

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday March 25, 2014
10:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 140144, 140145, and 140146
RESOLUTION 140159

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning, everyone. We're going to start now. Thank you. Thank you so much.

This is the public hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bills No. 140144, 140145, 140146, and Resolution No. 140159.

Ms. Lewis, would you please read the titles of the bills and resolution.

MS. LEWIS: Bill No. 140144, an ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the six Fiscal Years 2015 through 2020 inclusive.

Bill No. 140145, an ordinance to adopt a Fiscal 2015 Capital Budget.

Bill No. 140146, an ordinance adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

And Resolution No. 140159, providing for the approval by the Council of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year Financial Plan for the City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2015

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 through 2019, and incorporating proposed
3 changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2014,
4 which is to be submitted by the Mayor to
5 the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
6 Cooperation Authority (the "Authority")
7 pursuant to the Intergovernmental
8 Cooperation Agreement authorized by an
9 ordinance of this Council approved by the
10 Mayor on January 3rd, 1992 (Bill No.
11 1563-A), by and between the City and the
12 Authority.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you.

15 Today we continue the public
16 hearing of the Committee of the Whole to
17 consider various bills read by Ms. Lewis
18 that constitute proposed operating and
19 capital spending measures for Fiscal Year
20 2015, a capital program, and
21 forward-looking capital plan for Fiscal
22 Year 2015 through Fiscal 2020.

23 We will hear the testimony
24 today from the Administration on the
25 capital budget and the six-year capital

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 plan. For our first witness, we will
3 have our good friends from Budget and
4 from Planning.

5 (Witnesses approached witness
6 table.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
8 morning.

9 MR. JASTRZAB: Good morning.
10 Good morning, Council President Clarke
11 and members of City Council. I am Gary
12 Jastrzab, Executive Director of the City
13 Planning Commission. Joining me today is
14 Rebecca Rhynhart, the City's Budget
15 Director. We are here today to present
16 for your review and consideration the
17 Recommended Fiscal Year 2015 through 2020
18 Capital Program and Fiscal Year 2015
19 Capital Budget, as approved by the City
20 Planning Commission at its meeting of
21 February 28th, 2014.

22 The Philadelphia Home Rule
23 Charter directs the City Planning
24 Commission to prepare and submit to the
25 Mayor a Recommended Capital Program and

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Budget. The Recommended Program is a
3 six-year plan for investing in our city's
4 physical and technology infrastructure,
5 neighborhood and community facilities,
6 and public buildings. The Budget
7 recommends spending appropriations for
8 the first year of the six-year program.
9 The projects included in the Recommended
10 Program and Budget support the overall
11 goals of the City: Philadelphia becoming
12 one of the safest cities in America; the
13 education and health of Philadelphians
14 improving; Philadelphia as a place of
15 choice; Philadelphia becomes the greenest
16 and most sustainable city in America; and
17 Philadelphia government works efficiently
18 and effectively, with integrity and
19 responsiveness.

20 Beginning each September, the
21 City Planning Commission staff works
22 closely with the Finance Department's
23 Office of Budget and Program Evaluation,
24 the Department of Public Property's
25 Capital Projects Division, and City

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 operating departments to prepare the
3 Recommended Capital Program and Budget.
4 It is a collaborative, labor-intensive,
5 and iterative process, and we believe it
6 yields a program and budget that
7 carefully balance the City's facility
8 needs with limited capital resources.

9 As in years past, the
10 availability of City tax-supported
11 general obligation, or GO, bond funding
12 for capital projects depends upon two
13 factors: the debt limit imposed on the
14 City by the Pennsylvania Constitution and
15 the City's financial capacity to service
16 debt on borrowed funds. Since the Actual
17 Value Initiative has taken effect, the
18 total assessed value in the City has
19 increased substantially, which has in
20 turn significantly increased the room
21 under the constitutional debt limit.
22 However, the City's tax-supported capital
23 funding is still constrained by the
24 ability to pay for debt service in our
25 Operating Budget. Despite these

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 constraints, the Administration is
3 committed to maximizing its investment in
4 the City's physical infrastructure.

5 For the 2015 Capital Budget,
6 the Administration proposes to spend \$131
7 and a half million of City-supported
8 capital funding raised through new GO
9 bonds issued by the City and \$14.5
10 million of previously authorized GO
11 loans, for a total of \$146 million. This
12 represents a 44 percent increase in new
13 GO funding from last year and a 48
14 percent increase over the average amount
15 of GO funding during the Fiscal 2009 to
16 2014 period during which the average
17 amount of GO funding was \$89.1 million
18 per year.

19 Key projects include continued
20 programmed improvements to Park and
21 Recreation Department as well as Police,
22 Fire, and Free Library facilities;
23 investment to improve and modernize the
24 City's technology infrastructure; to
25 repave streets and repair bridges; to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 support neighborhood commercial centers,
3 industrial districts, and build better
4 connections to and along our riverfronts;
5 and purchase much-needed specialty
6 vehicles and equipment for departmental
7 operations. A total of 69 new projects
8 for 20 City departments are included in
9 the Fiscal 2015 budget year.

10 In addition, 319 projects
11 totalling \$290.8 million of previously
12 appropriated GO funds are recommended to
13 be carried forward into Fiscal Year 2015.
14 When all budget year funding is
15 considered, including federal, state, and
16 other sources, as well as projects for
17 the Water Department and Aviation, these
18 projects total more than \$3.2 billion of
19 improvements for the Fiscal 2015 budget
20 year in the Recommended Capital Program.

21 For the six-year program,
22 \$761.6 million of City tax-supported bond
23 funding is planned for public
24 improvements and neighborhood
25 investments. When all sources of funding

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 are included, the Recommended Capital
3 Program includes more than \$9.4 billion
4 of improvements during the Fiscal 2015
5 through 2020 period.

6 I'd like to highlight a number
7 of projects in the 2015 budget year that
8 support the City's five strategic goals
9 described earlier. Projects that help
10 Philadelphia become one of the safest
11 cities in America increase safety from
12 crime, emergencies, and accidents at
13 home, school, and in the neighborhood and
14 at work and play. More than \$3 million
15 of new and previously authorized City
16 funds are recommended for Police facility
17 renovations across the City and for the
18 completion of the conversion of the
19 former Woodhaven U.S. Army Reserve
20 facility for Police use. The
21 Philadelphia Prison System is recommended
22 to use \$5.8 million in previously
23 authorized City funds for security
24 system, infrastructure, and other
25 renovations at its facilities in

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Northeast Philadelphia. New City funding
3 of 3.9 million is recommended for
4 structural, mechanical, electrical, and
5 plumbing renovations and other site work
6 at fire stations across the City.

7 Projects that ensure the
8 education and health of Philadelphians
9 help to create complete neighborhoods
10 with ample cultural, health, and human
11 services opportunities. Recommended Free
12 Library improvements total nearly \$2.2
13 million in new City funds for HVAC,
14 infrastructure, and interior and exterior
15 renovations at numerous library
16 locations. Nearly \$1.6 million in new
17 City funds are recommended for the Office
18 of Supportive Housing to make
19 improvements at its shelters, which serve
20 some of the City's most vulnerable
21 populations. New City funding totalling
22 \$850,000 is recommended for
23 infrastructure improvements at the
24 Philadelphia Zoo, which provides a great
25 educational opportunity for the City's

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 children and adults alike.

3 Projects that make Philadelphia
4 a place of choice, promote economic
5 development and job creation, and support
6 major infrastructure improvements. More
7 than \$690.1 million of federal, state,
8 private, and City self-sustaining
9 operating and revenue bond funds are
10 recommended to enable Philadelphia
11 International Airport to improve service
12 for air traffic and travel to and from
13 Philadelphia through airfield and
14 facility improvements and safety and
15 security projects. The Commerce
16 Department is recommended to continue to
17 invest \$5 million annually in new City
18 funds to improve neighborhood commercial
19 centers, \$2 and a half million in City
20 funds for infrastructure improvements in
21 Center City to support the new Comcast
22 Tower, and \$900,000 to begin the
23 transformation of the Reading Viaduct
24 into an elevated community and regional
25 park.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 New City funding totalling
3 \$22.3 million is recommended for the
4 Streets Department to grade, pave, and
5 make other improvements to City roadways,
6 historic streets, stairways, and curb
7 ramps and new infrastructure. This
8 funding will leverage \$45.8 million in
9 federal, state, and private funds.
10 Nearly \$10.5 million in new City,
11 federal, and state funding are
12 recommended for plans and improvements
13 along the Central and North Delaware
14 Riverfronts and the Schuylkill River
15 waterfront. The Philadelphia Museum of
16 Art is recommended to use \$3 million in
17 new City funding to implement interior
18 and exterior improvement projects in
19 support of its multi-year facilities
20 master plan.

21 Projects that help Philadelphia
22 become the greenest and most sustainable
23 city in America focus on parks and
24 recreation and promote environmental and
25 sustainable practices. The Office of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Sustainability is recommended to use
3 500,000 in City funds for energy
4 efficiency improvements at City
5 facilities in support of other capital
6 investments. More than \$16.9 million in
7 new and previously authorized funds are
8 recommended for improvements to the Park
9 and Recreation Department's trails,
10 parks, recreation centers, pools,
11 cultural facilities, and other assets
12 across City neighborhoods and for other
13 projects, including the Benjamin Franklin
14 Parkway and the Bartram's Mile greening
15 and trail project. More than \$2.5
16 million in new City funds are recommended
17 for the Streets Department to continue
18 the reconstruction of the City's
19 Northeast Incinerator to be energy
20 efficient, safer, and more functional.
21 SEPTA bridge, track, station, power
22 supply, and fare collection improvements
23 help make transit an attractive
24 alternative to driving. More than \$3.6
25 million in new City funds are recommended

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 to leverage more than 189.3 million in
3 state, federal, and other monies for such
4 projects.

5 Projects that enable
6 Philadelphia's government to work
7 efficiently and effectively, with
8 integrity and responsiveness, foster a
9 high-performing public sector that works
10 better at less cost. A continued major
11 investment of \$24 million of new City
12 funding is recommended for the Office of
13 Innovation and Technology for citywide
14 technology modernization and improvement
15 projects such as OnePhilly, which will
16 modernize the City's workforce management
17 processes, and Lock and Track, which is a
18 new inmate management solution.
19 Additionally, \$5 million is recommended
20 for a new message switch system to
21 improve a public safety information
22 exchange system between the City and
23 Commonwealth. Nearly \$2 million of new
24 City funds are recommended for the
25 Department of Public Property to continue

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 making functional improvements to major
3 City government facilities, including
4 City Hall, the Criminal Justice Center,
5 and the Municipal Services Building. The
6 Office of Fleet Management is recommended
7 to use \$10 million to purchase specialty
8 vehicles used as equipment for various
9 departments, including Fire and Streets.

10 These highlights demonstrate
11 the range and variety of projects
12 recommended for funding in the Fiscal
13 2015 budget and shows how the Recommended
14 Capital Program seeks to make strategic
15 and targeted investments in
16 Philadelphia's infrastructure using our
17 limited resources for the greatest public
18 benefit.

19 Thank you for your attention.
20 My colleagues and I would be happy to
21 address any questions that you may have.
22 Please note that the leadership of City
23 departments is present, in addition to
24 representatives from the Department of
25 Finance and the Department of Public

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Property to assist in answering your
3 questions.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you very much for your testimony.
7 A couple of quick questions.

8 Page 2, you talk about the debt
9 limit imposed by the City for borrowing
10 purposes by Pennsylvania Constitution has
11 increased. How much has that debt limit
12 increased?

13 MS. RHYNHART: Council
14 President, good morning. The debt limit
15 increased dramatically. The new debt
16 limit set by the Constitution is about \$3
17 billion. So there's \$1.4 billion of room
18 now under the constitutional debt limit.
19 So I'm sure, as you know, we used to be
20 right up against the constitutional debt
21 limit, and with the assessed value of
22 property going from 12 billion to 99
23 billion with the Actual Value Initiative,
24 the constitutional debt limit increased
25 substantially. There are still, of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 course, limitations on how much debt we
3 can issue, because we have to pay the
4 principal and interest in our Operating
5 Budget.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
7 sorry. Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. RHYNHART: Sure.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Do
10 you anticipate a further increase over
11 the next several years or do you expect
12 the base to pretty much even out or are
13 we looking at a continued growth in the
14 base?

15 MS. RHYNHART: Increase in the
16 debt limit, do you mean?

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Well, the debt limit is based on --

19 MS. RHYNHART: The assessed
20 value. It's based on a ten-year average
21 of assessed value. So the debt limit
22 will increase as more years of the higher
23 value get factored into the ten-year
24 average, but if the question is do we
25 think that the assessed value of the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 City --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 That's my backdoor way of asking the
5 question.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I got
7 your question. The assessed value of the
8 City in the Operating Budget in the out
9 years of the Plan we have projected
10 growing about 3 percent a year.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Okay. We're still sticking to 3 percent?

13 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
15 right. Commercial corridor money on the
16 Capital Program, Page 21, it appears that
17 the commercial corridor dollars are
18 reduced to 1.5 in FY15 and we had been
19 anticipating a \$5 million number across.
20 Is there a reason why there was a
21 reduction?

22 MS. RHYNHART: We can talk
23 about that. I think that there was some
24 thought about lowering it to keep the
25 overall debt limit -- the debt levels

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 down, but we don't have a problem
3 increasing that back from '16 to '20 back
4 to 5 million.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
6 mean, that's kind of like there was an
7 agreement last year when we were dealing
8 with capital programs and Councilmembers
9 wanted to see an additional dollar figure
10 associated with commercial corridors. So
11 that was kind of like the City Council's
12 deal, and now we're increasing the debt
13 limit capacity and we have more borrowing
14 capacity and it's kind of inconsistent
15 with reducing the commercial corridor
16 money. It's like, well, why are we
17 reducing the commercial corridor money
18 when it has nothing to do with debt
19 limit. So is there a deemphasis on the
20 commercial corridors?

21 MS. RHYNHART: No. To be
22 clear, we have the 5 million in the
23 Fiscal '15 Capital Budget. We just had
24 it reduced down in the out years of the
25 Capital Program, and one of the things is

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 even though the debt limit is going up,
3 we still have to be mindful of the debt
4 service on the debt. But with all that
5 said, I think that's an area where we can
6 have discussion to move that back up next
7 year, because it doesn't impact this
8 year's Capital Budget.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 What's the status of that program? Are
11 we on track? I mean, I know there are a
12 number of corridors. I'm actually
13 familiar with the ones in my district,
14 which I haven't seen any activity. I
15 don't know. Maybe you're doing other
16 districts.

17 MS. RHYNHART: I could have
18 Karen Fegely from the Commerce Department
19 come up and give an update on that
20 program.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
22 you, please.

23 (Witness approached witness
24 table.)

25 MS. FEGELY: Good morning,

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Council President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.

5 MS. FEGELY: Yes. As you know,
6 we've got a number of projects going on.
7 Most of the FY14 funded projects are
8 still in the design phase, as are some of
9 the FY13. So we have a long list of
10 projects.

11 We've talked to many of -- I
12 think all of you about sort of a list of
13 priority projects, and we kind of go
14 through a criteria process to prioritize
15 each year, because the \$5 million
16 basically funds two projects a year. So
17 we're trying to spread those around and
18 make sure we hit targeted commercial
19 corridors around the City.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
21 there any activity taking place anywhere
22 in the City?

23 MS. FEGELY: Construction right
24 now?

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 I understand the pre-development phase is
3 the boring part.

4 MS. FEGELY: There's a lot that
5 are in design. I know that it gets old
6 to hear that, but the design and
7 engineering phase is a really long
8 process.

9 Let's see. We've done some
10 little things, some sort of, what I was
11 calling, some a la carte things. We've
12 done some of the bus shelters and Big
13 Belly installation and gotten those done
14 and --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Those are not capital, right?

17 MS. FEGELY: They were tied to
18 the capital project. So those pieces are
19 done.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Big
21 Bellies?

22 MS. FEGELY: But the larger
23 construction isn't done.

24 I'm just looking. Do you want
25 to hear the ones that are in design or --

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Yeah. I mean, we had a conversation a
4 year or so. Actually, this is not, as
5 you know, a new program. This is a
6 continuation.

7 MS. FEGELY: Absolutely.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
9 I'm just wondering when we're going to
10 start seeing some activity on some of
11 these commercial corridors.

