director has put together in planning the
24 next phase of the abandoned vehicle program, but
25 basically we're limited to the support of the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Operation Sunrise in providing input for further
3 task force organization for the citywide abandoned
4 vehicle project.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This will actually
6 be the last thing I say on this topic. Your
7 testimony also indicates on Page 4 after the
8 internship program that you are apparently
9 aggressively pursuing educational opportunities
10 for current employees to get their automotive
11 service excellence master certification award as
12 well as a bonus I guess they get for getting that
13 master certification. You seem to indicate that,
14 one, you were able to pay for this by redirecting
15 some savings from your budget and the
16 administration cost on this was \$37,000?

17 MR. HARRISON: That's correct,
18 Councilman. In fact, it was a way to encourage
19 our existing automotive and truck staff to seek
20 this master certification which requires a lot of
21 home study and correspondence work and it gave
22 them an opportunity to improve their
23 troubleshooting and diagnostic skills. Therefore,
24 instead of what I call witch-hunting a problem
25 with an electrical system, they were able to

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2 quickly identify it and only replace the parts
3 that are needed to be replaced rather than a
4 multitude of parts and try to guess at what the
5 failure is.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

7 MR. HARRISON: So with those savings we
8 were able to redirect it into, not only paying
9 bonuses, but for recertifications purposes to pay
10 us a small pittance there.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Great. Very good.
12 Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
14 much of.

15 You're doing excellent job really,
16 that's really, really great, great work and we
17 appreciate your great service to us. Do you work
18 with west Philadelphia High School by chance?

19 MR. HARRISON: Yes, we do, ma'am.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I understand
21 they won awards last year and up this year for
22 some of the work that they do in automotive
23 training which is not well known.

24 MR. HARRISON: We visited their
25 workshop looked and at some of the vehicles that

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2 they were working on and we keep encouraging them
3 to, you know, put student into the internship
4 program. Not that we are a lost art, but we are a
5 proud profession that requires the same skills as
6 someone that, let's say, wants to further
7 themselves in computer technology or any of the
8 other professions.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
10 much.

11 Councilwoman Brown.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair.

14 I want to echo the compliments of
15 Councilman Nutter and Councilwoman Blackwell
16 regarding finding a tangible way to involve young
17 people. I missed the answer to the question on
18 how old this initiative is. How many years old is
19 it?

20 MR. HARRISON: We started discussions
21 1992, and it was in 1993 that we came together
22 with the District Council and Local 1637 and we
23 launched it in July of 1993, and it's been a
24 program that we've expanded within our
25 organization, not only to the automotive technical

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2 side. But to the body repair side. And we're
3 also looking at other career professions within
4 Fleet Management as well as outside our department
5 or agency.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So that a career
7 path is a part of it?

8 MR. HARRISON: Absolutely.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You've mentioned
10 two schools, Edison and West Philadelphia. Are
11 there others?

12 MR. HARRISON: Yes, there is, there's
13 Simon Gratz and there's Swenson's Skill Center in
14 West Philadelphia, and Edison.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As you move to
16 prepare the information that Councilman Nutter
17 requested to the Chair, I'd also be very
18 interested in the makeup of that program, the
19 details so that he, I, and others can advocate how
20 those kind of initiatives can be multiplied
21 throughout school system.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. HARRISON: Okay.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman
25 Rizzo.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam

3 Chair.

4 I just have one operational question
5 that I let slip by, and this is something that's
6 been on my mind for a lot of years. Are there any
7 major fleets -- I guess I'll ask the question this
8 way: Are there any major fleets that operate
9 their own car wash facility? I know that SEPTA
10 has a bus wash, and I've mentioned this to you
11 before that it is a bit complicated. You can get
12 a police car washed over here, but you can't bring
13 a Recreation Department car to that car wash and
14 you can't go over here because they only do police
15 cars. It's very discouraging to a person that
16 would like to take care of their vehicle that they
17 use to get it washed, and I'm wondering is it a
18 better deal to subcontract like we do or would
19 there some day be some consideration of having a
20 car wash? I'm not talking about elaborate. All
21 these car rental operations have their own right
22 on premise right up here on Market Street. At one
23 of these fueling locations, would a car wash that
24 could provide that type of service, is that
25 feasible or is that something you've ever looked

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2 at? And if haven't, I'd appreciate you at least
3 looking at to see.

4 MR. HARRISON: It's an absolutely great
5 idea, Councilman. In fact, when we were doing
6 some renovations at our public safety facility at
7 Front Street and Hunting Park, we put a
8 drive-through car wash here to support on a
9 limited basis marked patrol vehicles and other
10 small vehicles after they refuel. Unfortunately,
11 the other facilities that we have are so limited
12 in space that we're using what was once 20, 30, 50
13 years ago a quasi-wash bay as a work bay to, you
14 know, sustain our maintenance repair operation.
15 And I agree with you, there should be a blend of
16 in-house car and truck washing even though it may
17 seem minor in terms of, well, doing a car wash or
18 a truck wash, we get an opportunity to see the
19 vehicle, we get an opportunity to talk to the
20 driver and some get feedback on how the vehicle.
21 It's almost like a pre-, during-, post-trip
22 inspection right there at a car or truck wash. As
23 well as use commercial vendors to supplement that
24 activity.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Councilwoman Miller

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2 was just asking me a question, and I'll give her
3 the answer in a second.

4 I'm glad to hear that that's something
5 that may someday may be, but I'm just talking
6 about today. If you could just fix the problem of
7 a City employee -- and I've asked this question
8 year after year after year and it's still, in my
9 opinion, not fixed because I saw some very dirty
10 vehicles right after the storm and I said to the
11 people operating it, "Why don't you go run that
12 thing through the car wash and get the mud off
13 it?" They were down in the park. It was really
14 some rough service. And they said, "They told us
15 we can't get the car washed here. The police cars
16 can get washed, but the Department of Recreation,
17 the Fairmount Park Commission can't get their cars
18 washed at that location. If you could just fix
19 this problem where a City vehicle can get washed
20 at any location, it makes sense that that happen.

21 MR. HARRISON: We have citywide
22 contracts with many car washes. I will make sure
23 that Recreation, Park, or any department can
24 utilize that car wash facility as well as the
25 Police Department. I didn't know that was

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2 happening.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: One other comment is
4 that, again, it's a big operation and on occasion,
5 the fueling locations especially for the police
6 cars -- I'll give you an example. The 5th
7 District has been without fuel now four weeks.
8 Those cars have to go to the incinerator, which
9 they weren't welcome, believe it or not, six
10 months ago they couldn't get in there to get fuel.
11 They had to go all the way down to the 39th, leave
12 their district to go to the 39th to get fuel. You
13 would think that any fueling location, especially
14 for a police car, they'd be able to go anywhere to
15 get fuel, but they can't. And the lieutenant
16 mentioned to me at the 5th District that the gas
17 pumps shut down at Domino Lane on the weekend.
18 These are automated systems. They shouldn't ever
19 be shut down. They should work 24 hours a day, 7
20 days a week, because if you have an automated
21 system at the 5th, why is the Domino Lane facility
22 shut down? They have to go now because they can't
23 get fuel all the way down, like I mentioned, to
24 the 39th District. There's apparently an
25 underground tank problem at the 59th, and it's

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2 obvious why that isn't operational. But I don't
3 understand why they shut fuel off at the Domino
4 Lane incinerator.

5 MR. HARRISON: I'll speak to the
6 Streets Department that has the watch person that
7 attends that facility and see if we can get that
8 reopened again as an automated site to support --

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I was told that
10 person is a Fleet Management employee. If you
11 could work that out, it would be appreciated.

12 MR. HARRISON: Okay. The watchman is
13 manned by the Streets Department; and during the
14 working hours, we man the fuel site, so we will
15 speak to the watchman to make sure that the gate
16 is accessible to anyone that wants fuel.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But the pumps were
18 shut down, sir.

19 MR. HARRISON: Okay. We'll make sure
20 that they're on.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: They shut the
22 electricity off to disable them for some reason; I
23 don't know why.

24 MR. HARRISON: We will cure that
25 problem, Councilman.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
3 are you finished?

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes. Thank you
5 Madam Chair.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
7 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

8 I would just like to remind my
9 colleagues that we're really behind schedule.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'll be very brief
11 listening to the Council President and adhering to
12 her direction.

13 First, I wanted to say that I think the
14 work your department does is excellent. I've
15 never failed to get superb service both time
16 quality. Now having said that, let me ask you one
17 question that may be helpful. I sometimes sit in
18 the front of the car, sometimes I sit in the back.
19 Invariably when I sit in the back, I bump into
20 something in the head and I think somebody has
21 struck me but it's that little light that is in
22 the back of our cars and it's always sticking out
23 so that it always hits me and I'm never prepared.
24 Is this any way it can be connected? I put it
25 into the notch each time, and invariably if ever

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2 sit in the back it hits. Do you have any thoughts
3 on that?
4 MR. HARRISON: Yes, I do, Councilman.
5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there any trick
6 to it? Am I missing something?
7 MR. HARRISON: There may be a small
8 clip or a holder that is --
9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There is one there.
10 And I carefully put it into the clip after it hits
11 me.
12 MR. HARRISON: Does it stay in the clip
13 after you put it into the clip.
14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I think it
15 does for the trip. But invariably if I come back
16 later again, it's going to smack me again.
17 MR. HARRISON: We could look at other
18 alternative lighting. I mean, we're not locked
19 into that what we call the gooseneck light I think
20 is the flexible light, and we retrofit or rework
21 another type of lighting device for you.
22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you go to anybody
23 in particular?
24 MR. HARRISON: Well there's several
25 brands on the market. This particular brand was

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2 just something that we were using in police cars,
3 so we just transferred that concept over into, you
4 know, other types of administrative vehicles so
5 this could be some reading capability. It's what
6 we call a map light or little spotlight in the
7 rear seat. But we can look at other alternatives
8 that would maybe protect you or other people from
9 hitting head as they move around in the back seat
10 area.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The last question is
12 I've got this phone from the City, cellular phone.
13 It doesn't fit the attachment in the car. It's
14 too big. Is there any way of getting -- are there
15 other kinds of attachments, or is that the only
16 one that they have that fits a smaller size? But
17 I get this from the Property Department in the
18 City.

19 MR. HARRISON: Right that is by Public
20 Property. I can contact Public Property for you
21 and they can adjust the holder to the type of
22 phone that you're using. There's probably three
23 or four different styles of cellular phones and
24 they constantly change every six months. So that
25 requires the holders that are in our vehicles to

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2 be changed over also. So I'll make a note of it
3 and ensure that your vehicle, again, through
4 Public Property is given its appointment and the
5 holder is changed over to reflect the cell phone
6 that you personally use.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Maybe at the same
8 time --

9 MR. HARRISON: And at the same time,
10 we'll look at the gooseneck lighting and try to
11 come up with a fix.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Good. Thank you
13 very much.

14 Thank you, Madam President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Your welcome.

16 Are there any other questions from
17 members of the committee?

18 (No further questions.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
20 very much.

21 MR. HARRISON: Thank you, madam.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
23 Historical Commission.

24 (Historical witness comes forward.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you so

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 much for your patience.

3 MR. TYLER: I am Richard Tyler,
4 Historic Preservation Officer for the Philadelphia
5 Historical Commission.

6 The proposed budget for Fiscal 2001
7 requests \$260,364, an increase of \$5,954 above the
8 current estimated obligation which result from
9 neighborhood contract negotiation. This budget
10 will fund a staff of five, and with this budget
11 and staff, the Commission can reasonably expect to
12 meet the major objectives of creating or
13 designating two historic districts, a concern of
14 many of the members and constituents and five
15 individual buildings as well as expeditious permit
16 review and expeditious handling of the federally
17 mandated historic resource assessments.

18 I'd be pleased to attempt to answer any
19 questions the Councilmembers may have.

20 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
22 Miller.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
24 President.

25 Good afternoon, Mr. Tyler.

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2 MR. TYLER: Good afternoon.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: In my area,
4 particularly in Germantown, there are historical
5 buildings or buildings that have certified
6 historical that have just been there for a long,
7 long, long time and no one is buying the
8 buildings. The ones that I'm talking about
9 specifically are abandoned, but we can't get them
10 demoed. Some of them are falling down and the
11 structures are bad, but we can't seem to get them
12 demoed. Just at the point that they're maybe
13 going to be demolished, someone from your
14 commission steps in and then everything is
15 stopped.

16 What do you plan to do with some of
17 these buildings?

18 MR. TYLER: When it comes to
19 demolition, we have several circumstances. The
20 ordinance provides for demolition in the public
21 interest or if the owner can demonstrate financial
22 hardship, that is, that the building is no longer
23 economic. The only way which buildings come down
24 quickly is without going through one of those due
25 processes is if the Department of Licences and

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2 Inspections determines that the building is
3 systematically or systemically imminently
4 dangerous, that is, could collapse.

5 Some of the ones involved with
6 demolition may have been with a program funded
7 with Community Development Block Grant funds. In
8 that case, we have to apply federal standards and
9 criteria which, again, have to demonstrate there's
10 no feasible and prudent alternative to the
11 demolition. If you have specifics, I'd be glad to
12 attempt to answer them for you either here or --

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We do have
14 specifics. I was actually hoping that -- and I'll
15 give this to you. I won't talk about all of them
16 right now, but there are many -- not many, but
17 there are enough buildings, historical buildings
18 that have been certified historical in Germantown
19 specifically that were blighted 20, 30 years.
20 Every time we moved to get L&I to come out and
21 demolish it, the Historical Commission stepped in
22 and it was stuck and it was still blighted.

23 MR. TYLER: Give me an example of that,
24 Councilwoman.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I will give you

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2 that, and we can set up a meeting to figure out
3 what to do. Some of them are very old mansions
4 abandoned years and years and years.

5 MR. TYLER: There have been a few
6 demos taking place following its determination by
7 L&I that they were imminently dangerous.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: If they're
9 certified historical, does that mean it cannot be
10 demolished?

11 MR. TYLER: No, ma'am, it does not.
12 They can be demolished if it's not economic to
13 rehab the building or to use the building.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Sir, speak into the
15 microphone.

16 MR. TYLER: Sure. The building can be
17 demolished if it is shown that there is no
18 economic value in the building. Say, the cost to
19 maintain the building would far exceed its value.
20 Also, in the public interest. We haven't had a
21 public interest demolition since 1984 when the
22 ordinance was passed. What I envisioned that to
23 be is, say, with the expansion of the Convention
24 Center, there are one or two historic buildings
25 there, I would hope that the Historic Commissions

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2 would approve the demolition in the public
3 interest to facility the development of the
4 Convention Center.

