

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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5 Room 400, City Hall
6 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
7 Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 3:10 p.m.

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9 BILL 040470 - An Ordinance amending Chapter
10 19-2500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real
11 Estate Non-Utilization Tax," by clarifying and
12 amending the tax on abandoned property and vacant
13 lots; and by changing certain tax rates; all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 BILL 040775 - An Ordinance amending Chapter
16 21-1100 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
17 "Community Development," by specifying the date by
18 which a final community development plan must be
19 submitted to Council for approval, under certain
20 terms and conditions.

21 BILL 040935 - An Ordinance amending Section
22 10-1001 of The Philadelphia Code relating to Fees
23 of Commissioner of Records, to increase the fees
24 for recording documents, under certain terms and
25 conditions.

26 BILL 041001 - An Ordinance amending Section 19-203
27 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Payroll
28 Deductions," by permitting employees to authorize
29 payroll deductions to purchase long term care and
30 other voluntary insurance benefits through
31 Financial Integrity Resources Management, LLC,
32 under certain terms and conditions.

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34 V A R A L L O Incorporated
35 Litigation Support Services
36 1835 Market Street, Suite 600
37 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
38 215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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2 BILL 041042 - An Ordinance authorizing the
3 Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development
4 ("PAID") to file an application with the Office of
5 the Budget, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under
6 the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program
7 ("RACP"), in an aggregate amount not to exceed One
8 Hundred Thirteen Million Seven Hundred Seventy
9 Thousand Dollars (\$113,770,000) to assist in the
10 development of Children's Hospital of
11 Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Cancer
12 Care Facility, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Girard
13 Avenue Streetscape, El Centro de Oro, Mount Airy
14 USA, Point Breeze Revitalization Project, Beech
15 Corporation - Broadway 1600 North Broad Street and
16 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Calder Museum, One
17 Pennsylvania Place, Please Touch Museum at
18 Memorial Hall, Philadelphia Theater Company,
19 Greater Philadelphia Film Office Soundstage,
20 National Museum of American Jewish History,
21 Independence Mall, Schuylkill Riverfront, the
22 Professional Development Center at the University
23 of Pennsylvania, the Heritage Tourism Experience
24 Facility, and the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center;
25 and authorizing the City to enter into an
agreement with PAID in furtherance of grant
requirements; all under certain terms and
conditions.

16
17 PRESENT:

18 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL, Chair
19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
20 COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
21 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
22 COUNCILMAN FRANK DI CICCIO
23 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
24 COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
25 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN JUAN F. RAMOS
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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

4 - - -

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
6 afternoon. Thank you for your patience. The
7 Committee on Finance is now being called to
8 order.

9 We have President Verna, Councilman
10 DiCicco, who's a member of the Committee; to
11 my right, Councilman Goode; and to my right,
12 Councilman Ramos, and also Vice Chair
13 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown.

14 We thank you all for coming today,
15 and we thank you for your patience.

16 Albeit we promised Commissioner
17 Decker, if it's okay, we'll try to deal with
18 the Redevelopment Assistance application,
19 since there are so many folks here in regard
20 to that Committee.

21 Thank you all. We do have a quorum.

22 There were five bills scheduled for
23 today.

24 Bill Number 040470 is being held at
25 the request of the sponsor, Councilman

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2 Clarke.

3 What will be heard today is Bill
4 Number 040935, and an administration Bill
5 which increases recording fees with the
6 Records Department; Bill Number 041001,
7 sponsored by Councilman Ramos. It adds a new
8 payroll deduction for City employees; Bill
9 Number 040775, sponsored by Councilman
10 Nutter, that places requirements on the
11 submission of the Office of Housing and
12 Community Development's Community Development
13 Block Grant application; and last but not
14 least will be Bill Number 041042, the
15 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

16 Because there are so many of you
17 here with regard to that Bill, we will ask
18 the clerk to read the title of the Bill and
19 proceed with testimony from with Bob Fina,
20 Senior Vice President of PIDC.

21 THE CLERK: Bill Number 041042, an
22 Ordinance authorizing the Philadelphia
23 Authority for Industrial Development ("PAID")
24 to file an application with the Office of the
25 Budget, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under

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2 the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program
3 ("RACP"), in an aggregate amount not to
4 exceed One Hundred Thirteen Million Seven
5 Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars
6 (\$113,770,000) to assist in the development
7 of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia,
8 University of Pennsylvania Cancer Care
9 Facility, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Girard
10 Avenue Streetscape, El Centro de Oro, Mount
11 Airy USA, Point Breeze Revitalization
12 Project, Beech Corporation - Broadway 1600
13 North Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue,
14 Calder Museum, One Pennsylvania Place, Please
15 Touch Museum at Memorial Hall, Philadelphia
16 Theater Company, Greater Philadelphia Film
17 Office Soundstage, National Museum of
18 American Jewish History, Independence Mall,
19 Schuylkill Riverfront, the Professional
20 Development Center at the University of
21 Pennsylvania, the Heritage Tourism Experience
22 Facility, and the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis
23 Center; and authorizing the City to enter
24 into an agreement with PAID in furtherance of
25 grant requirements; all under certain terms

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2 and conditions.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
4 very much.

5 If there are no opening statements
6 from members of the Committee, we will ask
7 Bob Fina, Senior Vice President of PIDC, to
8 introduce himself for the record and begin
9 his testimony.

10 MR. FINA: Good afternoon, Council
11 Chair Blackwell and President Verna, members
12 of the Finance Committee.

13 My name is Robert Fina. I am Senior
14 Vice President of the Philadelphia Industrial
15 Development Corporation, PIDC, and I am
16 appearing on behalf of the Philadelphia
17 Authority for Industrial Development, PAID.

18 I am here specifically today to
19 testify in support of Bill Number 041042,
20 authorizing PAID to apply for redevelopment
21 assistance grants from the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania in the aggregate amount of
23 \$113,770,000 for 19 redevelopment assistance
24 projects. The funds will assist development
25 of almost every area of the City and

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2 positively affect every Philadelphian.
3 Bill Number 041042 authorizes PAID
4 to enter into agreements with grant
5 recipients to apply for state funding; two,
6 enter into grant agreements with the
7 Commonwealth's Office of the Budget, for the
8 purposes of administering the program,
9 designate the City and/or the grant
10 recipients to fulfill the program
11 requirements of providing the full match for
12 each projects; four, designate the City
13 and/or the grant recipients to reimburse the
14 Commonwealth for its share of any
15 expenditures found to be ineligible by the
16 Office of the Budget; and five, obligate the
17 City and/or the grant recipients to complete
18 the projects within a time frame mutually
19 agreed upon by the Office of the Budget and
20 PAID.

21 Exhibit A of both my testimony and
22 the Bill provides project descriptions for
23 each of the 19 projects seeking funding from
24 the Commonwealth. Therefore, I will not
25 include these descriptions in my testimony.

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2 However, I will briefly identify
3 each project, its location, and the amount of
4 grant funding sought. Then I will explain
5 how PAID engages in the application process
6 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7 The projects are: Children's
8 Hospital of Philadelphia in West Philadelphia
9 for \$10 million.

10 University of Pennsylvania in West
11 Philadelphia for \$10 million.

12 Fox Chase Cancer Center in Northeast
13 Philadelphia for \$10 million.

14 Girard Avenue Streetscape in North
15 Philadelphia for \$1,100,000.

16 El Centro de Oro in North
17 Philadelphia for \$500,000.

18 Mount Airy USA in Northwest
19 Philadelphia for \$1 million.

20 Point Breeze Diversified Community
21 Services in South Philadelphia for \$800,000.

22 Calder Museum on the Ben Franklin
23 Parkway in Center City, Philadelphia for \$15
24 million.

25 One Pennsylvania Place in Center

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2 City for \$30 million.
3 Heritage Tourism Experience Facility
4 near Independence Mall in Center City for \$5
5 million.
6 Philadelphia Theater Company in
7 Center City, Philadelphia, for \$5 million.
8 National Museum of American Jewish
9 History in Center City for \$5 million.
10 Independence Mall in Center City,
11 Philadelphia, for \$6 million.
12 Schuylkill Riverfront in Center
13 City, Philadelphia, on the east bank of the
14 Schuylkill River for \$2,620,000.
15 University of Pennsylvania
16 Professional Development Center in West
17 Philadelphia for \$2 million.
18 Greater Philadelphia Film Office
19 Soundstage at the Navy Yard in South
20 Philadelphia for \$750,000.
21 Please Touch Museum, Memorial Hall,
22 in West Philadelphia for \$5 million.
23 Beech Corporation, 1600 North Broad
24 Street in North Philadelphia, for \$2 million.
25 And finally, Arthur Ashe Youth

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2 Tennis Center in Northwest Philadelphia for
3 \$2 million.