12 MS. FEGELY: Right.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
14 mean, the commercial corridors that we
15 saw done were part of the old NTI
16 process, and we basically asked you all
17 to extend that and put additional dollars
18 in the budget. So I guess I'm just
19 trying to see --

20 MS. FEGELY: So there was a
21 little pause in between when we finished
22 up with the bond dollars, and so then we
23 finished up -- the Germantown Avenue
24 project got finished in 2013. The East
25 Falls Gateway project got finished. We

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 did some lighting on Haverford Avenue,
3 and there was a pause where we then had
4 to gear up and start design on a number
5 of projects. So North 22nd Street,
6 Germantown and Lehigh, Stenton Avenue,
7 North Broad Street is about to start.
8 That's been bid, I believe.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
10 say North Broad. Is that the Avenue of
11 the Arts North Broad?

12 MS. FEGELY: Correct.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
14 has nothing to do with this Capital
15 Program, right? Wasn't there state
16 funding for that?

17 MS. FEGELY: It's a number of
18 funding sources. There is a piece of --
19 a piece of it is some of this capital
20 dollars as well.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Well, let me not grill you. Can you just
23 give us a chart charting out each
24 commercial corridor capital project in
25 the various Council districts to kind of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 give us a status report, if it's in
3 design or if it's in pre-construction.

4 MS. FEGELY: Absolutely.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Actually, I think the last time we talked
7 to you was last year, maybe during this
8 process. So it would be helpful if we
9 can kind of know what's going on.

10 MS. FEGELY: Right. Yeah.

11 We've been checking in with people along
12 the way, but absolutely. I have a chart.
13 We can send that to everyone.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If
15 you could just have that forwarded to us.

16 MS. FEGELY: Okay.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 We'll make sure all the members get it.
19 Thank you.

20 One last question. Do we have
21 any -- and this has been this ongoing
22 debate about surveillance cameras across
23 the City of Philadelphia, and at one
24 point I recall actually Mr. Gillison
25 being here talking about -- this is his

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 role as Deputy Mayor for Public Safety --
3 about a robust camera surveillance
4 program. Can you tell me if, one, that
5 program is proceeding or, two, are we
6 actually investing in the purchase of
7 cameras and purchase of technology to
8 accommodate additional cameras? Can you
9 tell me where we are with that?

10 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. From a
11 budgetary perspective, we are investing.
12 There is about 600,000 in IT's Operating
13 Budget and a million dollars of capital
14 that they're putting towards new cameras
15 and fixing existing cameras. In addition
16 to that, there's also a camera program
17 going on at the rec centers that you
18 probably are well aware of to install
19 cameras at the rec centers.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Right.

22 MS. RHYNHART: But I can --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Isn't the majority of that money coming
25 from the Council districts?

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MS. RHYNHART: That's correct.

3 That's correct. The money and then --
4 that's coming from the Council districts
5 and then the money that I spoke of, the
6 600,000 of operating funds and about a
7 million dollars in capital funds --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: For
9 the entire City?

10 MS. RHYNHART: I'm sorry?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: For
12 the entire City? That's not like a lot
13 of money.

14 MS. RHYNHART: Well, it's part
15 of a larger program, and IT could speak
16 to that if you're interested in hearing
17 from them.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
19 just, you know -- we had this
20 conversation a couple years ago about an
21 aggressive surveillance camera program,
22 and I understand that we've expanded it
23 to private cameras, but more often than
24 not, when we see reference to the cameras
25 and the ability to enhance the police

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 officers and the department to deal with
3 a crime, it's in the aftermath of a
4 crime. So we go around, we kind of like
5 ask the store owners and private citizens
6 can we get the camera feed, and I
7 thought, at least from our perspective,
8 our earlier approach was to have very
9 visible cameras to deter, prevent crime
10 because people knew that they were being
11 watched.

12 MS. RHYNHART: Right. And that
13 is what --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
15 I'm like a million dollars --

16 MS. RHYNHART: It's part of a
17 larger program, and maybe either Police
18 or IT could speak to it. I don't know
19 who would be -- okay.

20 (Witness approached witness
21 table.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
23 morning.

24 MR. EBEID: Good morning. Adel
25 Ebeid, CIO for the City of Philadelphia.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 A couple of things in addition
3 to what Rebecca said. The dollars that
4 were put in the Operating Budget went to
5 support two additional FTE's that are
6 solely dedicated to maintenance and
7 upkeep of the --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 What's an FTE?

10 MR. EBEID: I'm sorry; a
11 full-time equivalent, so two staff
12 members. I apologize. They are solely
13 dedicated to the maintenance and upkeep
14 of the cameras. We've also contracted
15 with a vendor to augment our efforts. To
16 date, we fluctuate anywhere between 89
17 percent and 92 percent of all the cameras
18 that are owned by the City, maintained by
19 the City as up and running.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Operable?

22 MR. EBEID: Yes.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Not
24 inconsistent with the Controller's
25 report?

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MR. EBEID: The Controller's
3 report is quite old right now and it
4 looked at almost a very small sample of
5 cameras. They indicated 43 percent last
6 year. Our numbers, which are published
7 actually publicly, are anywhere between
8 89 and 92 percent depending on from month
9 to month.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How
11 many cameras do we have?

12 MR. EBEID: So I believe 219
13 cameras are in the original inventory of
14 City cameras, where you don't count
15 cameras that are enrolled in the SafeCam,
16 which are the privately managed cameras,
17 although we have access to it, Police has
18 access to it in the event of something
19 happening. We don't count those in the
20 original number.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Right. All right. I'm actually going to
23 come back and have a little more robust
24 conversation about cameras today, but
25 right now I would like to -- for my

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 colleagues, because we have a lot of
3 people teed up, the first round, if we
4 can do five minutes, please. Okay?
5 Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Goode.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 Good morning. Last year I
11 asked questions about employment goals
12 for the Capital Program. Specifically, I
13 asked how many Philadelphians will be
14 employed through the Capital Program.
15 The written response that I received
16 says, We do not know how many
17 Philadelphians will be employed through
18 the FY14 Capital Budget, as we are unable
19 to predict where workers will reside. We
20 can only estimate the number of total
21 construction jobs we created, which is
22 730. While we cannot predict where
23 workers will reside, we are now able to
24 track the employment of Philadelphians
25 for public works projects through the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Labor Compliance Plan software.

3 My question is, are 730 jobs
4 being created through this year's Capital
5 Budget and how many have gone to
6 Philadelphians?

7 MS. RHYNHART: I would say to
8 that this year's City-supported Capital
9 Budget is larger than last year's, so I
10 would say the number should be greater.
11 There's an actual calculation that we can
12 do and send to you. But how many are
13 Philadelphians, the second part of your
14 question?

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Last year I
16 asked you to project how many jobs would
17 be created. You said you could not do
18 that, but that you could track it and
19 that you estimate that 730 jobs will be
20 created, but you could not tell whether
21 they would be residents or not until the
22 project started. I'm saying as we are
23 into the fiscal year spending capital
24 money, do we still intend to create 730
25 jobs through this year's Capital Budget

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 and how many have gone to Philadelphians
3 since you said you have the ability to
4 track it through the Labor Compliance
5 Plan software?

6 MS. RHYNHART: I would have
7 Angela Dowd-Burton come up about the
8 tracking software. She's in the
9 audience. And I would think in terms of
10 the number of jobs, the estimate would
11 still hold, but I'll have Angela talk
12 about the tracking.

13 (Witness approached witness
14 table.)

15 MS. DOWD-BURTON: Good morning,
16 Councilman Goode and members of Council.
17 My name is Angela Dowd-Burton. I am
18 Executive Director of the Office of
19 Economic Opportunity.

20 With regard to the labor
21 tracking system, this is a system -- LCP
22 Tracker was installed January of 2014.
23 Based on a review of the system I guess
24 approximately two weeks ago now, there
25 were four projects in the system. The

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Labor Standards Unit is in the process of
3 enrolling contractors.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE:

5 Ms. Dowd-Burton, do we know how many jobs
6 have been created this fiscal year and
7 how many went to Philadelphians?

8 MS. DOWD-BURTON: No, I do not.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. I'm
10 done.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you, Councilman Goode.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Kenney.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 I'm looking at items relative
19 to the Fire Department and capital
20 improvements. There are about 11 items
21 listed. Nine of them are for fire
22 stations in the amount of \$10,000 and
23 then I have one for \$375,000. I assume
24 that's 4th and Arch because of the
25 extensive damage that was done when it

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 went on fire. And then I have \$650,000
3 for elevators for the Headquarters
4 Building.

5 I've been in a number of
6 firehouses in my career. They're pretty
7 deplorable places to work and to live,
8 and I don't know what you could
9 accomplish with \$10,000 for a station
10 house. That couldn't go very far at all.
11 And then we're spending over a half a
12 million dollars at the Headquarters for
13 elevators?

14 And I go further to say that I
15 support the project in West Philadelphia
16 for the new Police Headquarters. I think
17 it's a good use of the property and I
18 think it's needed out there. That's a
19 multi, multi-million dollar project, and
20 police stations and detective
21 headquarters in our city are, again, in a
22 deplorable condition. How do we justify
23 spending large amounts of money for the
24 bosses to work in and very little, if
25 any, money for the rank and file to work

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 in?

3 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning,
4 Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good
6 morning.

7 MS. RHYNHART: On the Fire
8 Department's Capital Budget, there's
9 \$600,000 total in Fiscal '15 for fire
10 station renovations, for sidewalks and
11 paving, and then another 500,000 for roof
12 replacements and then a million for
13 structural renovations at various fire
14 stations. So you're correct -- and
15 actually as I'm looking even more that
16 there's -- then there's for specific
17 firehouses, Engine 6, Ladder 16, Engine
18 13 --

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That's the
20 list I'm looking at.

21 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. Right.
22 Engine 25, Engine 19 that are all getting
23 between 175,000 and 375,000.

24 So there's a lot of stations
25 that are getting -- there are many

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 stations that are getting funding for
3 improvements in significant dollars.
4 There is also the elevator funding at
5 650,000 for the Headquarters, because
6 there needs to be a balance of priorities
7 in terms of fixing the stations and
8 fixing the Headquarters. There's people
9 that work at Headquarters and people that
10 work at the stations, so --

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Have you
12 been in a fire station lately?

13 MS. RHYNHART: Yeah, I've been
14 in a fire station.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do you find
16 that the conditions there are acceptable
17 to actually live -- firehouses are
18 houses, you actually live in it. I mean,
19 I've been in some kitchens and some
20 bathrooms in station houses that I
21 wouldn't want to use, and we're kind of
22 insisting that people work there. Fire
23 Headquarters is a relatively new
24 building. It's only about three or
25 four -- it's like three stories high or

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 four stories high. Why would we spend
3 over a half a million dollars in
4 elevators when I go into a neighborhood
5 station house and it's terrible?

6 MS. RHYNHART: Well, as I just
7 said, there is money set aside,
8 significant money set aside, for
9 stations, and then there's 650,000 for
10 the Fire Administration Building. But
11 the amount set aside for the stations is
12 larger, and 1.1 million for those four,
13 plus another 1.2 million. I mean,
14 there's a significant amount of money put
15 aside for the stations themselves. If
16 you want a reason for what's going on
17 with the elevators and why there's an
18 elevator problem, I mean, I could have
19 Public Property come up and discuss --

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We have an
21 elevator problem here. Our bank down the
22 hallway has one elevator for the last
23 number of months that I can remember.
24 So, I mean, maybe elevators are an issue.
25 But I will continue to assert that the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 condition of our fire stations and police
3 stations are deplorable in general, and I
4 think that if we're going to build a new
5 kind of Headquarters palace in West
6 Philly and we're going to fix this place
7 up on Spring Garden Street, I think we
8 ought to pay a little more attention to
9 our rank and file needs. I mean, I find
10 it distressing, frankly.

11 (Witness approached witness
12 table.)

13 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I would
14 say, though, that there's a balance, and
15 we are putting money into police and fire
16 stations.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
18 Gary Knappick, Deputy Commissioner,
19 Department of Public Property for Capital
20 Projects.

21 Councilman, I'll just add to
22 what you're saying, which I totally agree
23 with, that we do have to maintain
24 accessibility at the Fire Administration
25 Building, so --

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But just
3 from your perspective as far as the
4 condition of police stations and
5 firehouses, they're not exactly what we
6 should be proud of.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
8 We certainly need to invest in those
9 stations. The problem being that the
10 ages of those stations, they're well up
11 there and a lot of them need replacement
12 as well.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But there's
14 a lot of nice older buildings in the
15 City.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
17 Certainly are, and they're usually more
18 expensive to fix.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I hear you,
20 but I would like that to be a priority,
21 because we've been talking about it for
22 years.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
24 Yes, sir.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, Councilman.

4 Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you, Mr. President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 You're welcome, Councilwoman.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: A few
10 questions, and I know my colleague
11 Councilman Kenney will follow up on one
12 issue and, that is, we had a Finance
13 hearing last week with regard to the site
14 at 4601 Market Street where we're talking
15 about bringing the Police Administration
16 Building, and at that time, we also
17 brought up the issue of additional 50
18 million for police and fire station
19 repair. It was suggested at that point
20 that we wait until today to deal with the
21 issue, to bring it up in this process
22 because that's the formal way to do it.
23 Would you let us know what you would like
24 for us? Councilman Kenney, in fact he
25 brought the idea to me, thank you, and

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 we're interested in working on that, and
3 let us know how you would like it to
4 proceed.

5 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. In terms
6 of funding for police and fire stations,
7 there is significant money that we've put
8 in over the last few years for police
9 stations that's in progress to do station
10 repairs. So there's about \$13 million of
11 money right now for police stations
12 that's available that's being worked on
13 in design, in the beginning stages of the
14 project stage. So there is significant
15 money there at this point. We can have a
16 discussion about more money, if that's
17 what you're talking about. We can always
18 have a discussion about that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well,
20 that's exactly what we're talking about.
21 And so we'd like to set that up so that
22 we can proceed with this while we're in
23 this phase. We were prepared to proceed,
24 so we're trying to do it the proper way
25 to get consideration. So definitely

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 we're interested in that conversation.

3 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. We could
4 set that up.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All
6 right. Number two, I have in my 3rd
7 District on my sheet for Records, Records
8 improvements, City Hall security
9 improvements, \$200,000. Can you tell me
10 what that is?

11 MS. RHYNHART: Yeah. I
12 apologize. I had mentioned this to one
13 of your staffers, but that was a mistake.
14 That was put in in error. That's in City
15 Hall, so obviously not in the 3rd
16 District.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So
18 that means I get the 200,000 for the 3rd.

19 MS. RHYNHART: It doesn't
20 really work that way, but...

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And I
22 want to know if -- is Ms. Reardon -- I
23 didn't see her -- from the libraries here
24 today?

25 MS. RHYNHART: Ms. Reardon? I

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 don't think she's here today. Jim Pecora
3 is here in her absence.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I just
5 wanted to follow up on the old George's
6 Library, that program, and she can get
7 back to me on it. We've been talking
8 about it for a couple years.

9 MS. RHYNHART: Okay.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
11 you, Mr. President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you, Councilwoman.

14 City Hall is in the 5th
15 District. Can you tell me what that's
16 for, please.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'll
18 split it with you, Mr. President.

19 MS. RHYNHART: You can go make
20 your deal.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
22 saw where I was going, right,
23 Councilwoman?

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

25 MS. RHYNHART: It's for the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Records Department. I believe it's for
3 security glass for their interactions
4 with the public. I think they've
5 actually had some confrontations, people
6 angry about getting their records.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
8 so is that on all -- I don't call them
9 tellers. What do you call them?

10 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. I don't
11 know what they're called, but --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But
13 it's similar to that?

14 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
16 there's no opportunity to have a
17 physical --

18 MS. RHYNHART: Right.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Really?

21 MS. RHYNHART: Yes.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: In
23 Records?

24 MS. RHYNHART: Yes.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Wow.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Things are pretty bad.

3 Okay. Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Jones.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
7 Mr. President.

8 (Bell rung.)

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: That quick?
10 I know I get the short end, but come on
11 now.

12 So good morning.

13 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning,
14 Councilman.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: I have a
16 couple of questions, and I probably won't
17 get all of them answered in the first
18 round, but let me get as many as I can
19 in.