5 Now, some of what's going on in
6 Germantown may involve not the local ordinance and
7 action by the commission as commission, but rather
8 to the use of federal funds. And there we
9 locally, although of much of the federal and state
10 authority has been delegated to us, which I think
11 is a great benefit to the City, if we can conduct
12 these reviews like that and keep those dollars
13 flowing. Some of you have experienced, as
14 President Verna has, in working with us in that
15 way. But we cannot sign off on demolitions under
16 our agreements with the state and federal
17 governments. That may be the root of the problem
18 here. I'm sorry I don't know. I'd be very
19 pleased to meet with you in your office.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, we'll do
21 that. Do you also have the resources if it's one
22 you can't certify for demo, do you have the
23 resources to renovate them?

24 MR. TYLER: To remedy them?

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: To renovate the

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2 building, to rehab the building?

3 MR. TYLER: No, no, not in our budget.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. We'll just
5 talk about it later, but I did want to bring that
6 to your attention because it's important to us,
7 too.

8 MR. TYLER: I understand. I'd be very
9 pleased to meet with you on that.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you.

11 Thank you, Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
15 Chair.

16 Earlier when the Streets Department was
17 here, we talked about the Germantown Avenue Bridge
18 over the Wissahickon Creek that five years that
19 bridge has been closed to northbound traffic. Is
20 there any issues that you're involved in or the
21 Historical Commission's involved in that's
22 delaying that project?

23 MR. TYLER: Not the Commission itself,
24 Councilman. Just as we have with HUD monies, we
25 also have Federal Highway Administration monies.

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2 We assess what is on or eligible for the national
3 register. If there's a federal involvement in a
4 project as there is with that bridge and then what
5 would be the effect of the project on the historic
6 resource following federal guidelines spelled out
7 in their regulations. On the bridge in question,
8 I undertook personally the initial assessment of
9 that bridge, determined because it was in the
10 Chestnut Hill Historic District and boundary of
11 the Fairmount Park Historic District is along the
12 bridge, it is historic. The piers go back to
13 1786, as I think you're probably aware. The
14 demolition by definition is an adverse effect and
15 that would require a memorandum of agreement,
16 again, part of the whole federal process.
17 Normally they go through in a routine manner. And
18 what would come out of that agreement with the
19 appropriate state and federal agencies is, yes,
20 the bridge cannot be salvaged, and it can't be.
21 We'll record it, that is photograph it to Historic
22 American Engineering records standard, and the
23 design of the new bridge will be compatible with
24 its setting. I have complete confidence in the
25 Department of Streets and its consultants, because

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2 done it repeatedly, to produce a high-quality
3 design.

4 This project, in part because of the
5 community and other things, has been held up. As
6 I understand it, we're now at the stage where the
7 Streets Department absent this memorandum, which I
8 recommended seven years ago and drafted one
9 version of it, it's been through several since,
10 until state and federal officials sign that, the
11 City can't even spend any more planning money.
12 And I think you're aware of some of the
13 circumstances holding up the signature of that
14 document. But we made the initially call it's
15 historic, it's in an historic district.
16 Demolition is an adverse effect, but there are
17 always resolutions to that. I'm amazed and at
18 times appalled that this one has been delay the
19 way it has. And I would say it's not on the
20 Historic Preservation people that it's been
21 delayed.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, sir.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam

3 Chair.

4 Was the problem of a 17th Street garage
5 ever resolved?

6 MR. TYLER: Yes, Councilman. The
7 Commission --

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What was the
9 resolution?

10 MR. TYLER: The Commission by vote 6 to
11 5 approved the owner's application.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You say 6 to 5?

13 MR. TYLER: Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: By the time of that
15 final vote, had there been a dismissal of one of
16 the members of the Commission?

17 MR. TYLER: I'm sorry, will you repeat
18 that?

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Had there been a
20 dismissal from the Commission of one of its
21 members by the Mayor?

22 MR. TYLER: There were changes made in
23 the composition of the Commission.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Prior to the vote,
25 or was it after the vote?

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2 MR. TYLER: After the vote, Councilman.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: After the vote.

4 So -- but I think your victory level is still
5 pretty good, isn't it, your victory percentage?
6 Isn't your victory percentage at the Historic
7 Commissions quite high?

8 MR. TYLER: The Commission has 14
9 members.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It has what?

11 MR. TYLER: Fourteen members.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, didn't I read
13 in the last couple weeks about a member of the
14 Commission how who has a case before the
15 Commission?

16 MR. TYLER: No, the case is not before
17 the Commission, Councilman. If you're referring
18 to the 1600 block of Sansom Street --

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I believe so.

20 MR. TYLER: Those buildings, although
21 on national register is part of the Rittenhouse
22 District, are not locally designated and are not
23 subject to Historical Commission review. The only
24 way we would see it is if there were federal funds
25 involved and back to the memorandum of agreement

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2 we have for local review which I mentioned to
3 Councilwoman Miller, this project has no federal
4 funds in it that I know of. The owner obviously
5 is not going to use the federal tax incentives for
6 rehab, and thus, the National Register listing is
7 meaningless. It's only if there's a federal
8 involvement, it's expressly a federal planning
9 tool, not a regulatory tool. But the Commission's
10 not involved.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So the Commission
12 doesn't have jurisdiction?

13 MR. TYLER: No involvement in this one.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Okay, thank you very
15 much. I think the work of the Commission is
16 extremely important.

17 MR. TYLER: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because so many
19 people push aside questions of historic concern,
20 and your commission serves constantly to remind
21 people that there are other considerations than
22 just the economic ones. Thank you very much.

23 MR. TYLER: Thank you, Councilman.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
25 Mr. Tyler.

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2 MR. TYLER: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
4 other questions from members of the committee?

5 (No further questions.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing none,
7 I would ask that the Department of Licenses and
8 Inspections please proceed to the witness table.

9 (Licenses and Inspections witnesses
10 come forward.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
12 afternoon, Commissioner.

13 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good
14 afternoon.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
16 for your patience waiting. The stenographer does
17 have a copy of your testimony. It will be printed
18 in full. If you would simply summarize your
19 testimony, we would appreciate it.

20 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Surely. Good
21 afternoon, Council President Verna and other
22 distinguished Members of Council. My name is
23 Edward J. McLaughlin, I'm the Commissioner of
24 Department of Licenses and Inspections.
25 Accompanying me today are my Administrative

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Services Director, Richard Feldgus; my deputies,
3 First Deputy Commissioner Robert Solvibile, David
4 Perry, Dominic Verdi, and Oliver Thornton.

5 We appreciate this opportunity to
6 present our Fiscal Year 2001 operation budget
7 request to City Council and to provide you with
8 information about the department's recent
9 accomplishments and our plans for the upcoming
10 Fiscal Year.

11 The Department of Licenses and
12 Inspections is requesting a total Fiscal Year 2001
13 budget of \$31,652,530, of which \$29,591,057 will
14 be provided through the City's General Fund. In
15 our General Fund budget, we have requested a net
16 increase of \$470,287 from our Fiscal Year 2000
17 estimated obligations to provide for negotiated
18 salary increases for our employees. We are
19 requesting full funding for the General Fund of
20 452 positions for the department.

21 I would like to summarize our
22 presentation by first speaking about our
23 responsibility for life safety. There are --
24 there were 35 fire deaths reported in Fiscal Year
25 1999. The National Fire Protection Agency says

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2 that the key to effective life safety is to get
3 people out of the buildings. In that regard, L&I
4 in Fiscal Year 1998 and '99 inspected more than
5 25,000 multiple-family dwellings requiring smoke
6 detectors and fire alarm systems in those
7 properties. We enforce generally across
8 residential and commercial properties the fire
9 code requiring smoke detectors and fire
10 suppression systems in residential and commercial
11 buildings. In the last eight years, we've
12 demolished 10,615 residential and almost 200
13 commercial buildings. These are sites for
14 potential crime and fire tragedies. They would no
15 longer occur at those -- obviously, they would no
16 longer occur at those particular locations. In
17 the last Fiscal Year we've cleaned and sealed 2100
18 additional properties. In Fiscal Year 2000, we
19 conducted a vacant property survey, identifying
20 and issuing violations to seal those properties,
21 for owners to close those properties. We have the
22 best Fire Department in the country. L&I's job is
23 to make sure that you are outside on the sidewalk
24 pointing them to where the fire is. We consider
25 ourselves equal partners in celebrating the fact

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2 that we have reduced fire deaths to 35.

3 For our management initiatives, I'd
4 just like to say that we have adopted Harvard
5 Business School's management by walking around
6 theory. What I mean by that is we've reorganized
7 the department so that in the concourse where I'm
8 sure that any elected official in this room would
9 agree, we a long way to go in providing
10 friendlier, more efficient service, we have
11 changed the structure so that where before we had
12 three deputy commissioners responsible for what
13 happened in the concourse, now we have one deputy
14 commissioner who is not sitting in the comfort of
15 the Commissioner's cluster on the 11th floor.
16 That Deputy Commissioner David Perry is walking
17 around in the concourse improving services all the
18 time in the concourse.

19 In addition to that, we have taken 85
20 percent of all field inspections and put them
21 under, again, one deputy commissioner in the one
22 facility where we had those inspectors, and that
23 deputy commissioner is making improvements. And
24 also fine-tuning the way we treat people on the
25 street. We have a keen sense of awareness that

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2 that's a big part of the job ahead of us.

3 Finally, I'd like to talk about
4 technology. We have applied for a productivity
5 loan to automate the department, to fully automate
6 the department. We have a productivity management
7 meeting -- the productivity loan committee meeting
8 scheduled for March 10th, but really what I'd like
9 you to know is that through the efforts of Deputy
10 Commissioner Oliver Thornton, we have laid the
11 groundwork to receive the automation that we're
12 asking for the loan for. What I mean by that is
13 my experience is sometimes people are so focused
14 on this new computer technology, this new program
15 that's going to solve all of their problems, that
16 by the time they get it, their infrastructure is
17 not ready to accept it. Just the opposite in L&I;
18 We are ready to accept technology that will move
19 us into the 21st century.

20 That's all, and we're here to answer
21 your questions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. I
23 have a couple questions, but before I ask them, I
24 want to publicly thank you, Commissioner, and the
25 members of your staff for always, always being

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2 very responsive to the requests or complaints that
3 my office receives.

4 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
5 Councilwoman.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I wish all of
7 the other departments were as responsive as your
8 department is, and I just want you to know that I
9 personally appreciate it.

10 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I will pass
11 that on.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr.
13 McLaughlin, how will the Mayor's blight initiative
14 impact your budget? Will the department be
15 handling all of the City's demolition and clean
16 and seal activity for the City during the Fiscal
17 Year 2001?

18 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I'm really
19 not sure because we don't know what the blight
20 program is yet. You know, I do expect that we
21 have the expertise to assist in that and we do
22 want to stay involved in it, but it will depend on
23 how the Mayor defines that program.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 On Page 9 of your testimony, when are

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 you planning on submitting to City Council a
3 proposed permitting fee schedule? And why is this
4 not being done as part of the budget cycle?

5 MR. FELDGUS: Councilwoman Verna, I'm
6 Richard Feldgus, Administrative Services Director
7 for the Department of Licenses and Inspections.
8 The permit fee proposal that we will be submitting
9 will be submitted during this term of Council
10 before you recess in June. The reason it's not
11 part of the budget process is that it is the
12 incident of the department to make sure that this
13 is revenue-neutral so that it will not have any
14 impact on the budget. What we're trying to do is
15 equalize our fees. Right now our fee structure
16 favors new construction over rehab construction.
17 What this new fee permit structure will do is
18 equalize that so that there is no favored
19 treatment given to new construction. And that's
20 particularly important right now in our mind and
21 in the department because we do have a lot of
22 rehab construction going on in the City, a lot of
23 older unused office buildings are being turned
24 into housing, and we want to try to encourage and
25 stimulate that by having this new fee structure.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman

4 Tasco.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very

6 much.

7 Good afternoon.

8 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good

9 afternoon.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I just, too, want
11 to say thank you so much for the support your
12 office gives. I just think you're one of the most
13 important departments, if not the most important
14 department in the City. I just wish we could give
15 you more staff because I think part of the
16 problems we might experience is because you just
17 don't have enough staff to follow through on a lot
18 of concerns we have.

19 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And I must say
21 special thanks to Bob Solvibile because you know I
22 work very closely with him in the Logan area and
23 he's extremely responsive, as well as your staff
24 in Permits Department who work with my staff,
25 Marion Johnson, she's my zoning czar, and we want

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2 the thank you for your services.

3 I just have a couple questions, not
4 very complicated. I just want to call your
5 attention to something. We did a walk-through in
6 the Logan area, not in the sinking area, but the
7 targeted area above and we noticed that you all
8 had done a very good job of sealing the homes that
9 were vacant, but I notice that the tops of the
10 buildings were not sealed. I think if going to
11 preserve those properties, because we're trying to
12 get developers to come in and rehab those houses,
13 it could save money in the long run because we do
14 get subsidies from the City if they are closed
15 entirely so that we will protect them from the
16 weather. So that's just a comment. You don't
17 have to respond to that, but that's something that
18 I see.

19 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I would just
20 like to tell you that we have identified the two
21 census tracts just above the Logan triangle.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Mm-hmm.

23 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We have
24 mapped that area. I'm working with Carl Green at
25 the Philadelphia Housing Authority. We have now a

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2 map of that area with all of the publicly owned
3 buildings identified on that map.
4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay.
5 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: In a geo-type
6 way.
7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could we get a
8 copy of that?
9 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes,
10 absolutely.
11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay.
12 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We'll work
13 with you very closely on that because we're at the
14 stage right now where Carl and I were trying to
15 schedule a meeting with Stephanie --
16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Franklin Suber?
17 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: No, I'm
18 sorry. Joyce Wilkerson. Joyce Wilkerson to
19 propose to her that this area would be a logical
20 area to, you know, spend some of the blight money.
21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We're having that
22 ongoing discussion, too, so I'd like to have a
23 copy of your list because it may overlap the list
24 that we have and help us better to identify those
25 that are public and those that are not.

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2 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

4 The other thing is, I have -- one of
5 the concerns we have when we go before Zoning,
6 when individuals go before the Zoning Board that
7 are requesting a variance for a multifamily home,
8 they have been given a license to -- for a
9 multifamily home. I hope I'm asking this question
10 correctly. But then they find out that they have
11 to have a variance in order to convert the home
12 into a multifamily dwelling. They will apply for
13 a license -- I have it backwards, I think.

14 MR. FELDGUS: The way that works, to
15 expedite the license process a number of years
16 ago, the department stopped doing the zoning
17 checks prior to issuing the licenses to make sure
18 that process went faster. We then back-check to
19 do make sure that they have proper zoning. That's
20 why they get told that after they have applied,
21 they brought it to our attention now that the
22 property is going to be a multifamily and if don't
23 conform with the existing zoning, then they have
24 to go to the Zoning Board to get a variance.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: That causes us

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2 problem in the Zoning Board because we don't want
3 single-family houses being converted to
4 multifamily housing. So I would think if you
5 could check to see if the area is zoned
6 residential or if there's a restriction on
7 multifamily dwellings that you don't issue the
8 license.