4 To apply for a redevelopment
5 assistance grant... To apply for a grant,
6 three principal actions must occur.

7 First, the Commonwealth's
8 legislature must name the project and the
9 amount of funding in an approved state
10 capital budget.

11 Second, the Commonwealth's Office of
12 the Budget or the Governor's Office must
13 authorize PAID to submit an application to
14 the Office of the Budget on behalf of the
15 approved project.

16 And third, City Council must approve
17 an ordinance, such as Bill Number 041042,
18 presently under consideration.

19 In addition to these three primary
20 requirements, the grant recipient must
21 provide documentation that the state funds
22 are matched dollar for dollar with
23 non-Commonwealth funding.

24 When PAID submits a project's
25 redevelopment assistance grant application to

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2 the Budget Office, the grant recipient must
3 demonstrate that at least 50 percent of the
4 matching funds, the non-Commonwealth funding
5 is secured at that time.

6 The Office of the Budget reviews the
7 application materials extensively with a team
8 of consultants and PIDC.

9 Based upon this review, the Office
10 of the Budget drafts and executes the
11 project's grant agreement, that includes
12 specific conditions the grant recipient must
13 satisfy before receiving the funds.

14 The Commonwealth only funds those
15 projects with approved applications, executed
16 grant agreements, and with all conditions
17 achieved, and those projects in compliance
18 with all program requirements.

19 The redevelopment assistance program
20 operates on a reimbursement basis for
21 eligible project expenses, such as
22 construction or acquisition cost.

23 Throughout the process PAID acts as
24 the applicant grantee, and the grant
25 recipient is referred to as the sub-applicant

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2 sub-grantee.

3 Similar to PIDC's other financing
4 programs, PIDC and PAID act as a conduit.
5 That is, when the Commonwealth releases the
6 grant funds, it is by a check made out to
7 PAID and we, in turn, disburse to the
8 designated grant recipients.

9 The disbursement process is closely
10 monitored by project auditors in the
11 Commonwealth's Budget Office and by my
12 colleagues at PIDC. No funds are disbursed
13 unless the projects have documented their
14 compliance with all program requirements.

15 I request the Finance Committee
16 favorably consider Bill Number 041042, and
17 that the rules of Council be suspended to
18 permit the first reading at the next
19 regularly scheduled session of City Council.

20 I thank you for your consideration.
21 Should you have any questions, I would be
22 pleased to answer them to the best of my
23 ability.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
25 very much. The chair also notes that

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2 Councilman Kenney and Councilman Nutter are
3 also in the room, and are here for the
4 hearing. We thank you.

5 Mr. Fina, with respect to the One
6 Pennsylvania Place project, the Comcast
7 issue, where we're speaking of the \$30
8 million, how is this different from the KOIZ
9 to which my understanding is now defunct in
10 the General Assembly?

11 Am I to assume that this project
12 does not affect our potential real estate or
13 Business Privilege Tax revenues?

14 MR. FINA: The state \$30 million
15 grant does not affect local taxes at all.

16 The KOIZ passed by City Council and
17 not passed by the state legislature would
18 have substantially affected local taxes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
20 very much.

21 Do I have questions?

22 Councilman Goode.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair.

25 Mr. Fina, your testimony... I know

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2 it's generally the case with redevelopment
3 assistance money, it has to be matched with
4 non-Commonwealth funding.

5 As part of the application that PAID
6 intends to submit, are there going to be
7 local commitments, financial commitments,
8 made by the City, PAID or PIDC? And if so,
9 in which projects?

10 MR. FINA: Councilman, I do not have
11 any specific knowledge of all the projects
12 right now.

13 We just received recently the letter
14 authorizing these projects. So now we're
15 going through a meeting with each of the
16 project recipients to discuss with them what
17 their needs are. So, I won't be able to
18 answer that today.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: All right. Do
20 you know of any commitments that we're making
21 financially as a result of approving this
22 legislation?

23 MR. FINA: I'm not aware of any,
24 Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. Other

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2 question is, PAID is the applicant on behalf
3 of the City. Does PAID actually require a
4 fee for their service?

5 MR. FINA: Yes, we do.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And what is that
7 fee?

8 MR. FINA: That fee is one percent
9 of the grant amount, up to a certain cap
10 figure.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So that's roughly
12 \$1 million; is that correct?

13 MR. FINA: Well, no. We would
14 only -- We cap at about \$150,000, Councilman.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. Thank you.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
18 very much.

19 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds
20 Brown.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That is
22 \$150,000 per project.

23 MR. FINA: Well, we charge one
24 percent of the grant amount.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Grant amount.

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2 MR. FINA: Up to \$150,000.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. FINA: You're welcome.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman
7 DiCicco.

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
9 Madam Chair.

10 Good afternoon, Mr. Fina. Mr. Fina,
11 the list of the entities that are going to
12 receive this grant funding, where does that
13 generate? Who generates that list?

14 MR. FINA: Councilman, that begins
15 with the state legislature, not PIDC, not the
16 City, putting various projects and the amount
17 of the project in the state capital budget
18 that gets approved by both the House and the
19 Senate.

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Where does the
21 state get that list? Is that generated by
22 the City, by the administration?

23 MR. FINA: That could be
24 generated -- It's generated by a number of
25 sources.

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2 The non-profits sometimes go to the
3 state legislature. Local elected officials
4 could communicate with the state legislature,
5 a business could communicate with the state
6 legislature.

7 The City administration has at times
8 communicated with various state legislators
9 to put the projects in the state capital
10 budget, but it has to go through the House
11 and Senate to be approved in that capital
12 budget first.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: The reason I
14 asked the question, for some time I have been
15 working with an organization in my
16 Councilmanic District, the South Street
17 Corridor, on a major streetlighting
18 improvement program, part of the streetscape
19 improvement.

20 And there was some concern because
21 we were under the impression that the
22 application had been sent to the state, and
23 the city administration is claiming that they
24 sent it up. The state is saying they never
25 received it.

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2 So, I'm still trying to find out
3 where -- you know, who is more accurate for
4 an easier way of asking the question, as to
5 why the South Street lighting project was not
6 included in this application process.

7 MR. FINA: Again --

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Are you
9 familiar with that?

10 MR. FINA: I'm not aware that that
11 was or was not included in the state
12 legislation.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: My
14 administrative assistant is telling me it was
15 included in the state legislative process,
16 but the Governor didn't approve it.

17 MR. FINA: Yeah. The governor must
18 then authorize PAID to submit an application
19 to the Office of the Budget.

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Does the
21 administration, the City administration,
22 submit a list, on projects that they would
23 like to see approved?

24 MR. FINA: The administration was
25 invited to submit that list to the Governor's

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2 Office.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Do you know if
4 a list was ever submitted?

5 MR. FINA: I know PIDC had input
6 into generating a list, Councilman. I don't
7 know if a list was ever submitted to the
8 Governor.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: The
10 administration's list.

11 MR. FINA: Yes. Correct.

12 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Do you know who
13 would have that answer, other than someone in
14 the administration? Because I'm not getting
15 an accurate --

16 MR. FINA: I would assume someone
17 from the Governor's Office.

18 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you. No
19 further questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
21 very much.

22 Are there further questions?

23 Councilman Ramos.

24 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you, Madam
25 Chair.

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2 You know, sometimes we get lost or
3 at least I get lost in what goes on around
4 here, given that I'm a new member of this
5 Council.

6 And it could have been very easy for
7 me to get stuck with this whole issue about
8 Comcast and the allocation of funds from the
9 state government.

10 But reading this list of funding
11 that was provided by the state government, I
12 think it's very impressive that this state
13 government did not forget about Philadelphia.