20 Can you describe for me, number
21 one, how many -- what is the total value
22 of the Capital Budget for this fiscal
23 year? What does it represent in size?

24 MS. RHYNHART: The total budget
25 across Water and Aviation and all funds

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 is over \$3 billion for Fiscal '15.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: How many
4 projects does that represent?

5 MR. JASTRZAB: I think there
6 were 69 projects in the budget year, 69
7 projects in the budget year. And then
8 additionally there are projects that had
9 been appropriated in previous years, 319
10 of those are carrying forward.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in your
12 answer to questions that we had last
13 year, I believe you cited -- I asked the
14 question and others did, what was the
15 length of time that it takes to do a
16 project. I think the low end you cite as
17 74 weeks and the high end was somewhere
18 upwards of 490 weeks, which represents
19 about nine years.

20 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. That's
21 what we testified to last year.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So at the
23 best-case scenario, you might get a
24 project done a year and a half. At the
25 worst case, we might be touching a decade

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 to get capital projects completed.

3 MS. RHYNHART: Well, those were
4 the stats given last year in the
5 testimony, which was the range.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what was
7 the mean?

8 MS. RHYNHART: So the average
9 when we looked at it, we looked at it
10 last year, and the average length of time
11 for a capital project is between three
12 and four years. And that length is
13 something that we are working on.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: And it's my
15 understanding a part of it was attributed
16 to the fact that there were over 250
17 steps that it takes to actually procure
18 and actually construct a project.

19 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. There
20 are -- I can't say the exact number, but
21 that doesn't sound unreasonable to the
22 number of steps that we have. We have
23 many steps. We did over the last year
24 have a Capital Working Group that
25 convened on this issue, and also this is

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 one of the things that I spoke to last
3 year that FTI Consulting had looked at
4 when they looked at our report. So we
5 had --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So has there
7 been improvement from this year to last
8 on shrinking the steps and shrinking the
9 time?

10 MS. RHYNHART: I'd have to
11 check in to see if there were steps that
12 were removed from that process. Part of
13 it is that the steps -- a lot of the
14 steps need to be there because -- I'm not
15 saying all 250, but a lot of the steps
16 need to be there because departmental
17 signoff is needed, but what we need are
18 people that push it through the steps.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: The question
20 is, is there improvement? Have you cut
21 down the time?

22 MS. RHYNHART: I would have to
23 say that I don't know offhand what the
24 time is, and we could look at it. We
25 could look at it again.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's
3 something, Mr. Chairman, I would like an
4 answer to.

5 MS. RHYNHART: Sure.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Secondly,
7 what is the process by which you
8 determine a good project versus one that
9 you're going to pass on by way of capital
10 improvement? What is that process? What
11 are the criteria? What are the steps?

12 MS. RHYNHART: Just to add
13 something to your last question and then
14 I will go to this question. On the
15 length of time, we have taken some steps
16 to get at the issue. We've put in money
17 for a new quality control group in
18 Capital to actually hold projects to
19 timelines and to check change orders to
20 keep costs down. So they'll be coming on
21 board in Fiscal '15, in this budget. So
22 there are some things that we have done.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

24 MS. RHYNHART: Now to your next
25 question.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
3 know if it netted a reduction in time.
4 You don't -- if you got a real answer,
5 give me a real answer.

6 MS. RHYNHART: I will get back
7 to you on that.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So my
9 question now is, how do you determine
10 that? And I'll get to why I'm asking
11 these questions. Because we may -- I
12 need to know your process by which when a
13 Councilperson recommends a capital
14 improvement -- I know back in the bad old
15 days, we used to say do curbs and
16 sidewalks on this block, that block or
17 the other that did not make sense and,
18 therefore, there was a rationale put into
19 why you make a capital project. When we
20 have a rationale of a reason why, how do
21 you determine whether it is of merit or
22 not?

23 MS. RHYNHART: I would say that
24 we have limited resources in our Capital
25 Budget, and we begin the process by

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 looking at Police and Fire, Parks, Recs,
3 Streets. We have IT needs and Fleet
4 needs. There's a lot of base needs, and
5 we don't have really enough room to fund
6 what we actually need to spend. So just
7 in that light -- and I know where you're
8 going -- in that light, there are many,
9 many things that we don't fund and that
10 we don't put into the budget.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
12 to know the process. Because if you tell
13 me there's a process, Councilman, you
14 need to go A and then go to B and then go
15 to C, and I do that and there was no real
16 A, B or C, then I get frustrated as to
17 what I should do to try to communicate
18 that something has merit. And I just
19 need to know what that is so that I could
20 follow the rules.

21 And according to the
22 Controller's report on, I believe it's,
23 KOZ's, for example, if there is an
24 economic rationale to a capital
25 improvement that will create jobs, as was

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 mentioned, then that should be
3 considered. If we add curbs and
4 sidewalks to a possible factory, then
5 that makes sense. It makes sense to our
6 bottom line. It's rational in its
7 support.

8 If there is a process to
9 determine what is rational, all I want to
10 know is what it is so that I can bring
11 things to the Administration and say,
12 Hey, if you do this, that, and the other,
13 we will gain jobs, we will gain projects.
14 But if I can't tell a developer, Yeah,
15 we'll look at moving a salt mound so that
16 we can create an entrance to undeveloped
17 acres because they only have one entrance
18 in and out that does not make economic
19 sense, I just want to know -- and I can
20 be wrong and you can tell me no, but you
21 have to give me a reason why there's a no
22 or not just let it die as a vine of
23 because I'm nice, because I'm not like
24 Bill Green. I felt some kind of way.

25 MS. RHYNHART: Okay.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Now we have
3 it.

4 MS. RHYNHART: So I appreciate
5 your line of questioning, and I know that
6 you're talking about the 52nd Street salt
7 dome and moving that. We are interested
8 in looking at that at this point. I know
9 that the Streets Commissioner reached out
10 to you yesterday and that you'll be
11 walking the site tomorrow, I believe, so
12 that we could come up with a better cost
13 estimate of what you're looking to do. I
14 think the last time, maybe a year or so
15 ago, we were under the impression that it
16 was a bigger project than it is.

17 With that said -- go ahead.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
19 stop because I'm going to be fair to my
20 colleagues. The point is, if you tell
21 me, Councilman, you're late for -- you
22 were late and you didn't get it in on
23 time and, therefore, it was denied, I
24 took it on the chin. I said, Okay, I'm
25 going to be early next year. And then I

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 find out bring me the broom of the wicked
3 witch of the west, I'm going to always --

4 MS. RHYNHART: So there's a
5 two-part process.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So
7 Councilpeople in general need to know
8 what is the process by which you make
9 those requests.

10 MS. RHYNHART: So the process
11 is, you'll have to get a request in in
12 order to be considered. So if you don't
13 get the request in, then it obviously
14 can't be considered. If you get the
15 request in, then it can be considered.

16 Your project, maybe we didn't
17 understand the full value of it and so we
18 will discuss with you further, but it
19 didn't make that first cut. But we will
20 discuss with you further.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you, Councilman.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Councilwoman Bass.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Mr. President.

5 Good morning.

6 MS. RYHNHART: Good morning.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: How are
8 you? I just have a couple of questions,
9 and I wanted to start really just picking
10 up where Councilman Kenney and also
11 Councilwoman Blackwell left off regarding
12 fire stations. I go to pretty much every
13 City facility in my district to see
14 what's going on. I've been to every
15 school in my district and I've been to
16 most of the fire and the police stations,
17 and I have to say that the conditions are
18 completely unacceptable. And so when I
19 see that we're spending a minimum amount
20 overall on sidewalks and paving, when in
21 some of our facilities we have black mold
22 and sewage in the basement and all sorts
23 of things happening. So I really would
24 like for you to help me understand what
25 the thinking is.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 And also I know that there are
3 some -- or there is some information out
4 there in terms of what needs to be done.
5 There has been some work done by the City
6 in terms of what kind of repairs and what
7 kind of things need to be done to these
8 facilities, and can you tell me when that
9 will happen, is it on the radar, what's
10 going to happen? Because to spend
11 \$10,000 on, let's see, six fire stations
12 for sidewalks and ramps really just, in
13 my opinion, just doesn't cut it when you
14 see some of the conditions. And I want
15 to invite you to go out with me to some
16 of the fire stations in my district, and
17 I think that you may want to revise some
18 of these numbers after you see what I've
19 seen.

20 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I would
21 be happy to. I would point --

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'll set it
23 up.

24 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I would
25 point out that the amount for fire

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 stations is about 3.2, 3.3 million for
3 the year. I know you're looking at the
4 subcategory breakdown, and I think some
5 of that probably needs some further
6 refinement by Public Property and I think
7 they might be looking at a few bigger
8 projects rather than those \$10,000
9 splits, because there is some thought
10 that that is too small for each station.
11 But the total amount is about 3.2, 3.3
12 million and then the 650,000 for the
13 Headquarter Building, so 3.9 million.

14 But, again, I think there is --
15 we don't have all of the resources we
16 need to do everything we want.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No; I
18 understand that.

19 MS. RHYNHART: So also on Fire
20 we have about \$8 million of money
21 available from prior years, and that is
22 in the process of being spent, and Public
23 Property could detail out what those
24 improvements are going to be for. So
25 there's about the \$8 million, plus the \$3

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 million in new money. All together,
3 Public Property could detail that out, if
4 you're interested.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I am.

6 MS. RYHNHART: Okay. I could
7 call Gary Knappick up.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And while
9 they're coming forward, I just wanted to
10 mention that we said in the testimony
11 that we wanted to -- the goal is to
12 create complete neighborhoods, and I
13 don't see how that could realistically be
14 a goal if we have our own City facilities
15 in complete disrepair in some of our most
16 distressed neighborhoods. So we've got a
17 neighborhood, it's already fighting for
18 its own survival, and then we've got this
19 building which is really turning out to
20 be a burden in the community. It should
21 be an asset, but the condition of the
22 building really does lend itself to the
23 overall condition of what's happening in
24 the neighborhood, and it's not good. And
25 so when we talk about building complete

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 communities, we really have to -- if
3 that's what we're going to say we're
4 going to do, then I think we have to take
5 it very seriously.

6 (Witness approached witness
7 table.)

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
9 Good morning, Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
11 morning.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
13 Council President. Gary Knappick,
14 Department of Public Property.

15 To answer your question, right
16 now in the Fire Department we have about
17 \$6.2 million actually in play in the
18 budget. That pretty much exhausts the
19 available carry-forward funding that is
20 on the books right now. In other words,
21 they're projects. I could list the
22 projects and where that money goes
23 individually if you'd like or I could
24 send it to you. But pretty much every
25 dollar that's in the carry-forward

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 money -- I'm sorry; carry-forward funding
3 right now is in play in some way, shape
4 or form on a project, whether that
5 project is in construction, in bid or in
6 design. I could name a few for you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
9 We have -- as far as projects in design,
10 we have about 1.9 million of that 6
11 million in mechanical, electrical, and
12 plumbing improvements at Engines 8, 10,
13 19, 18, and 25. Another 1.3 for roof
14 restorations in Engine 71, 72, 1, 47, 33,
15 and 64. We're working on Engine 8 right
16 now, which was the fire station that had
17 the fire. There's \$850,000 going into
18 that, and that's currently just going out
19 for bid.

20 In construction -- this is just
21 going into construction right now --
22 there is 1.1 million that's PICA funding
23 going for structural restorations at 3,
24 69, 71, 72. Those structural
25 restorations, by the way, are very key

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 because in some cases, we have failure.
3 Apparatus are very heavy and they destroy
4 the apparatus floors, and when there's
5 vandal, you get into problems.

6 The \$600,000 that you were
7 looking at in the budget really is going
8 to go towards repair of paving and
9 handicap accessibility issues in the fire
10 stations as well.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. I
12 have some more questions, but I'll wait
13 for the next round. But I think it's
14 apparent to me that there is a real
15 disconnect between the folks who are on
16 the ground in the fire stations and the
17 folks who are allocating and determining
18 how these resources are going to be
19 spent. I get it that we don't have
20 enough money to do everything that we'd
21 like to do. I mean, that's pretty
22 simple. But there has to be some
23 priorities. There has to be -- I mean,
24 if we value our City employees, if we
25 value the folks who will rush out and run

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 into a burning building, then we have to
3 really think about what kind of facility
4 are we putting them in. And I got to
5 tell you, most of my facilities are in
6 really bad shape.

7 And so I am going to set a
8 meeting up or a tour, and I'd like to do
9 it before the callback period. And so
10 within the next week or two, I'd love for
11 us to have the both of you come out and
12 see what I have seen, which is very
13 disturbing, because, again, I do feel
14 that there is some sort of a disconnect
15 here.

16 MS. RHYNHART: Okay.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay?

18 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. I'd be
19 happy to.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Councilwoman.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilwoman Tasco.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Good morning.

3 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I see that
5 you're appropriating \$770,000 to each
6 district for improvements to existing
7 facilities.

8 MS. RHYNHART: The 790?

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Is that a
10 decrease from what we've gotten before?

11 MS. RHYNHART: No. That's
12 consistent.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Beg your
14 pardon?

15 MS. RHYNHART: That is
16 consistent. It's the 790, plus the
17 410,000 in -- let me just pull it up --
18 in Finance money. So there's money in
19 Parks and Rec and then there's also
20 money -- there's 790,000 in Rec money and
21 then 410,000 in Finance money. So each
22 district gets 1.2 million.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: 1.2
24 million.

25 The Department, the Rec

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Department, do you also appropriate money
3 to them for repairs or services at these
4 rec centers so that they don't have to
5 ask us for our money? Because they ask
6 us for our money.

7 MS. RHYNHART: We put a much
8 smaller amount in Parks and Rec's budget.
9 So the way the process -- they're
10 actually supposed to come out and ask the
11 Councilmembers for the money that's been
12 allocated to your districts. The reason
13 that the money has been allocated to the
14 districts historically is to give each
15 Councilperson the say on what makes the
16 most sense in terms of Parks and Rec
17 improvements in your district. But that
18 is -- they are supposed to come and ask
19 you for it.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.
21 That's all the questions I have. Thanks.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you
23 done, Councilwoman?

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Yes.
25 Thank you.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

3 The Chair now recognizes

4 Councilwoman Sanchez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
6 morning, folks. I know Council President
7 mentioned that he wanted to talk a little
8 bit around the commercial corridors. In
9 your response to him dated March 21st, in
10 addition to the \$5 million, there was a
11 \$12.9 million carryover. If we can get
12 that breakdown. And the reason is that
13 this year, after six years, some of that
14 money is actually going into my district.
15 So my concern is the timeline, because if
16 you're carrying over 12.9 and it took me
17 six years to get a project that I'm not
18 going to get done for another three
19 years, I'd like to know that. So in
20 terms of the timeline, I think that's
21 important because --

22 MS. RHYNHART: I'll have Karen,
23 Commerce Department.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I'm
25 trying to give her a heads-up so she can

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 prepare.

3 In the last couple of years,
4 this Council with the Administration has
5 been committed to like restaffing up our
6 maintenance units, and one of the things
7 as we talk about this Capital Budget, one
8 of the reasons we were going back to that
9 was because we wanted to staff up our
10 building trades component to be able to
11 do some of this work.

12 Are we outlining cost analysis
13 of what it costs us to do stuff
14 internally versus when we're doing the
15 external piece? Is anybody tracking
16 that, and can we get -- and maybe Bridget
17 can come forward. The reason we did that
18 is because everybody is frustrated about
19 how long these capital projects take. So
20 I want to know have we improved and how
21 long does it take? Because if we are
22 going to get through this Fire list and
23 the Police Department list, we need to
24 figure out what's the most efficient.
25 And so is it working?

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. Joe
3 Palantino, the Deputy Property
4 Commissioner, can join us up here to give
5 some statistics on the program, the
6 preventative maintenance program, where
7 they now have about 22 people of the 29
8 budgeted for. So pretty fully on the way
9 to becoming fully staffed up in the
10 preventative maintenance team that's
11 focusing on police and fire stations, and
12 he has some good data which he can show.
13 He's right here.