9 MR. FELDGUS: One of the things we hope
10 to be able to do with the productivity loan that
11 we've requested is that those two operations will
12 be brought together by the computer so that we
13 will not have to manually check. That will be an
14 electronic check and it won't delay the license
15 process, but it will guarantee that people are not
16 given a multifamily license unless they do have
17 required zoning before get license. So that's
18 something we are working on, Councilwoman. Once
19 have the productivity loan in place and we get out
20 new system in place, we should be able to do that,
21 and we hope that will be within a year.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: One of my favorite
23 questions is Fifth Street. As you know, Fifth
24 Street has been a real concern of mine in that we
25 get a number of zoning variances requests for

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2 wholesale. The community has definitely stated
3 they wanted that area to remain retail, one for
4 their use and the other because the community
5 can't stand the tractor-trailers, the parking is
6 not adequate and all of that. But we're
7 constantly fighting illegal shops that are set up
8 for wholesale and they'll add retail, but you
9 can't go in and buy retail. They just add it as a
10 way to cut down on any check. I would hope that
11 you all will give us your strong support in trying
12 to keep that corridor a retail corridor as oppose
13 to a wholesale. Every week there's a request
14 before the Zoning Board for a change in the
15 variance to wholesale, and it's not in the
16 interest of the community to do that. It will
17 just destroy the whole character of that
18 neighborhood.

19 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: That's
20 another thing that this software that we hope to
21 buy will do for us. It will allow us to flag
22 certain things. If Councilpeople call us and tell
23 us that they want us to screen something for them,
24 to notify them when something is happening, you
25 know, or to put some other process internally in

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2 place, this software will allow us to do it.
3 Right now we can't do that electronically and it's
4 very hard, you know, with the numbers of people
5 who are coming to the counter and the different
6 issue to screen effectively in that way.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay. I think
8 that's it. I think that's it. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

10 Commissioner, I just have one question
11 to ask, if I may. When we ask for a house to be
12 cleaned and sealed, can you give me the reasoning
13 why we just seal the first floor and not the
14 second floor of the building?

15 (Witness comes forward.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
17 afternoon. Identify yourself for the record.

18 MR. SOLVIBILE: My name is Robert
19 Solvibile, Deputy Commissioner of Licenses and
20 Inspections.

21 A lot of times, Councilwoman, it's a
22 matter of safety. You can't do it from the
23 inside, for whatever reason and they can't do it
24 by ladders and we do not have lift equipment to
25 put the workers in a bucket so they could do it

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2 from the outside.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So it's not
4 the regular course that we just do the first and
5 not the second floor?

6 MR. SOLVIBILE: No, it's a matter of
7 fact. As a matter of fact, my instructions to
8 them are to do second floors all cases because if
9 we're trying to preserve it, it makes no sense if
10 we let the weather in.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Exactly.

12 MR. SOLVIBILE: So it's where they
13 safely can't do it we'll not seal the second
14 floor.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Because I
16 have seen many properties where they have just
17 sealed the first floor and the second floor is
18 wide open so. . .

19 MR. SOLVIBILE: A lot of times,
20 Councilwoman, when they open the building, they
21 have a better view of the building inspector and
22 the flooring system is missing and they report it
23 back to us and we attack it from the dangerous
24 building front. And they will seal the first
25 floor to keep people out, though, .

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good
8 afternoon, Councilman.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Commissioner from
10 our testimony and in other various documents,
11 you're sharing with us, I believe, the department
12 anticipates the cleaning of 2400 lots this fiscal
13 year and I believe the same number for next year;
14 is that correct?

15 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, that's
16 correct.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, what's
18 involved in the cleaning of these lots, and on
19 average what does it cost to clean a lot in
20 Philadelphia?

21 MR. FELDGUS: The cleaning process
22 itself is fairly straightforward. It's a matter
23 of going in -- we typically go in with our
24 laboring crews and just remove all the debris off
25 the lot, bag it and then take it away in City

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2 vehicles. The average cost for that is
3 approximately \$1500 per lot to clean up.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's that based
5 on?

6 MR. FELDGUS: Based on the amount of
7 time that our people have to devote and put a crew
8 out there and then fringe benefits and so forth.
9 so that it's a matter of the bags and the vehicles
10 that we have to have the support the employees the
11 fringe benefits and then costing all of that out.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it's about \$1500
13 for an average-size lot. What's an average-size
14 lot.

15 MR. FELDGUS: Well, an average-size
16 lot, the typical lot is, you know, your North
17 Philadelphia row home that was demolished. It may
18 be a couple of those put together, so you're
19 talking typically anywhere from about 30- to 50-
20 60-foot dimensions; 30-foot wide, 50-, 60-foot
21 deep.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Does that vary at
23 all from your average rowhouse in West
24 Philadelphia or South Philadelphia, Northwest,
25 Northeast.

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2 MR. FELDGUS: Yeah, the old all
3 rowhouses.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I mean, nothing
5 particular special about North Philadelphia, is
6 there?

7 MR. FELDGUS: No, no.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No problem, sir.
9 I see you out the corner of my eye, I saw you
10 jumping up and down. It's okay.

11 MR. FELDGUS: West Philadelphia also
12 gets its share of treatment.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This is true.

14 MR. FELDGUS: Larger lots where you're
15 talking about the bigger ones, we would go in with
16 machinized equipment frontend loader and have to
17 utilize that.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The number that you
19 are planning to do this fiscal year or next fiscal
20 year, is that more or less or about the same that
21 you've done over the past few fiscal years.

22 MR. FELDGUS: Roughly the same. The
23 mix may be changing slightly towards lots, but the
24 total aggregate number is basically the same.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You're talking

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2 about the aggregate of about 4200?

3 MR. FELDGUS: Yeah.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the mix being
5 between the vacant lots and demolitions?

6 MR. FELDGUS: Vacant lots and vacant
7 buildings.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, over the past
9 few years, has the Department ever had occasion to
10 revisit a vacant lot that had been cleaned in a
11 previous fiscal year?

12 MR. SOLVIBILE: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And of the 2400
14 that you plan to do or will have done at the end
15 of this fiscal year, are you able to determine how
16 many of those had ever been treated before?

17 MR. SOLVIBILE: I could only guess,
18 Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand, but
20 you have the --

21 MR. SOLVIBILE: 30 percent.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Maybe
23 pre-productivity --

24 MR. SOLVIBILE: 30 percent,
25 preproductivity guesstimate, 30 percent.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So 600 or

3 so?

4 MR. SOLVIBILE: Correct.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Of the lots that

6 you plan to do this year you had done in the

7 previous year?

8 MR. SOLVIBILE: In some lots,

9 Councilman -- there's a synagogue, I believe, in

10 Southwest Philadelphia, we work with them yearly

11 to help them clean it out. So there's some things

12 that we work with community groups on an annual

13 basis, you know, to clean the neighborhood so

14 that's counted in the repetition.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

16 MR. SOLVIBILE: Because the weeds still

17 continue to grow, things like that.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Oh, absolutely.

19 That's the nature of weeds.

20 So if you do 30 percent a year are from

21 previous years and that's about 600 times \$1500,

22 we're now up in the \$900,000 range of repeat

23 activity at these lots; is that a fair estimate?

24 MR. FELDGUS: The answer I gave you for

25 the average cost was for both cleaning and sealing

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2 buildings and lots.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry?

4 MR. FELDGUS: The average cost I gave
5 you was for cleaning and sealing buildings and
6 lots.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

8 MR. FELDGUS: Lots are much cheaper to
9 clean on average. Lots are about \$500.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, fine.
11 Because that was my question. My question was,
12 how much does it cost to clean a lot. I didn't
13 say anything about a building.

14 MR. FELDGUS: About \$500.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So the real number
16 is about 600 or so lots a year from previous years
17 times \$500.

18 MR. FELDGUS: Right.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. That's a
20 decent chunk of change.

21 MR. FELDGUS: Mm-hmm.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Has there
23 ever been any discussion about how to cut down on
24 repeat visits to the same lot? I mean, it's
25 nothing particularly special that drives the

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2 personnel to just want to have to go back to that
3 particular lot, I mean, it's not that they have a
4 unique experience there or they just love that
5 location or something. I mean, why wouldn't we
6 want them going to 600 other lots?

7 MR. SOLVIBILE: We found, Councilman,
8 that a program that was initiated by the
9 Department several years ago involving the
10 community, community clean and seal, we supply
11 them materials tools on Saturday, and actually
12 we'll do it in the summer, in the spring, in the
13 fall. We assist the community group. We supply
14 the material, they clean it up. This has been
15 very successful because they involve the children
16 of the community and they don't trash it as much
17 as they used to.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

19 MR. SOLVIBILE: So we found that
20 successful in having them work with us to do it,
21 and that has cut it down.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I appreciate that.
23 I'm also, though, trying to figure out how to make
24 sure that we cut down to the greatest extent
25 possible our requirement to revisit places that

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2 we've already done work on, whether it's through
3 vegetation management plans, some kind of barrier,
4 whether a fence, bollards, trees or anything else.
5 I mean, the long-term strategy here obviously
6 can't be that we're going to keep going back to
7 these same locations as we continue to demolish
8 1800, 1900, 2000 buildings which adds to the
9 inventory -- not that we own them, but the areas
10 that we have responsibility for in terms of vacant
11 lots. This is before we even get to blight
12 elimination.

13 MR. SOLVIBILE: I agree. That's why
14 answered the way did I before, Councilman. I
15 found the most effective way, whether you have
16 fence, Jersey barrier, is community involvement.
17 Somehow the community being involved in the
18 cleaning of the lot and the keeping it clean,
19 otherwise it continues to be just a debris-laden
20 piece of land.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Gotcha.

22 Now, Commissioner, in Appendix 3 of the
23 five-year plan on Page 3 there is a line item that
24 says Licenses and Inspections demolitions, and
25 projected for FY '01 is the amount \$10,827,743.

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2 In FY '02, that number is 0. In FY '03, that
3 number is 0. In FY '04, that number is 0. In FY
4 '05, that number is -- take a guess.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Zero.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Zero. I get the
7 impression, at least from reading that document,
8 that you're about to go out of the demolition
9 business because your budget is apparently being
10 zeroed out in terms of the five-year plan beyond
11 this year. Council President asked the question
12 with regard to how might blight elimination
13 program affect your department, And I heard your
14 answer. I didn't hear you say anything about
15 that. So I'm trying to understand is there a
16 connection between the blight elimination program
17 and the zeroing out of your demolition budget? Do
18 you have any information on that?

19 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I don't have
20 any official information on that except to say
21 that we do expect to be involved in the blight
22 program and the money that we'll be using there
23 would be blight elimination money.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, how are you
25 going to deal with emergency demolitions? A

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2 building goes up flames, Bob Solvibile is running
3 around at night trying to find out what's going on
4 telling everybody out at the site what to do
5 except the fire marshal and the fire commissioner,
6 and then you've got this piece of hulk building
7 left. He wants to get a contractor during the
8 next morning, do a curbside demolition for
9 emergency purposes because he wants a crane out
10 there 8 o'clock because I'm bugging him to death.
11 How are you going to pay for that?

12 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We'll just do
13 it the same way we do it now. The money's going
14 to be someplace in the City. We'd have an
15 emergency type of bid, and then when it came time
16 to pay, we'd go into whatever bucket of money we
17 will be drawing from.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But your earlier
19 answer was it's not cheer to you for the moment
20 why this is the way it in the five-year plan, is
21 that your response?

22 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I'm saying
23 that we in our department don't have a real clear
24 picture yet and I imagine because the Mayor hasn't
25 told any of us, you know, what the program is yet.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Gotcha.

3 I see you. You know I want to talk to
4 you.

5 (Rob Dubow comes forward.)

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Dominic was hiding
7 you there for a while but...

8 Mr. Dubow you, know what Joe Lewis
9 said, right?

10 MR. DUBOW: What's that?

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You can run but you
12 cannot hide.

13 MR. DUBOW: I try to find the biggest
14 person in the room and sit behind them.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, he's at the
16 table already. He can't help you.

17 MR. DUBOW: He got up and ruined my
18 whole plan.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Can you explain the
20 information in the Five-Year Plan and why the
21 demolition budget has been zeroed out.

22 MR. DUBOW: It is under the assumption
23 that demolitions will be handled through the
24 blight removal plan. Obviously, the details of
25 that program haven't been sorted out, so it might

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2 be that by the time you get to 2002 it will look
3 slightly different from the way it looks in the
4 plan now.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You don't
6 necessarily know the details, but you've made the
7 assumption that the money's going to be somewhere
8 else, and where is that somewhere else? Where did
9 that \$10 million go?

10 MR. DUBOW: The theory was that it
11 would be housed in an authority, maybe the RDA,
12 but we've never really gotten to specific so I'm
13 not sure. I mean, it's not clear how it will
14 actually work in the end, but that was the
15 assumption.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How would we have
17 -- what was your phraseology? How would we house
18 \$10 million of General Fund money in an authority,
19 would we transfer it to them?

20 MR. DUBOW: No, the assumption was they
21 were going to issue debt, and so through the debt,
22 they would have funding through that debt.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So the real housing
24 location would really be over in the Sinking Fund
25 item?

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2 MR. DUBOW: That's right.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Would you
4 get that information together for me?

5 MR. DUBOW: We have a draft of the
6 letter and it should be over within a few days.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, thank
8 you.

9 Commissioner, why has the encapsulation
10 program, at least from the testimony, expected to
11 drop from 259 properties in FY '99 to 75
12 properties in '00?

13 MR. FELDGUS: The 259 represents the
14 number of contracts that have been let. Some kind
15 of confusion in that number. We apologize for
16 that. When we're talking about contracts, we
17 could issue multiple contracts on the same
18 building so that the 75 will actually generate
19 more contracts because we'll do one contract for
20 the roof, another contract for the drainage,
21 possibly a third contract to seal up building. So
22 the 259 is the total number of contracts.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it's not really
24 259 properties, it's 259 contracts?

25 MR. FELDGUS: Right.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what do those
3 259 represent as it relates to properties?

4 MR. FELDGUS: About 150 in two years,
5 so we'll be pretty much commensurate with what
6 we're doing.

7 I should point out to you that --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, hold on for a
9 second. If the other part of the testimony is 75
10 properties in FY '00, does that now mean that --
11 it doesn't really mean 75 properties? Did you
12 mean 75 contracts?

13 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: No, I mean 75
14 property.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 75 properties.

16 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, then you just
18 said that the 99 which is 259 contracts, really
19 represents 150 properties.

20 MR. FELDGUS: For two years, two years.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: For two years.

22 MR. FELDGUS: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So you're really
24 doing 75.

25 MR. FELDGUS: Since we started, yes.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right.

3 What would the department need -- I mean, I'm
4 appreciative for the 75 properties, but, I mean, I
5 think we have a half a million residential
6 structures in the City, you're demolishing 1800 or
7 so a year, and through this program I guess we're
8 saving 75?