14 It covered just about every
15 neighborhood in the City. Included payments
16 up in an area of Spanish speaking
17 Philadelphia up on 5th Street that have been
18 trying to get their sidewalks taken care of,
19 a business district that brings revenue to
20 this City, and up in West Philadelphia, and
21 all over Girard Avenue, the renaissance of
22 Girard Avenue. It goes on and on.

23 And I just want to take this
24 opportunity to commend the Governor, the
25 State House and the Senate for continuing to

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2 remember how important Philadelphia is to the
3 vitality of this great State of Pennsylvania.
4 And the One Pennsylvania Place in
5 Center City is a part of this picture, as
6 well. And I think all of it is very
7 significant to the people and to the economic
8 growth, the job growth of this City.
9 Thank you, madam chair.
10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
11 very much.
12 Councilman Kenney.
13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair.
15 I'd also like to echo Councilman
16 Ramos's comments, first of all, to thank the
17 Governor and the legislature for their
18 efforts in helping our City move forward with
19 very important projects.
20 And you can see a number of the
21 projects on this list are not only
22 neighborhood projects but they're arts and
23 culture projects, they're projects that
24 foster tourism and hospitality. I mean, it's
25 a wonderful package of stuff.

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2 And I really commend you and your
3 people for working with the Governor's Office
4 in getting this done.

5 I'd also like to make comment about
6 the Comcast issue because I know this is part
7 and parcel of what was going on. I am very
8 proud that Comcast is headquartered here in
9 Philadelphia.

10 I am extremely proud that they've
11 chosen Philadelphia, from a company that's
12 gone from a man selling perfume and ties out
13 of a suitcase to a multinational company that
14 provides computer access and broadband and
15 cable, and doesn't have to be here in the
16 City.

17 They can be selling us cable and
18 broadband from Phoenix, Arizona if they
19 desired, if they wanted to. But they decide
20 and they want to be here.

21 So, anything that the state can do
22 or the City can do to help that project
23 happen, to keep them cemented here, I think
24 is terrific.

25 And finally, in order to be a great

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2 City, you need a lot of things. You need a
3 good school system, you need a good tax
4 structure.

5 But if you've ever been to Chicago,
6 Chicago is a great impressive City because it
7 has nice, big important buildings within the
8 City. And Chicago to me is impressive
9 because the buildings there say something
10 about that City.

11 And when you see buildings like Cira
12 going up, when you see buildings like Liberty
13 One, Liberty Two, and what might happen at
14 this Liberty Property Trust project here in
15 Center City, that's one of the parts of
16 making a great City, is great impressive
17 buildings.

18 And I want to build this building,
19 and I hope that this \$30 million helps that
20 happen, because not only will we get the
21 construction jobs, we will get more
22 importantly another stamp of a great City in
23 this country by having another important
24 building that makes a statement.

25 And I just want to thank you for all

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2 the work you've done. I want to thank the
3 Governor and the legislature for all the work
4 they've done. And I just think this is a
5 terrific thing. We should be able to just
6 roll this through and be happy voting for it.
7 Thanks.
8 MR. FINA: Thank you, Councilman.
9 (Applause and cheers.)
10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Councilman.
12 The Chair likewise notes that
13 Councilman Rizzo is here. I did not mention
14 him earlier.
15 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.
16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.
18 Do you know if the grants as
19 presented, as written, as submitted to the
20 Governor, allow for or provide for MBE/WBE
21 opportunity of any kind?
22 MR. FINA: They certainly allow for
23 it, but it is not a requirement of the state
24 program.
25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

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2 MR. FINA: You're welcome.

3 And Councilman Kenney, thank you for
4 the kind words for PIDC.

5 And Councilman Ramos, I do agree
6 with you. This is a very impressive list of
7 projects being funded by the state in
8 Philadelphia.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
10 very much.

11 Are there further questions for Mr.
12 Fina?

13 Councilman Nutter.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
15 Chair. I'll be brief.

16 Mr. Fina, just a couple background
17 questions. All of these projects, the
18 dollars of which appears to be \$113 million,
19 these are all for capital project purposes;
20 is that correct?

21 MR. FINA: That is correct.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the list,
23 regardless of which list we're talking about,
24 but at the moment we have the list in front
25 of us. This list was ultimately put together

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2 with input from a variety of people, but
3 signed off on and designated by Governor
4 Rendell; is that correct?

5 MR. FINA: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And so,
7 if you're on this list, the dollars are
8 allocated and they are project specific; is
9 that right?

10 MR. FINA: Yes, they are.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And these
12 dollars, since they are for capital purposes,
13 can they be used for any other purpose?

14 MR. FINA: No. They'd have to be
15 used for capital purposes. And that is
16 basically hard construction cost, acquisition
17 cost, interest during construction,
18 construction interest.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And so, in an
20 environment where, you know, dollars are
21 scarce for a variety of other well-suited or
22 well-needed purposes, in this particular
23 case, since these are only capital dollars
24 and cannot be utilized for operating
25 expenses, for instance, for other entities,

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2 whether they're governmental or otherwise,
3 there is only one purpose for these dollars;
4 is that correct?

5 MR. FINA: that is correct.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And all these
7 projects represent, in essence, some amount
8 of either construction, renovation,
9 rehabilitation, streetscape work. They all
10 involve some amount of construction or
11 construction related activities; is that
12 right?

13 MR. FINA: Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And all these
15 projects will also require people to work on
16 them; is that right?

17 MR. FINA: Yes, they will.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And so, out of
19 this program, \$113,770,000 which, as I look
20 through the list, almost every one of these
21 grants is relatively small, in comparison,
22 for most of these projects, to the total cost
23 of the project.

24 Some, because the projects are
25 small, might represent close to half, but in

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2 many instances it could be as little as five
3 or ten percent which those projects then have
4 to go out and get other dollars for.

5 These funds are helping those
6 projects along, but all of them will help
7 improve the employment situation here in
8 Philadelphia. Is that a fair statement?

9 MR. FINA: I think that's a fair
10 statement, Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Thank you
12 for your testimony.

13 I echo other comments of a couple of
14 my colleagues. And I think we should all
15 look forward to some construction activity
16 and fuller employment here in Philadelphia as
17 a result of this. Thank you.

18 MR. FINA: Thank you, Councilman
19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
21 Councilman Nutter.

22 The Chair notes that Councilman
23 Brian O'Neill, a member of this Committee, is
24 also present.

25 Is there anyone else who would like

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2 to make a statement or ask a question? Is
3 there anyone else who would like to testify?

4 MS. ROBINSON: I would.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Come
6 forward.

7 Is there anyone else while Miss
8 Robinson comes forward. Thank you.

9 Please come forward, identify
10 yourself for the record and make your
11 testimony.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Good day, all. My
13 name is Judith Robinson. And I, too, would
14 like to commend PAID regarding all of these
15 developments. And that's a good thing for
16 Philadelphia. I'm really truly happy about
17 everything.

18 But Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds
19 Brown, you asked a question about so-called
20 minority participation.

21 And the answer was, it's not a part
22 of this process.

23 Well, I contend as a homeowner of
24 North Philadelphia, and one that's very much
25 concerned about neighborhood benefit whenever

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2 these projects are done, I contend that if
3 you get ahead of these contracts and you get
4 ahead of the development, then in fact you do
5 have neighborhood benefit.

6 There are many union guys here
7 today, and I commend them for being here for
8 something they believe in. I really do
9 respect you all.

10 But I just find whenever these
11 developments happen, and a few of them are
12 going to happen in North Philadelphia,
13 unfortunately I don't see folks from my
14 community benefiting.

15 So, I'm asking here today, what kind
16 of process will you put into this process
17 that doesn't have so-called minority
18 participation? What will you all at this
19 level do?

20 Councilman Goode, Councilman Nutter,
21 oftentimes I've been here when you all have
22 asked those questions about inclusion. So
23 that's the question I'm asking here today.

24 And I hope you union guys don't boo
25 me on this, but I just find that guys from my

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2 community just aren't participating in the
3 way that they should.

4 And I would just encourage you all
5 in your union process to open up the doors
6 and be more inclusive, because I think it
7 benefits the whole Philadelphia as all of
8 these programs do, too.