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
17 Good morning, Councilwoman.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
19 morning.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:
21 Yes. And back to sort of the integration
22 where capital meets facilities, some of
23 the projects that Gary brought up for the
24 apparatus floor, we were at Engine 51 and
25 now we're at Engine 70, and what we do is

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 with those additional PM crew staff,
3 we're in the facility at the same time
4 doing a comprehensive interior
5 renovation, and then what we plan to do
6 is do that for those type of projects
7 where we can integrate facilities and
8 capital with those additional staff. We
9 do have 22 out of the 29 on staff right
10 now, and it's been a big success for us
11 in trying to get ahead and do things more
12 proactively.

13 In the Quarter 3 FY13, the
14 Quarter 2 FY14, we've been in 104
15 facilities and gone through most of the
16 backhouse stuff, MEP, and it's been
17 significant. We've been doing a lot of
18 like filter changes, mechanical
19 improvements, taking out plumbing
20 fixtures that have been there for a long
21 time, and looking for opportunities to
22 coordinate with Capital.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So my
24 question is, if we ramp that up, could we
25 get through some of these line items that

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 the Councilpeople are talking about are
3 so frustrating in terms of the condition
4 of the facilities?

5 MS. RHYNHART: Well, it's a
6 good question. I think there's sort of
7 two parts to this, because the
8 preventative maintenance team is focusing
9 on regular maintenance of the building so
10 that they don't break, right, so that
11 boilers don't explode, so that causing --
12 so that roofs are fixed, are done better
13 so that they don't leak. So it's
14 preventative. So really where it has
15 savings is in preventing the capital need
16 going forward.

17 In terms of having a small
18 capital projects team on the Police and
19 Fire side, that's interesting, because
20 Mike DiBerardinis has done a great job of
21 implementing that on the Parks and Rec
22 side for the rec centers to do the small
23 capital projects, but right now that's
24 focused on the parks and rec centers.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So let

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 me strongly encourage using that baseline
3 data at the right department where it's
4 costing us \$50,000, \$75,000 to fix a
5 roof, to do that in the Fire Department
6 and the Police Department, and I think
7 that we need to create that model. I
8 mean, I think after six years, seven
9 years of listening to the same
10 conversation in terms of our long list of
11 capital improvements, if it's more
12 efficient and more effective, then we
13 need to build that team out so that we
14 can get to kind of all those ticket
15 items, because I think the reason all of
16 us were invested in the preventive one,
17 because we knew it makes sense long term.
18 Now we need to build up to do the roof,
19 the floor, the bathrooms. I feel very
20 comfortable that our Public Property team
21 under our Commissioner could get that
22 done in a way that's more cost effective
23 so that we can be more proactive on that.
24 And so what I'm going to ask is
25 if you could put forth what is the menu

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 of what it costs us to do a roof
3 internally versus externally, what does
4 it cost us to do all of the ticket items
5 that the Councilpeople are talking about,
6 because we moved away from an internal
7 team, but folks will tell you that in the
8 '90s, those internal teams were pretty
9 robust and we were getting to more ticket
10 items. And so I think we need to look at
11 that. I know that the Administration has
12 been really resistant to that, but I
13 think the maintenance side on the Rec
14 Department side and Public Property is
15 showing us that that's where we need to
16 be investing.

17 MS. RHYNHART: And I don't know
18 or at least I wouldn't say that we're
19 resistant to that. I think now that we
20 have the Parks and Rec model up and
21 running and see what it's doing and how
22 it's interacting, and I think the
23 Councilmembers are somewhat satisfied
24 with the way that's working hopefully, I
25 think so, and now that we've seen that, I

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 think that one of the recommendations
3 coming out of the FTI study a year ago
4 was to have teams to work on small
5 capital projects. So that's what you're
6 talking about, 50,000 in materials and
7 having our people going and doing the
8 work instead of hiring a contractor for
9 everything. So I think that is
10 something. I think it's a good point,
11 good suggestion, and I think we should
12 follow up on it.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I would
14 strongly encourage you to. And I'd like
15 to see the data on what we've been able
16 to accomplish, and then if we apply that
17 matrix to the other building, how many
18 years would it take us, because I think
19 we could have a better conversation from
20 Council to the Administration. I think
21 while you say you're not resistant, it's
22 sort of like no one pulls the trigger.
23 And so it took us three years to pull the
24 trigger on the maintenance teams. I
25 don't want to have a conversation for

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 three years. I think it's just more cost
3 effective if we start planning it out.
4 So if you can apply that matrix to Public
5 Property and we can have a conversation
6 before the end of the budget cycle, I'd
7 like to see some of that done, because I
8 agree with my Council colleagues. I
9 think that visually neighborhoods feel
10 like we have abandoned them, and when our
11 public facilities look like that, it just
12 adds to the feeling that we're not doing
13 a good job, let alone the morale that
14 exists in those firehouses and the Police
15 Department. So I think we need to be
16 more aggressive. I think we have a
17 little bit of room and now a little bit
18 of experience.

19 I personally hate the fact that
20 we are held hostage by some of these
21 external contractors who do this work.
22 I'm just extremely frustrated. And I
23 think that the competition has to come
24 from us to say we can do this ourselves
25 and we can hire these folks to do this

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 work better than what we've been getting.
3 We're not getting a good product for what
4 we're paying for on the capital side, and
5 we know that and everybody knows that.
6 And so we really need to move on this
7 stuff, and I just don't want it to take
8 three years to build up a maintenance
9 team in the City. I think we need to
10 pull the trigger on it.

11 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I think
12 we should definitely have the discussion
13 sooner rather than later.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So
15 hopefully by the end of the budget, we'll
16 get the matrix of roof, heating, all of
17 those things?

18 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. We'll
19 produce some thoughtful analysis to move
20 it forward, move the discussion forward
21 definitely.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
23 Thank you. I know I've used up my time.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, you
25 did. Thank you, Councilwoman.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 For the people who have not
3 spoken in the first round, it will go to
4 Councilman Oh and then Councilman
5 Squilla, if he's still here, and then
6 we'll begin the second round.

7 Councilman Oh.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
9 much, Mr. Chairman.

10 Good morning.

11 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning,
12 Councilman.

13 COUNCILMAN OH: In the Capital
14 Budget, have you included any anticipated
15 funds from the outstanding \$500 million
16 in delinquent taxes being collected?

17 MS. RHYNHART: So any of the
18 outstanding taxes being collected would
19 be shown in the Operating Budget.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: I did not see
21 it in the Operating Budget.

22 MS. RHYNHART: Well, in the
23 Operating Budget, it shows up in lines
24 titled "prior tax collection." So
25 there's "current" and then there's

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 "prior." So that's where it would show
3 in the budget and brief document.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: So could you
5 refresh my recollection. Did you put a
6 number for this year in the Operating
7 Budget in terms of the money that you
8 anticipated to collect from the
9 outstanding \$500-plus million of
10 delinquent taxes and fees?

11 MS. RHYNHART: I'm not -- I
12 can't verify the 500 million number that
13 you're using, but we do have a number
14 budgeted each year for prior year
15 collections.

16 COUNCILMAN OH: So based on a
17 hearing we had yesterday with
18 Commissioner Tolson, there was \$533
19 million in outstanding uncollected
20 delinquent taxes and fees for real estate
21 related and 18.8 million was collected,
22 leaving \$514.2 million still outstanding.
23 Do you have with you or does someone have
24 the number that you anticipate to collect
25 each year off of this outstanding debt?

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. I have the
3 number what we have anticipated for the
4 prior year collections in real estate.
5 I'm just thinking that it might be
6 better -- I can definitely provide that
7 to you, and it might be a better
8 discussion to have once the Operating
9 Budget hearings start this coming Monday,
10 because we're talking about Capital. But
11 I can go through it, if you would like.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Well, it helps
13 me with understanding Capital kind of
14 collectively. So I'm not going to spend
15 too much time on this, because basically
16 what I'm looking at based on the
17 information we received yesterday is this
18 debt, some of it being a couple of
19 decades old, needs to be collected as
20 quickly as possible, and when we add in
21 the income, the uncollected income taxes
22 that become uncollectible after six
23 years, that if these aren't reduced to
24 judgment and collected upon, we're
25 probably not going to collect them, and

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 it does seem possible that 153 million is
3 collectible over a period of years.

4 So I'm anticipating to look at
5 the budget somewhere, whether it's
6 Capital or Operating, and see a number
7 that is consistent with collecting this
8 debt, the collectible portion, over the
9 anticipated amount of time, four years,
10 five years, that I would hope would be
11 added to the budget in terms of paying
12 for some of the things that we're talking
13 about.

14 MS. RHYNHART: So in the
15 Operating Budget -- and I can show you
16 the page. It's in the budget and brief
17 document. We have about \$44 to \$45, \$46
18 million a year in prior year property tax
19 alone. That doesn't account for wage and
20 business and other taxes. And this is
21 just the City's portion of those taxes.
22 There's also the School District's
23 portion of those taxes.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay.

25 MS. RHYNHART: But, again, it

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 might make sense either I'd be happy to
3 discuss with you outside this hearing or
4 at one of the Operating Budget hearings.

5 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
6 much. Thank you for answering my
7 question.

8 MS. RHYNHART: Thanks.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
12 Councilman.

13 The last person in our first
14 round of questioning is Councilman
15 Squilla.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair.

18 Good morning.

19 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: My
21 question sort of was on the lines of the
22 Council President's questions with the
23 commercial corridor monies. We did
24 think, I think, originally there would be
25 the \$5 million a year into that fund, but

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 that money moving forward, obviously
3 since there was only a million dollars
4 added to that, is there a process we
5 could go over of what actual projects can
6 be done on those commercial corridors?

7 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. Well,
8 again, I would restate what I said to the
9 Council President, that we're definitely
10 open for discussion for increasing that.
11 That's just -- we lowered several items
12 just to try to get the debt issuance
13 numbers down in the out years, but we're
14 open to increasing that back. So that's
15 not a controversial point from our
16 perspective.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's
18 good.

19 MS. RHYNHART: Right. We have
20 one.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Not used
22 to that.

23 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. In terms
24 of the process by which the projects are
25 picked and what's eligible, I would call

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 up Karen Fegely to go through that.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: We could
4 work with her on that. You don't have to
5 explain that one.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Great.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Last year
8 when we spoke, there was an increase in
9 capital funding for Public Property for
10 repairs and maintenance, and I think it
11 was to understand that if we did some
12 preventive maintenance and be able to fix
13 things, we could then end up saving money
14 in the long run not having to redo it.
15 Do we have any, I guess, information on
16 what that money was actually spent on and
17 what did we think the improvements -- how
18 that actually saved us?

19 MS. RHYNHART: We do actually,
20 and Joe Palantino was up here a few
21 minutes ago, Deputy Public Property
22 Commissioner, speaking on that. They've
23 made over, I believe, 1,600 repairs of
24 police, fire stations. When I say
25 "repairs," preventative maintenance work

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 orders, police, fire stations, and other
3 City buildings, and they are estimating
4 capital savings from that investment. So
5 we do have some data and we could forward
6 that along to you if you want the actual
7 list of stations that they've been to.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And the
9 reason why I'm asking that too is because
10 we had mentioned last year also that once
11 we did it this year, that next year we'll
12 probably add that to Parks and Rec to do
13 that. And is that something that we're
14 going to do to increase some capital
15 dollars for the repairs and save money
16 that way also?

17 MS. RHYNHART: That's a good
18 question. I mean, I think that the
19 way -- Parks and Rec did get additional
20 money last year in their budget, over 2
21 million, and they've allocated a good
22 amount of that to additional staff, and
23 they're working on maintenance as well as
24 small capital projects. So that is
25 something that they're doing and will

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 continue to look at.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That
4 wasn't my question.

5 MS. RHYNHART: I'm sorry. Go
6 ahead.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Last year
8 we talked about adding the additional
9 capital that would be ongoing yearly for
10 Public Property so that we could do all
11 these repairs ahead of time and
12 preventive maintenance stuff, and this
13 year we're going to start adding it to
14 Park and Rec. So can we --

15 MS. RHYNHART: It's an
16 Operating Budget item. So into their
17 Operating Budget?

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yes.

19 MS. RHYNHART: I think in the
20 meantime -- and we can continue this
21 discussion offline, because I think in
22 the meantime the Parks and Rec did get
23 funding, but we can continue this
24 discussion.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 That's my answer. All right.

3 Thank you very much,

4 Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Kenney.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
10 Mr. President.

11 I mean, every time we're
12 talking about finite amount of dollars to
13 spend on capital needs, it's all a matter
14 of setting priorities, and ironically as
15 I'm looking at these \$10,000 items for
16 ramps, sidewalks, and paving of
17 firehouses, I add up \$8 million in
18 proposed expenditures for Penn's Landing.
19 Now, I think Penn's Landing is great and
20 I know there's long-term plans for it to
21 be actually torn down and paved over and
22 covered over with a grass park, but we
23 have \$8 million in planned improvements
24 in maintenance to Penn's Landing and 3
25 point something million dollars in

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 firehouses. I mean, isn't it a matter of
3 setting your priorities? And the
4 priorities you've set are basically that
5 Penn's Landing is more important than our
6 fire stations.

7 MS. RHYNHART: No. I wouldn't
8 draw that conclusion. I mean, I did say
9 we also have \$8 million of prior year
10 funds that's still available for fire
11 stations, plus the 3 million in new
12 money. The \$8 million in Penn's Landing
13 is a significant one-time investment or
14 increase in that funding from past years
15 and for future years. It will not be --
16 it is not expected to be that high.

17 But to your point, I mean, I
18 think every item in the Capital Budget
19 was thought through in terms of -- we
20 give a certain -- try to give a certain
21 amount for upkeep and repairs to our
22 existing facilities and also try to be
23 forward thinking with some economic
24 development issues.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It was

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 thought through by whom?

3 MS. RHYNHART: The Capital
4 Budget?

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Was thought
7 through by me, was thought through up to
8 the Mayor.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. I
10 mean, do you think that the Council has a
11 role?

12 MS. RHYNHART: Council does
13 have a role, yes.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's
15 already been thought through.

16 MS. RHYNHART: I'm sorry?

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's
18 already been thought through. So it's
19 like here it is. But we have a Public
20 Property Committee that's ably chaired by
21 Councilman Henon. There's no interaction
22 between the Administration and Council on
23 any large issue, including the Capital
24 Budget. Why is that the case? I mean,
25 as I've said before in this issue

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 relative to PGW, I can't imagine a
3 private-sector firm having a CEO make a
4 \$2 billion asset sale request and never
5 talk to the Board of Directors. I can't
6 imagine a private-sector firm that has a
7 Board of Directors that has various
8 committees that have purview over certain
9 areas and have no interaction with the
10 CEO and his staff prior to coming here
11 with this. And I just don't understand
12 why that doesn't happen.

13 MS. RHYNHART: I'm not clear on
14 the Board of Directors comparison.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: This is a
16 municipal corporation.

17 MS. RHYNHART: Well, this is
18 actually --

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Let me
20 finish. This is a municipal corporation
21 that has a CEO. It also has a 17-member
22 Board of Directors. Each of those Board
23 of Director members chair a committee
24 that have something to do with the
25 operation of that municipal corporation.

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2 Why does not the CEO and his staff talk
3 to the members of the Board? Because if
4 it was a private-sector firm, that would
5 never happen.

6 MS. RHYNHART: I think it's
7 different.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Why is it
9 different?

10 MS. RHYNHART: I think that we
11 work with Council on many issues
12 throughout the year, but government has
13 an executive branch, and that is
14 separate. It's not a Board of
15 Directors --

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's a \$4
17 billion municipal corporation. What's
18 the difference? It's got stockholders,
19 who are citizens. It has members of the
20 board, who are actually elected, not
21 appointed, and most of the people who are
22 making the decisions relative to the
23 big-ticket items across the board are
24 appointed, not elected.

25 MS. RHYNHART: But the CEO

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 reports to the Board of Directors.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: When?

4 MS. RHYNHART: The CEO often --
5 anyway, I don't think we need to get into
6 a back and forth.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I must have
8 missed those Board meetings.

9 MS. RHYNHART: No. In a
10 company is what I'm saying. In a
11 corporation, the CEO reports to a Board
12 of Directors. That's not the case here.
13 We're a separate branch of government.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I sit on
15 the Board of a big company, and when we
16 make big decisions, we're vetted. They
17 vet the decisions with the Board every
18 step of the way, so when a vote is taken,
19 I feel very confident when I make my vote
20 that I know what I'm talking about.