9 MR. FELDGUS: The current funding
10 mechanism for that encapsulation program is
11 utilizing money from OHCD.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How much?

13 MR. FELDGUS: We have a limited budget.
14 Total for all of our repairs programs in the
15 department is approximately \$450,000. That
16 includes our tenant repair program which covers
17 heat and drainage repairs and tenant-occupied
18 building.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But the money for
20 the encapsulation comes out of --

21 MR. FELDGUS: Out of that same pot. So
22 what happens is that the monies that we don't use
23 for that program, for tenant repairs, we typically
24 are able to shift over and use for encapsulation.
25 That's been our funding mechanism up to this

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2 point.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's a typical
4 encapsulation cost, if there is one?

5 MR. FELDGUS: About \$2300.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: \$2300.

7 MR. FELDGUS: And that would include a
8 roof, sealing up the building, drainage.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And in one of your
10 service-level documents, it seemed to indicate
11 that average demolition is now running in the
12 \$10,000.

13 MR. FELDGUS: About \$8500, that's
14 correct.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's for
16 residential.

17 MR. FELDGUS: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So 8500 to
19 demolish, 2500 to save.

20 MR. FELDGUS: Correct.

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: That's
22 exactly what the blight program is going to
23 address.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What do you mean by
25 that, Commissioner?

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2 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Well, the
3 encapsulation, I've talked to Joyce Wilkerson
4 about that, the encapsulation is part of what the
5 Mayor is talking about when he's talking about
6 addressing blight. It's not just the demolition,
7 it's not just the clean and seal, it is about
8 encapsulation and further to shorten the process
9 so that people can actually get into those
10 encapsulated houses.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How are they going
12 to do that?

13 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know
14 how he plans -- he plans on shortening whatever
15 the -- the process that's in place to allow the
16 City to dispose of a property takes a year or two
17 years.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So they're going to
19 shorten that as a part of the blight elimination
20 program?

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I have heard
22 that there's people looking at that process,
23 trying to shorten that process. That's an issue
24 that gets brought up at the town meetings that the
25 Mayor is currently holding.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm glad you
3 mentioned that because I've generally been under
4 the impression that the bulk of blight elimination
5 was primarily geared toward demolition.

6 MR. SOLVIBILE: Councilman, and also
7 the encapsulation program which started two years
8 ago is meant to stop the spread. The houses that
9 are being demolished, it's too late. We're trying
10 to get a block, to refresh everyone's memory, with
11 one or two vacants in good repair and stop that
12 one vacant from spreading to others. That's the
13 intent of the encapsulation program. Now,
14 sometimes we'll stretch it depending on the block.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

16 MR. SOLVIBILE: It's meant just to do
17 just drainage, roof, and a good seal job with
18 painted wood.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I would just
21 like to mention that met with the Board of
22 Realtors trying to get them. We're working with
23 the three CDCs on a pilot program to increase the
24 number of encapsulations we do. The Board of
25 Realtors, we suggested that if they're having

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2 trouble selling a house on a street that maybe
3 they would be agents for us in reporting the house
4 that needs to be encapsulated and then actually
5 participating in trying to sell that particular
6 property.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

8 Madam Chair, I will not take further
9 advantage than I already have. I have other
10 questions, but I'm way beyond my time.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair.

15 Good afternoon, gentlemen.

16 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good
17 afternoon, Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: A couple of
19 questions. Let me get to the easy one first. How
20 many vacant properties are currently in the City
21 of Philadelphia, structures?

22 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: 22,512
23 smaller properties, residential properties -- I'm
24 sorry -- right. 841 large vacant properties and
25 730 large nonresidential buildings.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: How did you get at
3 those numbers? Was it through inspections, visual
4 inspections?

5 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: (Nods.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: You sent out
7 inspectors on the street, took pictures or just
8 wrote down vacant, vacant, vacant, vacant?

9 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Inspectors
10 went from block to block throughout the entire
11 City.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Some information
13 has recently come to me based on the Board of
14 Revision of Tax's estimate, and they have numbers
15 upwards of 50,000. Can you explain the disparity
16 in those numbers? Where are the real numbers at?
17 Particularly given the blight removal program that
18 we hopefully will embark upon soon and that will
19 obviously be a substantial change in numbers. Are
20 you familiar with that number at all?

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, I am.
22 I'm not sure what the problem is except to say
23 that our inspectors actually walked block by block
24 with sheets that told them what properties were on
25 that block. I'm kind of at a loss to explain why

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2 they came out with that particular number. All I
3 could -- yeah, and we're also testing the numbers
4 just to make sure that we have every expectation.
5 We tested ourselves during the process and our
6 error rate was very good, very understandable.
7 Now we're actually retesting. We're going back
8 out and counting a few selected sites again just
9 to make sure. That was what we're doing as a
10 result of that number coming out. I'm not sure
11 I'm not sure what the base of Board of Revision of
12 Taxes is.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Have talked to them
14 about it? Have you asked them why they have
15 50,000 and you have 25.

16 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I take them
17 for their word that that's what they got in the
18 system. That's why we're checking our numbers. I
19 would have more confidence in our numbers. We
20 have people that are used to walking the blocks,
21 are used to identifying buildings.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: My question was --

23 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: And we are
24 talking about computers where maybe records aren't
25 updated.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: My question was
3 have you talked to the Board of Revision of Taxes
4 as to how they came to that 50,000 number
5 specifically.

6 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: The answer to
7 that is no, we haven't talked to them, but I don't
8 know what they do about demolitions. In the last
9 ten years -- eight years we demolished more than
10 10,000 properties, and I don't know if they've
11 been subtracted out of that database or not.
12 They're vacant lots now.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: How soon do you
14 anticipate we'll get accurate reading based on
15 what projection is and --

16 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I think you
17 have one.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So you're going to
19 go with your numbers as it relates to the blight
20 removal program?

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.
23 Stop-and-goes, these take-out delis with the malt
24 liquor is something I've been on a miniature
25 crusade on recently. And in talking to some state

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2 individuals who regulate the Liquor Control Board,
3 it's my understanding that these facilities are
4 required to have separate locations for where they
5 sell malt liquor versus where they sell the other
6 goods like candies and the other things that
7 children may purchase. They said that that is law
8 and that L&I is responsible for enforcing that.

9 Can you give me a sense of why we're
10 not enforcing that and it doesn't appear that
11 that's being done anywhere?

12 (Witness comes forward.)

13 MR. VERDI: Dominic Verdi, Deputy
14 Commissioner Councilman. Councilman, we do
15 enforce that issue. We have been working along
16 with the State to help us identify certain
17 businesses. And when we do identify it, we're
18 trying to enforce it the best we can.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Can you give me an
20 example as to where? Because I've never seen a
21 location that has a separate selling point for the
22 malt liquor and a separate location for --

23 MR. VERDI: Oh, said separate selling
24 point?

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yes.

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2 MR. VERDI: I'm sorry, I misunderstood
3 you.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The state regs
5 indicate that you cannot sell malt liquor -- you
6 know, like right now a lot of these places they
7 have these glass cases, glass fronts and they have
8 a little drawer. They're saying that you cannot
9 sell malt liquor and other goods and services such
10 candies and things that kids may purchase out of
11 the same station.

12 MR. VERDI: The only thing we enforce
13 is the issue as far as the zoning -- as far as the
14 sale of malt liquor. As far as being sold
15 separately, no, the State may have a regulation
16 but it doesn't fall on us.

17 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: You're not
18 familiar with that regulation?

19 MR. VERDI: No. We had a with LCE, we
20 had a discussion in reference to that one time
21 with LCE and it was somewhat their jurisdiction.
22 We never heard back from them at all.

23 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Their jurisdiction
24 as it relates to policy or the enforcement
25 officer?

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2 MR. VERDI: As the enforcement of
3 liquor license.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So the Liquor
5 Control Board is responsible for the operation of
6 the store.

7 MR. VERDI: The Liquor Control
8 Enforcement Unit would -- if there's any State
9 regulation involving a liquor establishment which
10 beer and malt liquor comes under, Liquor Control
11 enforcement would have jurisdiction over that
12 issue if it's a State law.

13 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We don't
14 enforce State laws.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I understand that.
16 What I'm not understanding is that if there's a
17 stop-and-go, take-out deli, whatever you want to
18 call it, that sells malt liquor, you're saying
19 because they sell the malt liquor, you no longer
20 as L&I have any responsibility for any regulations
21 associated with that store?

22 MR. VERDI: We have regulations on the
23 licenses business, privilege license, associated
24 licenses and sales licenses, but liquor license
25 itself comes under the enforcement of unit of LCE.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But I'm talking
3 about the operation of the store.

4 MR. VERDI: No, there's regulations
5 under their liquor license. In some cases, the
6 liquor license -- their regulations under the
7 alcohol or the sale of alcohol, there's certain
8 regulations that do follow that they have to apply
9 to, all liquor establishments do. Those are
10 strictly enforced by Liquor Control Enforcement.
11 What we'll do is look for any City licenses that
12 are involved or any zone-related issues.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. I hate to
14 belabor the point, but the part of store that
15 sells everything else, that's your responsibility.

16 MR. VERDI: No, the entire store is our
17 responsibility.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So that's why I'm
19 asking you. If the entire store is your
20 responsibility, then you have some level of
21 enforcement as to what's sold in that store
22 regardless of what it is. What I'm asking you is
23 if the Liquor Control Board is telling me that
24 you're not supposed to sell malt liquor out of
25 same station that you sell everything else, then

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2 you're somehow responsible for enforcing that.

3 MR. VERDI: No, they're responsible.

4 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: They're
5 responsible for enforcing it.

6 MR. VERDI: Liquor Control Enforcement,
7 if the Liquor Control Board is telling you, yes,
8 we have a regulation that says you can't sell malt
9 liquor in same location as sell other alcoholic
10 beverages, well, that enforcement comes under
11 Liquor Control Enforcement. There's two agencies,
12 LCB is the one that issues the license; LCE is the
13 one who enforces it. LCE would regulate that
14 issue. We have no control over how he sells his
15 merchandise. We just make sure it's licensed.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: If you're aware of
17 this particular regulation, your guy comes in and
18 he inspects the store for whatever reason and sees
19 that they're selling this malt liquor in the same
20 station as they're selling everything else and you
21 know this not to be legal, do you then contact the
22 Liquor Control Board and tell them to come down
23 because we have an illegal operation taking place?

24 MR. VERDI: When we see irregularities
25 in liquor establishments, we a very good rapport

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2 with LCE. We just give them a call or do a fax to
3 them and say we need this to be looked at, and
4 they'll send an agent out. How fast they send the
5 agent is beyond our control.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So basically what I
7 need to do is make sure you have this particular
8 law because it seems like you're not familiar with
9 it.

10 MR. VERDI: Okay.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

12 Question with respect to information an
13 technology. A year or so I was actually meeting
14 with Deputy Commissioner Oliver Thornton and they
15 were trying to get a productivity loan, talking to
16 Charley McPherson, and it's my understanding that
17 this was going to afford an opportunity for
18 inspectors on the street to have some sort of
19 process, some sort of a hand-held computerization.
20 First of all, where is that at? And second of
21 all, how would it help enhance ability of these
22 inspectors to do a better job on the street, a
23 more efficient job and to basically service us in
24 the district? Can you give me a sense of where we
25 are with that.

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2 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We've had a
3 process that we've been going through defining our
4 productivity loan application. We're to the point
5 now where we think we've got that done, and on
6 March the 10th, there is a productivity loan
7 committee meeting, you know, where our application
8 will be discussed. Aside -- and that is to buy
9 the software to automate the department which is
10 something that you kind of have to do before you
11 get the hand-helds to operate. With one
12 exception, Hanson Technologies has offered for a
13 pilot program for us. We're buying five
14 hand-helds to pilot the whole issue of hand-held
15 devices for our inspectors to use on the street.
16 Those five hand-helds are approved by everybody
17 that has to approve them and they're in the
18 purchase process right now. We have the money for
19 them. It's just a matter of getting them through
20 the system, to get the actual hand-helds in our
21 position. Hanson Technologies has volunteered to
22 put the software in place so that we can test,
23 field-test the five hand-helds. The reason that
24 we think that our enforcement people will be
25 better off, that the process will be improved, is

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2 because part of what will be in the officer's hand
3 will be the entire code so that if it is part of
4 the Philadelphia Code that there be two points of
5 sale in a stop and go that that information would
6 be there for our inspector.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So right now, your
8 priority is purchasing the systems that will be in
9 the MSB or wherever they are, the general systems,
10 and you'll get the hand-held as we go, or you're
11 going to try this pilot program with the Hanson
12 model you said?

13 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I would say
14 that we have many priorities across the surface of
15 our technology efforts. And the hand-held pilot
16 program, we're just not sure that inspectors will
17 benefit. The other part of what would happen is
18 the inspectors have census tracts that they're
19 responsible for. So the inspector would download
20 everything or upload everything into his hand-held
21 device that pertains to those particular census
22 tracts where inspector is going to work, like who
23 has permits, who has violations, that type of
24 thing. So we'll make inspector more efficient.
25 That sounds good, we're just not sure that that's

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2 the way that it will eventually be done. That's
3 why we ordered five of those hand-helds and that's
4 why we're calling it a pilot program. That is not
5 holding up our effort to automate the whole rest
6 of the department.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Has that been done
8 in any other municipalities with the hand-held
9 system? I mean, do we have a basis for even
10 attempting to do this?

11 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Other
12 departments in the City are using hand-held.
13 Other inspectional forces are using hand-helds.
14 The Police Department are using mobile data
15 terminals in their cars. We don't have cars.
16 We're talking about people walking around.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are they working?

18 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I'm sorry?

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are they working in
20 the other departments?

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I think
22 everybody's happy. But if you want Oliver
23 Thornton to come up, he can talk to you about our
24 efforts to look, not just in the City, but all
25 around the country and, in fact, around the world.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The reason I'm
3 asking those question, my understanding is this is
4 not something that we invented and this is
5 apparently happening in other locales and you're
6 now telling me, which I didn't know, that we're
7 using it in other departments. Why aren't we
8 using it in L&I since this is one of the
9 departments that probably get more complaints than
10 any other -- I don't know, maybe the Streets
11 Department after the hearings. But this is one of
12 the departments that receives the most complaints
13 out of any department in the City, and I'm
14 wondering why we just don't go ahead. And if you
15 want Mr. Thornton to respond to that, that would
16 be helpful.

17 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I'd
18 like Oliver to come up, but there is an issue of
19 the complexity of L&I and, you know, the need for
20 us to have that. It's very complicated, The whole
21 process. And I think maybe I have a lot of
22 experience on the police side and the police
23 enforce the crimes code, one code. L&I enforces
24 the building code, the zoning code, the electrical
25 code, the plumbing code, and I could go on with

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2 weights and measures issues and things like that.
3 So that the complexity level is high. That's why
4 we're proceeding more cautiously, doing a pilot
5 program just to see if all of that complexity can
6 load into one of these little things.