9 And I thank you very much for
10 listening to me today.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Councilman Goode.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair.

17 Miss Robinson...

18 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: ...I appreciate
20 your testimony.

21 I think Mr. Fina testified to the
22 fact that minority participation is not a
23 requirement of the State Redevelopment
24 Assistance Program. And I think that's what
25 he was saying. The state does not require

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2 it.

3 MS. ROBINSON: I'm very clear on
4 that, sir. And I'm asking, what are you all
5 going to do because it's not a state
6 requirement?

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The question I
8 asked of Mr. Fina was whether there was any
9 local financial commitment. If there's any
10 local financial commitment is made or
11 requested, we will deal with it at that
12 level.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
14 very much.

15 Is there anyone else here who would
16 like to testify?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Seeing
19 none, we welcome all of you to stay. We let
20 all of you know who are here for this Bill,
21 that it appears you have unanimous support
22 for the passage of this out of Committee
23 today which means it would be on first
24 reading tomorrow in Council and pass next
25 Thursday.

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2 So we welcome you to stay, but we're
3 finished our testimony. We'll go on to other
4 issues. And again, thank you for being here.
5 (Applause and cheers.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Commissioner Decker. Commissioner
9 Decker.

10 Thank you. We ask, if you would, to
11 move out quietly so we may continue our
12 hearing, if you would, please. Thank you
13 very much.

14 The next Bill to be heard today is
15 Bill Number 041001.

16 Could we please have some quiet as
17 you leave? Thank you very much.

18 Let me correct myself. Bill Number
19 040935 which is about an increase in fees for
20 the Records Department.

21 We have Joan Decker, our Records
22 Commissioner here, and we would ask the clerk
23 to read the title of the Bill.

24 THE CLERK: Bill Number 040935, an
25 Ordinance amending Section 10-1001 of The

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 Philadelphia Code relating to Fees of
3 Commissioner of Records, to increase the fees
4 for recording documents, under certain terms
5 and conditions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
7 very much.

8 We will now call on the Records
9 Commissioner to testify.

10 COMMISSIONER DECKER: Good
11 afternoon, Council Chair Blackwell and
12 members of the Finance Committee.

13 My name is Joan Decker, and I'm here
14 today with David Werbo, who is the Budget
15 Officer for the Department.

16 I'm here today to present testimony
17 for Bill Number 040935, that provides for a
18 \$10 increase in recording fees for deeds.

19 If approved, the recording fee for
20 deeds will change from \$62 to \$72. This
21 increase will be used to provide resources
22 for processing the legal descriptions on
23 deeds that are presented for recording.

24 By law, the Records Department must
25 review legal descriptions for every City

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2 property. When a discrepancy is found, a
3 notice is provided, providing some detail on
4 the nature of the discrepancy, and it is
5 completed and returned to the filer.

6 In addition to our legal mandate,
7 many City agencies rely on the information
8 that we provide to them, particularly the
9 Board of Revision of Taxes. It is from this
10 data that the value of the land component of
11 property is derived.

12 And I just want to say, due to the
13 real estate boom over the past several years,
14 the number of deeds presented for recording
15 increased, contributing to a large backlog of
16 work to be processed. The backlog now
17 consists of approximately 30,000 items and
18 grows daily.

19 Without additional resources, the
20 Department will not be able to clear the
21 backlog, keep it to a manageable size, and
22 the turnaround time to a reasonable duration.

23 The revenue from this increase will
24 provide additional staff needed to process
25 the backlog, as well as prevent its

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2 reoccurrence.

3 Since 1995, the number of deeds
4 recorded increased by close to 60 percent.
5 And even if we were measuring the change just
6 since 1999, the number of deeds recorded
7 increased by close to 30 percent.

8 As the number of deeds increased, so
9 has the number of condominiums. And
10 condominiums contain much more complex legal
11 descriptions, requiring additional work for
12 the Department.

13 In addition to the legal description
14 review, the staff works on many special
15 projects, including research projects and
16 special automation projects, two of which
17 have been completed and one is in progress.

18 This fiscal year, the Department
19 will work on applications that will make
20 parcel mapping information available via the
21 internet, and it will be important for the
22 data to be kept up to date.

23 In summary, the passage of this
24 legislation will enable the Records
25 Department to obtain resources necessary to

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2 maintain current and accurate parcel map
3 information, and to continue to support many
4 research requests.

5 That's pretty much my testimony.
6 Thank you for consideration and support, and
7 I would be happy to answer any questions you
8 may have.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
10 very much, Commissioner.

11 Has your current backlog created a
12 subsequent backlog with the Board of Revision
13 of Taxes and other agencies that use your
14 services?

15 COMMISSIONER DECKER: In the sense
16 that we are not able to provide them accurate
17 and up-to-date information, Councilwoman.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
19 very much.

20 Are there further questions for the
21 Commissioner, with regard to this issue?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is there
24 anyone in the audience or who is visiting us
25 today who would make to make a statement?

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2 Thank you very much.

3 Miss Robinson, come forward.

4 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you again.

5 Judith Robinson.

6 I'm here to testify on Bill Number
7 040935, and I'm here in this regard as a real
8 estate broker.

9 This is a very small thing as it
10 relates to fees that we have to pay when we
11 record deeds and other documents.

12 But with the increase in prices of
13 real estate and the amount of real estate, as
14 the testimony before me stated, there's been
15 a big increase.

16 It's just kind of nickel and dime
17 type of cost, that I'm wondering, like, where
18 exactly... I heard the technical part of
19 where it goes to.

20 But I'm just wondering if this is
21 one of those farther things that just
22 increases the cost of business or is this
23 absolutely needed for the Records Department.

24 I know technology will allow a lot
25 of things to be done faster, more

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 efficiently. So I'm just wondering, is this
3 specifically needed for all of the increase
4 in real estate to be more effective and
5 efficient or is this just another way to kind
6 of bridge that budget gap? That's the
7 question I guess I want to ask.

8 Thank you very much.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
10 Miss Robinson.

11 Do you have a copy of her testimony,
12 the Commissioner's testimony?

13 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That may be
15 helpful, in terms of the backlog and where
16 the money goes?

17 MS. ROBINSON: All right.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
19 very much.

20 Next we will hear the clerk. After
21 the clerk reads the title of Bill Number
22 040001, we will ask Mr. E. Ray Zies, Acting
23 Director of Finance; Lynda Orfanelli,
24 Director of Personnel; and Philip Harris,
25 Financial Integrity Resources Management, to

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 come forward. Thank you.

3 THE CLERK: Bill Number 041001, an
4 Ordinance amending Section 19-203 of The
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Payroll
6 Deductions," by permitting employees to
7 authorize payroll deductions to purchase long
8 term care and other voluntary insurance
9 benefits through Financial Integrity
10 Resources Management, LLC, under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
13 very much. Thank you for your patience.

14 Please identify yourself and begin
15 your testimony.

16 MR. ZIES: Good afternoon, Council
17 member Blackwell, and the other members of
18 the Finance Committee.

19 I am E. Ray Zies, Acting Director of
20 Finance. Thank you for this opportunity to
21 present testimony in support of Ordinance
22 041001.

23 The City of Philadelphia currently
24 has 87 payroll deductions and 240 different
25 types of levy deductions.

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2 Included in the deductions are six
3 for taxes, six for pension and deferred
4 compensation, 14 for charities, 11 for
5 private associations, 4 for savings, 17
6 related to insurance and 25 related to union
7 deductions.

8 Because the City's payroll system
9 requires programming and testing to establish
10 a new payroll deduction, approximately 240
11 hours of programming are required for
12 programming and testing the new payroll
13 deduction, at a cost of \$10,320.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to
15 present this testimony in support of the
16 payroll deduction, to permit employees to
17 authorize payroll deductions to purchase
18 long-term care.

19 We would be happy to answer any
20 questions you may have at this time.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
22 very much.

23 I will hold my question.

24 Any questions?

25 Councilman Ramos.

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2 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you, Mr.
3 Director. Is it your testimony that you're
4 fine with this payroll deduction coming --

5 MR. ZIES: Yes, sir. I'm in support
6 of this.

7 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: You are. Okay.
8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
10 very much.

11 Are there further questions?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is there
14 further testimony? Is there anyone else who
15 would like to testify?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
17 very much. Thank you.