21 This disconnect in government
22 to me is not productive, because if you
23 walked along with us the entire step of
24 the way, when we came to make a final
25 decision on a vote for something, we'd

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 all feel we're in a good place as opposed
3 to trying to push and pull and maneuver.

4 MS. RHYNHART: I think that is
5 the purpose in government, though, of the
6 hearings, that the executive branch is
7 supposed to propose a budget and then we
8 go through these hearings and
9 discussions, and the final outcome could
10 be different than what's proposed.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What stops
12 the CEO of this municipal corporation
13 from interacting with its Board of
14 Directors?

15 MS. RHYNHART: We interact all
16 the time. But I don't -- I don't feel
17 like this is necessarily productive at
18 this point.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We have
20 these ongoing discussions about how we
21 allocate resources that are scarce, and
22 it seems to be more adversarial all the
23 time as opposed to cooperative and an
24 attempt to get along. But you disagree.
25 You think we're informed about

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 everything?

3 MS. RHYNHART: I think
4 there's -- I don't think you're informed
5 about everything. I think that there's,
6 I'm sure, room for improvement.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

8 MS. RHYNHART: I try to work
9 with Councilmembers.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I
11 appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

18 I think in the spirit of true
19 cooperation between Board of Directors
20 and the CEO, I want to cite for a hot
21 second of my time some of the positive
22 things we've done together. We've worked
23 on commercial corridors together where we
24 were able to synergize resources in the
25 Water Department, Fairmount Park, Streets

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 to do something very nice on some of the
3 commercial corridors, and we are truly
4 appreciative of those Capital inputs and
5 cooperation.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I want to
8 say that in full disclosure. We have
9 done a lot of good work with the Water
10 Department to do projects that are in the
11 4th District that have improved the
12 quality of life there.

13 So I don't want to give the
14 impression that we never cooperate,
15 because we do. It's the times that you
16 hear about when we kind of miss queue
17 that is the anomaly as opposed to
18 majority of the times.

19 A couple of quick questions.
20 If I'm right, tell me and then I'll get
21 to my question. We've raised over the
22 total debt that we've borrowed, both
23 obligation bonds and revenue bonds, about
24 1.2 billion?

25 MS. RHYNHART: The 1.3 billion

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 is just -- or 1.2 billion is just the
3 general obligation bonds.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Right. Out
5 of that, we pay about a half a billion in
6 interest over the timeframe of the
7 borrowing by way of interest payments,
8 according to your numbers?

9 MS. RHYNHART: I'm sorry.
10 What?

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: About a half
12 a billion of that is repayment of
13 interest?

14 MS. RHYNHART: Well, I'm not
15 sure what you're looking at. The Sinking
16 Fund budget, which pays the debt service,
17 is about 220-some million a year.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: A year?

19 MS. RHYNHART: Which is
20 principal and interest.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I was
22 talking about the general obligation
23 bonds over the period that's about -- so
24 out of the 1.2, we pay back about 800 --

25 MS. RHYNHART: I see what

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 you're saying. You're saying, right, the
3 total interest over time. Okay.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Right. So
5 our debt ceiling could not be legally
6 above 3 and a half percent of our total
7 ability to raise money, which is the
8 taxable real estate that we've valued at
9 AVI, which is about 98 billion; is that
10 right?

11 MS. RHYNHART: Right. The
12 ten-year average of assessed value,
13 right.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So with AVI
15 coming on board, what will be our
16 borrowing ability next year?

17 MS. RHYNHART: Well, actually
18 the borrowing ability, the increased
19 borrowing ability, went into effect
20 through this budget year.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how much
22 is it?

23 MS. RHYNHART: The debt ceiling
24 now -- the available debt -- the debt
25 ceiling is 3 billion. The legal debt

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 margin, the amount of room under the debt
3 ceiling, is now 1.4 billion.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: And so
5 decisions will be made. Do we ever go up
6 to the legal limit and are we planning
7 to?

8 MS. RHYNHART: We used to
9 always, as you know, be up right against
10 the legal debt limit and it used to be a
11 constraining factor in our capital
12 budgets and our borrowing. Now that AVI
13 has gone into effect, the constitutional
14 debt limit is no longer the constraining
15 factor on our budget. The constraining
16 factor is really payment of the principal
17 and interest payments in our Operating
18 Budget. So the more debt we take on, the
19 bigger percentage of our Operating Budget
20 becomes fixed costs on the principal and
21 interest payment, and that's what
22 constrains us, as well as the rating
23 agencies, who don't like it.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the
25 answer to the question are we going to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 borrow up to our limit is?

3 MS. RHYNHART: No.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
5 So there will be less projects that we
6 look at based on our ability to borrow.

7 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.
8 So even though the debt limit -- and
9 thank you for that clarification. Even
10 though the debt limit is going up
11 dramatically, our amount that we issue
12 will not go up dramatically.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Let me
14 quickly shift gears to the old Germantown
15 Veterans Memorial Army Reserve Center
16 located at 5200 Wissahickon Avenue, which
17 was, according to BRAC, ordered to close.
18 We originally had plans for the
19 Department of Public Property to make
20 that a police facility. That was shifted
21 to the Northeast, as I understand it, and
22 my question now becomes, it's an 1,100
23 square foot parcel in my district --
24 11,000 square foot parcel in my district.
25 What are we going to do with it?

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MS. RHYNHART: That is a good
3 question.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I try to
5 ask.

6 MS. RHYNHART: I might call
7 Gary Knappick from Property up here to
8 discuss that. I think, though, that
9 there was an issue of the amount of money
10 that was -- the Woodhaven Base
11 Realignment and Closure building started
12 first and ended up being much more
13 expensive than anticipated.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: See, those
15 are the kinds of decisions a
16 Councilperson and the Board of Directors
17 and the CEO should kind of do together in
18 a process.

19 MS. RHYNHART: I agree we
20 should do it together. The Board of
21 Directors analogy I don't really love.
22 But I agree that we should do it
23 together.

24 (Witness approached witness
25 table.)

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:

3 Councilman, Gary Knappick. Good seeing
4 you, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good seeing
6 you as well.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:

8 I wish I had a better answer. We
9 originally anticipated doing both of
10 those facilities. Numbers fluctuated on
11 Woodhaven. Of course, that's a bigger
12 facility and that was going to house the
13 Police Academy. So I think when 4601
14 came into the picture and that kind of
15 expanded a lot of things that were
16 happening with Police, the project that
17 probably fell off the table was the
18 Wissahickon BRAC project. I'm sure we're
19 going to have to put some thought into
20 what happens --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: See, I'm not
22 mad at you. I don't want to give you the
23 impression. I want to work with you,
24 because that's a hot neighborhood and it
25 has upside potential. But your spear of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 influence may be governmental. Mine may
3 be both governmental and private-sector
4 developers that might want to look at it.
5 And I don't have one in mind, but if I
6 don't know what the inventory of
7 available opportunities is in my
8 district, I can't help you market it. So
9 that's why this kind of cooperation is
10 essential for economic development or
11 government development or job creation of
12 some other type.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
14 Certainly.

15 MS. RYHNHART: I think it would
16 be great to actually have a meeting and
17 include -- with your office on that
18 topic.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: And the salt
20 mounds, which are, you know -- I'm not
21 trying to -- but that's not the kind of
22 cooperation. See, because if I share a
23 vision with you and then you tell me,
24 You're out of your mind, Councilman,
25 which people tell me from time to time,

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 then I can accept that, but if you don't
3 hear what the vision is, then we wind up
4 with closed facilities that may have had
5 a repurpose or another life based on
6 information I have. And that's what I'm
7 trying to underscore and emphasize today.
8 All right?

9 MS. RHYNHART: Understood.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KNAPPICK:
11 We take your point.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you, Councilman.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Bass.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 Parks and Recreation, can we
21 talk about cameras?

22 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. Yes.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: A little
24 bit further. And I'm wondering if we
25 have a list of what rec center

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 facilities -- as you know, we're trying
3 to make sure that every playground and
4 recreation center has a camera system
5 within the next three years. Can you
6 give me an idea of what has been done to
7 date.

8 MS. RHYNHART: Yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: What rec
10 centers and playgrounds already have.

11 MS. RHYNHART: I can, and I'll
12 also call up Mike DiBerardinis or someone
13 from Parks and Rec on that.

14 I'm looking for my list. I
15 apologize.

16 Yes, I do have the list of the
17 year one for video surveillance sites,
18 but I'll wait for Mike.

19 (Witness approached witness
20 table.)

21 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
22 Mike DiBerardinis, Deputy Mayor,
23 Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

24 And the question, Councilwoman?
25 I'm sorry.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
3 morning. If you could give us an idea of
4 what's been done in terms of cameras in
5 our parks and recreation centers.

6 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
7 Well, right now we have 572 cameras in 49
8 sites. We have -- and then on top of
9 that, with the program you spearheaded
10 and each District Councilman is providing
11 capital dollars, we have a schedule that
12 we're on, and we are working with each
13 councilmanic district where there are two
14 or three cameras in the major facilities
15 are going in on an annual basis. So that
16 would be approximately 30 facilities a
17 year for the next three years. And
18 that's move along. We have that under a
19 really good timetable and we expect to --
20 the mark we set with you earlier and
21 we've worked with all the District
22 Councilpeople, we expect to move that and
23 hit our marks in terms of annually
24 installing 30 additional, more or less,
25 30 additional cameras for the next three

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 years. And then given what we have
3 already in place and those added cameras
4 in three years, every facility,
5 playground will have, and rec center,
6 will have security cameras.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
8 Great. And also can you detail and talk
9 a little bit about sort of the deterrent,
10 the mosquito repellent.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
12 This mosquito thing mystifies me, but it
13 works. Not all the centers, but many of
14 them will have this high-frequency sound
15 that goes on after the facility is closed
16 at 8 or 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock, and
17 apparently younger people, it's highly
18 sensitive to them and tends to keep them
19 out of the places they shouldn't be at
20 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 in the
21 morning.

22 MS. RHYNHART: Supposedly they
23 can hear that and adults can't.

24 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS: But
25 the young folks --

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MS. RHYNHART: Supposedly the
3 young people can hear it and it's a
4 bothersome noise and adults can't hear
5 it.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Councilman
7 Squilla said he's young enough to hear
8 it.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
10 Squilla gets really crazy when he gets
11 near them.

12 But all fun aside, there are a
13 couple places where they have been
14 installed, and our experience tells us
15 that it works.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Can
17 you give us an idea of where it's been
18 installed so far --

19 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
20 Pardon?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Where has
22 it been installed so far? Has it also
23 been installed in conjunction with the
24 cameras that --

25 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 They will be, yes. This program has -- I
3 don't think at all the facilities.

4 Somebody might correct me if I'm wrong
5 from my staff. But at selected
6 facilities that will receive cameras, the
7 high mosquito system will be installed as
8 well. I can get you sort of the -- at
9 least either the raw number or the
10 centers and playgrounds where that system
11 will be installed in conjunction with the
12 cameras.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
14 Great. And so you'll get us that
15 information?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
17 Yes.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And on
19 another note, I did want to thank you for
20 all of your hard work and also recognize
21 Sue Slawson, who has just been a real gem
22 to work with, and you guys do a great
23 job.

24 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
25 Well, thank you, and we appreciate each

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 District Councilperson working with the
3 Department to -- we have this mandate
4 from not only our staff but from our
5 citizen support organizations: safe,
6 clean, ready to use, and we're doing our
7 best to hit each one of them. That came
8 through the merger process, and this
9 initiative from Council is going to help
10 us get to safe in some pretty short
11 order.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 Deputy Mayor, real quick.

16 Since it appears that the sound
17 initiative is working, is it possible to
18 see if there could be a miniaturized
19 version, because I'm sure a couple of
20 people here might want to have one
21 installed in their man cave on Sundays to
22 keep the kids out as we do the football
23 thing.

24 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:

25 We'll look right into that.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
3 think Councilwoman Tasco has a question.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: While he's
5 here. I just want to ask one question.

6 I want to ask about the lights
7 at the rec centers being shut off at a
8 certain time.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
10 Okay. Well, not all the lights are being
11 shut off. We are very serious about
12 cutting down our energy use. We have
13 hundreds and hundreds of lit ball fields.
14 So we have instituted a program that
15 during the winter, that field lights, not
16 court lights or vandal lights, just field
17 lights, would be turned off for the
18 winter cold weather months when there's
19 no permitted evening play on our fields.
20 That is saving us -- I can have the
21 numbers. I don't have them with me, but
22 we are saving substantial energy, money
23 on conserving energy. For every dollar
24 we save, 50 cents goes to the General
25 Fund and 50 cents goes back to the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Department to improve services and to
3 continue to build the ability to conserve
4 energy.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Point of
6 information.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS: So
8 just to be clear, not court lights, not
9 vandal lights, only the lights on our
10 ball field. I tell you, when I drive
11 down 95 or I go up -- come into my
12 neighborhood, it's 12 o'clock at night
13 and I see field lights on -- it used to,
14 it killed me. But now we are close to a
15 hundred percent compliance.

16 Now, to your concern,
17 Councilwoman, if there's a safety concern
18 and we will -- I'm not going to be
19 overzealous on this and not consider
20 neighborhood safety concerns that may
21 grow out of this program, and we would be
22 happy to look at remedies or some portion
23 of those lights being turned on if there
24 are safety issues that come out from your
25 constituents or from the neighborhoods

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 that are affected.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.
4 Thank you.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Mr. DiBerardinis, hold on one second.
9 Councilman Johnson had a point of
10 information.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just one
12 point of information. Commissioner, I
13 wanted to follow up to see how are you
14 going about doing assessments of the
15 various parks and ball fields throughout
16 the City of Philadelphia when taking in
17 consideration the public safety? Because
18 we've already had complaints on a couple
19 of different parks regarding when the
20 lights are turned out, there are other
21 lights that aren't working. And so it's
22 total -- like Donald P. Finnegan. Not
23 Donald P. Finnegan. Finnegan in
24 Southwest used to be an example. There's
25 one park where the lights are out at

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 night. That's one of those areas,
3 Eastwick, a whole bunch of trees,
4 breezeways, totally dark.

5 So how are you going about
6 doing the assessments?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS: So
8 I think what I'd like to do is where we
9 become aware -- and I have not gotten
10 much back to me and to my shop. It's not
11 to say there's not concerns, and
12 apparently there are. So my response is,
13 we will bend and adapt to the safety
14 concerns of residents in those
15 neighborhoods and see if we can find
16 where we could really save taxpayers
17 money, support the General Fund, support
18 the operation of the Department, at the
19 same time maintain a level of sort of
20 safety that folks feel like we're
21 listening to them.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you, Councilman.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Thank you. Just before you
3 leave, you did say 500 cameras at rec
4 centers?

5 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:

6 Right now we have over -- yeah; over 500
7 already, individual cameras, already
8 installed in our system.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Externally and internally, in the
11 building?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:

13 Inside and outside, yes.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Okay. Thank you.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'd

19 like to talk about cameras again,
20 security cameras. So you may want to
21 have your people come up.

22 MS. RHYNHART: I'll have Adel
23 Ebeid.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Before I get into this line of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 questioning, I just want to say how much
3 I appreciate, one, the great work that
4 Councilwoman Bass working with the
5 Recreation Department and Deputy Mayor
6 DiBerardinis on the safety initiatives
7 around the recreation centers. It
8 actually probably is going to feed a
9 little bit into my questions about the
10 overall camera program, and I obviously
11 want to thank the Police for the great
12 job that they've done, particularly over
13 the last years, bringing down the
14 homicide rate, very, very difficult thing
15 to do.

16 But saying all of that, getting
17 back to the conversation that we had over
18 the last several years about a more
19 robust program as it relates to
20 cameras -- give me a little time to think
21 about it -- can you tell me how many
22 cameras or the incremental increase of
23 cameras that we've done over the last
24 five years?

25 MR. EBEID: I don't have the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 numbers over the last five years, but I
3 could certainly get that number.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 That's kind of why I came back to you. I
6 was thinking that you were going to get
7 on the phone and call the department,
8 say, Clarke is coming at me with his
9 camera stuff.