7 (Witness comes forward.)

8 MR. THORNTON: Oliver Thornton, Deputy
9 Commissioner.

10 Councilman, the idea behind the
11 hand-helds is that right now the inspectors go out
12 to locations and they have a limited amount of
13 information with them when they go out. The
14 hand-helds having a sufficient storage would give
15 them the ability to take most information. It
16 goes hand in hand with a another part of the
17 project which is taking all of L&I's
18 property-based information, whether it be permits
19 licenses, or what-have-you, and put that
20 information in one single place, On a database.
21 Then the inspector being able to go out to that
22 location, have that information with him when he
23 or she does that inspection so that would help to
24 facilitate inspection. The other thing is the
25 delay time that it takes to get that information,

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2 the results of that inspection back into the
3 system so that any questions can be answered and
4 things that need to be handle in an expeditious
5 manner can be done. So the hand held device has a
6 docking station back at the office which allows
7 them to come back in and that information can be
8 immediately downloaded into the database. Right
9 now system is such that that piece of paper that
10 the inspection is on is given to a clerk who then
11 has to enter that information in. And depending
12 on the time of day that it comes back or the
13 workload of that particular clerk, there could be
14 some delay in the time that it takes to get that
15 information into the system so that things can be
16 acted on immediately if they have to be.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So you get that,
18 you're out in the street, you punch it in, you
19 come back, plug it into the main --

20 MR. THORNTON: It's a windows-based.
21 Touch it and the information is stored and that
22 result then is held in the computer and can be
23 downloaded immediately into the database.

24 The product that we're using is being
25 used in 100 cities around the world, and the

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2 different modules that we intend to purchase will
3 give all of our units the ability to have that
4 information. And in other cities they're using
5 this hand-held device with the same product and
6 that was part of the research.

7 Our proof of concept here is that the
8 five hand-helds the Commissioner spoke about is
9 that we wanted to get into our system, give them
10 to our inspectors and add an ability for them to
11 dial into our network immediately so that in an
12 emergency situation, that information can go over
13 the cellular system and immediately be downloaded
14 into the system so that any emergency situation
15 that arises, we would then have that information.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, thank you.

17 Thank you Madam Chair.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Councilwoman Brown.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 Good afternoon, gentlemen.

24 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good
25 afternoon.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I believe some of
3 the answers to Councilman Clarke's questions may
4 speak to the question I have here. The last page
5 of your testimony, the impact statement, The area
6 of complaints received. If you look at the
7 details you provided for FY 1999 and then what's
8 the original goal for FY 2000 and the estimated
9 goal for FY 2000, upwards of \$85,000, that's an 80
10 percent increase in a couple of years. So can you
11 speak to what is driving the increase? And I'm
12 curious to know what are the top three levels of
13 complaints that you get in that area? And then,
14 finally, what are you doing internally to manage
15 that tremendous amount of complaints from the
16 customer service side within your office?

17 MR. FELDGUS: Well, the increase in
18 complaints has been mostly the area of vacant
19 buildings. That's always been a primary area
20 where the department has received a lot of
21 complaints. The other areas, of course, your
22 tenant complaints that we typically get
23 particularly related to heat problems, drainage
24 problems, things of that nature, the failure of
25 landlords to maintain properties. That's the

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2 second area of major concern for the department.

3 Those are areas, quite honestly, we
4 would hope that, one, the blight program will be
5 addressing to some degree when that is announced
6 by the Mayor. But we think that that will go a
7 long way in terms of doing what we have to do.

8 At this point in time, the Department
9 is reactive in terms of those complaint are, in
10 fact, the basic source of how the department
11 functions. We get the complaint, that generates
12 inspection activity. So that a lot of our work --
13 we rely on the public to keep us informed as to
14 conditions out in the neighborhoods so that our
15 people can be assigned to make inspections so we
16 use that as an integral part. We we say a
17 complaint, it's a request for services, it's a
18 need and so forth. So that we're not necessarily
19 trying to minimize those. What we are trying to
20 do is make sure that our people react to them and
21 we don't have to react to the same compliant over
22 and over again. But, in fact, actually complaints
23 are an integral part of the process that drives
24 the department' operation.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Given the gap

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2 between what tenants believe a landlord's
3 responsibilities and what landlords believe their
4 responsibilities are, what, if anything, does the
5 department do to educate landlords who probably
6 already know that they need to be doing the right
7 thing and help tenant understand their role or
8 lack thereof?

9 MR. FELDGUS: The department has a
10 number of publications that we put out. Partners
11 in Housing being the foremost of that which we try
12 to direct to both landlords and tenants to
13 acquaint both of them with the laws and
14 regulations of this City. The City's housing code
15 is a minimum code. It establishes minimum
16 standards, not maximum, optimal; minimum standards
17 so that we do insist that people try to adhere to
18 those codes. We have had stakeholders meetings
19 with the various groups of people. In fact, we
20 just had one last year, a major thing where we
21 tried to get the message out and we brought in a
22 cross-section of the community, both tenants,
23 landlord groups, homeowners associations people,
24 people who are in the real-estate industry, and we
25 have tried to bring those people together and have

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2 a dialogue with them and be able to sort of get
3 our message out to all of them to cooperate and to
4 meet the needs, the common needs that exist
5 because it really is not in the interest of an
6 owner to allow his property which is his asset to
7 go downhill. He should be trying to maintain it
8 in a fashion that is going to give him a return on
9 his investment for many years to come, not just in
10 the short term. So we try to get that message
11 out. As I said, we do have regular meetings with
12 stakeholders. We do have a number of publications
13 that we put out. One of the things we talk about
14 that we're trying right now is come up with a
15 computerized version of the license and permit
16 requirements which we would eventually hope to go
17 out on the Internet so that everybody would be
18 aware of all requirements are on a citywide basis.
19 So these are all kinds of things that we've been
20 doing in the department, Councilwoman.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You say
22 publications that you put out. Define what that
23 means. The mailing that your office sends out to
24 constituents for some designated reason? Help me
25 understand how that happens.

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2 MR. FELDGUS: We generally have those
3 available in our offices. We have made mailings.
4 We have done mailings, for instance, with water
5 bills over the years where we would put stuffers
6 in water bills to let people know what various
7 requirements are of the City Code and different
8 specific requirements. So, yes, we've done that.
9 We publish those, we give the out to community
10 groups. We do meet with community groups on a
11 regular basis and give out those pamphlets and
12 booklets to them. Organizations like TAG, they
13 work closely with us. We give a lot of the
14 publications to them and try to get the word out
15 through them.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That's helpful to
17 know because I come with some experience from the
18 Tax Review Board where you hear over and over how
19 tenants are not properly or appropriately informed
20 about their rights. And, of course, there are
21 three sides to every story. Landlords have their
22 view of instances like that as well. So that
23 testimony is very helpful. Thank you.

24 MR. FELDGUS: Thank you, Councilwoman.

25 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I would just

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2 like to add one thing, Councilwoman. You've heard
3 us talk about the technology improvements that we
4 want to put in place. The first area that we went
5 ahead and actually purchased a module from this
6 Hanson Technologies, that was the complaint intake
7 module so that complaint intake now is automated.
8 When you call to register a complaint, you're
9 given a number. The system automatically assigns
10 a number. Now, that number is not too valuable to
11 you right now, but when we get to the rest of the
12 system, that number will allow our people to tell
13 you where in the system, where in the court
14 system, anyplace in our inspectional system,
15 anyplace where that particular complaint is at
16 that time will be able to update you just by
17 asking you what that number is. That will also
18 solve the problem of addresses, where people are
19 calling up and using one address. We go out on
20 the complaint, we establish the correct address,
21 so now the address that you think in your head and
22 the address that we have in our system are two
23 different addresses. The one thing that does
24 remain the same now is that number that you'd be
25 instructed to call. So, you know, we're hoping to

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2 lower the complaints by being more efficient in
3 handling the complaints.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very
5 much.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
7 Councilman Rizzo?

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair.

10 Commissioner MacLaughlin and your
11 entire staff, I want to also compliment the
12 department on the fine work you do. Just based on
13 what I get, how overwhelmed your people must be
14 with the requests for service.

15 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
16 Councilman.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I also want to tell
18 you that you run your place, obviously, like a
19 well-run business because I send a letter, I get
20 answer. People are willing to hear, "no" or "we
21 can't help you" or "it's take six months." But at
22 least we have the ability to tell them that and
23 people are reasonable. Again, I want to thank you
24 for making my job as at-large member a lot easier
25 because I'm able to at least give people honest

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2 responses.

3 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
4 sir.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Now, question that I
6 have is, could you please explain to me, does L&I
7 have role in tree removal? If a constituent or a
8 neighborhood has a dangerous situation, they
9 consider it a dangerous tree, we constantly refer
10 these to the Fairmount Park Commission and the
11 Fairmount Park Commission deals with the
12 situation. But, again, they're stretched pretty
13 thin and trees aren't being removed for years,
14 especially trees that on the curb. Private
15 property trees are a different issue. Could you
16 tell me if a homeowner has a tree that's on
17 private property and it is imminently dangerous
18 that it could fall on another person's property,
19 what action can L&I take? But to go a step
20 further, removing a tree is an expensive
21 proposition today, and a lot of people would love
22 to be able to pick up the phone, call to get this
23 tree removed, but financial they're putting meat
24 and potatoes, hopefully, on the table and just
25 can't afford to deal with tree issue. What can

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2 you do to help people that have situations like
3 this, if anything?

4 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Well, the
5 only type trees that we have are the ones that you
6 have identified, the ones on private property.
7 They're the only trees that L&I is responsible
8 for. And when I say "responsible," I mean that we
9 would issue a violation, you know, to the owner of
10 the property for the tree if we thought it was
11 dangerous. If the tree fits into an imminently
12 dangerous-type situation where it's -- like, we
13 had a situation where a branch had fallen off of
14 the tree, a branch large enough to do significant
15 \$20,000 in damage to two cars that were parked and
16 then the balance of the tree was precariously
17 hanging over the bedroom of two children in the
18 house next door. Some \$12,000 later, we abated
19 that problem, but that came out of our demolition
20 money. So that's \$12,000 less I have to address a
21 dangerous building. You know, so we're kind of in
22 the same position as the person who's watching
23 their money, you know, to say that, you know, what
24 dangerous situation do you -- that was a
25 no-brainer. But for most of the tree complaints

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2 that we get, there's not too much that we can do
3 in the way of abatement.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: In that particular
5 case \$12,000 in City money to make that a safer
6 situation or did you remove the whole tree? I
7 assume you did with \$12,000. Did that house get
8 liened?

9 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes,
10 absolutely.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So in most cases if
12 there's a dangerous situation L&I is not in a
13 position to help or you can help and lien the
14 property? Maybe I missed the answer.

15 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Well, if it
16 fits into a life safety type situation, then just
17 like when do in every other circumstances, we go
18 into action.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just another
20 example, during the recent storm a tree fell, fell
21 across the back door of a person's property and
22 the person was basically locked in their home,
23 they couldn't get out the back door, and for some
24 reason, they couldn't get out the front door. L&I
25 went over and made it safe for them. I think they

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2 just cut the branches just so the person could get
3 out of the house. But again, you'll responds to
4 absolutely dangerous situations or
5 life-threatening situations but there's not a
6 routine where you can get involved in -- if a
7 person complains, you'll respond and do what you
8 can do, is that basically it?

9 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Again, it
10 goes back to the property owner having the primary
11 responsibility. So for us in that situation I
12 talked about, the owner refused to take action.
13 We took him to court and the judge ordered us to,
14 you know, abate that situation.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: All right. Well,
16 again, thanks. It's, again, appreciated, all of
17 the work that all your people do.

18 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you for
19 saying that. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thanks, Madam Chair.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Your welcome.
22 Councilwoman Miller.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair.

25 Good afternoon.

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2 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Good

3 afternoon.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: First like to
5 thank you for working with me over the year, and I
6 think I've gotten a lot of cooperation out of L&I.
7 Just wish you had more money for demos and all the
8 other things.

9 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Us, too.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: What can we do on
11 City Council to help L&I -- what recommendations
12 can you give us that would -- what to we need to
13 do with the court system to help with the
14 enforcement around troubled building, multifamily
15 dwelling issues?

16 For example, I know that we're getting
17 ready to go to court with the 15th and Allegheny
18 case. When the First Judicial Court System court
19 system comes here I think one day this week or
20 next week or next Monday, I think that's really an
21 important issue to talk to them about because so
22 much -- I know that you go out and you cite and
23 you cite and you cite, but you can't enforce. So
24 we really need to come up with a way to see what
25 we as Councilpeople can do and the residents to

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2 get judges to take some of these issues more
3 seriously around enforcement.

4 I know that when I was a part of the
5 Vacant Land and Review Committee or whatever, that
6 special committee that was going on, I talked to
7 Joe Dworsky (ph.) and he said that they were in
8 Harrisburg looking at a way to put those types of
9 buildings in receivership. Do you know whether
10 that research or whatnot is still going on? Do
11 you know if they ever made a final decision to
12 move that way on multifamily dwellings that are
13 troubled?

14 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I'm not aware
15 of that particular effort. Although, I have heard
16 the Mayor talk about one of his transition
17 committees looking at that ownership issue, that
18 conveyance issue. So we should be looking forward
19 to hearing some of the solutions to those issues.
20 But as to what Councilpeople could do, it's the
21 old equation of getting the people who are
22 victimized by whatever that problem is to appear
23 in court and make themselves known in court to --
24 it's the best way I know to influence a judge's
25 decision to let -- all the judge hears is the

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2 textbook presentation from L&I, what the rule is
3 and that person has broken the rule. That's kind
4 of dry. And then as far as the defense, it's
5 one-sided.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Mm-hmm.

7 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: And, you
8 know, the issue I think where Council can
9 influence people in the community to get out there
10 and make sure that the judge knows that this is a
11 problem in the community.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All right,
13 because it is an ongoing problem. When you look
14 up the properties and they've got a ton of
15 violations and that's where it stops.

16 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Right.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And before the
18 buildings are falling down on people's heads and
19 all kind of things. Because that's an area, of
20 course, you know that I'm very interested in
21 because we have a trouble building properties in
22 the 8th Councilmanic District. Well, I'm going to
23 start -- I'll question the First Judicial Courts
24 when they come next week regarding that.

25 I wanted to talk a little bit about the

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2 encapsulation program. Now, I know you use it to
3 stabilize a particular block if it's maybe one or
4 two properties vacant, but there are several
5 blocks -- more than several. There are lots of
6 blocks that maybe there are four or five
7 properties vacant. However, it's a rowhome or
8 it's a semidetached home and that vacant property
9 is now causing internal damage to the house that
10 it's attached to and someone is living in.

11 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Right.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I see you only
13 have a projected. You're projecting to do just
14 75, and I know it's probably hundreds of
15 properties in the City that could use
16 encapsulation, particularly on the rows and the
17 semidetached. Can you up the number? Do you
18 think 75's going to be enough? I sure don't. I
19 could probably find 75 right in one part of my
20 district. And that's 75 for the whole City?