18 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon, Madam
19 Chair, and members of the Finance Committee.
20 Thank you for hearing us today.

21 I did submit my testimony in writing
22 to the Council members, and I remain
23 available for any questions, if there are
24 any.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 very much.

3 Miss Orfanelli.

4 MS. ORFANELLI: Councilwoman

5 Blackwell, I'm Lynda Orfanelli, and members

6 of the Committee. I am the Personnel

7 Director. And I am here to support this Bill

8 as well.

9 And basically I submitted my

10 testimony to describe the type of insurance

11 it is, and why this is an important option

12 for City employees, and why the payroll

13 deduction makes it a more viable option. And

14 I would be glad to answer any

15 questions as well.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you

17 very much.

18 Councilman Ramos.

19 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you, Madam

20 Chair.

21 In the one previous hearing that we

22 had this afternoon, someone brought up the

23 question of minority participation.

24 And I saw that it was only

25 appropriate to welcome minority companies

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2 that want to do business or have the
3 opportunity to do business with the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 And I think it's commendable that
6 Mr. Harris has a company that's owned by a
7 minority, not exclusive in its service to who
8 he's going to provide services to.

9 But I think this is a very good
10 thing that we have now a minority company
11 that's coming forward to participate. And
12 we're welcoming them in the financial
13 business of the City.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
15 so much.

16 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And it follows,
18 then, therefore, that the leadership of your
19 Department is to be commended for treating
20 the opportunity in a fair and equitable way.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. ZIES: Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Councilman O'Neill.

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2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes. Thank
3 you.

4 In your testimony you mention that
5 the two finalists guaranteed the no medical
6 questions in the underwriting which is great.

7 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Are they the
9 only two of the finalists that guaranteed
10 that? I wasn't sure if that... Also, could
11 you say and a competitive group-rated policy.
12 Were they the only two that offered the no
13 medical questions aspect?

14 MR. HARRIS: Yes. There was a third
15 provider. The two finalists were MetLife and
16 Aetna. The third provider that did offer a
17 guaranteed issue was Prudential Life
18 Insurance.

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay. And
20 their rates were much higher?

21 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. The rates were
22 higher, not as much flexibility. They would
23 give employees probably four, maybe three
24 options, to choose something off the shelf,
25 whereas Aetna would allow an individual to

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2 call in, based on their budget and individual
3 financial needs, to design their own program.
4 So there was no limitations. It was
5 giving the employees the benefit to purchase
6 something group rated, with a discount,
7 similar to going out to the street minded
8 individual policy, allowing the employee to
9 save money.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Was MetLife
11 much higher or much less flexible than Aetna?

12 MR. HARRIS: MetLife pricing was
13 similar to Aetna. Again, they were more
14 restrictive on the options available to the
15 employees for the benefit design.

16 They wanted the City to pick and put
17 a menu out there; whereas, Aetna puts the
18 control back into the individual employee's
19 hands.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: That's the
21 level of detail, at least that level, that I
22 would like before I vote on this on final
23 passage, particularly with... I mean, these
24 are no big contracts.

25 And we're grappling with the whole

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 issue around no-bid contracts, some of which
3 are on the political side with donations or
4 contributions, and others are on the staff
5 level side where we're getting questions.

6 And the more detail, I think, we
7 have on these choices, which I think are
8 excellent choices, and they make even more
9 sense the more you testify about them.

10 If you could just give the Chair
11 that comparison, particularly with the final
12 two.

13 MS. ORFANELLI: Councilman, we had
14 an extensive review of the finalists --

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yeah.

16 MS. ORFANELLI: -- and compared all
17 the different factors --

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yeah.

19 MS. ORFANELLI: -- price, product,
20 et cetera. And I'm sure that Mr. Harris can
21 pull together --

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yeah.

23 MS. ORFANELLI: -- a whole, you
24 know, short summary to explain the
25 differences.

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2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay. No; I
3 like your reasoning.

4 Just for the sake of extra
5 transparency, I think it would be helpful to
6 the Committee, particularly. And the Chair
7 can decide to distribute it to the entire
8 Council, if she wishes.

9 MS. ORFANELLI: That's fine.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I congratulate
11 you on your process.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Are there further questions or
15 statements?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is there
18 anyone else who would like to testify?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
21 very much.

22 The final Bill for our Finance
23 Committee today will be Bill Number 040775.
24 And we will ask the clerk to read the title
25 of the Bill, as Kevin Hanna, Secretary of

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 Housing and Neighborhood Preservation, as
3 well as Debra McCulloch, Director of the
4 Office of Housing and Community Development
5 come forward. Thank you.

6 THE CLERK: Bill Number 040775, an
7 Ordinance amending Chapter 21-1100 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Community
9 Development," by specifying the date by which
10 a final community development plan must be
11 submitted to Council for approval, under
12 certain terms and conditions.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

14 Please identify yourself for the
15 record and begin your testimony.

16 MR. HANNA: Good afternoon.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
18 afternoon.

19 MR. HANNA: My name is Kevin Hanna.
20 I serve as Secretary of the Office of Housing
21 and Neighborhood Preservation.

22 On behalf of the Office of Housing,
23 Councilwoman Blackwell and the other members
24 of Finance, I'd like to thank you for this
25 opportunity today to speak, on behalf of the

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 administration, on Bill Number 040775.

3 And in the interest of time, Madam
4 Chairwoman, I'm going to truncate my
5 testimony which has been submitted to your
6 office.

7 Council Bill 040775 amends Chapter
8 21 of The Philadelphia Code, to require that
9 the Office of Housing and Community
10 Development submit its annual statement of
11 community development objectives or similar
12 documents to the City Council no later than
13 the date by which the Mayor is required to
14 submit the proposed annual operating budget
15 and plan for Community Development Block
16 Grant.

17 This plan includes spending
18 recommendations for the Community Development
19 Block Grant, HOME, housing opportunities for
20 persons with A.I.D.S., and emergency shelter
21 grant funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

22 It is also the application that the
23 City submits to the U.S. Department of
24 Housing and Urban Development for those
25 entitlement funds.

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2 As you know, City Council holds
3 hearings on the Consolidated Plan as part of
4 the approval process before the plan is
5 submitted to H.U.D. for its review and
6 approval.

7 At the present time, the Home Rule
8 Charter requires that the Mayor submit the
9 proposed Operating Budget to Council no later
10 than 90 days before the start of the new
11 fiscal year or April 2nd.

12 Adoption of Bill 040775 will require
13 that the proposed Consolidated Plan be
14 submitted to City Council by April 2nd.

15 For the past three years the Mayor
16 transmitted the proposed Consolidated Plan
17 City Council on May 7, 2004; May 9, 2003; and
18 May 1, 2002.

19 In each of these years, Council held
20 hearings on our plan between May 28th and
21 June 2nd, immediately after Memorial Day.

22 The administration opposes Bill
23 040775 because it poses a significant
24 hardship on the City in meeting all its
25 obligations in relation to the Consolidated

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 Plan.

3 The Bill would have a significant
4 effect on the preparation of the budget or
5 the Consolidated Plan.

6 It will affect the citizens'
7 participation process mandated by H.U.D. and
8 The Philadelphia Code.

9 It will limit the relationship of
10 the Consolidated Plan and its resources to
11 the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative's
12 annual program statement and budget.

13 It leaves open the possibility that
14 the submission date would be further advanced
15 if the Home Rule Charter is revised to
16 require the Mayor to submit the proposed
17 Operating Budget by February 2nd each year.

18 The present legal requirements are
19 sufficient, we think, to safeguard the public
20 interest, while remaining flexible enough to
21 address unforeseen possibilities.

22 I'll be happy to work with Council
23 to develop an acceptable timetable for the
24 Consolidated Plan, without locking the
25 administration or any future administration

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 into a more rigid time frame.

3 And with that, we'll certainly be
4 open to questions from your group or from the
5 audience.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
7 Thank you very much.

8 It is apparent that this Bill
9 attempts to start the process sooner, but it
10 is my contention that you're saying that it's
11 difficult to presume what the other aspects
12 are, from when the Bill comes to us, that
13 make the difference in when we can hold
14 hearings?