10 MR. EBEID: I did. Obviously
11 my question was different. My question
12 to my staff was how many cameras do we
13 have enrolled in SafeCam, how many
14 cameras do we have access to, and how
15 many cameras are deployed and the
16 percentage of time. So if you're
17 interested in those numbers, I'm happy to
18 share those numbers.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Let
20 me cut to the chase. We've been talking
21 about this camera issue for a while, and
22 you may not have been here. It may have
23 been somebody that preceded you. And we
24 talked about an aggressive approach, and
25 members here, we actually went to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Baltimore to look at their security
3 camera surveillance program down in
4 Baltimore, and we were pretty excited
5 about what we saw. And in conversation
6 with the Administration, we were led to
7 believe that it was going to be a very
8 aggressive ramp-up in terms of the
9 deployment of cameras in the City of
10 Philadelphia. And today I thought I
11 heard you say that you have 219 cameras
12 currently, and I'm trying to understand
13 if we only have 219, where were we three,
14 four years ago if there was an
15 incremental increase in camera placement?
16 And, in fact, we're only at 219, when in
17 Baltimore there's 600 cameras in
18 Baltimore, a city 30 percent the size of
19 this city; Chicago, a little larger city
20 but 1,500 cameras; and in Manhattan
21 alone, 2,500 cameras. And I'm just
22 trying to get a sense of -- and let me
23 throw in the Department of Recreation,
24 500 cameras in the Department. I assume
25 probably half of them may be internally.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 What are we doing? I mean,
3 have we made a decision that we don't
4 need cameras because we had a drop in
5 homicide rates? We say, You know what,
6 we don't need cameras. Or is there some
7 funding issue? Is it a technology issue?
8 I really don't understand what --

9 MR. EBEID: Could I clarify
10 process for a minute?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If
12 you say we're not going to do it, just
13 say we're not going to do it.

14 MR. EBEID: It's not my
15 decision, but let me just clarify process
16 for a minute. So as a technology
17 organization, we provide IT support for
18 the maintenance of the cameras, the
19 installations of the cameras, the
20 day-to-day care and feed of the cameras,
21 connectivity to the cameras, and the
22 behind-the-scenes sort of video
23 monitoring solution. So what we've been
24 very aggressive about over the last 12 to
25 18 months is making sure that we've

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 increased the up time from a -- it was a
3 very low number prior to us focusing on
4 the cameras to now we're, again, close to
5 92 percent of up time or at least access
6 to those cameras. We've also changed the
7 video monitoring behind the scene to a
8 very old Legacy technology called
9 TimeSite to now a much more robust video
10 monitoring solution called Genitech.
11 It's also deployed at the DVIC, the
12 Fusion Center.

13 So our role is in support -- to
14 support that infrastructure. There's a
15 very close collaboration with the Police
16 Department. The Police Department down
17 to the district captains, they decide
18 where the new cameras go. They decide
19 the priority order of what cameras we
20 work on next. We get that schedule from
21 them, frankly, and that's what we respond
22 to. We don't have input into where
23 cameras should go next or what cameras we
24 should respond to next. So it's a very
25 close collaboration with the Police

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Department.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
4 what you're saying is that somebody else
5 should be at the table answering these
6 questions.

7 MR. EBEID: Yeah. I'm happy if
8 somebody else has to come up --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
10 okay with that. Actually, I believe that
11 you were called to the table earlier when
12 I asked about cameras by the
13 Administration. So if there's somebody
14 that could give me a better understanding
15 of the process as it relates to the
16 willingness or the capabilities of
17 expanding the surveillance camera
18 program, I'm more than happy to entertain
19 that person at the table, the witness
20 table, today.

21 (Witness approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
24 afternoon, Deputy.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Deputy Commissioner William Blackburn.

3 I agree with you, cameras are
4 an excellent tool for investigations. In
5 the past we would go out looking for
6 neighborhood surveys. Homicide
7 detectives as well as detectives from
8 divisions go out and look for cameras,
9 and they're an excellent tool in solving
10 crime. And I think they are one of the
11 contributing factors to the great
12 chemistry we had this past year.

13 I believe there's 225 City
14 cameras that are available at our DVIC
15 Center that are being monitored. There
16 is a high degree of, in the 80 or 90
17 percent, that are currently working. But
18 also in the DVIC Center, the officers
19 assigned there have the capabilities of
20 monitoring over a thousand cameras, and
21 those cameras are from SEPTA, Department
22 of Transportation.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Realtime?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 At the DVIC Center.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
4 saying realtime?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:
6 Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 are the bulk of those --

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:
10 They're not -- the bulk of them are SEPTA
11 cameras, yes, sir, as well as Department
12 of Transportation. They are being
13 monitored as we speak. There is a 24/7
14 operation down at that --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
16 those SEPTA cameras tend to be at train
17 stations.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:
19 Yes.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
21 the other world, which is the majority of
22 the world, the corridors, the streets
23 where I live, where other members live,
24 everybody lives, there are basically no
25 cameras.

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:

3 Right. Right. I believe the camera
4 issue is also a funding issue, and he is
5 correct in terms of there is input from
6 the divisional captains, the inspectors
7 as well as the executive staff as to
8 where those cameras should be placed
9 based on accurate crime data, and that's
10 how we decide where they're going to be
11 placed.

12 Funding -- I believe there's
13 some connectivity issues as well that
14 would really determine where these
15 cameras could be put. I don't know if
16 they could be put everywhere in the City
17 in terms of the connectivity.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Right. Okay. And I understand that when
20 I ask, myself, and other members ask
21 certain questions, there are ways to
22 answer them that fall within the
23 structure of the government, but you did
24 say one key word which I was trying to
25 get at earlier, funding. And we were led

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 to believe, which is actually one of my
3 questions about the funding initiative
4 for additional cameras, and I'm just --
5 unfortunately, I probably have to wait
6 until Mr. Gillison comes here, because
7 that's where the conversation was at the
8 last budget message about the ability to
9 ramp up our camera program, because while
10 I agree with you -- and you don't need me
11 to do that, because you're the
12 professional, but the ability to
13 investigate crimes that were committed
14 are enhanced significantly by having the
15 availability of cameras, both public and
16 private, but this whole issue with
17 respect to deterrence, because I'm sure
18 you, like everybody else, would prefer
19 that we don't have the crime, because
20 people know that there is a realtime
21 surveillance program going on such as
22 what happened in SEPTA recently when
23 people actually saw something happening
24 and the police were able to deploy. And
25 I commend SEPTA -- I see my good friends

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 from SEPTA in the back -- that they do it
3 right.

4 And so I guess my issue is, at
5 some point -- and we're obviously not
6 going to resolve that here today in this
7 room -- there needs to be a real
8 conversation about having an aggressive
9 program and not -- being a city of 1.5
10 million and only having 200 cameras and
11 the City of Baltimore having 600 cameras,
12 and it was kind of embarrassing then when
13 we went to Baltimore three years ago and
14 it's still embarrassing, that hopefully
15 we can -- and you'll be an integral part
16 of that conversation and we can really
17 talk about what we can do as the -- I
18 don't know how we should characterize
19 ourselves, Board of Directors or
20 co-managers or whatever we are. We are
21 the entity that appropriates funds for
22 whatever we do in the City of
23 Philadelphia. So based on earlier
24 conversation with our colleagues, my
25 colleagues, it's clear that that's

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 something that we are interested in.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:

4 Yes, sir. And I also agree with
5 Council's support in terms of other
6 cameras location as well as community
7 input. They're both two key elements
8 that should be included.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Yeah. I don't want to talk about that
11 camera that I asked for about three years
12 ago and I'm still waiting, but since you
13 mention Council's involvement, I'll leave
14 it at that. Deputy, thank you so much.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BLACKBURN:

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I got
18 mine.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
20 got yours, Councilman? You probably have
21 a little different relationship than I do
22 with the folks. Thank you.

23 Councilman Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

25 Yes, I have a little different

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 relationship. I've been down to the DVIC
3 Center, Realtime Crime Center, and
4 actually Councilman Johnson and
5 Councilman Greenlee and I believe
6 Councilwoman Bass are going to take a
7 ride down there because of our trip and
8 we'd love to have our President with us.
9 It's pretty interesting what the grant
10 has done to do that, but where I think
11 your point is, that it hasn't filtered
12 into neighborhoods, corners. It's
13 covering our ports, our stadiums and
14 stuff like that, but we have to make the
15 transition into high-crime areas that we
16 all have in our districts, and I think
17 that transition we need to work a little
18 better on.

19 But I think -- when I went to
20 Baltimore, the President sent us all down
21 there on a field trip.

22 That was the last field trip
23 you sent us on, by the way. I know we
24 can't afford those kind of things, but it
25 was so informative. We learned so much

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 and brought it back to our respective
3 districts. I just look forward to you
4 taking us somewhere.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 We're working on one, Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
8 sir.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
10 need to get out of this building more.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm trying
12 to tell you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
14 sure some people on the second floor
15 would wish we would leave here more
16 frequently also.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, sir.
18 That was funny, huh?

19 So I want to segue to the Fire
20 Department like some of my colleagues
21 have had. In my district, Engine 66
22 located at Ridge Avenue and Shawmont has
23 been closed for four months, and I wanted
24 to get a sense of why and why it takes so
25 long for some critical infrastructure

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 like a firehouse to be totally shut down
3 and find out when we were going to have
4 some resolution on that.

5 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. Was
6 Engine 66 shut down due to an issue
7 there?

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: There was a
9 gas odor or something that was to be
10 discovered, and the problem is in that
11 particular part of my district, it
12 obviously has physical challenges because
13 of the hills, because of the small
14 streets, because of inclement weather,
15 freeze-overs, that that critical station
16 at that location is like -- it's not like
17 a flat area. So because it's closed,
18 it's being covered by other departments,
19 and I just need to sense when is it going
20 to be reopened and why was it closed so
21 long?

22 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I'll
23 have...

24 (Witness approached witness
25 table.)

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO:

3 Good morning.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

5 morning.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO:

7 Deputy Commissioner Costo, Technical
8 Services.

9 The issue with Engine 66, I
10 could give you a little bit of
11 background. One of our fire lieutenants
12 became ill in the station and there was
13 some concern. They were smelling some
14 sort of fumes in the station. So we had
15 our HAZMAT Unit and others, EPA, where
16 there's a whole series of partners that
17 are collaborating with us on that, and
18 there was found some levels of materials
19 there that they assure us, EPA and
20 others, and after frequent surveying and
21 ongoing surveying is not of concern, but
22 they couldn't give us the cause of it.
23 There are three gas stations in that
24 area, and we're still thinking that
25 that's possibly one of the sources.

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2 The reason we closed the
3 station -- we share your concern for the
4 local. Obviously we want to have that
5 fire station in service, but we also had
6 the concern for the health and welfare of
7 our members.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Absolutely.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO: And
10 that's why it's been closed as long as it
11 has been. They, again, have assured us
12 that the levels that they found of a list
13 of chemicals, which I can provide later,
14 they are below thresholds that would be a
15 threat to anyone in that station, but we,
16 the Administration, are not comfortable
17 putting people back into that station
18 until we know what the source is.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how
20 long --

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO: In
22 the meantime, we've done continuous
23 monitoring at my insistence as well as
24 others in the Administration. EPA has
25 worked very hard with us, but they'd like

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 to get out of that business of being part
3 of this. But we've monitored the station
4 on several times. The levels are still
5 low. We're in the process of working
6 with Public Property now to put in a
7 series of mitigations, despite the fact
8 that we feel that those levels are that
9 low, but we want all of our members and
10 us to be comfortable putting people back
11 in there.

12 So now the process is, where we
13 are is putting the mitigation in, which
14 you talked about earlier mentioning
15 200-and-some steps or whatever. Well,
16 that starts to become part of this.
17 Before we can actually get the bids put
18 out and before we have the contractors
19 come in and put in the mitigation, which
20 will involve sealing any of the
21 openings -- there's one particular area
22 where it seems to be entering the station
23 where there's utility lines coming in,
24 sealing that up and then also putting in
25 mechanical, electrical, ventilation to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 remove those fumes from that area. And
3 then once that's done, I'm insisting that
4 it be retested to make sure that those
5 mitigation efforts are effective.

6 So it's uncomfortably long
7 doing what we're doing, but I would be
8 even less comfortable putting our people
9 back in there until we're absolutely
10 certain that it's safe to do so.

11 And the other issue
12 regarding -- again, I wish we had that
13 station open, but we've moved Engine 66.
14 They're not out of service and they're
15 only 1.1 miles away from down Ridge
16 Avenue further running out of the station
17 there that an engine company was
18 deactivated several years ago. So
19 they're in the area. I would prefer they
20 be and the Commissioner would prefer that
21 they be at Engine 66, but that preference
22 is superseded by the concern for the
23 members. And we're working with EPA, Air
24 Management, Water Department. I mean,
25 there's so many partners that are part of

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 this, trying to get to this source, to
3 determine the source and then parallel
4 paths to put the mitigation in with that.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, we
6 share this concern for the members of the
7 Fire Department and rank and file in
8 particular that risk their lives every
9 day. I share the environmental concern
10 about making sure that the work area that
11 they do their service for all of us is a
12 safe environmental service. But taking
13 our time to get those remediations done,
14 not that I'm saying you're doing that,
15 but since December, they've been closed.
16 And although you say that it's being
17 covered by a station 1.9 --

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO: 1.1
19 miles away.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- 1.1 miles
21 away, if we hold our breath for those
22 seconds and differences, that can be --

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COSTO:
24 Councilman --

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- an

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 eternity.

3 Wait a minute, because I
4 listened to you.

5 So I want those processes
6 expedited. Because I have a procurement
7 background. I used to work -- you can do
8 a thing called an emergency order and
9 circumvent some of those 250 steps. And
10 in the case of first responders dealing
11 with an area as traverse as Roxborough,
12 I'm asking that we do everything we can
13 to open those stations back up. We don't
14 want to wait until a tragedy and someone
15 cites the fact that it took a little
16 longer to get there or they couldn't get
17 there because they weren't familiar with
18 that particular section of town.

19 So all I'm asking is that it's
20 been a quarter of a year and that it
21 shouldn't take another quarter of a year
22 for something so vital as a fire station
23 to be put back online. I will ask a
24 different question during the Operating
25 Budget about the brownouts and the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 difference of about \$3 million it takes
3 to not have brownouts, and that since we
4 have resolved the labor issues, maybe
5 there's a way to resolve that funding gap
6 to keep those brownouts from closing our
7 firehouses. That's a story for a
8 different day.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you, Councilman.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 As we look at this capital
17 development piece, one of the things that
18 we found is that co-location can happen.
19 Obviously we did a co-location in my
20 district. When we look at potentially
21 replacing some of these facilities, is
22 there any thought being given to the
23 co-location possibilities with
24 firehouses, rec centers or other things?
25 Is anybody working on anything like that,

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 particularly for buildings that we
3 know --

4 MS. RHYNHART: Right. What
5 you're really talking about is then
6 replacing existing facilities with
7 co-located facilities. We are doing that
8 down in South Philly with Health Center 2
9 with a new rec center and library as well
10 as the health center all together, which
11 is largely being funded by CHOP with the
12 help of a donor. I think that other than
13 that, it's a very good practice. It
14 requires the expense of building new
15 facilities. I think that's all at this
16 point that I can say. I mean, it's a
17 very good question. I don't know if,
18 Gary, from a City Planning perspective
19 you've looked at that.

20 MR. JASTRZAB: That actually is
21 one of the major principles in the
22 Philadelphia 2035 Comprehensive Plan
23 that, where opportunities present
24 themselves, we look at the co-location of
25 facilities in a way that can also support

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 and reinforce neighborhood reinvestment
3 and other development, perhaps even as
4 town centers going forward. A lengthy
5 process obviously. As we complete our
6 district plans as part of the
7 Comprehensive Plan, we are looking at
8 those opportunities. So about a year
9 ago, the City Planning Commission adopted
10 the Central District Plan. Two of the
11 police stations in that area, the 6th and
12 9th Districts, were considered for
13 co-location, and there is some funding in
14 the out years of the Capital Program to
15 do that. We're continuing to look at
16 other options for that. One of the
17 goals, of course, is to get the City out
18 of leased space.

19 So 6th and 9th is one. I know
20 that we have talked about the 39th
21 District, although I don't think that's a
22 co-location facility, but we'd look at
23 that opportunity. And in lower North
24 Philadelphia, I think it's the 22nd
25 District, looking at the possibility of a

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 new station there that might co-locate
3 with a fire station.

