

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
10:10 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

BILL 130906 - An ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014 from the Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of Finance - Provision for Other Grants to the General Fund, the District Attorney.

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COUNCILMAN GOODE: Good

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morning. This hearing is called to

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order. This is a public hearing of the

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Appropriations Committee on Bill No.

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130906. My name is W. Wilson Goode, Jr.,

7

Chair of this committee.

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I note that a quorum is

9

present. To my left is Majority Leader

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Curtis Jones, Jr. To his left is

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Councilman Bill Greenlee, who is

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appointed to this committee by the

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President for today, and to my right is

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Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell.

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The title of the Bill No.

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130906, authorizing transfers in

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appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014 from

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the Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of

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Finance - Provision for Other Grants to

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the General Fund, the District Attorney.

21

The first witness is Rebecca

22

Rhynhart.

23

(Witness approached witness

24

table.)

25

MS. RHYNHART: Good morning --

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Good

3 morning.

4 MS. RHYNHART: -- Chairman

5 Goode, members of City Council

6 Appropriations Committee. I'm Rebecca

7 Rhynhart. I'm the Budget Director of the

8 City. I'm here to testify on Bill No.

9 130906.

10 This bill would transfer

11 appropriations for Fiscal Year '14 from

12 the Grants Revenue Fund to the General

13 Fund to provide 450,000 in additional

14 funding for the District Attorney's

15 Office. The Administration supports this

16 bill, and this concludes my testimony. I

17 am happy to answer any questions you

18 have.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Any

20 questions for this witness?

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

22 Very quickly. Two things.

23 One, for the record, we are temporarily

24 appointing Bill Greenlee on this

25 committee to serve so that we have a

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906
2 quorum. And then number two, can you
3 describe some of the programs for the
4 record that this money will be used for.

5 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. And I
6 think I might call the DA's Office up to
7 go through some of the programs. The
8 money in Fiscal '14 will go half to Class
9 100 and then half to Class 200. But I
10 would ask the DA's Office to come up to
11 talk about the programs in more detail.

12 (Witness approached witness
13 table.)

14 MS. ROONEY: Good morning.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
16 morning.

17 MS. ROONEY: My name is Dorean
18 Rooney, the Chief Financial Officer of
19 the District Attorney's Office.

20 Would you like me to read the
21 testimony and then answer questions?

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: No. Our
23 Chairman doesn't -- what I really want is
24 because I had an opportunity to hear some
25 of the advancements that you are using by

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906
2 way of technology, and I thought it was
3 worth the Committee hearing that briefly.

4 MS. ROONEY: Half of the money
5 is going to Class 200, which is the
6 technology money. We are in the process
7 of rolling out the e-discovery project,
8 which is the electronic transmission of
9 discovery that's used in the courtroom.
10 Rather than printing discovery, redacting
11 it manually by hand, making paper copies,
12 bringing them to the courtroom, we have a
13 process now where this will all be
14 handled electronically. There will be no
15 more printing of the copies. It's
16 redacted on a computer. We have a portal
17 with the courts where we upload the
18 redacted material, and defense attorneys
19 can come in and pull it down themselves.
20 It will save in the long run a tremendous
21 amount of paper costs, also time. So
22 this is primarily for the consultant
23 that's helping us with this project.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: This was
25 raised, Mr. Chairman, by members,

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906
2 particularly Bill Green, about a
3 paperless government, and six years later
4 we've actually made some progress, which
5 will probably reduce holding time of
6 cases and reduce some of the costs of
7 paper. So we're pleased with that.

8 MS. ROONEY: And in addition,
9 the majority of the funding for this
10 project, this overall project, was grant
11 funded. We sought out grant funding for
12 the majority of this. But we're at the
13 end of the project and we still need to
14 finish up.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.
18 Any more questions for either
19 of these witnesses?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Is there
22 anyone else to testify?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Seeing none,
25 we will move from our public hearing into

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906
2 a public meeting to consider Bill No.
3 130906.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Jones for a motion on the bill.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
8 130906 be moved from this committee with
9 a favorable recommendation, that the
10 rules of Council be suspended to allow
11 this bill to be read at our next session
12 of Council.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: All in
15 favor?

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Those
18 opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Bill No.
21 130906 reported out of this committee
22 with a favorable recommendation and
23 suspension of the rules to allow first
24 reading at the next Council session.

25 This concludes our public

1 1/29/14 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 130906
2 meeting. Thank you very much.

3 (Committee on Appropriations
4 concluded at 10:15 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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