15 MR. HANNA: That is correct. For
16 instance, as I stated in my testimony,
17 obviously no one here locally has control
18 over when H.U.D. gives us its number,
19 relative to CDBG.

20 For instance as of today we still
21 don't know what our number is for the
22 upcoming CDBG year for CDBG, even though we
23 do know it for HOME.

24 Another issue has to do with NTI.
25 NTI is required by Council Resolution or

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 maybe Ordinance, to submit its budget by May
3 1st.

4 If we were to be required to submit
5 ours by April 2nd, we conceivably could not
6 because we wouldn't know what... We may not
7 know what the NTI budget is at the same time
8 because, as you've seen over the past couple
9 years, the NTI budget funds quite a bit of
10 what's done out of the Office of Housing.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
12 very much.

13 Questions?

14 Councilman Nutter.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair.

17 I apologize. I was just coming in
18 the room, and I heard a part of Mr. Hanna's
19 statement which made reference to a May 1st
20 date, but I didn't know the context.

21 What were you referring to?

22 MR. HANNA: One of those references
23 had to do with the fact that back in 2002, on
24 May 1st, the Mayor submitted his proposed
25 Consolidated Plan to the City Council.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Do we
3 know why?

4 MR. HANNA: I have no idea. I was
5 actually not in the City at that time. I
6 have no idea.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: In any event, I
8 mean, the obvious purpose of this Bill, not
9 to get into the arcane legal arguments about
10 who can tell who what to do, but more in a
11 context of a spirit of working together and
12 trying to have as much process and
13 opportunity to look at what at times is
14 certainly a fairly extensive and complicated
15 plan, the overall Consolidated Plan usually
16 represents in total in excess of about a
17 hundred million dollars; is that correct?

18 MR. HANNA: That is correct.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So the
20 purpose here, similar to all of the other
21 provisions in Chapter 21-1100, is to make
22 sure that the Council has as much information
23 as possible, in as timely a fashion as
24 possible.

25 And I understand, based on

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 experience and also our conversation
3 recently, that from time to time you may not
4 get all the information you need from the
5 Federal Government, in order to adhere to
6 something like this.

7 But some of this process actually
8 does start fairly early on. Don't you have
9 preliminary plan hearings either in --

10 MR. HANNA: That first hearing took
11 place yesterday.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- late
13 November, December? I'm sorry?

14 MR. HANNA: That first hearing took
15 place yesterday.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yesterday. That
17 was for the preliminary?

18 MS. McCULLOCH: My name is Debra
19 McCulloch. I'm the Director of Housing.

20 There was a hearing yesterday on the
21 needs... It's called the needs hearing.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is this the
23 CHAZ?

24 MS. McCULLOCH: Replacement of the
25 CHAZ, right. The needs hearing and what's

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 called the CAPER, Consolidated Annual
3 Performance Evaluation Report.
4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.
5 MS. McCULLOCH: That is the first
6 step in our citizen participation plan.
7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.
8 MS. McCULLOCH: And the preparation
9 of the Consolidated Plan.
10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What time was
11 that hearing?
12 MS. McCULLOCH: It was held
13 yesterday beginning at 2 o'clock.
14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And where was
15 it?
16 MS. McCULLOCH: It was at 1234
17 Market Street.
18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How many people
19 attended?
20 MS. McCULLOCH: 17...
21 Approximately -- Approximately 20 people
22 testified, and I would say maybe 30 people
23 attended.
24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Given the
25 overall poverty level in Philadelphia, the

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2 desperate need for funds, the clear impact
3 that these dollars could have throughout the
4 City, would it strike you as a little less
5 than underwhelming that 20 people in a City
6 of a million and a half would testify about
7 such an important issue?

8 MS. McCULLOCH: It was less than
9 we've had in other years.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why do you think
11 that is?

12 MS. McCULLOCH: It was raining.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, you know,
14 when it rains you're still poor, and you
15 still have needs.

16 MS. McCULLOCH: Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And you know,
18 you might even want an umbrella out of this
19 process.

20 So, I mean, the point is... I mean,
21 I know both you guys. I'm not going to...
22 You know, we're too late into the season.
23 We're getting near the holidays. And, you
24 know, I can save this torture for when we
25 return.

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2 I mean, the point is that whether
3 it's time of day when you have the hearings,
4 what the advertising is, to the extent that
5 we can get more information out to more
6 people or in the alternative, put City
7 Council in a position where we can go over
8 the plan at an earlier point in time... I
9 mean, you know what happens just about every
10 year.

11 The plans come in whenever they come
12 in. They then get scheduled. There might be
13 a few other things going on in this place.
14 And so, we approve in most instances about a
15 hundred million dollars in desperately needed
16 funding in the course of about a two-week
17 period, after introductions and a very long
18 day or so of hearings.

19 And I don't understand, but for some
20 logistical problems with the federal
21 government, why we would not want to have
22 this City Council in a position to get this
23 information as early as possible, share it
24 with our constituents as early as possible,
25 engage in more community process as

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 extensively as possible, and make sure that
3 people have real input into how these dollars
4 are spent. And that's the only issue here.
5 We don't have to be in a death match struggle
6 about who gets the till, what to do or how to
7 do it.

8 We have an extensive series of
9 requirements in Chapter 21 or Section
10 21-1100. And this is only a continuation of
11 a process that was put in place almost 20
12 years ago.

13 MR. HANNA: And in fact, Councilman,
14 we are in full agreement with most if not all
15 of what you said.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

17 MR. HANNA: The part about holding
18 your torture until next spring, that we
19 probably disagree with.

20 But relative to providing you
21 information as quickly as possible, we would
22 love to do that. In fact, that affords us
23 more opportunity to have online and offline
24 discussions so that when we do come into
25 Council...

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. HANNA: ...the debate isn't
4 quite as lively.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

6 MR. HANNA: But as a result, we
7 would -- I would certainly pledge to you to
8 get to you information just as quickly as we
9 can.

10 I guess our issue simply has to do
11 with the fact that you are proposing in this
12 Bill to mandate a specific date, a date that
13 we can't promise we will always be able to
14 hit.

15 But what we can promise is to get to
16 you information as quickly as possible, and
17 in certain cases, depending upon when we're
18 notified, even sooner than in the past.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. My last
20 comment will be -- I mean, even from your own
21 testimony, though... I take this sentence at
22 the top of Page 4 is important. And you use
23 the April 2nd date.

24 While an April 2nd submission date
25 could be met... And then you go on to talk

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 about little time for citizen comments and
3 the like.

4 I mean, you're going to do all of
5 your citizen comment periods pretty much the
6 same as you do today, but you are not saying
7 in your testimony that you could not meet the
8 90-day or 120-day or 150-day requirement, in
9 terms of sending over a plan.

10 MR. HANNA: I'm sorry. I don't
11 quite understand your question.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Your April 2nd
13 date, you take as what, 90 days before the
14 end of the fiscal year?

15 MR. HANNA: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. Bill
17 would require you to submit the plan no later
18 than April 2nd.

19 MR. HANNA: Right.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You say that you
21 can do that. What's the problem?

22 MR. HANNA: I'm saying that in years
23 past we've been notified of certain
24 information, and as a result the hearings
25 were held in late May.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand
3 that.

4 There's a difference between when
5 you're required to submit and when this
6 Council decides to hold hearings. That will
7 always be the prerogative of the body.

8 And primarily since these bills
9 normally go to Finance, it will be the
10 prerogative of the Chair, as to when the
11 hearings are. It has nothing to do with when
12 you send the Bill over to us.

13 MS. McCULLOCH: We sent the Bill
14 over to you the first week in May for the
15 past three years, and the hearings have been
16 scheduled at the end of May. So, there would
17 be an opportunity to move that up.

18 I think the point the point we're
19 making here is that it would not be
20 impossible. It would not be impossible,
21 given the requirements we have, the
22 requirements of our citizen participation
23 plan, to meet the April 2nd deadline.