4 So we're trying to tackle those
5 opportunities as we do -- as we go
6 district by district in our planning.
7 And, of course, we're also working with
8 the operating departments, where they can
9 perceive achieving real economies,
10 renewing their facilities into more
11 world-class facilities and achieve
12 economies in their operating budgets with
13 that kind of approach. We're certainly
14 interested in talking to them and
15 entertaining those ideas.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: One of
17 the challenges is that you kind of
18 sometimes have to force the
19 conversations, because everybody is
20 thinking about their department.

21 Are there any opportunities
22 with some of these school closures to
23 look at these buildings and say, Hey, can
24 we -- particularly in areas where a
25 vacant building could be potentially

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 dangerous, that we can create those
3 co-location opportunities? And there has
4 to be someone charged with that. I mean,
5 I'm glad for the 6th and the 9th. I'm
6 glad for what we did, but two in a plan
7 where we're planning out until 2035 is
8 not a whole lot. I mean, I think there's
9 some facilities that if we said we're
10 just going to trash it -- I think
11 Councilman Henon and I hate the 15th
12 Police District.

13 I don't know who hates it more,
14 you or I. You do.

15 Unless we have someone in
16 charge of providing that, then what we're
17 going to have is every department looking
18 at its solution and not a neighborhood
19 solution. So someone has to be put in
20 charge of that, because I'd love to get
21 rid of that building, and I know for the
22 Councilman and I, it's sort of like what
23 is a potential co-location if we knew
24 what other departments were thinking and
25 their needs were, you know. And really

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 I'm thinking outside the box in terms of
3 Streets Department and others. Where do
4 we have space that we may want to put
5 these facilities in.

6 MR. JASTRZAB: I think it's a
7 good idea, and we're certainly trying to
8 consider that. I think through the
9 Deputy Mayor for Economic Development's
10 office, helping work with the School
11 District in the disposition of some of
12 those facilities, that's probably
13 something that can be considered. I know
14 that probably a decade ago now when the
15 Woodhaven Road and Wissahickon Avenue
16 Army Reserve facilities were being closed
17 under the BRAC process, the City Planning
18 Commission, as our involvement in trying
19 to obtain those properties for the City
20 of Philadelphia, also gave consideration
21 to the co-location of facilities in those
22 existing buildings. And over time I
23 think some of the operational needs of
24 departments may have changed slightly.
25 But I think generally conceptually it's a

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 good idea. It's something that we should
3 be doing, and we're actively looking to
4 pursue those ideas.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilwoman.

7 Councilman Johnson, I think you
8 wanted to before you walked out.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
10 Council President. I just had a couple
11 of questions.

12 How are you doing, Rebecca?

13 MS. RHYNHART: I'm good. How
14 are you?

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm doing
16 pretty good.

17 Just so everyone knows, even
18 though Rebecca represents the
19 Administration, she also comes from the
20 2nd Councilmanic District.

21 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.
22 He is my Councilman.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
24 won't hold that against you. You should
25 be in the 5th.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I ain't
3 going to let just so much happen to my
4 constituent, even though she is speaking
5 on behalf of the Administration.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you. I
7 appreciate that.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
9 want to make sure you're all right.

10 MS. RHYNHART: So he has my
11 back if anything happens.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: A couple
13 questions. First and foremost, I do want
14 to thank the Administration for their
15 support of the Philadelphia Art Museum,
16 the \$3 million for funding for their
17 master facilities plan. Although it's
18 not in my district, I do recognize that
19 it's a very critical part of our economy
20 as well as our cultural art scene. And
21 so they have various youth programs that
22 reach out into the 2nd Councilmanic
23 District. So I definitely want to
24 acknowledge that.

25 The \$10.5 million that's going

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 toward the Delaware and Schuylkill
3 Riverfronts -- Schuylkill River
4 waterfronts, can you just break down in
5 terms of the Schuylkill River waterfronts
6 what impact -- does any of that impact
7 the 2nd Councilmanic District regarding
8 the Schuylkill River Trail?

9 MS. RHYNHART: In terms of the
10 actual improvements that will be made, I
11 might ask Duane Bumb from the Commerce
12 Department to come up.

13 (Witness approached witness
14 table.)

15 MR. BUMB: Good afternoon,
16 Councilman. Duane Bumb, Deputy Commerce
17 Director and resident of the 2nd
18 Councilmanic District as well.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:
20 Representing very well today.

21 MR. BUMB: Thank you. I do a
22 lot of my work in the 5th, however, but I
23 do --

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's
25 where the power is, but okay.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MR. BUMB: So to your question,
3 much of those sort of -- the Schuylkill
4 Trail, which is sort of basically an
5 extension of the work that's already been
6 done from the Art Museum down to close to
7 the South Street Bridge at this point,
8 the next phase is the boardwalk
9 connection to the South Street Bridge,
10 the connection then beyond that all the
11 way down around what was called the
12 DuPont Crescent, but on the way to the
13 Bartram's Garden and the crossing there,
14 the trail mostly sits on the east side of
15 the river. Therefore, it's all within
16 the 2nd District. It does at some point
17 jump over as it gets to Bartram Garden
18 and at that point it becomes part of the
19 3rd Councilmanic District. And the trail
20 will be completed sort of in segments as
21 opportunistically. So if we have site
22 control, we will do those segments of the
23 trail. Ultimately, the master plan would
24 be for all those segments to connect into
25 one continuous trail. The section that's

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 being undertaken right now is all within
3 the 2nd District. The planning work
4 that's being done, however, right now is
5 for -- the one new project is for that
6 pedestrian bridge that will actually
7 cross the river just south of the Grays
8 Ferry Bridge. And so I think that maybe
9 at that point it's actually linking --
10 I'm not sure where the Council district
11 line is, but it's right there at the
12 line.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
14 And do we have a representative here from
15 the Streets Department?

16 MS. RHYNHART: We do. The
17 Streets Commissioner is here.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: How are
21 you doing, Commissioner Perri?

22 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Very well.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just a
24 question regarding -- and it probably
25 would be more on the operational side

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 than the capital side, but I want to
3 still see how your department is
4 supporting the Philadelphia Futures
5 program. Very, very successful
6 throughout my district, the cleaning of
7 alleyways with the replacements of the
8 actual lights. And so in terms of this
9 allocation, is this taking any
10 consideration into that actual program?
11 Because I would think the replacing of
12 the lights would be a capital
13 improvement, correct?

14 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Yeah.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Or does it
16 fall under the same category?

17 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good
18 afternoon, Councilmembers. Dave Perri,
19 Streets Commissioner.

20 The Future track program will
21 continue to be a program that's supported
22 by the Streets Department. We will
23 continue to use that program to clean
24 alleyways to allow us to complete the
25 re-lamping of alley lights throughout the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 City. Now, the funding for the alley
3 lights, I believe --

4 MS. RHYNHART: There was two
5 years ago money put in, Capital money,
6 for replacement of the lamps and the
7 lights, and I believe that that project
8 is 79 percent completed at this point.
9 So they're still working on that project.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
11 so pretty much after the project is
12 completed -- and that's based upon the
13 assessment of all the lights throughout
14 the City of Philadelphia?

15 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.
16 There was a complete assessment done at
17 that time of all the lights that were out
18 and needed to be repaired and fixed, and
19 then the program was built around that.
20 So as this program reaches completion, I
21 mean, it could make sense to have a
22 discussion about it again.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
24 Thank you very much.

25 Thank you, Council President.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, Councilman.

4 The Chair recognizes

5 Councilwoman Brown.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

7 morning, Mr. President. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

9 morning.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

11 morning, Administration or afternoon.

12 MS. RHYNHART: Good afternoon,

13 yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I read

15 with interest your testimony. So I thank

16 you for that. What I'm interested in

17 hearing, however, is what three major

18 developments or improvements have you

19 made over the last year. And I'm

20 reflecting on the, some might argue,

21 dissatisfaction, others would say

22 unhappiness, and some would say

23 complaints that have been with this

24 department of government from my first

25 term. So hearing a number of legitimate

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 concerns that were raised by District
3 Councilmembers, what would you say are
4 the improvements or developments you've
5 made over the last year, separate from
6 what's in your testimony?

7 MS. RHYNHART: Sure. I would
8 say there's a few different angles that
9 we approached the issues surrounding the
10 length of time it takes for projects to
11 be completed as well as some of the other
12 issues that have been raised. We have
13 done several things. There was the
14 implementation of the Parks and Rec Small
15 Capital Projects group where additional
16 funding was given to Parks and Rec to
17 hire people to actually do the work of
18 the small projects and rec centers
19 throughout Council districts throughout
20 the City. We beefed up preventative
21 maintenance to help out down the line, to
22 prevent issues, boilers breaking, issues
23 arising that become capital projects in
24 the future. And I would say then we made
25 some changes -- we continue to make

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 changes to try to make improvements in
3 the process.

4 This year we're adding a new
5 quality assurance, quality control team
6 of five people, and their job will be
7 solely to manage projects to their
8 timeline and make sure -- check change
9 orders. One thing that both FTI
10 Consulting and the Capital Working Group,
11 which UPS was a part, found was that we
12 didn't have this team of people and we
13 should, is what they both said, because
14 we need people that are additional
15 staffing to hold projects to timelines
16 and to make sure that the change orders
17 don't become a big part of the actual
18 project, that the contractors aren't
19 getting away with change orders
20 unnecessarily. So that's another thing
21 that -- change we've made in this budget
22 year. And we continue to make changes
23 throughout. We continue to do that. So
24 just as Councilwoman Sanchez brought up
25 the topic of what about having a similar

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 team like Parks and Rec for police and
3 fire stations, I mean, I think that's a
4 good idea. I think we should -- from my
5 perspective, we're continuing to try to
6 improve the process.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And
8 continuing to try to improve the process
9 is based on what? Is it based on
10 internal feedback from professionals? Is
11 it based on external reports or
12 recommendations? What drives that
13 continuing to make progress?

14 MS. RHYNHART: I would say that
15 much of the improvements over the last
16 year were due to both the FTI Consulting
17 report as well as the Capital Working
18 Group, which UPS was a part of and led
19 their expertise to. And then some of it
20 is going to come from our own experience
21 in some of the pilots or projects that
22 we've started, such as preventative
23 maintenance and Public Property and the
24 success there and the success on the
25 Parks and Rec Small Capital Projects

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 team, that if it worked in one place in
3 the City government, it might work in
4 another.

5 So I think there's -- we
6 continue to look at various different
7 sources for improvements to the process.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So the
9 opposite side of that continuum, if you
10 had to ID one, two or three Achilles
11 heels, some effort or internal practice,
12 protocol that needs serious revamp, what
13 would it be?

14 MS. RHYNHART: I would say that
15 it still takes too long, to be quite
16 frank. The capital projects still take
17 too long, and that we need to look at
18 that further to figure out, with the
19 changes that we've made, why is it -- why
20 is the process not moving even faster.
21 So, for example, from this year versus
22 last year, we have less carryforward. So
23 we have \$290 million of previous year
24 money. Last year we had 304 million. So
25 there's some improvement, but I think to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 your point, we just need to keep looking
3 at it, and there's not an easy answer to
4 the problem, unfortunately.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All right,
6 then.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you, Councilwoman.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Mr. President, for your indulgence. You
15 are an endurance runner. So I'm not
16 going to take too long to get through
17 some of this.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: My question
21 would be on the issue of bridges,
22 Councilman Johnson had hearings. I
23 happened to preside over those hearings
24 in reference to the general condition of
25 one bridge in his district in South

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Philly where there was a derailment, but
3 the issue came up of all bridges in the
4 City of Philadelphia. And I know that's
5 a shared responsibility with CSX as well
6 as SEPTA as well as our responsibility,
7 and I wanted to know, in the Capital
8 Budget is there an appropriation for the
9 maintenance and repair or replacement of
10 bridges?

11 MS. RHYNHART: There is money
12 in the Capital Budget for bridges. There
13 is -- and for each dollar we give up to a
14 certain amount, it gets matched by the
15 feds and the state or one or the other.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: And if you
17 could give me the location and schedule
18 of those repairs.

19 MS. RHYNHART: For that I would
20 call back up the Streets Commissioner,
21 Commissioner Perri, for that.

22 And there is also additional
23 money coming down the line over the next
24 year or two from the transportation bill
25 that came -- that was signed by the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Governor that will give, I believe it's,
3 about \$16 million of additional funds to
4 repair roads and bridges annually
5 starting next year, in Fiscal '16.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm very
7 familiar in light of the potholes that
8 we're experiencing what's going to happen
9 on the roads. I want to focus of that 16
10 million possibly, what is going towards
11 bridges that run through our communities?
12 Councilwoman Blackwell was in that
13 hearing and talked about electrical
14 fences that were actually live and people
15 were being shocked on those bridges -- I
16 mean, those fences. So I wanted to know
17 based on Councilman Johnson's concern
18 about bridges, where we were going.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Point of
20 information. The bridge I was on when I
21 toured one of the areas in Southwest and
22 I touched it, I didn't get shocked.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: You didn't
24 get shocked?

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Other

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 people may have.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's
4 because you have so much charisma that
5 the current just ran through you.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Might be
7 kind of cool, but that wasn't my
8 experience. However, the passing of buck
9 to the state and the feds I do think
10 needs to be something that's addressed,
11 and with our limited resources, maybe
12 float a bond or something in the future
13 to look at, separate from filling the
14 potholes, how do we play some role in
15 maintaining our bridges and roads,
16 specifically the Schuylkill River Bridge
17 where the train derailed as well as the
18 25th and Washington and Passyunk Avenue
19 CSX bridge. But it also come to my
20 attention from Councilwoman
21 Quinones-Sanchez as well as Councilman
22 Curtis Jones that this is something
23 that's taking place across the City of
24 Philadelphia. And I'm even more, in
25 terms of the point of information,

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 inclined to make sure that from the City
3 standpoint leadership-wise that we engage
4 those individuals on the federal level.
5 And I don't have no problem saying their
6 names. Rather it's Congressman Fattah,
7 Congressman Brady, U.S. Senator Bob
8 Casey, U.S. Senator Toomey, to also play
9 a role in this process as well in
10 supporting the City of Philadelphia.

11 So thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
13 you to know, it's gotten to the point of
14 serious that -- and but for some of my
15 colleagues trying to restrain me from
16 doing it, that we want to do a class
17 action suit to address it. It is a
18 public safety matter that runs through
19 every neighborhood in the City of
20 Philadelphia. And when you tell me --
21 not you, but when the federal folk tell
22 me that falling chunks of concrete,
23 metal, and spikes are just a part of
24 maintenance, I take exception to that and
25 want to know what we are doing to do our

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 fair share by way of this budget to
3 maintain those bridges.

4 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good
5 afternoon, Councilman. Dave Perri,
6 Streets Commissioner.

7 I'm interested in the bridge
8 that had the electrification issue. I'm
9 not aware that there was a bridge that
10 had an electrical shortage problem, and I
11 would like to -- if you can pass that
12 information on, I'd like to take a look
13 at that.

14 The Proposed Capital Budget has
15 several different pots of money available
16 for bridge rehabilitation and bridge
17 replacement, and what I'll do is, I'll
18 put together a list of the projects that
19 we have upcoming and the schedule for
20 when those repairs will be done.

21 One of the interesting things
22 that's in the budget is, there's money
23 under a line Act 13, which is money that
24 the City receives through the state
25 government. It's money that was derived

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 through the fracking process.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: How much is
4 that?

5 COMMISSIONER PERRI: It's 2 and
6 a half million dollars.

7 There's a bridge in North
8 Philadelphia, Sedgley Avenue Bridge, that
9 we are in the design process of having
10 that bridge replaced. So that's the
11 first one up to be used with that Act 13
12 money.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: What
14 district would that happen to be in?

15 COMMISSIONER PERRI: I couldn't
16 tell you off the top of my head.

17 We also have --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Commissioner preempted me. He knew that
20 question was coming. It's in my
21 district.

22 COMMISSIONER PERRI: We also
23 will be using money for the 59th Street
24 Bridge in West Philadelphia.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: I've heard

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 of that bridge.

3 COMMISSIONER PERRI: You may be
4 interested in.

5 We're looking at using some of
6 the new monies that we're receiving to
7 remove the Westmoreland Street pedestrian
8 bridge, which is, I believe, in
9 Councilwoman Sanchez's district. It's in
10 the Saint Hugh's section of Philadelphia.
11 It's a pedestrian bridge without a street
12 next to it. So we would like to remove
13 the bridge and put a normal street in so
14 that we can get a connection between a
15 school facility and a playground. And
16 right now the only way of getting between
17 the two is through a foot bridge that's
18 in poor repair. It's not handicap
19 accessible. It's not well lit. So we
20 want to remove that bridge and put the
21 street connection through that
22 neighborhood.