21 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: We're using
22 housing money for this project, and my goal is to
23 spend every last dime and then ask for more money.
24 I believe it's federal money. And Joan Kromer, I
25 think, is amenable to that. For us to show him

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2 that we're efficiently using that money and he has
3 been increasing the money up to the amount that
4 we're reporting to you now, but that's about --
5 that amount is about double than what we
6 historically have had because all we were doing
7 out of that particular fund was the emergency
8 repairs.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: And as far as
11 making a decision to do more than one or two
12 houses on a block, that depends on the block.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right, right.

14 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: That depends
15 on the viability of the block, and we have done
16 that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All right, very
18 good.

19 One other question, and this is a
20 technical question and I'm not real technical but
21 I'm going to try to ask this question. You know
22 how we can go into the computers to the real
23 estate program and get information?

24 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Will the vacant

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2 property data -- will we also be able to access
3 the vacant property data from our computers in our
4 office on the survey that you took last summer?

5 MR. FELDGUS: The answer to your
6 question is that that information is in our L&I
7 database now. The existing Licenses and
8 Inspections database commonly known as LIMS. So
9 if you can access that, you can do that. All of
10 the information that we input from the vacant
11 property survey that we did this past summer was
12 put into that stadium system so that we can
13 actually show all those 22,500 vacant residential
14 buildings, which is why we're confident or
15 somewhat confident that our numbers are correct.
16 We don't know the numbers that have been bandied
17 about are, but our system you can go in, you can
18 identify where vacant properties are, and I
19 believe Council does have access to the LIM
20 system.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, I know that
22 we have access. The person in my office that uses
23 this -- I've never used the system, so I'm trying
24 to get this question clear here. He said he went
25 over to L&I and asked them to give him a copy of

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2 the abandoned properties in the 8th Councilmanic
3 District and they were not able to do that from
4 that survey.

5 MR. FELDGUS: We should be able to do
6 that. We, in fact, actually even mapped it out
7 geographically from the survey so that there's no
8 reason why we should not be able to give him a map
9 showing all of the locations in your Councilmanic
10 District.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

12 MR. FELDGUS: That should be available.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I think Mr.
14 Thornton might want to say something.

15 MR. THORNTON: Councilwoman, in answer
16 to your question, we're in the process of cleaning
17 up the data so that it's in a clean and accessible
18 way for the other agencies, offices, in the City
19 to be able to access that data. We're in the
20 process of putting it into something that we'll be
21 able to put it out on the city's Web site at
22 Phila.gov so that you'll be able to go to the
23 Phila.gov site and see that information. I would
24 say in the next few months you should be able to
25 do that.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Great. One other
3 question, Madam Chair.

4 You know, Commissioner, I've talked to
5 you, and I know you're very troubled by this, too,
6 about these shoddy contractors that are performing
7 these demolition jobs and really making it a
8 public safety issue because they leave their
9 trash, they leave their debris, they leave
10 buildings half-done. Is there some way that we
11 can permanently get them off your list as a
12 contractor? Because in my district, it's the same
13 ones over and over and over and over again. Why
14 are they still eligible? Why can they even
15 continue to get City contractors? They're just so
16 awful.

17 MR. SOLVIBILE: We, along with the
18 Philadelphia Police Department, have been
19 monitoring contractors and the bad ones for the
20 last several years. We agree. It's a matter of
21 at some point in time all of our contractors will
22 be taken off the list mainly because of the
23 numbers we were putting out. From the beginning
24 of five years ago, we had about six contractors on
25 our list, of approved contractors. Right now we

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2 have approximately, I believe, 17. I can get the
3 number over to you, Councilwoman, or the names
4 also.

5 A lot of our efforts have been going in
6 increasing the number of contractors so that
7 there's more -- so each one has less work and they
8 don't abandon job like you're describing.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: At one point,
10 though, weren't you contracting out to community
11 development corporations to help with the demos?
12 Was it you or OHCD?

13 MR. SOLVIBILE: We never did. The
14 only -- we use Germantown --

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You use Greater
16 Germantown Housing Development Corp.

17 MR. SOLVIBILE: Yes, but it's not CDC
18 part, it's a separate for-profit part.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Oh, okay, the
20 construction unit.

21 MR. SOLVIBILE: Right.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So you are
23 contracting with smaller groups.

24 MR. SOLVIBILE: And we've reached out
25 and advertised over the years, and it's one of our

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2 things to have more contractors, more, better.
3 And we do monitor the quality of the contractors.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam Chair, may I
5 follow up?

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Follow-up
7 question by Councilman Rizzo?

8 MR. SOLVIBILE: Also, Councilwoman, one
9 more thing. In the Logan area, and we've tested
10 it and we believe that we'll go and increase us.
11 We bid the area the Logan triangle which is partly
12 in your district, and one contractor has the
13 balance of the buildings there to demolish. We
14 can monitor him a easier. As a matter of fact,
15 myself and my boss, Mr. MacLaughlin, visit there
16 often. The contractor is starting to complain
17 about us being there. He has too many inspectors
18 with him and I. It's \$4,000 a unit there because
19 of this effort, and if there's any damage to that
20 neighbor, we know who's done it. And we want to
21 expand on this, and the Commissioner is going to
22 work with the blight czar and try to get this
23 built into process. It's really very, very
24 effective.

25 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I'd just like

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2 to say, Councilwoman, if your constituents have
3 any complaints about the way a site was left, I'd
4 appreciate knowing about that.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I really
6 appreciate the quickness of when I did call about
7 that one particular one on Midvale Avenue that,
8 you know, I was really happy to ride by and see
9 that everything had been taken care of. I didn't
10 know that Risk Management got involved at this
11 level. I didn't know that until I was reading
12 their testimony last week because it then presents
13 public safety and people's ability to sue the City
14 and all kind of things. But I know that that
15 would take away a lot of the problems that we have
16 and hearing from constituents when it comes to
17 demos because some of those contractors just leave
18 it terrible.

19 MR. SOLVIBILE: The horrible part about
20 demolition is before it gets better, it gets a lot
21 worse. That's the problem. You know, it creates
22 dust, debris, and unsightliness in the community.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm going to give
24 som of my time to Councilman Rizzo.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman

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2 Rizzo, you have a follow-up question?

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes, please.

4 It was in response to something that
5 you just said, the conversation that you just had
6 with Councilwoman Miller, the best way to whip a
7 contractor into shape, after they do a demolition,
8 how long does it take them to get paid? How long
9 does it take them to get paid, 60 days, 30 days,
10 90 days?

11 MR. SOLVIBILE: Probably about 30 days.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, doesn't
13 someone from L&I go out and sign off on the
14 demolition and say, "Hey, this job's done
15 properly, pay 'em." I mean, if they're just
16 getting paid no matter what the situation is, then
17 I understand you've got a problem.

18 MR. SOLVIBILE: They only get paid when
19 we approve the demolition. So if we do not
20 approve of the demolition, they will not get paid.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So then how does
22 this exist? They're satisfied with doing a sloppy
23 job and not getting paid.

24 MR. SOLVIBILE: It exists if they can
25 only tear down 20 buildings a week and we bid 40,

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2 that's why it exists because there's just more
3 work than they have the capability at the lowest
4 responsible contract price.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Don't you know the
6 capability? Why would you give a contractor that
7 doesn't have the ability to demolish 40 buildings
8 40 buildings to demolish?

9 MR. SOLVIBILE: Well, it's not one
10 contractor, but several. But -- go ahead.

11 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: I think Bob's
12 statement was -- his prior statement was more
13 telling, and that was that it gets worse before it
14 gets better. And the problems that the
15 Councilwoman is talking about is leaving the site
16 to go to something else before they finished doing
17 what they're supposed to do. So that by the time
18 we get to the site to inspect it, by the time they
19 tell us they're done, it looks decent. It looks
20 the way it's supposed, but that could take months
21 if they're prioritizing and going to other places
22 and not completing the job.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Then I suggest you
24 put in your contract that they have X-number of
25 days from the minute they start to the minute the

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2 finish so they can't play the game where I start
3 one -- it sounds like my carpenter. He starts to
4 build a closet over here and runs over here to do
5 four more.

6 MR. SOLVIBILE: That fits with
7 contractors, Councilman. They give you "I'll do
8 it tomorrow," but tomorrow never comes.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Or they rip
10 everything apart and they got you and you're at
11 their mercy. But I'm sure you could --

12 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: These
13 contracts are under review and I'll make sure that
14 that gets addressed.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Once they start that
16 they've got X-number of days to finish it up, and
17 then this problem might subside. Thank you. It's
18 easy just to talk about it.

19 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Are your
21 finished?

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
25 Councilwoman Brown.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My colleagues
3 raised important questions about this issue of
4 civic responsibility when it comes to contractors
5 who care more about getting paid for their service
6 and less about the community in which they're
7 conducting the work. Are contracts awarded within
8 your department, you oversee that process from
9 beginning to end who these 17 contractors are?

10 MR. SOLVIBILE: We work with the
11 Procurement and Law Department advertise to
12 approve the contractor for their ability to do the
13 work based on their experience. The Law
14 Department makes sure they have the proper bonding
15 and Procurement makes sure they have the
16 business-type questions that need to be answered.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As a footnote,
18 does that include MBEC? When you say Procurement,
19 is MBEC implicit in that process, Minority
20 Business Enterprize Council?

21 MR. SOLVIBILE: You would have to ask
22 the Procurement Commissioner. I'm not sure if
23 they -- they probably are because I believe MBEC
24 and Procurement work very, very closely together.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

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2 MR. SOLVIBILE: We have over the years
3 worked really hard to work with MBEC to get
4 qualified companies that bid for us that minority
5 female-owned, we've worked very hard with that.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.

7 MR. SOLVIBILE: And I believe we've
8 been somewhat successful, but not completely.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So back to
10 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller's question, I don't
11 know if I heard an answer. What becomes a
12 defining circumstance where contractors are no
13 longer considered for doing business with the
14 City? An example? Because it is something wrong
15 with continuously giving contractors business with
16 the City and they don't honor up to cleaning up
17 their act.

18 MR. SOLVIBILE: Councilwoman, in
19 concert with the Philadelphia Police Department,
20 myself and Commissioner MacLaughlin met with them
21 about two or three weeks ago. We worked with them
22 and the contractor has been removed, one and I
23 believe two others under investigation as we speak
24 has been permanently removed. Matter of fact,
25 they have them up for criminal charges, but we

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2 have removed him permanently from our list. And
3 two others right now are under investigation.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So then that
5 answers the question that there is something
6 internally that addresses circumstances like that.

7 Final question. On the awarding
8 process, is this some criteria or amongst your
9 criteria, do they have to be Philadelphia-based,
10 in other words taxpayers of Philadelphia or
11 Philadelphia region or Delaware Valley?

12 MR. SOLVIBILE: They have to be
13 taxpayers to make sure business privilege license,
14 but they do not have to be Philadelphia based.
15 And you'll have to ask Procurement as to why. I
16 don't believe we can seclude anyone that's not in
17 Philadelphia.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure. That's
19 helpful. Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We had
21 Councilman Nutter. I assume he stepped out.

22 Are there any other questions?

23 (No further questions.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Again, thank
25 you for the excellent job.

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2 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you
3 Councilwoman.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Board of L&I
5 Review.

6 COMMISSIONER MCLAUGHLIN: Before we go
7 I would just like to thank Council for their
8 cooperation that Council gives us.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
10 very, very much. Thank you.

11 MR. FELDGUS: Councilwoman Blackwell,
12 Members of Council, I am not Pamela Esposito.
13 Richard Feldgus, Administrative Director for the
14 Department for Licenses and Inspections, and I'll
15 be presenting testimony for the Board of Licenses
16 and Inspections Review. Unfortunately, the Board
17 has scheduled hearings this afternoon. They will
18 not be able to attend since they're conducting own
19 hearings.

20 The Board of Licenses and Inspections
21 Review is requesting a budget of \$207,709 for
22 Fiscal Year 2001. This is an increase of 4846
23 over the FY 2000 estimated obligations. The
24 increase in funding reflects monies to fund the
25 wage increase for support staff.

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2 The budget we are requesting will
3 continue to provide for full-time staff of three
4 employees as well as six board members.

5 In 1999, the Board of Licenses and
6 Inspections Review has heard and rendered
7 decisions in 758 cases. It is now anticipated
8 that in FY 2000 the Board will hear 1120 cases.
9 We project the same number in 2001.

10 The number of appeals filed with the
11 Board increased in Fiscal Year '98 as a result of
12 changes in laws regulating guns. That number has
13 now stabilized, and right now we're taking
14 approximately 60 days for the Board to issue
15 decisions once cases are brought before the Board.

16 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

18 Are there any questions? Any questions?

19 (No questions.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. FELDGUS: Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Next
24 department is Board of Building Standards.

25 MR. FELDGUS: Again, I am not Bart

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2 Kligerman, I am Richard Feldgus, Administrative
3 Services Director for the Department of Licenses
4 and Inspections. I apologize. Mr. Kligerman was
5 here earlier, but because of the lateness and
6 other commitments, he could not stay.

7 The Board of Building Standards is
8 requesting the budget of \$117,125 for Fiscal Year
9 2001. This is an increase of 3191 over current
10 appropriation. Funding will provide full-time
11 staff of two employees and four board members.

12 The role of the Board of Building
13 Standards is to advise the Commissioner of the
14 Department of Licenses and Inspections on requests
15 for variances as well as to provide
16 interpretations of the building code and make
17 suggestions for standards regulations dealing with
18 building safety. The Board also reviews new and
19 substitute materials and methods of construction
20 make recommendations to the Commissioner to
21 Philadelphia up-to-date and competitive with
22 latest technologies.

23 In 2001 we will conduct 50 meetings and
24 hear approximately 180 cases. In 1999, the Board
25 heard 161 cases, made recommendations to the

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2 Commissioner on 126 cases. Time for obtaining a
3 decision from the Board of Building Standards is
4 currently approximately 30 days. The Board also
5 provides accelerated hearings to persons requiring
6 quick turn-arounds on variance decisions. In
7 1999, 13 of those accelerated hearings were
8 conducted.

9 I should point out that for the
10 accelerated hearings we do have the people who
11 want those hearings pay the cost of the special
12 hearings that they're granted, but this does
13 accelerate the opportunity for those people to do
14 business in the City and it's worked out very well
15 for both the people coming before the Board and
16 the City.

17 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Are there any
19 questions? Are there any questions?

20 (No questions.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
22 much.

23 We will now hear the Zoning Board of
24 Adjustment.

25 MR. FELDGUS: Again, I am Richard

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 Feldgus, Administrative Services Director for
3 Department of Licenses and Inspections. I'm here
4 to present testimony for the Zoning Board of
5 Adjustment.