24 The concern about meeting that is
25 making sure that we're able to get to fulfill

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 the requirements of our citizen participation
3 plan --
4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.
5 MS. McCULLOCH: -- and also be able
6 to prepare the plan, a good plan.
7 But we wanted to say that it's not
8 that it's impossible. So, that's your point.
9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right.
10 My last comment is, you would at
11 least agree that, as a matter of public
12 policy, it's better for the City Council and
13 the citizens of this City, to have the
14 information as early as possible.
15 MS. McCULLOCH: Yes.
16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: As opposed to
17 later.
18 MS. McCULLOCH: Yes.
19 MR. HANNA: Yes.
20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.
21 Thank you, Madam Chair.
22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
23 very much.
24 Councilman Goode.
25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yield.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:

3 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

5 Councilman Goode.

6 Question: Could you speak briefly
7 to what the citizen participation process is
8 in The Philadelphia Code, just briefly, to
9 put this in context for me.

10 MS. McCULLOCH: It's what's required
11 by the federal regulations for the
12 Consolidated Plan, are that we publish a
13 citizen participation plan, and then that we
14 follow it. And so, that's what we do.

15 And the beginning of that was the
16 needs hearing that we held yesterday.

17 The next step for us will be to take
18 that information, put it together with the
19 information that we get from H.U.D. about
20 what our funding allocations will be, and
21 prepare a document that we call the
22 Preliminary Plan.

23 After we issue the Preliminary Plan,
24 which we usually do at the end of January or
25 in February, we then hold a hearing on the

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 Preliminary Plan, at which we take testimony
3 from the public on the plan and have the
4 opportunity to engage in dialogue with
5 citizenry and at that point with members of
6 City Council.

7 Then we take that information and
8 revise the Preliminary Plan and prepare the
9 Proposed Plan, and the Proposed Plan is the
10 document that is submitted to City Council.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I see.

12 Your explanation also addresses the
13 stipulations as required in The Philadelphia
14 Code?

15 MS. McCULLOCH: Yes. There are
16 specific periods of time for advertising.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I see.

18 MS. McCULLOCH: That admits those
19 different activities.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you,
22 Councilman Goode.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman
24 Goode.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 Chair.

3 Good afternoon, and thank you for
4 your testimony.

5 The first question is, in terms of
6 citizen participation process, that is a
7 H.U.D. requirement; is that correct.

8 MS. McCULLOCH: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And those
10 requirements within the Code were initiated
11 by City Council in the early '80s?

12 MS. McCULLOCH: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Do you remember
14 who the sponsor of the Bill was?

15 MS. McCULLOCH: I believe...

16 MR. HANNA: Councilman Nutter.

17 MS. McCULLOCH: Is laughing.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, I was not...

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I believe it
20 was --

21 MS. McCULLOCH: I believe it was
22 Councilman Street.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It was.

24 Second question is: How much change
25 is in the plan between the Preliminary Plan

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2 and the final plan, not the plan approved by
3 Council but your preliminary draft, and then
4 your final draft that you give to Council?

5 MR. HANNA: That's kind of varied,
6 just over my two-year tenure.

7 It's been my experience, especially
8 with the NTI dollars, that there's been some
9 pretty significant changes, in the sense that
10 money was moved around or certain demolition
11 money, for instance, was moved forward to be
12 spent in more current years, as opposed to
13 the outer years. So, yeah, I guess
14 potentially there can be some pretty --

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: In terms of
16 policy directive, not much changes between
17 your Preliminary Plan and your final plan.
18 So, things might change once they get to
19 Council.

20 But in terms of your internal
21 process and your community participation
22 process, not much really changes between your
23 Preliminary Plan and the plan you submit to
24 Council.

25 MR. HANNA: Well, it depends on how

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 you define "not much" because again --

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm referring to
4 CDBG, not so much NTI.

5 MR. HANNA: Okay. And just from the
6 standpoint of CDBG, again, just over the past
7 couple of years, I can recall at least a
8 couple of instances where, as a result of the
9 testimony and the public hearings, we went
10 back and made several changes, a couple of
11 changes to the plan.

12 From a policy standpoint, you're
13 right, not a whole lot of changes. But some
14 money has been moved around as a result of --

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You made changes
16 to the plan before it came to Council?
17 You're not talking about after it came to
18 Council; you're talking about before.

19 MR. HANNA: Actually, both.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. I guess my
21 final question is, if April 2nd is not an
22 acceptable date, is there a date that is
23 acceptable?

24 MR. HANNA: I'm sorry. Please
25 understand. It's not that I'm saying that

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2 April 2nd is an unacceptable date.

3 What I am saying is, it's tough for
4 us to be locked in to any date, given the
5 fact that we oftentimes have to wait on other
6 people to provide us with information before
7 we can take --

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But you are, in
9 fact, locked into a date by H.U.D.

10 MR. HANNA: Right. But what I'm
11 saying is, April 2nd kind of moves us up
12 by --

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And the date
14 you're locked into by H.U.D. is what?

15 MS. McCULLOCH: Well, the date we're
16 locked into by H.U.D. is that we have to
17 submit the Approved Plan 45 days before the
18 end of the federal fiscal year which is
19 August 15th.

20 So, in terms of the absolute
21 deadline, we have to submit a Consolidated
22 Plan to H.U.D. no later than August 15th.

23 So, to back out of that, we have to
24 have something that is approved by City
25 Council before Council goes into its summer

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2 recess.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And how much time
4 do you think should be allotted for Council
5 to review the plan that's submitted to it?

6 MR. HANNA: Again, we'd love to
7 give --

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm not asking
9 the question from your standpoint, in terms
10 of how long it will take to prepare your
11 final plan, but how much between now and the
12 time that we generally recess do you think we
13 should take?

14 MR. HANNA: That's a tough question,
15 Councilman. I mean, we would love to give
16 you, you know, three months, I mean, or as
17 much time as you think you need.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Just asking. In
19 your estimation, how much time do you think
20 we need?

21 MR. HANNA: That's a tough question.
22 I don't want to venture a guess.

23 It's a better question of me to ask
24 of you, how much time do you think you need?

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Councilman Nutter

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 says we need two and a half months.
3 MR. HANNA: That's Councilman
4 Nutter's answer.
5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yeah. Councilman
6 Nutter said we need two and a half months.
7 That's his answer.
8 My answer is probably that we need
9 at least a month, month-and-a-half.
10 That's why I'm asking where we reach
11 some sort of compromise if the date is not
12 April 2nd. And, of course, the date can't be
13 early June. We all agree that early June is
14 wrong. What date in between actually works?
15 MR. HANNA: Again, that I don't
16 know. But I'd be certainly willing to talk
17 to the Committee, the Chairwoman or yourself
18 about trying to establish something offline,
19 as opposed to hearing this in this hearing.
20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. Thank you.
21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair.
22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman
23 Nutter.
24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.
25 Just a very brief comment.

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2 Councilman Goode has raised one of the
3 important questions or commented, Mr. Hanna,
4 whether during your time or prior.

5 I would suggest to you -- And Miss
6 McCulloch and I certainly have been through
7 this, and I know that the Councilwoman and
8 many other members have as well.

9 I would submit to you that there has
10 been virtually no change between the
11 Preliminary Plan and the final plan that is
12 submitted to this Council, at least with
13 regard to CDBG, and that virtually all of the
14 changes to either the CDBG plan, the
15 Consolidated Plan or the NTI program as now a
16 part of this process.

17 Almost all of those changes have
18 been made in this room, in our Council
19 Chambers, whether this room or up on the
20 sixth floor when we were there.

21 And we've been through all of the
22 demolition, changed those dollars around,
23 BSRP, adaptive modification. Those were all
24 made here, under the gun usually, at the last
25 minute, day before first reading or morning

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2 of.

3 But that if you look at a
4 Preliminary Plan and a final plan that gets
5 submitted to this body, and I have, there are
6 virtually no changes made between however
7 many citizens decide to come out and testify
8 about the preliminary, to the time that you
9 submit a final to us. There are very few
10 changes between those two documents.

11 And I acknowledge and respect all of
12 the advertising times, the required hearings.

13 When Councilwoman Reynolds Brown
14 raises the issue about citizen participation,
15 it's in 21-1104, and makes specific reference
16 to the hearings for citizens shall be held at
17 times and locations convenient to very low,
18 low and moderate income persons.

19 I'm not necessarily sure that at 2
20 o'clock in the afternoon at 1234 Market
21 Street that that is at a time or location
22 that is convenient to the population in
23 question.

24 We would hope in many instances that
25 a lot of those same individuals might

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2 possibly be at work. How do they participate
3 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon? I don't think
4 the boss is going to let them off to come
5 testify at a public hearing over at OHCD.

6 But we he don't have to get into
7 those issues right now, but that's responsive
8 to what the Councilwoman raised.

9 And so, I think that when this
10 Council has more time to go over such an
11 extensive project or extensive application,
12 now with the added dollars of NTI, and your
13 testimony that whether it's April 2nd or
14 whatever the date may be, the issue is it's
15 the same date that the Mayor's required under
16 the Home Rule Charter to submit a budget,
17 which is 90 days before the end of the fiscal
18 year.

19 I mean, I just don't necessarily
20 know that the case has been made that you
21 can't adhere to that kind of timetable. It
22 provides a fair amount of flexibility.

23 And your own testimony seems to
24 indicate that you can meet the deadline while
25 ensuring the public, through our extensive

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04
2 process in Chapter 21, of their right to
3 participate in the process.

4 So, thank you, Madam Chair.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
6 very much.

7 Are there any more questions or
8 comments?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is there
11 anyone else who would like to testify?

12 Miss Robinson.

13 Thank you very much. Identify
14 yourself again for the record, please

15 MS. ROBINSON: Hello. My name is
16 Judith Robinson. And I did attend the
17 hearing yesterday for Community Block
18 Development Grants monies. It's very
19 important to me. So, rain or shine I was
20 there.

21 But because these issues are so
22 important, I would just encourage you all to
23 please try to get as much information as
24 early as possible, because I have attended
25 these hearings over the past few years.

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2 And what has concerned me is that
3 the administration always comes in such a
4 short period of time, and they always seem so
5 unprepared. So, that's what concerns me as a
6 citizen, and one who participates in these
7 processes.

8 So, I would just encourage you to
9 get as much information as soon as possible,
10 and also community participation is so
11 important.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
14 Miss Robinson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Forgive our
16 delay.

17 And we thank Councilman Cohen being
18 here for our hearing.

19 Is there anyone else who would like
20 to make a statement or raise a question?
21 Councilman Rizzo?

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're
24 fine?

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes. Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
3 very much. That will end our stated hearing.
4 (Public hearing concluded at 4:22
5 p.m.)
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2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC MEETING - COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

4 - - -

5 Room 400, City Hall
6 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
7 Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 4:22 p.m.

8 - - -

9 BILL 040470 - An Ordinance amending Chapter
10 19-2500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real
11 Estate Non-Utilization Tax," by clarifying and
12 amending the tax on abandoned property and vacant
13 lots; and by changing certain tax rates; all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 BILL 040775 - An Ordinance amending Chapter
16 21-1100 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
17 "Community Development," by specifying the date by
18 which a final community development plan must be
19 submitted to Council for approval, under certain
20 terms and conditions.

21 BILL 040935 - An Ordinance amending Section
22 10-1001 of The Philadelphia Code relating to Fees
23 of Commissioner of Records, to increase the fees
24 for recording documents, under certain terms and
25 conditions.

26 BILL 041001 - An Ordinance amending Section 19-203
27 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Payroll
28 Deductions," by permitting employees to authorize
29 payroll deductions to purchase long term care and
30 other voluntary insurance benefits through
31 Financial Integrity Resources Management, LLC,
32 under certain terms and conditions.

33 - - -

34 V A R A L L O Incorporated
35 Litigation Support Services
36 1835 Market Street, Suite 600
37 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
38 215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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2 BILL 041042 - An Ordinance authorizing the

3 Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development

4 ("PAID") to file an application with the Office of

5 the Budget, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under

6 the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program

7 ("RACP"), in an aggregate amount not to exceed One

8 Hundred Thirteen Million Seven Hundred Seventy

9 Thousand Dollars (\$113,770,000) to assist in the

10 development of Children's Hospital of

11 Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Cancer

12 Care Facility, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Girard

13 Avenue Streetscape, El Centro de Oro, Mount Airy

14 USA, Point Breeze Revitalization Project, Beech

15 Corporation - Broadway 1600 North Broad Street and

16 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Calder Museum, One

17 Pennsylvania Place, Please Touch Museum at

18 Memorial Hall, Philadelphia Theater Company,

19 Greater Philadelphia Film Office Soundstage,

20 National Museum of American Jewish History,

21 Independence Mall, Schuylkill Riverfront, the

22 Professional Development Center at the University

23 of Pennsylvania, the Heritage Tourism Experience

24 Facility, and the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center;

25 and authorizing the City to enter into an

26 agreement with PAID in furtherance of grant

27 requirements; all under certain terms and

28 conditions.

16 PRESENT:

17

18 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL, Chair

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

21 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

22 COUNCILMAN FRANK DI CICCIO

23 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

24 COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

25 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

26 COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

27 COUNCILMAN JUAN F. RAMOS

28 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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2 - - -

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

4 - - -

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We will
6 enter into our stated meeting.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Goode -- we assume that all of these are
9 suspension of the rules -- with regard to
10 Bill Number 040935.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
12 Chair.

13 I move that Bill 040935 be reported
14 out of Committee with a favorable
15 recommendation; the rules of Council be
16 suspended so as to permit first reading at
17 our next Council session.

18 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Second.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It has been
20 moved and seconded that Bill Number 040935 be
21 reported out of Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation, and also a recommendation for
23 a rules suspension so as to permit first
24 reading at our next session of Council.

25 All in favor?

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2 (Chorus of "ayes.")

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The ayes
6 have it, and so the Bill is passed.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Ramos with regard to a motion concerning Bill
9 Number 041001.

10 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair.

12 I move that Bill Number 041001 be
13 reported out of Committee with a favorable
14 recommendation; further recommend that the
15 rules of Council be suspended so as to allow
16 first reading at our next session of Council.

17 UNIDENTIFIED COUNCIL MEMBER:
18 Second.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
20 It has been moved and seconded that Bill
21 Number 041001 be reported out of Committee
22 with a favorable recommendation, and also a
23 recommendation that the rules of Council be
24 suspended so as to permit first reading at
25 our next session.

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2 All in favor?
3 (Chorus of "ayes.")
4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Opposed?
5 (No response.)
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The ayes
7 have it, and the Bill is reported out.
8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Blondell Reynolds Brown, with regard to Bill
10 Number 041042.
11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I move that
12 Bill Number 041042 be reported out of this
13 Committee with a favorable recommendation,
14 and a further recommendation that the rules
15 of Council be suspended to allow first
16 reading at our next scheduled Council
17 meeting.
18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Second.
19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It has been
20 moved and seconded that Bill Number 041042 be
21 reported out of Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation; and furthermore, that a
23 recommendation that the rules of Council be
24 suspended so as to permit first reading at
25 our next session.

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2 All in favor?

3 (Chorus of "ayes.")

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The ayes
5 have it, and so the Bill is passed out.

6 With regard to Bill Number 040775,
7 dealing with the time requirement for the
8 Office of Housing and Community Development,
9 we are holding this Bill temporarily.

10 We have made a commitment to the
11 Bill's sponsor that if there is no resolution
12 of the issue, that we will hear it at the
13 next scheduled session of this Finance
14 Committee. We cannot do that today. As all
15 of you know, we're at the end of our session,
16 so we don't have a calendar available this
17 moment.

18 But we are requesting that Mr. Hanna
19 and Miss McCulloch work with Councilman
20 Nutter so that we may have a resolution of
21 the issue.

22 If we're not able to resolve it,
23 we'll hear it at our next Finance Hearing,
24 and then report it up or down at that time.
25 Is that satisfactory to all?

1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 Thank you very much. This ends the
3 Finance Committee hearing and meeting.

4 We thank you all for being here, and
5 we assure you we will see you at our next
6 real session at the Committee of the Whole.
7 Thank you so much.

8 Thank you, members of the Committee.

9 (Public meeting concluded at 4:25
10 p.m.)

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1 040775-040935-041001-041042, Finance, 12/8/04

2 CERTIFICATE

3

4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings and
5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the public
7 hearing and public meeting of The Philadelphia
8 City Council, taken on December 8, 2004, and that
9 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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16 DAVID A. DEIK, RPR and
17 Commissioner of Deeds

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

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