23 We're also looking at a bridge
24 on Lefevre Street in Bridesburg in which
25 the sidewalks are failing. The bridge

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 has been infilled beneath it and it
3 really serves no purpose anymore as a
4 bridge. So this would be a perfect
5 opportunity to use this money to take a
6 bridge out of our inventory and put a
7 regular City street through there. It
8 would be one less item that we have to
9 maintain in the future as a bridge.

10 So we do have --

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm glad
12 there's a plan.

13 COMMISSIONER PERRI: We do have
14 a list. We do have a plan. I'll put
15 this together in a coherent fashion.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Based on the
17 Councilman's interest in having public
18 safety being a top concern for these
19 bridges, that's apropos.

20 Just real quick, in your
21 Capital Budget, OIT is requesting 2
22 million in FY14 and an additional 6.4
23 million over the course of the capital
24 plan for staffing. Who does that? How
25 does the OIT warrant the use of capital

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 dollars for staffing?

3 MS. RHYNHART: There can be
4 staff on the Capital Budget that works
5 solely --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Who else,
7 what other department?

8 MS. RHYNHART: Public Property
9 has people historically that work on
10 Capital, and it's not -- we don't do it
11 that often, but for something we're
12 embarking on -- for something as big as
13 what the IT program is, which is a \$120
14 million program, multi-year program, that
15 it makes more sense to staff those people
16 through Capital. They'll be employees
17 that will only be needed in those jobs
18 for a few years while they ramp up that
19 program and then --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Couldn't
21 that same logic be used to deal with the
22 backlog of capital projects? We could
23 bill under the Capital Program to get
24 additional inspectors, Procurement folk
25 to actually move that process along? I

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 still have been waiting for what IT has
3 promised as the wow factor of what they
4 were going to do. We'll get to that
5 under the operating department, but I
6 just want to know for the record why do
7 they merit getting when other departments
8 need help too to move things along,
9 whether it's the Fire Department getting
10 firehouses back online. Why do they
11 merit getting extra staff when so few
12 other departments do? And when is the
13 wazzle? I'm still waiting. I feel like
14 Charlie Brown waiting for the great
15 pumpkin. Each year they promise that
16 it's going -- we're going to be wowed by
17 the future, and all I see is the
18 technology of the past, and I'm beginning
19 to feel like Charlie Brown about that.

20 MS. RHYNHART: So that's a
21 two-part question.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, it is.

23 MS. RHYNHART: The first part
24 is why did they merit it. We look at who
25 should be put on Capital and what

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 departments should have people on
3 Capital, and there are actually -- there
4 are people that work on Fire and Police
5 projects through Public Property that are
6 on Capital. The five people that I just
7 mentioned for quality control on capital
8 projects will be on Capital. It's not --
9 we try to limit it to situations where we
10 feel like it's of utmost importance,
11 because we're obviously paying interest,
12 because that's bond-funded money. But in
13 order to do what we want to do -- and I
14 will call Adel Ebeid, our Chief
15 Technology Officer up to go through when
16 we're going to be wowed, which is your
17 question, but in order to actually do
18 what we want to do with the technology,
19 we need a ramp-up of staff to complete
20 the projects and that then those
21 positions will no longer be with the
22 City. Those are short-term
23 Capital-funded positions.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I have a
25 whole line of questions about that thick

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 for OIT when the operating department
3 comes, but I just wanted to get a little
4 preview of why do you and how many and
5 what are they being used for.

6 MS. RHYNHART: Well, in terms
7 the staffing question, is the
8 positions -- it wouldn't be fair to ask
9 IT why are they getting positions.
10 That's a central budget decision. And,
11 again, there are positions funded through
12 Public Property that are on Capital that
13 work on all types of City projects.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: I understand
15 Public Property. I'm trying to
16 understand OIT.

17 MS. RHYNHART: So I think it
18 might help if Adel walks through what is
19 going to happen with that money so then
20 you can see --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm waiting
22 to be wowed.

23 MS. RHYNHART: Okay.

24 MR. EBEID: Just to manage
25 expectations for a minute, I think the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 two and a half years that I've been here,
3 I've never said the words "wow," but --

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Neither have
5 I.

6 MR. EBEID: So I can certainly
7 answer for the projects that happened
8 under my watch. So the Capital Program
9 of \$120 million is divided into two
10 categories, a category that goes towards
11 the infrastructure, making sure that we
12 stabilize and secure the City's
13 infrastructure that benefits all the
14 agencies obviously. Then the second
15 category is, we call them business
16 applications. These are applications
17 that are located within a specific
18 agency, and through joint accountability
19 process, meaning myself and the
20 Commissioner of that agency or the
21 Project Director of that project, we
22 co-manage those projects.

23 The second category of the
24 business applications, these are really
25 long-term initiatives to modernize and in

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 some cases replace or upgrade an existing
3 process and an existing system that's
4 been here for a long time, and sometimes
5 you'll hear us refer to those projects as
6 Legacy systems. A good example would be
7 human resource system, time and
8 attendance, payroll, tax delinquency, the
9 system that supports License and
10 Inspections, 3-1-1 and so on. So those
11 are all multi-year projects that are
12 funded out of the Capital Program.

13 A big portion obviously goes to
14 the contractor or to the vendor who is
15 the -- who wins an RFP, a contract, and
16 provides the bulk of the development and
17 implementation. But in order for the
18 implementation to be successful, the City
19 needs to provide subject matter experts,
20 project management, and resources on the
21 City side to work side by side with the
22 vendor. So in going through the capital
23 eligibility requirements, it was
24 determined that those resources on the
25 City side, a small portion of them, can

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 be -- are capital eligible.

3 So we've kept the number to an
4 absolute bare bone, but these are
5 resources that could really dedicate
6 full-time attention to making sure that
7 these projects are successful, are on
8 time and on budget. We did not really
9 have the internal resources that we could
10 sort of free up and have them drop
11 everything and focus on these capital
12 projects, which might have been what's
13 been done in the past, which is why some
14 of the projects in the past maybe have
15 not come to fruition.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm glad you
17 asked that. November --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- 2012 --
21 I'm going to end it -- voters approved a
22 Charter referendum for 120 million. This
23 Council has passed legislation, Bill
24 120143, calling for a strategic plan by
25 your office to tell us what these

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 wonderful dollars are going to be spent
3 on, who is going to actually implement
4 what to give us the wow that we're
5 seeking. I understand the language that
6 you said, more efficient, this, that or
7 the other. Tell us specifically what is
8 your vision, where is a plan to spend
9 \$120 million worth of debt that we
10 acquired on their behalf. And I have no
11 idea, not one, Mr. President, what it's
12 going to be spent on. Where is the
13 strategic plan?

14 MR. EBEID: Would you like me
15 to address that?

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah, I
17 would.

18 MR. EBEID: So not only is
19 there a strategic plan, but there's a
20 spending plan. I'm happy to provide it.
21 I think we provided it on multiple
22 occasions. In fact, we've invited
23 Council, all members of Council, on March
24 2012 and September of 2012 and we briefed
25 them and walked them through what are

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 those capital projects that we plan to
3 spend the money on.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So just a
5 highlight.

6 MR. EBEID: So a good example
7 would be -- I'll talk about the eight
8 large -- we call them large projects.
9 These are large initiatives, multi-year,
10 multi-million dollar in nature, and go
11 towards some of the biggest paying points
12 in the City. So the number one is the
13 cashiering system that is currently run
14 by the Department of Revenue. Cashiering
15 system are all the point-of-sale machines
16 that collect money over the counter and
17 settle up at the end of the day. That
18 system, not only is it old by the time we
19 got to it, we could no longer get
20 maintenance and support because the
21 vendor is no longer around. That system
22 was awarded to a top-notch company, and
23 they are currently in the middle of
24 development and will complete the project
25 by December of this calendar year, 2014.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Second project is the License
3 and Inspections. This is a system that
4 you perhaps heard --

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: We did
6 extensive hearings. I'm aware of that
7 one.

8 MR. EBEID: So that system was
9 awarded to, again, another top-notch
10 company, Computronics, and they are right
11 now in Phase 1 of the development and the
12 implementation, and it carries an 18
13 months timeline.

14 The third system is the
15 replacement of the overall 3-1-1. And,
16 again, that was assigned to another top
17 vendor.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Who are
19 they?

20 MR. EBEID: So in cashiering,
21 the name of the company is Fairfax.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where are
23 they located?

24 MR. EBEID: Well known. I
25 believe they're out of Connecticut. I'm

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 not quite sure, but I could certainly
3 provide you with that information.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Fairfax?

5 MR. EBEID: Fairfax, correct.
6 So that's for the cashiering initiative.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And how much
8 was that award?

9 MR. EBEID: I want to say it
10 was about 1.52 -- 1.3. 1.3.

11 The second initiative that I
12 mentioned was the License and
13 Inspections, and that was awarded to a
14 company called Computronics, and I
15 believe three or four weeks ago
16 Commissioner Williams and the Mayor had a
17 press conference to officially kick off
18 the initiative.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where are
20 they located?

21 MR. EBEID: I could provide
22 that information. I don't have that.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are they a
24 Philly-based firm?

25 MR. EBEID: Are they a

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 Philly-based firm? I don't think

3 Computronics is a Philly-based firm.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: How much was
5 that award?

6 MR. EBEID: I believe that was
7 \$5 million total cost. I have to keep in
8 mind the total cost versus the capital
9 allocation.

10 MS. RHYNHART: It's about 3.5
11 capital.

12 MR. EBEID: The third
13 initiative is 3-1-1, and that was awarded
14 to the salesforce.com. It's a very
15 well-known company in the business of
16 CRM.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where are
18 they located?

19 MR. EBEID: I think they're
20 located in California.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: How much was
22 that?

23 MS. RHYNHART: About 4.5.

24 MR. EBEID: There's \$5 million
25 over a term of seven years.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Capital
3 money?

4 MR. EBEID: Capital and
5 Operating.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.
7 Combined?

8 MS. RHYNHART: It's 4.5
9 Capital.

10 MR. EBEID: And the balance is
11 Operating. So that's a third example. I
12 could go down the whole list if you'd
13 like. There's a total of actually about
14 23 RFP's that have hit the street.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you
16 provide to the Chair your strategic plan
17 and the breakdown of contractors, whether
18 they're Philadelphia-based contractors,
19 whether there was an exercise to look at
20 internal to the existing employees,
21 whether those existing employees could
22 perform those duties that are now
23 contracted out, and what the rationale
24 was to contract out versus keep it within
25 organized staff within the department.

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 MR. EBEID: Yes. Just one
3 clarification. We're not contracting out
4 work. What we're doing is, we are
5 bringing in expertise to replace, upgrade
6 or modify an existing system, and then in
7 some cases there's a bridge over to
8 transfer knowledge and in some other
9 cases there's a maintenance arrangement
10 where the vendor continues to maintain
11 the system.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if you
13 could provide to the Chair the amount of
14 contracted out. And I don't mean --
15 contracted projects versus how those
16 companies will train existing workforce
17 to be able to manage those systems such
18 as cash registers, this, that or the
19 other, because what happens is often we
20 wind up connecting to a firm that
21 requires us to go through their
22 maintenance, go through their
23 consultants, and we wind up stuck in the
24 system. So I want to in your strategic
25 plan show how we don't wind up sole

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 sourced to a company that provides
3 maintenance after they install a system
4 that only they can maintain, fix or
5 provide equipment for.

6 MR. EBEID: Just to be sure,
7 nothing was sole sourced. These are
8 competitive bids and everyone has had an
9 opportunity.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: For example,
11 Motorola at one point bid on a contract.
12 At one point we committed to Motorola and
13 then pretty much because it was an
14 essential part of our communications, we
15 got stuck with Motorola as opposed to
16 anyone else, correct? And at this point,
17 most of that equipment is now obsolete;
18 is that correct?

19 MR. EBEID: Not correct.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: So is some
21 of their equipment obsolete and they are
22 no longer warranted, providing warranties
23 for?

24 MR. EBEID: The radio
25 initiative that was completed by my staff

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 on January 2013 upgraded the entire
3 County of Philadelphia to the latest
4 radio communications, which includes the
5 back office system, redundancy into the
6 systems, and brand new radios for the
7 Fire Department and the Police
8 Department.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: So point
10 being, are they pretty much the only game
11 in town when it comes to radios and that
12 type of commitment at this point?

13 MR. EBEID: So when it comes to
14 radio communications, it's slightly
15 different because --

16 (Feedback from microphone.)

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry,
18 Motorola. Please forgive me. They
19 weren't mad at me.

20 MR. EBEID: So with radio
21 communications, the only difference is
22 that once you standardize on a radio
23 communication system, it's really not in
24 your best interest to go -- but that's a
25 very different example from some of the

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 projects that I mentioned.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: My only
4 question was, show me that we aren't
5 heading down that path by way of
6 flexibility, if we choose or want to
7 explore other vendors so that we don't
8 get locked into something that we can't
9 get out of.

10 MS. RHYNHART: We can provide a
11 response for that.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
13 the new timer, Councilman.

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

16 MS. RHYNHART: We can provide a
17 response.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you. Thank you very much.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Brown.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
23 Mr. President.

24 My statement or question may be
25 a point of information as a follow-up to

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 Councilman Jones' line of questioning. I
3 do recall last week when we kick-started
4 this marathon season called budget
5 hearings that a specific request was made
6 of X number of departments, and I do
7 believe that the Office of Innovation and
8 Technology was included, where the
9 request was as follows: Provide for us
10 in your testimony the breakdown of all
11 contracts above \$250,000, period. That's
12 number one. Number two, of the total
13 contracts, indicate the percentage that
14 are federal, the percentage that are
15 state, and the percentage of those total
16 contracts that are local. That then
17 gives us a clear picture of how much
18 money is being handled, dealt with,
19 provided to, given opportunity to local
20 Philadelphia businesses, because we are
21 disturbed when we get a list of contracts
22 and 50, 60, 70, 80 percent of them are
23 folks who live outside the City, folks
24 who have no business residence in the
25 City. That's unacceptable to us when

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 it's a 25 percent poverty rate in
3 Philadelphia.

4 So the following departments
5 are, and I'll repeat them as follows:
6 Department of Public Property, Department
7 of Human Services, Prisons, Aviation,
8 Water Department, Health Department,
9 Office of Innovation and Technology,
10 Behavior Health and Mental Retardation
11 Services. When I look at this list of
12 contracts and the volume net number of
13 contracts that are executed, we now need
14 to drill down and see what that picture
15 really looks like a few levels down.

16 MS. RHYNHART: Right. We
17 appreciate your request, and I do have a
18 template for the information and I wanted
19 to touch base with you afterwards to see
20 if that -- if it looked right in terms of
21 capturing all of that information.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure. And
23 that then minimizes the line of
24 questioning that is going to come from
25 Councilmembers like Jones. It's one

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.

2 thing to hear it. It's another thing to
3 see it in black and white.

4 MS. RHYNHART: Right. That's
5 right.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
7 Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Councilwoman.

10 Councilwoman Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
12 Mr. President. I just had a quick
13 question for Commissioner Perri.

14 Good afternoon.

15 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good
16 afternoon.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Quick
18 question for you. When we met during the
19 hearing that Councilman Johnson had
20 regarding railways and such, one of the
21 questions that was asked was regarding
22 the ownership of the rail lines and the
23 property directly abutting those lines
24 and surrounding it, and I think you were
25 going to get us a list of who owned what

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 in our individual districts. You said
3 you had that information available?

4 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Yes. Good
5 afternoon. Dave Perri, Streets
6 Commissioner.

7 We are working on breaking down
8 that list into individual Council
9 districts and putting it into a format
10 that is easily searchable and
11 understandable. We will have that by our
12 Operating Budget hearing.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
14 Great. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you, Councilwoman.

17 We have no other members teed
18 up. So with that, I want to thank you
19 very much for your testimony today, and
20 we will stand in recess until Monday,
21 March 31st at 10:00 a.m.

22 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you very much.

25 (Committee of the Whole

1 3/25/14 - WHOLE - BILL 140144, etc.
2 adjourned at 1:15 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
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correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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