6 The Zoning Board of Adjustment is
7 requesting a budget of \$517,262 for FY 2001. This
8 is an increase of 11,728 over the current
9 obligations. The increase in funding reflects
10 cost for salary increase granted to Civil Service
11 employees of the Board.

12 The FY 2001 budget that is being
13 requested by the Zoning Board will provide
14 full-time staff of six employee and five members.

15 During 1999, the Zoning Board of
16 Adjustment, which is the most active of all City
17 boards, conducted 250 meetings. The Zoning Board
18 provides vital service to those who work, live, or
19 do business in the City of Philadelphia, and it
20 provides an opportunity to appeal zoning
21 determinations, request variances where the Code
22 imposes unnecessary hardship on property owners.
23 The Board also grants certificates for certain
24 types of zoning uses as prescribed by the
25 ordinances of City Council.

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2 In 2001 it is anticipated the Board
3 will conduct hear 1618 cases. In 1999, the Board
4 heard 1906 cases and rendered decisions in 1491
5 situations. Currently, the Board is rendering a
6 decision within 30 days of it being submitted to
7 the Board or the Board having a hearing.

8 To enhance service to the public, the
9 Board has adopted an accelerated hearings program
10 similar to the Board of Building Standards where
11 persons wanting quick action before the Board may
12 petition the Board, and by paying cost of Board
13 hearing can receive a hearing as quickly as the
14 notice posting requirements are met.

15 In 1999, there were 358 zoning cases
16 heard with accelerated hearings. We project that
17 that number should be consistent for both the
18 current Fiscal Year and 2001.

19 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr.
21 Feldgus.

22 Are there any questions? Any
23 questions?

24 (No questions.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 much.

3 MR. FELDGUS: Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Next will be
5 Community College.

6 (Community College witnesses come
7 forward.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We certainly
9 welcome you. It's always a pleasure to see our
10 friend Mr. Schrager (ph) who's a great fighter for
11 Community College.

12 Lynette Brown, I'll get you soon,
13 welcome.

14 You may pull up whatever chairs you
15 need. Thank you. You can proceed and identify
16 yourself for the record and begin.

17 MR. ORTIZ: Good afternoon,
18 Councilwoman Blackwell, Members of City Council.
19 My name is Emanuel Ortiz, I chair the Board of
20 Trustees of Community College of Philadelphia. To
21 my left is our new president, Steve Curtis, Dr.
22 Steve Curtis, and to my right is someone you know
23 very well, Mr. Isador Schrager. I'm honored to
24 have colleagues on the board, a group of dedicated
25 civic and business leaders in Philadelphia like

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2 Mr. Schrager who recognize importance of Community
3 College of Philadelphia to our great City. With
4 your permission I would like to introduce those
5 others who are here in attendance, and that is Dr.
6 Edward Kohn (ph), Dr. Marciene Mattleman,
7 Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr., and, of
8 course, you met Mr. Isador Schrager.

9 Let me first express our appreciate to
10 the Mayor for recognizing the excellent work of
11 faculty administrator, staff, and students by
12 recommending a \$1.5 million additional allocation
13 to the budget this year. We're most appreciative
14 of the investment in the educational future of our
15 City.

16 Community College of Philadelphia was
17 founded in 1965 and opened with an enrollment 700
18 full-time and part-time students. Today your City
19 College is one of the 10 largest community
20 colleges in the nation with over 1,000 full- and
21 part-time faculty and more than 41,000 credit and
22 non-credit students enrolled in programs
23 throughout the City. We are proud to be the third
24 largest degree-granting institution in the City of
25 Philadelphia.

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2 On August 1, 1999, as a result of a
3 national search for a president to advance the
4 institution and its student successfully into the
5 21st Century, Steven M. Curtis was appointed
6 president of the college. Although many of you
7 have either spoken with or met Dr. Curtis, allow
8 me for the record to note that he is an academic
9 leader with a proven commitment to cities and to
10 urban education, having spent most of his academic
11 career at community colleges in St. Louis and in
12 New York City. While president of Hudson Valley
13 Community College in Troy, New York, he advanced
14 strategic plan, launched a campus-wide student
15 retention effort, initiated innovative approaches
16 to instructions such as on-line courses, developed
17 a long-range marketing plan, and expanded the
18 college's service to the community through a range
19 of workforce training and economic development
20 projects.

21 President Curtis also served as acting
22 president of the City University of New York's
23 Queens College, which is a four-year master's
24 degree granting institution with over 16,000
25 students which is in Flushing, New York, and the

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2 Borough of Manhattan Community College in New
3 York.

4 Our college's board of trustees is
5 pleased that President Curtis is leading the
6 college at this significant time in the history of
7 our City. We believe that he has the right
8 combination of experience and dedication to ensure
9 the realization of our shared vision for
10 Philadelphia's city college.

11 Let me also note that his formal
12 inauguration as fifth president of Community
13 College of Philadelphia will be on Sunday, April
14 2, 2000. We sincerely hope that your schedules
15 will permit you to participate in this significant
16 event.

17 At this time and with your permission,
18 Councilwoman Blackwell, I would like to ask Dr.
19 Curtis to present the formal testimony to Council
20 on the budget for our college.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
22 much. We certainly welcome him. I'm sure he
23 knows of the fine legacy that has been at
24 Community. It's wonderful. We love it here, and
25 there has always been great presidents, so we

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2 assume you follow in that a tradition. Let me
3 also -- I see Marciene Mattleman left and thank
4 her for her work with Philadelphia Reads for which
5 she has recently stepped down and certainly our
6 own State Representative Jim Roebuck who's always
7 been devoted to Community College. We thank you
8 all for coming.

9 You may proceed, Dr. Curtis. Thank you
10 again.

11 MR. CURTIS: Thank you, Councilwoman
12 Blackwell. My name is Steven Curtis, and as
13 indicated I'm President of Community College of
14 Philadelphia, and it is my, not only pleasure, but
15 my honor to testify on behalf of the college
16 today. I'll make my remarks brief.

17 First, I do want to thank the Council
18 for the support that this body has extended and
19 provided to the college throughout our 35-year
20 history. While I am relatively new to the
21 position, I know from my own initial meetings with
22 a number of Councilmembers and also everything
23 that I've heard from my board of trustees, members
24 of academic community, that there has been a
25 strong commitment for the Community College of

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2 Philadelphia over the years. Over.

3 The years, the college and this Council
4 have shared many opportunities and many
5 challenges. When the City faced a budget
6 shortfall, so did the college. When the City was
7 forced to tighten its budgetary belt, we also
8 tightened ours. Two years, for the first time in
9 five years, we were able to produce a balanced
10 budget. And this was achieved, however, at some
11 cost to the college since it required us to place
12 a number of critical initiatives on hold.

13 In support of our shared vision for the
14 2000-2001 year, we do appreciate that Mayor Street
15 has included a proposed \$1.5 million increase in
16 the City's subsidy for a total allocation from the
17 City of \$20.8 million. We respectfully urge
18 Council to support this allocation.

19 As the City's only public institution
20 of higher education and the third largest
21 degree-granting post secondary institution in
22 Philadelphia, we share with the Mayor and this
23 Council a commitment to the City, a commitment to
24 neighborhoods, to education, to job creation and
25 retention. The recommended allocation will allow

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2 us to make significant progress in a number of
3 efforts, in our efforts to decrease the level of
4 unnecessary increase in tuition and fees, to
5 improve our technology infrastructure, to
6 introduce new degree programs and other curricular
7 changes that will meet the needs of City's
8 emerging industries, to develop new business and
9 industry training facilities in our regional
10 centers, to support economic development within
11 communities, to expands student services at
12 offcampus locations throughout the city, to
13 replace worn-out and/or obsolete equipment used in
14 our laboratories, to strengthen our ability to
15 offer instruction using distance learn strategies
16 and to remain current with technology, to enhance
17 our partnerships with the School District of
18 Philadelphia, and to address key deferred
19 maintenance issues.

20 We touch the lives of students long
21 before they ever enter the college. Our programs
22 with the Philadelphia School District are helping
23 high school students improve their academic
24 skills, access college credit courses, and
25 experience college. We help middle school

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2 students begin to engage in career exploration
3 opportunities and we help to develop new teachers
4 in such critically important areas as mathematics.

5 We have forged partnerships with
6 Philadelphia business, industry, government,
7 higher education, public and parochial schools,
8 and nonprofit organizations to develop educational
9 programs and services to address the educational
10 and economic needs of Philadelphia. Together we
11 are working to prepare, train, and educate
12 students, employees, leaders, and contributing
13 citizens for our City.

14 Having said all of that, I think the
15 biggest impact that we make in Philadelphia is in
16 the lives of our individual students. And to
17 conclude, I'd like to briefly city three examples.

18 First, three of our most recent
19 graduates are sisters Alejandra, Alexandra, and
20 AnnaMaria Cintron (ph). The first members of
21 their family to earn college degree, they are now
22 taking typical Community College of Philadelphia
23 paths. Alejandra and Alexandra, both graduates of
24 diagnostic medical imaging program are now
25 licensed radiologic technicians. AnnaMaria is

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2 pursuing a baccalaureate degree in business
3 administration at Temple University. They
4 exemplify the diligence, persistence and
5 achievement of our students.

6 A second example, Renee Dapney (ph) is
7 a single participant in the Mellon Minority
8 undergraduate fellow program in english at Cornell
9 University. She is a graduate of our education
10 program and she was also a member of our Phi Beta
11 Kappaa Honor Society. With the encouragement of
12 her curriculum coordinator, she transferred to
13 Cornell is currently one of five minority
14 undergraduate fellows who work closely with
15 faculty mentors. She, like her four undergraduate
16 peers is now highly sought after by graduate
17 programs across the country.

18 Eileen McCabe (ph), a mother of six is
19 yet another example of how our college helps
20 residents of this city achieve their potential and
21 their goals. When two of her older children
22 enrolled at Community College of Philadelphia, she
23 enrolled with them. In between exams, reading
24 assignments, and studying, she found time to serve
25 in student government, to volunteer as a student

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2 ambassador, and sew quilts for student
3 fund-raisers. These experience raised her
4 confidence and helped her to realize the academic
5 success that her professors knew was possible.
6 Eileen graduated with highest honors and \$7,000 in
7 scholarships at Beaver College where she's now
8 enrolled as an education major. Eileen frequently
9 speaks at college career fairs and counsels other
10 mothers who dream of launching careers later in
11 life.

12 It is our students who matter most of
13 all. And what we have been able to accomplish on
14 behalf of our students has occurred within
15 restraints of an increasingly restricted budget
16 and with the reallocation of current resources
17 rather than extensive new revenues being the
18 primary source of funding. These accomplishments
19 have occurred because we manage ours in highly
20 cost-effective manner, we pursue strategies to
21 make productive and efficient use of available
22 resources, and we actively seek new revenues. We
23 have tightened our belts, secured supplemental
24 grant funds, and advocated in Harrisburg for
25 additional resources as well. We now need to

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2 ensure that this city college is positioned to
3 continue to respond efficiently and effectively to
4 the needs of business, industry, government, and
5 its citizens for high-quality affordable
6 educational opportunities. To do this requires
7 the resources of the proposed budget.

8 And finally, as an overview for the
9 context of the budget, that proposed support
10 represents approximately half of the projected
11 increase in our Fiscal Year 2001 budget. With our
12 sister colleges across the State, we have
13 requested the remaining increase in funds from the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For your
15 information, the Governor's proposed budget
16 recently released recommends an increase in the
17 State allocation, but not at our requested level,
18 and therefore, not sufficiently large enough to
19 probably avoid a tuition increase of some kind for
20 next year. While raising tuition appears
21 necessary, it's an action which will only be taken
22 by the college as a last resort. We are committed
23 to working toward public financing that will keep
24 tuition affordable and higher education
25 accessible.

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2 Community College of Philadelphia has
3 superb programs in business, science, engineering
4 and technology, health care, social and human
5 services, liberal arts, liberal studies, arts and
6 communications. We have experience an expertise
7 in workforce development and training. We have
8 talented faculty, dedicated employees, a visionary
9 board of trustees, and the collective talent to
10 ensure success.

11 I appreciate your remarks about those
12 that have preceded me. I certainly intend to do
13 everything I can to keep this college on track and
14 making the same kinds of contributions to the City
15 that it has in the past. We appreciate your
16 continued support, and I look forward to working
17 together with the Council so that we are even a
18 more vital contributor to the City of
19 Philadelphia. Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Dr.
21 Curtis.

22 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good afternoon.

24 Welcome.

25 MR. CURTIS: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let me first start
3 by saying that I fully support the proposed
4 increase in the city college subsidy. And it goes
5 without saying given the, I would say, miraculous
6 outreach that you do throughout our City is
7 certainly deserving.

8 On Page 4 of your testimony, 5th
9 paragraph, you speak to a number of -- in this
10 instance you speak to the involvement of 11th and
11 12th graders, and I put a question in the column,
12 what are you doing by the way of early
13 intervention because we know to the extent that
14 you touch young people during those middle school
15 years, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, they are better
16 prepared in terms of the academic requirements on
17 what to do 9th through 12th which get them in
18 shape for two-year and four-year institutions.
19 Could speak in some detail to the early
20 intervention efforts?

21 MR. CURTIS: I'll be happy to. What
22 I'm doing right now is going around cluster by
23 cluster meeting with the leadership to talk about,
24 in some cases, programs that we already have
25 underway in a given part of the City and seeing if

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 there's some interest in replicating it; and in
3 other cases, asking what it is that we can do as a
4 partner with a particular school or a cluster that
5 can make the kind of difference that you're
6 describing. I'll give you a couple of examples
7 that relate specifically to the middle school
8 experience.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.

10 MR. CURTIS: We're talking in some
11 cases now about -- in fact, we are putting on a
12 series of career fairs so that we can begin
13 talking about career opportunities down the line
14 and what kind of educational experience it takes
15 to get there.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

17 MR. CURTIS: That has to do, obviously,
18 with the need for math, science, other kinds of
19 things. We're talking about some potential
20 teacher training opportunities in the middle
21 schools, again, focused in some cases on math,
22 science, technology, as the School District has
23 increased its technological capability, there are
24 still training issues. And again, that's
25 something that I think we can be helpful with. By

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 9th grade, approximately, we are now offering the
3 opportunity, so it's probably more on a high
4 school level, but still early, not before 11th or
5 12th grade, the opportunity for us to come in and
6 do assessment in terms of basic skills, the kind
7 of assessment that we do automatically, not for
8 admission to our institution, but for placement
9 purposes so that, again, we can have the
10 discussion with students or the School District
11 can have discussions with students early on about
12 what needs to be done before we get to the end of
13 high school.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Ninth grade.

15 MR. CURTIS: Right.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So you're saying
17 Community College is actually offering that
18 service?

19 MR. CURTIS: We are offering that
20 service, yes. We're at the moment doing it kind
21 of on a school-by-school basis, but as I make my
22 way through the clusters, we're talking about all
23 those. And we're trying to adapt. We're assuming
24 one size may not fit all. But those are the kind
25 of things that we are discussing and in some cases

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 now implementing.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And that
4 ultimately make difference with regards to the
5 number of young people that go on to two- and
6 four-year institutions.

7 MR. CURTIS: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Because they've
9 been adequately alerted early on what the
10 requirements are.

11 MR. CURTIS: Right.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You mention in
13 your response the word "partnership" and you
14 discuss partnerships at length throughout your
15 testimony, particularly on Page 4. And you've
16 spoken to the recruitment process whereby you are
17 serving as an ambassador and going around to the
18 clusters. The qualifications for enrollment, what
19 is that? Is there any need to have any since the
20 outreach is to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders, and
21 the programs currently in place at optimum level,
22 meaning, is there a need to fill any gaps in terms
23 of participation of young people?

24 MR. CURTIS: Okay. For the examples
25 given on Page 4, the dual enrollment program, for

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 example, yes, there are criteria. It generally is
3 based on a writing sample and that kind of thing.
4 We're not looking to put a student in a college
5 credit situation, because that's what that offers.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

7 MR. CURTIS: If student isn't
8 sufficiently prepared. That would not lead us to
9 a positive kind of outcome, so for that, yes.

10 For other things that we're doing the
11 answer is no. Again, some of those are still
12 preliminary discussions. I don't want to mislead
13 you. We're setting some of those things up now,
14 but some of those will be much more generic for
15 participation, for participation in the career
16 exploration activities, for example. There's a
17 career fair coming up at the end of March that
18 we're doing with a couple of middle schools and
19 that's wide open, so there's no criteria in that
20 case. But for enrolling in a college-level
21 course, there will be some criteria, yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: A couple of more
23 questions. The career fairs happen because
24 Community College of Philadelphia sees a need and
25 is responding to need and the partner on the other

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 end, the principal or the cluster leader
3 philosophically is where you're at, is that how
4 that happens?

5 MR. CURTIS: Yes. The first one that's
6 coming up, we were actually approached and ask if
7 we would do it, and we said yes. We're taking
8 that as a model, as said earlier, and now asking
9 would others like to replicate that model.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes, because that
11 would be the optimum circumstance, to see that go
12 system-wide.

13 One question on funding. On Page 6 of
14 your testimony, third paragraph, you speak to a
15 new funding formula for the State's contribution
16 and mention a number of entities that are needed
17 to move towards that end. And this is redundant,
18 but I'll say it for the record anyhow. There are
19 always -- and I'm sure members of your team know
20 that the members of the Philadelphia delegation
21 who believe as you do who are advocates for
22 Community College efforts and need to know early
23 on what your efforts or what your strategies are
24 to see what role they can play in making it real.
25 So I share that with you because they're not

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 mentioned in this paragraph. And they, I believe,
3 since they are at the State and living and
4 breathing that three days a week, need to know
5 what you're trying to do in their world.

6 MR. CURTIS: Right. I appreciate that.
7 The reason there aren't some specific there
8 because as a community college sector I don't
9 think we've come to closure yet on what we think
10 an appropriate funding formula would be. This is
11 an attempt to let you know that that's definitely
12 a discussion that's underway, but I don't think we
13 have the specific answer yet so we're not out
14 there advocating a specific formula until
15 collectively we've agreed on what that should be.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And finally, the
17 middle schools you mention, tongue-in-cheek
18 question, might they be in West Philly? I'm just
19 curious.

20 MR. CURTIS: I've been to meet with
21 Janice and we have talked specifically about
22 middle schools there. We have not set that one up
23 yet, but that discussion going on, yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

25 MR. CURTIS: Yes, ma'am.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,

3 Councilwoman.

4 Councilman Goode.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam

6 Chair.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Certainly.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Congratulations to
9 Mr. Curtis and good afternoon to you and members
10 of the board and members of your administration.
11 My question is really related to workforce
12 development and job training activity. I've
13 noticed Page 7 of your testimony a grant from
14 Department of Community and Economic Development
15 for customized job training. Can you tell me what
16 the level of that grant was and what type of
17 activity you were involved in?

18 MR. CURTIS: I'm not sure which
19 specific one that refers to, but the customized
20 job training is done in cooperation with
21 Department of Community and Economic Development.
22 We have about three active ones right now, I
23 think, and we have probably a couple more in the
24 preliminary stages. The active ones, I think, are
25 Jefferson, Smurfit, Freeman and SPD Technologies.

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2 And then there are others in the works.

3 Generally, a Philadelphia company that's
4 interested, we can refer or they can go to the
5 Department of Community and Economic Development
6 and then be referred back to us and then we set up
7 the contract and work out the training with them.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So companies have
9 approached you regarding customized training?

10 MR. CURTIS: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Have you also
12 approached companies?

13 MR. CURTIS: We are doing that as well,
14 yes.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Let me ask you more
16 general questions leading toward really what I
17 want to see as an increasing role for community
18 colleges of in-job training from the community
19 college system. I know a lot of other cities are
20 utilizing community colleges a lot more for job
21 training. What do you think the role of community
22 colleges are in workforce development?

23 MR. CURTIS: Our particular goal is to
24 expand that, if not exponentially, certainly
25 greatly. In other states with that exists to a

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2 greater extent, it's often because by public
3 policy community colleges are the places where the
4 state typically directs that kind of effort. In
5 this state, it's not a matter of public policy so
6 much.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It's not a matter of
8 public policy or not on the state level?

9 MR. CURTIS: I think it's not a matter
10 of public policy. In a number of states,
11 community colleges are "the" training entity.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay.

13 MR. CURTIS: It's built into the
14 system. That's not the case here. It takes what
15 just described a moment ago, a company must go and
16 ask and maybe directed to us. So I think we have
17 to be much more aggressive.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess my response
19 was, was it not just a matter of state policy but
20 also not a matter of local public policy?

21 MR. CURTIS: Yes, absolutely, yes. I'm
22 sorry. Absolutely, right.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What is the
24 approximate cost of an associate degree?

25 MR. CURTIS: Is to the student?

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yes.

3 MR. CURTIS: A full-time student I
4 think spends about \$2,000 a year.

5 Is that correct?

6 So for a two-year degree if it were
7 full-time, it would be about \$4,000.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Related to some of
9 your workforce development that you're doing, you
10 have done, my understanding, specialize in
11 associate degrees because those people are being
12 trained in areas they needed to be trained.

13 MR. CURTIS: Yes. And then some of it
14 is non-credit training, too, not necessarily
15 toward a degree.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What would you
17 foresee in terms of developing specialized
18 programs so that people would be encouraged, not
19 only just be trained for a job, but to have the
20 associate degree to have other educational
21 training that might lead them toward further
22 advancement.

23 MR. CURTIS: We look at it as a
24 continuum, and the continuum can include a number
25 of things. It can include the non-credit kind of

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 training. We'll call it training for this
3 purpose. It can move to a certificate kind of
4 level. It can then move to an associate degree
5 level and beyond. We try not to see ourselves as
6 the limit here. And in fact, we have, obviously,
7 the kinds of articulation agreements in some cases
8 related to career programs, in other cases
9 obviously in terms of our transfer programs that
10 allow students to move past the associate degree
11 level. So we do look at it as a continuum, and
12 ideally I think a student should be able to enter
13 at a given point on the continuum and in some
14 cases may already come to us with a degree. We
15 have students in our health programs, for example,
16 that may already have a bachelor's degree. So now
17 they're coming back for another kind of training
18 that will result in an associate degree but will
19 get them into the RN field, for example. So we
20 need to be as accessible as possible, I think, in
21 those terms. And what we're trying to do, have
22 already done in many cases, is to create that kind
23 of articulation, whether it's with an institution
24 that a student may move to after he or she leaves
25 us or even within our own institution moving,

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2 let's say, from a strictly training kind of
3 activity into the degree program.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Have you engaged in
5 discussions with this Administration about
6 increasing role of Community College in workforce
7 development?

8 Let me preface that.

9 MR. CURTIS: I'm sorry?

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Let me preface that
11 by saying I know the previous Administration
12 concentrated all the resources under the control
13 of the Mayor's Office and then directed them
14 toward what is now the Philadelphia Workforce
15 Development Corporation and there's a tendency to
16 want to keep under that one very large
17 bureaucracy. Have you yet engaged in conversation
18 with the Administration about why that doesn't
19 necessarily make sense in terms of guiding people
20 along that continuum that you talked about?

21 MR. CURTIS: We're starting some of
22 those. It's still early in the Administration, so
23 a there's a lot of dialog to be had yet. But
24 we're definitely looking at -- well, you've
25 already mentioned the CJT kind of example. We're

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2 looking at welfare to work. We're trying to find
3 a number of instances where we can become even
4 more proactive than we have been. So that, again,
5 the result that we're looking for is to take
6 residents of this City, in some cases put them
7 into jobs, in other cases move them upward in the
8 job market and allow them to achieve their
9 individual goals.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So with two new
11 administrations, we might be able to do it right.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: We hope so.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you very much.

14 MR. CURTIS: Yes, sir.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're quite
18 welcome.

19 Councilman Ortiz.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Congratulations, Mr.
21 President.

22 MR. CURTIS: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The Welfare Reform
24 Act, what type of impact has it had on student
25 enrollment in terms of women and individuals who

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 were on welfare and since this is a work-first
3 state has had -- has that had some impact on
4 people being able to maintain both work and study
5 at the same time?

6 MR. CURTIS: Well, I wasn't here when
7 that went into effect, but I presume based on my
8 own experience elsewhere that it has had some
9 impact. But we're looking for ways to mitigate
10 that. As an example, last semester there was a
11 very creative opportunity made available to us by
12 a local church who gave us a scholarship, created
13 a scholarship fund. But I put "scholarship" in
14 quotes because the scholarship money is
15 specifically to go toward work-study so that
16 students who are receiving public assistance can
17 come to the College and do their work experience
18 on-site at the college so that it makes it easier
19 to have that kind of experience, both the
20 education and the work. So yes, again, I'm not
21 sure I know the numbers. I wasn't here.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'm really
23 interested in seeing if we can get some numbers
24 maybe because I was working with your predecessor.

25 MR. CURTIS: We'll get that for you.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Your predecessor and
3 I were very interested in seeing what, if any, the
4 impact was going to be on the accessibility of
5 Community College because of the Welfare Reform
6 Act.

7 MR. CURTIS: Right.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I know that
9 Community College had built and structured and
10 offered a day care center for students. And I
11 want to know if the population has decreased or
12 increased in the day care center because that
13 could also be a barometer of accessibility of
14 individuals and so on. I know that you may not
15 know.

16 MR. CURTIS: I don't the exact answer,
17 but will be happy to get you the answer.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'm just putting the
19 question so I can get the answer later on.

20 MR. CURTIS: I understand, right.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It's part and parcel
22 of what we're trying to do in terms of changing
23 State policy as it relates to poor people and
24 people that are coming off the welfare rolls,
25 really misguided, misdirected policy from the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 governor an so on.

3 If you're going to raise tuition, have
4 you measured what impact that may have, again, on
5 accessibility to Community College? Because
6 that's why Community College is there.

7 MR. CURTIS: Absolutely.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: To be able to permit
9 everybody who has the desire to go to it.

10 MR. CURTIS: First, let me reiterate
11 the decision has not been fully made yet, that has
12 not gone to our board and they have not approved
13 that. But in terms of our projections, I
14 mentioned that so that you'd understand that
15 between City support and State support, the total
16 amount that we project we need hasn't come through
17 yet.

18 The answer is --

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What is the
20 difference that has not come through, what's the
21 amount?

22 MR. CURTIS: Possibly about \$650,000
23 overall.

24 We had requested an increase in base
25 funding from the State of about an additional \$100

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 per full-time equivalent student, and the
3 Governor's budget includes about \$60, so that
4 difference represented in there.

5 If there were to be a tuition increase,
6 it would a fairly small one, but typically for
7 those students for whom the financial issue is the
8 greatest, that tuition increase would typically be
9 picked up in terms of financial assistance. So I
10 think that would not provide an accessibility
11 barrier.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So \$600,000 around
13 that would prevent the tax increase from going
14 forward (Sic)?

15 MR. CURTIS: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And that's because
17 of the shortfall in State funding?

18 MR. CURTIS: As a community college
19 sector, we have requested an amount from the State
20 that at the moment is not forthcoming, yes.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are we meeting our
22 obligation as a city?

23 MR. CURTIS: The City, at least the
24 Mayor's proposed budget met our request for this
25 coming year, but the City does not meet the

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005
2 overall theoretical model. You know, the
3 theoretical model is one-third of support from the
4 State, one-third from the City, one-third for
5 student tuition. The City's contribution this
6 year is about 25 percent.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I know that you're
8 new and this question I ask individuals that hold
9 your position every year. The level of minority
10 at present at different levels of your
11 administration, Latinos, females, blacks, what are
12 the numbers at the current level that we have at
13 Community College in terms of that.

14 MR. CURTIS: I don't have the number
15 with me. I can't answer that numerically. I
16 think there has been a strong commitment at the
17 college to make all levels, faculty, staff,
18 administration, as diverse as possible. It's a
19 commitment that I've had everywhere that I've
20 worked and continue to have. So we are moving
21 forward in the various normal searches that we
22 would have. That is part of our commitment.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That also goes for
24 faculty?

25 MR. CURTIS: Yes. That commitment is

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2 there. Particularly in recent years, I'd say the
3 last three or four years, we have seen the
4 percentage, for example, of faculty hirings
5 person's of color increase. Again, if you want
6 numbers I'd be happy to get them.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Please do that.

8 MR. CURTIS: I can't cite those to you
9 off my head.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Please do that.

11 MR. CURTIS: Sure.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you and
13 welcome to the City, it's a great city.

14 MR. CURTIS: Thank you very much.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
16 much.

17 Are there any other questions from
18 members of the committee?

19 (No further questions.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. CURTIS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Clerk of
24 Quarter Sessions Court.

25 (Clerk of Quarter Sessions Court

1 2/22/00, Operating Budget, Bill 000005

2 witnesses come forward.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
4 much. Thanks for your patience. Thank you very
5 much.

6 MS. MILLER: Good afternoon, Madam
7 Chair and Members of Council. My name is Vivian
8 Miller. You have my budget before you and in the
9 interest of time I would like to just summarize it
10 for you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Please.

12 MS. MILLER: It is with a sense of
13 excitement and hope for a bright and progressive
14 future for our City that I appear before this
15 distinguished body requesting your approval of my
16 Fiscal Year 2001 budget in the amount of
17 \$4,313,424. Once again, our budget does not meet
18 the desired goals and visions for the Clerk of
19 Quarter Sessions. However, I anticipate working
20 with the new Administration in moving our
21 department into the 21st century.

22 Also, let me conclude by extending my
23 best wishes to each of you for a rewarding and
24 successful future as a member of this elite body.
25 Thank you.

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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 Tuesday, February 22, 2000, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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BILL NO. 000005

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_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter