

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC MEETING
4 BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY
5 and LAW AND GOVERNMENT
6
7 Room 400, City Hall
8 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
9 Wednesday, September 17, 1997
10 1:15 p.m.
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14 RESOLUTION 970176 - Authorizing Council's Committees
15 on Public Safety and Law and
16 Government to conduct a full
17 investigation into the drug
18 plague in Philadelphia
19
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22 PRESENT:
23
24 COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ, Chairman,
25 Public Safety
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN, Chairman,
Law & Government
COUNCILWOMAN ANNA CIBOTTI VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
COUNCILWOMAN HAPPY FERNANDEZ
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
- - -
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I N D E X

3	RESOLUTION 970176	PAGE
4	Lynne Abraham, District Attorney,	
5	City of Philadelphia-----	23
6	George Mosee, Office of the District Attorney,	
7	Deputy for Narcotics-----	33
8	John Delaney, Deputy, Juvenile Division,	
9	Philadelphia Police Department-----	34
10	Richard Neal, Commissioner, Philadelphia, Police	
11	Department-----	67
12	Charles Brennan, Chief Inspector, Communications	
13	Bureau, Phila. Police Department-----	78
14	Joseph C. Certaine, Managing Director, City of	
15	Philadelphia-----	96
16	Thomas J. Nestel, Deputy Commissioner,	
17	Philadelphia Police Department-----	118
18	Gregory S. Rost, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office-	140
19	Mitchell Yanak, Inspector, Philadelphia Police	
20	Department-----	153
21	Dexter Green, Acting Chief, Philadelphia Housing	
22	Authority Police Department-----	180
23	John Giulo, Executive Officer, Philadelphia	
24	Housing Authority Police Department-----	184
25	Richard Perez, National Coordinator, National	
	Congress for Puerto Rican Rights-----	191
	Charles P. Kluge, Jr., Executive Director,	
	Police Advisory Commission-----	219
	Will Gonzalez, Executive Director,	
	Police-Barrio Relations Project-----	234
	Sister Carol Keck, Executive Director, Norris	
	Square Neighborhood Project-----	247
	Miriam Colon, Representative, CUNAD-----	266
	Gregory Allen, Citizen-----	271
	Joe White, President, Overbrook Against Drugs--	279

20

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1 RESOLUTION 970176

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

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The Joint
4 Committees of Law and Government and Public Safety
5 is now called to order. We would appreciate
6 everyone taking seats.

7 I am going to ask the clerk of the
8 joint committee, Wanda, to read the title of the
9 resolution.

10 THE CLERK: Wanda Correra.
11 Resolution No. 970176: Authorizing Council's
12 Committees on Law and Government and Public Safety
13 to jointly conduct a full and comprehensive
14 investigation into the drug plague in Philadelphia;
15 to issue whatever process the committees deem
16 necessary in aid of their investigation to compel
17 the production of documents and the testimony of
18 witnesses to the full extent authorized by the Home
19 Rule Charter; and to promptly report their findings
20 to the Council, the Mayor, and the people of the
21 city.

22 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you very
23 much.

24 At this time I am going to call on
25 Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Councilman

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Ortiz.

3 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Chairman
4 Cohen, and to every member of the Committee. Thank
5 you for coming.

6 I would like to welcome everyone here
7 today for their time and interest in discussing a
8 matter that has become, it seems, the issue in
9 Philadelphia.

10 And today we are here to view, as
11 stated in Council Resolution 970176, introduced by
12 Councilman David Cohen and cosponsored by all
13 members of City Council, a comprehensive
14 investigation into the drug plague in Philadelphia.

15 We are charged with reporting the
16 findings of our inquiries to the appropriate offices
17 of government and the people of Philadelphia. And
18 the people of Philadelphia is what this is all
19 about.

20 And although we are making some
21 progress, I think there is a perception and a
22 feeling in almost every neighborhood across
23 Philadelphia that people are not safe.

24 And I think if we do anything to make
25 people in different neighborhoods begin to feel

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 resources. Others believe if we plan strategically,
3 we can get by with what we have.

4 While there is a desire to employ
5 aggressive policing tactics, others caution against
6 potential civil rights violation.

7 And as we have seen in New York, in a
8 few instances -- and perhaps more than a few -- that
9 is one concern that we all, one, as policymakers,
10 have to have very clear in our minds.

11 This year the debate has reached the
12 State House again, as well. Several members of our
13 local delegation proposed the hiring of 1500
14 additional police officers and called for the
15 merging of all our uniformed law enforcement
16 agencies.

17 Prompted by a recent visit from
18 former New York Commissioner William Bratton,
19 Charter reform to increase the management powers of
20 the Police Commissioner is already the subject of
21 emerging interest and discussion.

22 I want to remind ourselves that this
23 City Council has been and will continue to be quite
24 serious about this public concern, and has signaled
25 every intention to ameliorate a problem that hits

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the home of every citizen we have pledged to
3 represent. This hearing is part of that process.

4 But I also want to state, in the face
5 of recent newspaper reports of our Commissioner
6 Neal, that this hearing is not about scapegoating or
7 shedding blame on anyone.

8 We are here to seek information and
9 solutions to a problem which goes to the heart of
10 our overall quality of life.

11 Commissioner Neal has cooperated
12 fully with my office. And as Chairman of Council's
13 Public Safety Committee, and speaking on behalf of
14 the Chairman of Law and Government, David Cohen, we
15 have discussed the issues, problems, and potential
16 solutions. For this, I am grateful and I thank the
17 Commissioner for his cooperation.

18 The Commissioner understands, as I
19 do, that we do have a crime problem, a serious one.
20 But we also know, as emphasized in my report, that
21 crime is not simply a policing issue.

22 The literature and data on the
23 subject suggests we all have a responsibility.
24 There is no panacea.

25 Drug prevention, quality education,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 jobs, and consistent, well-coordinated city services
3 are all part of a holistic response to drug-related
4 criminal activities. This comprehensive approach
5 must be reflected in the city five-year plan.

6 I, and other members of this Council,
7 will be looking very carefully at the next plan to
8 ensure that it deals effectively with all of the
9 aspects of this problem and its solutions.

10 In June of this year I circulated a
11 report to Council members, which was an initial
12 attempt to present the broad analysis of public
13 safety, what it means and what we might do to
14 improve what we are currently doing to create a city
15 where people are and feel safe. Something that, as
16 I walk through the neighborhoods of this city,
17 people do not currently feel.

18 The report gleans over the more
19 positive experiences of other cities which have had
20 to tackle similar problems to those we face in
21 Philadelphia.

22 I have taken the liberty to
23 distribute that report to members of this
24 Administration, press, legislators, and others whose
25 line of work interacts with public safety policies.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 But before I outline what we learned,
3 I thought, fundamentally, to provide to members of
4 this Council and the people here present with a
5 portrait of where we're at at the present time with
6 respect to crime.

7 A local news report recently
8 indicated that the number of crimes in Philadelphia
9 is down by 2 percent over the last year. And just
10 recently the Mayor announced that, over the first
11 few months, we have gone down by 17 percent.

12 This, the 17 percent, may be a fact,
13 but it is happening. A more recent analysis by the
14 Mayor's Office suggests that in 1996, Philadelphia
15 was the fourth safest major city in the country.
16 This is also true.

17 The fact is that Philadelphia has
18 made progress, but I'm sure, as Commissioner Neal
19 has often told me, we need to do more.

20 While these statistics help us to
21 understand how we fail with other urban centers, it
22 doesn't explain why people still feel insecure about
23 their overall safety.

24 Given this, I thought it appropriate
25 to explore whether this feeling might be a mere

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 perception, or whether it is rooted in any semblance
3 of reality.

4 To do this, we needed to do a
5 self-evaluation of the crime index over the last
6 four years, for which complete data is available.
7 We took the same crime rate numbers provided by the
8 Administration, and placed them on what is referred
9 to in statistics as moving average trend line.

10 The results are interesting, and
11 speak for themselves. I will not try to
12 characterize them or to give an opinion as to them.

13 Allow me to point to everyone's
14 attention the charts before you. Danny. These
15 charts depict crime trends in various cities.

16 For example, Philadelphia experiences
17 a lower crime rate per 10,000 than cities like
18 Chicago, San Antonio, and Dallas.

19 The crime trend in Philadelphia has
20 taken an upward direction since 1992. Meanwhile,
21 New York, Chicago, San Antonio, Dallas, Los Angeles
22 have basically seen a downward trend.

23 Experts make a case for the general
24 decline in crime, citing a healthy national economy
25 as the major reason. But this doesn't necessarily

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 explain Philadelphia's case.

3 Philadelphia's crime trend shows a
4 steady rise in crime since 1992, and then levels off
5 during 1995 and '96, where we begin to actually make
6 the progress that the Mayor was talking about.

7 This rise happens in spite of a
8 declining population and reports of a stable
9 financial footing.

10 The second question, which is
11 fundamental to any local planning effort, is to
12 assess how our neighborhoods fare with each other.

13 As you know, crime varies both in
14 nature and volume depending upon the geographic
15 section of the city. This has obvious implications
16 for strategic planning.

17 To get a brief understanding of crime
18 in our city, I have constructed several graphs which
19 depict the nature and scope of criminal activity by
20 police division.

21 For your information, the FBI unified
22 crime report characterizes major crimes into two
23 broad categories: Number 1, violent, which include
24 murder, rape, robbery, assault; property crime,
25 which include burglary, larceny, stolen vehicles,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 and arson.

3 Chart No. 1, depicts the number of
4 violent crimes by police division.

5 In 1996, the East Police Division,
6 which is largely covered by the 7th Councilmanic
7 District represented by Ricardo Mariano, and reaches
8 into part of the 5th, represented by President
9 Street and 6th Council Districts, represented by
10 Councilwoman Krajewski, have three times the violent
11 crimes of that in the Northwest Division and, as you
12 can see, in parenthesis, 4.8 and 2.5 times that of
13 the Central Division, 1.5.

14 70 percent of all murders, the most
15 severe violent statistics, occurred in four police
16 divisions. 70 percent of the most severe occurred
17 in four police divisions: The East, North, West,
18 and North Central, with the East Division
19 experiencing 100 homicides, or 24 percent, of all
20 the murders in the city.

21 Chart No. 2. Chart No. 2 depicts the
22 number of property crimes in 1996.

23 It graphically indicates that 40
24 percent of all reported property crimes occurred in
25 two police divisions: The Northeast Division, which

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Benjamin Ramos, in a hearing he held last spring in
3 the East Division, noted that out of a reported 300
4 drug hot spots, where drug activity is really
5 intensive, 50 percent of those hot spots were
6 located in that same East Police Division.

7 So what did we learn from this brief
8 overview?

9 First we learned that, yes, crime in
10 raw numbers has gone down.

11 Second, notwithstanding such a
12 decline, Philadelphia experienced a slight upward
13 crime trend, which might help explain why people
14 still feel unsafe.

15 Third, drug activity is a serious
16 challenge. In places where drug activity is
17 reported, murder and other violent crimes
18 predominate. I should note, so are high levels of
19 poverty and unemployment.

20 But, for the most part, drug activity
21 is concentrated in a few police divisions. It does
22 not appear to be rampant throughout the city.

23 Conversely, property crime, criminal
24 acts which do not entail physical injury, are more
25 prevalent in the more affluent and/or business

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 sections of the city.

3 That's where I live. Right?

4 A brief word about the deployment,
5 despite the controversy surrounding deployment.

6 Our analysis shows that the
7 assignment of personnel within the department is a
8 very complex matter. Let me state one simple
9 example.

10 In 1996, we budgeted a total of 6,403
11 uniformed police officers. But after factoring in
12 vacation and other leave time, there were a total of
13 only 3,959 officers actually deployed.

14 Perhaps there is something to be said
15 about inadequate numbers of police personnel.

16 In addition, for your information, we
17 have outlined the distribution of police divisions
18 according to the numbers of officers per 1,000
19 residents.

20 This is very preliminary, and it's
21 only intended to show how our current force is
22 generally deployed throughout the city as of today.

23 I would not like to close my
24 statement without reiterating the essence of my
25 report.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Basically, it details a broad
3 strategy which reviews the elements of community
4 policing approaches, successful drug prevention
5 projects, intercity departmental coordination of
6 human services, and a more proactive role by the
7 courts in turning around juvenile crime and
8 drug-related offenses.

9 Additionally, our research reveals,
10 preliminary as it might be, that the successful
11 tackle on the drug plague, we must deal with other
12 crimes as well, particularly those considered minor
13 infractions, which tend to lead to more serious acts
14 of criminal activities.

15 On major considerations regarding
16 this Council's attention include, continuing and
17 intensifying existing efforts to institutionalize
18 community policing strategies throughout the city.

19 My report documents how effective
20 police community ventures can be. One example is
21 the Center City District community policing project
22 which reduced criminal offenses by 20 percent
23 between 1992 and 1995.

24 This project is a vivid illustration
25 of how police, business, organized civilians, and

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the applications of modern technology can work
3 together to prevent and reduce crime right here in
4 the city. We do not have to reinvent the wheel.

5 But there are many communities which
6 do not have the resources of the Center City
7 District. We must consider providing serious
8 support to Town Watches and citizen action groups,
9 particularly in communities that are least
10 organized.

11 The establishment of neighborhood
12 strategic plans which are based on quantifiable
13 crime reduction goals -- and this should be a
14 focus -- goals against which performance and
15 progress, and that's where the captains and the
16 inspectors should be evaluated and the evaluations
17 should take off from. So progress can be
18 evaluated.

19 So, for example, if the
20 Administration is to develop a plan, it should
21 explicitly state the expected outcome as a crime
22 reduction percent, 10 percent reduction in homicides
23 or 15 percent reduction in robberies, and so on.

24 This would provide for us clear lines
25 of accountability, authorizing greater management

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 powers and tools in order to allow the police
3 leadership to demand increased performance
4 standards.

5 It is my understanding that the
6 existing Civil Service regulations do not allow for
7 the leadership ranks to hold their commanders
8 accountable.

9 We cannot expect the leadership of
10 any entity to create miracles if they are not given
11 the essential management tools.

12 This includes a commitment to invest
13 in the latest equipment and technology available.
14 I'm sure Commissioner Neal will address these
15 concerns today;

16 Continue decentralizing
17 decisionmaking, so that division commanders are
18 given the authority and independence to realize
19 strategies which are indigenous to their own
20 geographic areas;

21 Provide greater support, training,
22 and compensation to police officers serving on the
23 front lines in neighborhoods which are racially,
24 culturally, and economically diverse which requires
25 officers to better understand the people they are

1 RESOLUTION 970176

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2    serving;
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3 Officers must be given greater
4 latitude to be creative and to interact in ways
5 which will provide and improve their relationship to
6 the citizens.

7 Greater expectations require a better
8 compensation package. Note, starting salaries for
9 police officers in 1986 was \$22,300. In the
10 1997-'98 operating budget, it went up to \$26,246.
11 Representing an annual increase of 1.5 percent
12 annually.

13 Obviously, if you don't pay, you
14 can't get the best.

15 In Boston, the courts demonstrated
16 that they can play a pivotal role in reducing
17 juvenile homicides and violence. The City of Boston
18 has not had a juvenile homicide since 1995. We must
19 learn from their experience and employ what is
20 adaptable or relevant to our local reality.

21 Fighting the war on drugs is not
22 merely about arresting and convicting drug dealers
23 and offenders; it is also about drug treatment and
24 support services.

25 It is about providing alternatives to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 which will strengthen our ability to effectively
3 enforce the law, but it also must provide targeted
4 economic development dollars for job creation.

5 Senseless police policies, as
6 illustrated by our state Welfare Reform Laws, are
7 not only counter-productive, but can contribute to
8 the proliferation of certain types of crime,
9 compounding the very problem they profess they want
10 to solve.

11 On the local scene, this Council must
12 serve as the forum for ideas and innovation. But
13 innovation sometimes costs money. If necessary,
14 this Council must also bear that responsibility.

15 I apologize to my colleagues and our
16 guests for taking so much time at this hearing. But
17 given the magnitude of the work, the controversy
18 that surrounds these hearings, I realize and I
19 thought it appropriate to summarize its essence, as
20 preliminary and incomplete as it might seem.

21 Gracias. And I thank you,
22 Mr. President, and turn it back to you for now.

23 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you, Chairman
24 Ortiz, for a very thoughtful analysis. We will be
25 very much interested in comments with respect to the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 statement by Chairman Ortiz.

3 At this point let me note the
4 presence of a quorum of the two committees.

5 All the way to my left, wish only
6 that it were so, Councilman Frank Rizzo.

7 That was a joke. Nobody got it,
8 Frank.

9 Next to him, Councilman Jim Kenney;
10 Chairman Ortiz; myself, David Cohen, Chairman of Law
11 and Government.

12 To my immediate right -- that's
13 pretty accurate -- Councilman Mariano, Councilwoman
14 Krajewski. Councilman Nutter was sitting there; he
15 will be back.

16 Councilwoman Verna, also the majority
17 leader. Councilwoman Fernandez, and Councilman
18 DiCicco who prefers to remain in his local seat,
19 though he is entitled to be up here, since he is a
20 member of one of the two committees, the Public
21 Safety Committee, I believe. Right?

22 Two committees. You are on both.
23 But you still only count once.

24 At this point we are going to ask
25 District Attorney Lynne Abraham to come forward.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 I understand the District Attorney
3 did develop a very full statement of position.

4 Councilman Ortiz and I have asked
5 her, instead of reading the statement, to summarize
6 it so that members of the Committee will have more
7 time for any questions they may wish to raise.

8 We welcome you very much. And the
9 spirit that we hope everybody will maintain is that
10 referred to by Councilman Ortiz.

11 We are not about to be looking for
12 people to blame; we are looking for solutions to
13 problems which we think are the number one problems
14 in the city.

15 Thank you very much for being with us
16 this afternoon, District Attorney.

17 DISTRICT ATTORNEY LYNNE ABRAHAM: My
18 pleasure, Mr. Councilman.

19 For the record, I am Lynne Abraham,
20 District Attorney of Philadelphia. To my immediate
21 left is First Assistant District Attorney -- sorry.
22 First Deputy Attorney for the Juvenile Division,
23 John Delaney. I beg your pardon.

24 To my immediate right is Gary Tennis,
25 the chief of our Legislative Division.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And to his right is George Mosee, who
3 is our Deputy for Narcotics.

4 The record should reflect that I have
5 provided Council members with testimony which I will
6 not read. But I would ask that those statements be
7 introduced to the record.

8 Also, just so the Council members
9 will know, because of a previous engagement, I
10 advised Councilman Ortiz when he invited me here,
11 that I would only be able to stay until 2:00, but my
12 staff will stay here at the convenience of the
13 Committee.

14 With respect to the Resolution
15 970176, let me first go over just a few things.

16 And I wanted to make sure that the
17 Committee knew that there are a variety of other
18 subjects which my notes will not touch upon today,
19 but they are supported by me.

20 And they are, notably, the expansion
21 of night courts in all of the districts of the City
22 of Philadelphia, and as well as the enhancement of
23 victim assistance officers, which I believe Alberta
24 James from East Division may be here to talk to you
25 about later on.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 With respect to Council's issue with
3 regard to undercover agents, obviously we support
4 undercover agents and more undercover agents
5 infiltrating drug dealers, drug distribution
6 networks.

7 But we wish to caution that this is a
8 very risky business. These officers must be
9 trained. And, of course, the infiltration takes a
10 good deal more time than making observations on the
11 street corners.

12 But we do support the training and
13 infiltration of additional officers on these corner
14 drug gangs.

15 We also support additional uniformed
16 officers positioned at or near notorious drug
17 corners. And obviously we think that uniformed
18 officers, supplemented by other tactics -- such as
19 bike patrols, mobile ministations, and the like --
20 are exceedingly important in the fight against
21 drugs.

22 There isn't a corner in Philadelphia
23 that wouldn't want additional police officers.

24 Increasing the number of narcotics
25 officers working either in uniform, undercover, or

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in support of undercover narcotics officers, is
3 obviously to be commended.

4 The next issue I am going to briefly
5 touch upon is better enforcement of weapons laws.

6 You may remember, members of the
7 Council, that I spoke about several recent Supreme
8 Court cases which will impact on the police ability
9 to confiscate guns from the street.

10 Basically, one of them says that if a
11 police officer receives a radio call of a man with a
12 gun, given a certain description at a certain
13 location, goes to that location, sees a person who
14 appears to fit the description, pats that person
15 down and finds a gun, that gun is automatically
16 suppressed and cannot be introduced into court, and
17 that person cannot be convicted for possession of
18 that gun.

19 In addition to that, if that same
20 officer, with the description, gets out of his
21 vehicle, sees a person who fits the description of
22 the radio call, the person runs, and the police
23 officer chases, that is considered a constructive
24 seizure.

25 And any drugs, any illegal

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 issue, more widespread use of community policing, I
3 absolutely support community policing as a concept.
4 And we need to do more of that.

5 Town watch groups, block watch
6 groups, block captains group, the eyes and the ears
7 of the neighborhood, are absolutely critical to
8 participatory fights against crime.

9 And one of the things the Public
10 Nuisance Task Force in my office is doing as one of
11 its projects is, training community leaders, not
12 only for their own communities, but for other
13 communities, to make sure that they are aware of how
14 much pressure, how much work, how much good can come
15 of community participation, along with police
16 enforcement efforts, and of course the prosecutorial
17 efforts in combatting these aspects of drug fights.

18 In addition to that unit, we have the
19 Federal Alternatives to State Trials, where our
20 worst offenders are sent to federal court for
21 federal prosecution.

22 Our Dangerous Drug Offender Unit,
23 which does long-term, king-pin drug operations, and
24 of course our local intensive narcotic Effort, which
25 while confined to one geographical area in West

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Philadelphia, is worthy of Council's consideration.

3 It is something that I have brought
4 up to City Council on numerous occasions when I have
5 appeared before it.

6 With regard to the next issue, better
7 support and protection for witnesses, we obviously
8 have supported witness protection. I have asked for
9 Council's assistance on witness protection.
10 Obviously we need to protect our witnesses.

11 I want to make it clear, however,
12 that many times people who are witness to crime or
13 criminal conduct are not called in court because
14 they are informational witnesses. We are,
15 obviously, interested in protecting their anonymity
16 and their safety.

17 But we certainly need to make sure
18 that those witnesses who come to court, survivors of
19 homicide, witnesses of drug crimes and any other
20 kind of violent crime, are appropriately protected
21 and given the kind of witness protection they truly
22 need and which I have spoken about many, many
23 times.

24 There are many more issues that I
25 wish to speak to Council about, only a few of which

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 are covered in my testimony that is submitted to the
3 Committee.

4 But in the interest of time, I think
5 that will give the Council a general idea of some of
6 the things that I wish to bring to its attention.

7 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you very much,
8 Madam District Attorney.

9 Just one question. Those two cases
10 that you cited, where the courts, you stated, would
11 suppress the evidence.

12 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: That is
13 correct.

14 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Would that be true
15 also in the federal courts?

16 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: Well,
17 federal courts have different rules than the state
18 courts. And, as a matter of fact, the federal
19 courts are more liberal. Our laws in Pennsylvania
20 are much more restrictive.

21 So the answer is no. Under the
22 United States Supreme Court cases, those same things
23 that happened in Philadelphia would not, if taking
24 place in the federal court, be suppressed.

25 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Would it be

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 possible, if the Philadelphia police made an arrest,
3 and the District Attorney's Office examined and
4 found that evidence would not be permitted in the
5 state courts, but would be in the federal courts,
6 could the cases then be referred to the United
7 States Attorney here, Michael Stiles.

8 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: The
9 answer is, yes, in a limited fashion.

10 The United States Attorney's Office
11 does accept cases from our office that are called
12 Federal Alternatives to State Trials.

13 However, from speaking with the U.S.
14 Attorney, the U.S. Attorney's Office is not a
15 substitute for the Philadelphia Courts of Common
16 Pleas or the Pennsylvania courts, and they are not
17 an agency which would take any narcotics case.

18 They have selective jurisdiction, and
19 their decision to take a case is discretionary.

20 So the answer is, not necessarily,
21 no.

22 CHAIRMAN COHEN: But that might be an
23 area that the City Council might want to explore
24 with the United States Attorney's Office, to try to
25 work out where there are these problems.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: I'm sure
3 Mr. Stiles would be happy to discuss the issue and
4 to tell you what his criteria are, or may be, for
5 acceptance or rejection of any case that comes
6 within his jurisdiction.

7 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Because I think it
8 would be the intent of the Council, in those cases
9 that the U.S. Attorney would not accept, I think we
10 would be looking for ways to raise the issue with
11 the court. Not to a particular case, but as a
12 policy matter.

13 There have been other circumstances
14 in which this Council has had as witnesses members
15 of the Supreme Court to testify before us. And we
16 agreed with your feeling that those decisions are
17 very difficult to justify.

18 And when I have ever tried -- and
19 other Council members report the same -- to explain
20 the Court's decision to people in the community,
21 they are just absolutely stunned by the knowledge
22 that we give them. And it makes no sense.

23 But thank you very much.

24 Are there questions of the District
25 Attorney, other members?

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I have one
3 question.

4 Madam District Attorney, how many
5 drug cases has your office prosecuted within the
6 last eight months?

7 MR. GEORGE MOSEE: I have no way of
8 knowing the answer to that question. I'm George
9 Mosee, the Deputy for Narcotics.

10 Unfortunately, we are unable to keep
11 statistics that would respond to that question
12 accurately.

13 I think the court system is probably
14 the better source with regard to a question like
15 that.

16 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: You have no way of
17 knowing how many cases at the current time you are
18 prosecuting within the eight months?

19 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: We have
20 testified before this Council, Councilman, that we
21 do not have a computer system in our office that
22 keeps those data. We need the computerization in
23 our office, and we don't have it.

24 So the best system that we resort to
25 is the court, which is required to keep those

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 statistics.

3 So I think the court would be in a
4 better position to supply those numbers to you.

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We have asked the
6 judge for that.

7 Is your office working with other
8 city agencies to come up with alternative
9 incarceration and prevention programs for
10 juveniles? And if so, what are those?

11 MR. JOHN DELANEY: Councilman, I'm
12 John Delaney, the Deputy of the Juvenile Division.

13 I know Commissioner Reeves from DHS
14 is here. They are the funding source for programs
15 other than generic probation, which comes out of the
16 court's budget.

17 And for several years now I, on
18 behalf of the District Attorney, have participated
19 in a group that's designed to do exactly that, to
20 develop programs for kids for which programs do not
21 exist now.

22 The firearms program the District
23 Attorney described earlier came out of that
24 process.

25 So we meet on a regular basis to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 identify what kind of programs we need and don't
3 have, attempt to devise them, and have people who
4 work with juvenile delinquents regularly provide
5 those services both as an alternative to placement,
6 and as an adjunct to placement.

7 Because there are a number of kids in
8 Philadelphia that no program in the community is
9 going to be a sufficient substitute for putting them
10 in a residential placement facility.

11 But that work continues to go on, in
12 partnership between the police, the District
13 Attorney, the Department of Human Services, the
14 Juvenile Court, the Defender Association, and the
15 School District.

16 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Can you make that
17 available to us in writing, in terms of those types
18 of programs and so on from the D.A.'s Office:

19 MR. DELANEY: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Make it available to
21 the Committee.

22 And, Madam District Attorney, if we
23 are successful, and a policy is implemented and
24 deployment is done and police are hired, and that
25 effects a greater amount of arrests, what impact

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 would it have?

3 And do you have the capacity in your
4 office to be able to do what needs to be done in
5 terms of prosecution?

6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:

7 Councilman and members of the Committee, we are
8 really at the breaking point now, with all the cases
9 that we have.

10 We have taken --

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: So if we are
12 successful in bringing in more offenders, the impact
13 on your office would be what?

14 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: We have
15 taken pains to point out to Council that in order to
16 man all of the programs that are going to be manned
17 in the court at present, plus absorb any new
18 initiatives that are imposed upon us, new district
19 attorneys, new support staff, detectives, and other
20 things such as technological equipment have to come
21 with it.

22 So there is a price tag attached to
23 any new arrest uptake, sure.

24 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have a number
25 along those lines?

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: I have no
3 way of judging what we're talking about. But,
4 obviously, in my Council presentation --

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have a number
6 for the technology that you need, in specific
7 budgetary aspects in terms of --

8 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: In my
9 previous discussions with Council, we have talked
10 about the fact that the District Attorney's Office,
11 and indeed all aspects of the court, ought to have a
12 computer system which tracks everything and
13 everybody on-line.

14 And obviously the manpower issue
15 depends on the number of arrests that are made and
16 the number of things that we attempt to do.

17 So I think what I'd have to say to
18 you, Councilman, is, depending on what this
19 Committee comes up with as a plan, or an initiative,
20 then we would be able to sit down and discuss with
21 you how many people we would need to cover any new
22 initiative that Council might want to implement.

23 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you.

25 Councilman Ortiz was the first victim of the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 five-minute rule on the first go-around.

3 I am going to ask that each
4 Councilperson with questions not go over five
5 minutes, so that other Council members of the
6 Committee get a full opportunity. Councilman
7 Nutter.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. I didn't have a first go-around.
10 Does that mean I get ten minutes now?

11 CHAIRMAN COHEN: No. This was the
12 first go-around.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Oh, okay. Thank
14 you.

15 Mr. Mosee and Madam District
16 Attorney, the response to the question that
17 Councilman Ortiz asked, I believe, with regard to
18 how many cases you prosecute, did I understand the
19 response is, one, you don't know, and, two, you
20 don't have a computer system?

21 If that is the answer, first, it is
22 an unacceptable answer. And I have heard that
23 response a couple of times, and it is a pretty
24 sorry-assed answer.

25 And I really don't think that, in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 1997, anyone can come and sit at that table, who is
3 a part of this government or governmental system,
4 and legitimately say to this body that you can't
5 keep track of what you're doing over there.

6 How do you know who to go after? How
7 do you know what your people are doing?

8 Are you sitting at the table saying
9 to us that you don't have any computers over at the
10 District Attorney's Office?

11 MR. MOSEE: I think the question was
12 more specific than how many cases are you
13 prosecuting.

14 The question was, how many narcotics
15 cases are you prosecuting.

16 And let me explain the layout of the
17 District Attorney's Office --

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you can't tell
19 us how many narcotics cases you prosecuted, then
20 that's a worse answer.

21 MR. MOSEE: Well, let me try to
22 explain my answer in a way that may make it more
23 reasonable in your eyes.

24 In the District Attorney's Office,
25 cases come into the office, at least initially, and

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 to the municipal court unit, if they are felony
3 cases.

4 Some cases start out as felony cases
5 and end as municipal court cases by virtue of the
6 fact that they never get held for court, they never
7 make it to our Waivers Unit or our Major Trials
8 Unit.

9 When they do make it there --

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. Mosee, let me
11 tell you right now, I am less than interested in
12 that part of the process.

13 When someone calls in or if a case
14 comes in, does it get a number? Does it go into a
15 file?

16 MR. MOSEE: It does, but it is not
17 designated as a narcotics case or a robbery case or
18 a theft case. It is designated as a Municipal Court
19 case or Common Pleas Court case.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, do you care
21 whether it is a narcotics case or a property case or
22 any other kind of case? Is that relevant to you?

23 MR. MOSEE: I review with my
24 personnel each and every case that comes into the
25 office, and we review it through the paperwork.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 terms of what kind of crime it was, but the
3 significance of the criminal activity.

4 If the criminal activity is such that
5 we need to do a followup investigation, and we see
6 that potential, then it becomes a Narcotics Division
7 case. That's what I care about primarily.

8 So it is not a question of quantity;
9 it is a question of quality.

10 And I have chosen -- it is my
11 decision basically, and I have chosen -- to
12 concentrate all my efforts on doing the best quality
13 job that I can do, rather than talking about the
14 numbers.

15 And out of no disrespect to you,
16 that's all I'm addressing at this point. Is that, I
17 know what comes into the office, but I can't answer
18 the question.

19 I can't answer the question in terms
20 of how many narcotics cases come into the District
21 Attorney's Office.

22 I just haven't concentrated my
23 energies on answering your question.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And I'm asking
25 you, the simple question is, why? Why can't you

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 have to interrupt you. It is beyond the --

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is my five
4 minutes over already?

5 CHAIRMAN COHEN: It is more than six
6 minutes.

7 Councilman Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It is a totally
9 inadequate answer, Mr. Chairman, but I will yield.

10 CHAIRMAN COHEN: All right.
11 Councilman Rizzo.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: District Attorney
13 Abraham, could you please explain to me, I believe I
14 understand the D.A.'s role in prosecution, but could
15 you please explain the relationship that the
16 District Attorney's Office has with the police
17 department?

18 I'm somewhat -- and I know many
19 people that I have discussed this issue with are --
20 confused on who whose responsibility it is to
21 enforce the laws on the street corners.

22 Is it the D.A.'s responsibility? Is
23 the police department's? Is there overlap? Do we
24 need to do more in streamlining the process?

25 Can you just explain whose

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 District Attorney's Office, as a general
3 proposition, becomes involved in.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: When I hear, then,
5 that the District Attorney's Office is involved in
6 enforcement and surveillances and actually making of
7 arrests, that's above and beyond what normally you
8 do?

9 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: The sheer
10 function of a District Attorney's Office can
11 properly be limited solely to prosecution.

12 However, as I mentioned a moment ago,
13 we are engaged in a number of initiatives,
14 specialized units, specialized investigations where
15 we conduct investigations and where we may -- and I
16 underscore the word may -- issue an arrest warrant.

17 Sometimes it is working cooperatively
18 with other agencies, and they issue the arrest
19 warrant.

20 But I think the confusion is caused
21 in people's minds because they believe that the D.A.
22 can call up the Commissioner and tell the
23 Commissioner how to deploy his men and women, how
24 many cars he should put on the street, and other
25 functions which are strictly police. That is not

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 not provide sufficient services to adequately
3 enforce the law. And then we as a government
4 criticize those agencies for their inability to do
5 so as effective as we would like to do it.

6 The staff salaries of your district
7 attorneys are horrendous, as are the staff salaries
8 for police officers.

9 The resources that are available to
10 you and your staff are minimal, and we are then
11 critical because of your inability to respond to
12 questions that require technology for that response.

13 So from my perspective, as a person
14 who is involved in my own community and work with
15 your office every day, I just want to thank you for
16 the efforts you make based on the resources that you
17 are given.

18 Secondly, one of the things that I
19 find very frustrating, and I think I hear in the
20 community, is, when an individual is arrested in a
21 neighborhood, taken away by the police, the people
22 in the community, the civic association, the
23 neighbors, never really find out again what happened
24 to that individual, only if the person shows up back
25 in the neighborhood and is doing continuing crime.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Recently I worked with you, District
3 Attorney Abraham, with a number of car thieves in
4 South Philadelphia.

5 We were losing between seven and ten
6 cars a week from the parking lot at Veteran's
7 Stadium.

8 Because of the arrests made by 4th
9 Police District officers of two of these criminals,
10 the car theft rate basically went down to one a
11 week.

12 When those two individuals were held,
13 one individual had a detainer from Delaware. And
14 the other, your office went in, at our request, and
15 asked for the consideration of higher bail, which
16 that individual was not able to make.

17 And those two individuals are off the
18 street today. And the car theft rate at the
19 Veteran's Stadium and the surrounding neighborhood
20 has gone down sufficiently. We are very proud of
21 that effort.

22 What I would like you to tell us is
23 what we can do to coordinate better the community.

24 We intend, on these two individuals,
25 at the time of sentencing, to hire a bus to bring

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the neighbors and community leaders in front of the
3 court to stand in front of the judge and basically
4 say, "You know, Your Honor, we've had it. We are
5 not going to allow this person to come back in our
6 community. We want you to take sufficient action to
7 send them where they need to go so they can't steal
8 from us, hurt us, and destroy our neighborhood
9 anymore."

10 How do we coordinate better getting
11 those neighbors up there from East Division, South
12 Philadelphia, the Northeast, to get up at the CJC,
13 to bring them up on a bus, and to let them stand in
14 front of the judge and tell them what these people
15 are doing to their neighborhood and to theirs
16 lives?

17 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: Well,
18 there are really two questions you have asked. One
19 is, how does the community get to know what's
20 happening on a day-to-day basis with cases that come
21 out of their neighborhood.

22 The best way to do that is really two
23 ways. One of the best ways about crime information
24 is, local newspapers print up crime statistics in
25 their area.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 The second way is, as far as
3 dispositions, a participation in the Police District
4 Advisory Council, in the various Town Watch and
5 block watch groups is essential.

6 Because we assign an assistant to
7 every PDAC, every Police District Advisory Council,
8 so that we can advise the members of the Council
9 what happens on certain cases.

10 Now, mind you, we handle 50,000 cases
11 a year. So we can't have people go looking up every
12 single arrest in every single district. It would be
13 an impossibility. But key information can be
14 delivered, if requested.

15 Second thing about how to get people
16 up to court, I want to sound a note of caution.

17 I believe that members of any
18 community who come to court and demonstrate that the
19 community really cares about an offender or an
20 offense has a very substantial impact upon the judge
21 and his or her sentencing or other consideration.
22 It is a really important thing.

23 The one thing that I would be
24 cautious about is making sure that the defendant
25 shows up on the day that the bus with the community

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 people are there. And that's one thing,
3 unfortunately, because of other reasons I have
4 spoken about previously --

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But that's the
6 coordination I think we need to have.

7 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: -- needs
8 to be addressed.

9 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilman, would
10 you yield for a moment to Councilwoman Krajewski on
11 this point.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Mrs. D.A.,
13 you know that I have been in touch with your office
14 many times on particular cases.

15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM: Many
16 times.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: The one
18 particular case where the neighbors came down three,
19 maybe four times to be witnesses on a certain case
20 that I spoke to you about, and each time it was
21 postponed. Each time.

22 Or the D.A. was changed, or the
23 attorney was changed. They always have excuses.

24 Now, are we supposed to bring buses
25 down every time?

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What I'm
3 suggesting, and what I am asking for, is the ability
4 to get to the point of sentencing.

5 There are individual factual
6 witnesses that are required, both from the police
7 department and neighborhood witnesses. And that is
8 a very tedious and frustrating process because of
9 delays from defense attorneys, because of inability
10 to get a prisoner from CFCF down to CJC, all those
11 kinds of things.

12 But I'm talking about the day the
13 individual is brought in custody, the day he or she
14 is brought before the judge for their sentencing,
15 not for the factual issues related to the case.

16 That's the day I think we have a
17 better shot of coordinating both the bus, the judge,
18 and the miscreant to get the proper sentence.

19 The one individual we're talking
20 about, in addition to the car left issue, had about
21 \$100,000 in electronics equipment taken from his
22 house the day he was arrested. So in addition to
23 stealing cars out of Veteran's Stadium and the
24 surrounding neighborhood, he is also stealing from
25 the homes of the people who live in that

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 neighborhood.

3 So I think if we get to the issue of
4 trying to pick out maybe the top 20 or 25 of the
5 worst offenders -- not only the muderers and those
6 people, but I'm talking about the people who are
7 sneaking in our back windows at night, taking our
8 property and driving our middle class out of the
9 city -- if we can coordinate the sentencing date, I
10 think that will give us a better opportunity to
11 coordinate the neighborhood to get them up there to
12 impress upon the judge the importance in this.

13 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:

14 Councilman, obviously we will work with you and any
15 other Councilperson or citizen to try to do that.

16 I want to again caution that we are
17 at the mercy of the court who fixes the date. If
18 the court wants to recess or postpone, we have no
19 control over that, even over our objections.

20 If the defense attorney comes in and
21 sees a whole lot of people from the community in the
22 courtroom, the defense attorney may say, "I can't do
23 it. I'm busy."

24 So remember, I want to work with any
25 community person to make sure that they are present

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 at the time of the sentencing or any other
3 appropriate time to hear any public matter and speak
4 out on it where appropriate.

5 But I just can't guarantee, no matter
6 how much we coordinate, that the case will go on as
7 scheduled. It is beyond the District Attorney's
8 power to do that.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are no
10 guarantees, and we need to be persistent. What we
11 are trying to do is trying to get the best possible
12 date.

13 DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
14 Councilman, let me say this: I have spoken to
15 thousands and thousands of groups in Philadelphia.

16 And I keep telling them that you must
17 not be worn down by a person who is determined not
18 to allow you your right to be in the courtroom at
19 appropriate times. You must come back time after
20 time.

21 You have to show them that you are as
22 determined to be there and exercise your right as
23 they are determined to make sure that you are not
24 there. And that's exactly the message that has to
25 be stressed over and over and over again.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 That people in the community,
3 affected victims and witnesses, do have a right to
4 see that justice is done. And courts have to be
5 aware that citizens have that right to be there, and
6 they have to take that into consideration.

7 And I have to go. I hate to do
8 this.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very
10 much. Mr. Chairman, I will go on to the next round
11 and come back.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you.

14 Any other questions?

15 First with respect to the dialogue
16 between Councilman Nutter and the head of the
17 District Attorney's Narcotics Division, this
18 Committee will undoubtedly be meeting next month.
19 We would like you to reconsider your thinking, and
20 the whole group.

21 It is difficult for most of us in
22 Council to understand why the District Attorney's
23 Office would not be able to develop a mechanism
24 other than computers, if computers are not
25 available, for maintaining what seems like pretty

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 understanding of what you're doing.

3 Now, I understand Councilman Nutter
4 has one more question that he would like to raise on
5 a different subject.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 I appreciate you articulating some
9 opportunity for the District Attorney's Office to
10 respond to that question. And I won't raise that
11 issue anymore.

12 But they should seriously take you up
13 on what you have advised them, given the fact that
14 they have about a \$27 million budget over there.

15 The sixth page of the District
16 Attorney's 12-page statement, which we received just
17 a little while ago, Item No. E talks about the
18 Forfeiture Unit.

19 I would like to know what the dollar
20 amount or value was that came through the Forfeiture
21 Unit in the last fiscal year.

22 MR. MOSEE: I think it was 1.3
23 million. I didn't bring those statistics with me.
24 I do have those, though.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that unit

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 under your jurisdiction, Mr. Mosee?

3 MR. MOSEE: Yes, it is.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And your answer
5 is you think it is \$1.3 million?

6 MR. MOSEE: Why don't I get you the
7 specific figures?

8 As you know, we provided you with the
9 last four fiscal years, up to fiscal '97. Fiscal
10 '97's accounting hasn't been completed.

11 We are in the process of preparing
12 our annual report to the Attorney General's Office.

13 So I don't want to mislead you giving
14 you the wrong figure based on what I think it is.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

16 Well, for the moment and for this
17 discussion, why don't we say it is about a million
18 dollars.

19 What did you do with it?

20 MR. MOSEE: The Narcotics Division,
21 and most of the units in the division, were started
22 with grant funding.

23 And, as you know, as is often the
24 case with grant funding, it runs out. And when it
25 runs out, you have to find a way to pay for it.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Now, it is my understanding that
3 district attorneys have come before Council and
4 asked for money. And sometimes you can give it,
5 sometimes you can't.

6 We, nevertheless, have to keep these
7 programs running.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No. Sometimes
9 they present legitimate programs that warrant
10 support, and sometimes they don't; that's what
11 happens.

12 MR. MOSEE: Well whatever the case,
13 the programs have to be maintained. And we use
14 forfeiture money in many of the cases.

15 The mandate of the Controlled
16 Substances Act is that we use forfeiture money to
17 help law enforcement continue its war against
18 drugs.

19 And, so, every dollar that becomes
20 the property of the District Attorney's Office is
21 put to that use.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So in a
23 little more specific fashion, if it is a million
24 dollars last year, what did you do with it?

25 What programs did it support? What

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 funding did it replace?

3 MR. MOSEE: The Forfeiture Unit; the
4 Local Intensive Narcotics Enforcement Unit; the
5 Dangerous Drug Offender Unit, which currently has 14
6 detectives, four attorneys, and three support
7 personnel.

8 Some of that money -- and, in fact,
9 just about 50 percent of that money, after expenses
10 are paid off the top, actually goes to the police
11 department.

12 Because most of those seizures are
13 done cooperatively with the police department, if
14 not actually done by the police department
15 exclusively.

16 And then the money is sent to the
17 D.A.'s Office so that the forfeiture litigation can
18 take place.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So the
20 dollars are primarily being used for the expenses of
21 the District Attorney's Office in the area of
22 salaries; is that what I understand?

23 MR. MOSEE: Not primarily.

24 Because, as I said, 50 percent, after
25 the expenses are taken off the top, goes to the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 police department.

3 And let me get into greater detail
4 about the expenses off the top.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What are the
6 expenses?

7 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilman Nutter,
8 could I interrupt again and again request that on
9 this question -- this is, because of my age, I could
10 say, almost grandfatherly advise to the District
11 Attorney's Office.

12 Unless you do make available the
13 specifics on funding like this, you always leave
14 yourself open at budget hearings to the underground
15 whispers of current City Council saying, "Don't
16 worry. They're making a good case, but you know
17 they got money from forfeiture and maybe a few other
18 places, and they can use that money."

19 You would serve the interest of the
20 District Attorney better in the feeling of many
21 Council members if from time to time, say, in
22 response to the kind of question that Councilman
23 Nutter raised, you gave very specific information.

24 And I would like you to consider, in
25 writing, again, for the next hearing, which will be

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in October, to provide a specific answer to that
3 question.

4 It is a very specific question, what
5 use was made of that, whatever the figure turns out
6 to be. It can be approximate.

7 Again, we are not asking for
8 absolute, total, one hundred percent accuracy, but
9 an approximate. What did you do with it?

10 It isn't enough to tell us some of
11 the money went for salaries. How much went for
12 salaries, and for what positions? That kind of
13 thing.

14 MR. MOSEE: I really apologize. I
15 came prepared to respond to the resolution.

16 CHAIRMAN COHEN: We are asking you to
17 consider that for the next hearing.

18 MR. MOSEE: Very well.

19 CHAIRMAN COHEN: All right?

20 And, Councilman Nutter, is that
21 agreeable to you?

22 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Actually, previous
23 to the hearing.

24 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Previous to the
25 hearing, we would like to get that information from

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the District Attorney's Office.

3 And if you can't furnish it, tell us
4 why you cannot furnish it.

5 I think it will only help the
6 position of the District Attorney to put these
7 things, as much as possible, on the record. Because
8 then you will be getting rid of a lot of questions.

9 All right? We are going at this
10 time, because we have many witnesses, they are all
11 very important, we would like to move forward.

12 We want to thank all of you. And
13 remember the spirit that these hearings are being
14 undertaken on is, we think all of you are doing a
15 very good job in the various functions you perform
16 for the city.

17 But as long as there is concern about
18 crime, about drugs in the community, it is our
19 duty -- and we think your duty; we know you accept
20 it, and we are accepting our share of the
21 responsibility -- to work to get a solution.

22 We want a day when Philadelphians
23 aren't afraid to walk the streets at night. And we
24 know you're cooperating.

25 We would like you to work a little

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 delay. We are trying to get, the Managing Director
3 is coming up.

4 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Oh, okay.

5 He is always a very welcome visitor
6 to City Council whether or not he is here on
7 official business. And today, he is.

8 All right. Proceed in that manner
9 which best suits what you intend to accomplish.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHARD NEAL: Good
11 afternoon, Mr. Chairman and other members of
12 Council.

13 I have here with me today, seated to
14 my left, Mr. Joe Certaine, who is the Managing
15 Director of the City of Philadelphia; and Mr. Greg
16 Ross, who is the Chief of Staff.

17 I am here today to testify about
18 issues related to the Philadelphia Police
19 Department's effectiveness in fighting crime.

20 Many of the issues to be discussed
21 today have been the subject of considerable
22 discussion in recent months, as city officials and
23 community leaders search for better ways to fight
24 crime in our city.

25 I welcome their willingness to help,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 and I thank them for getting involved.

3 I am happy for the opportunity
4 granted me by this Committee to talk about many
5 initiatives we have undertaken to reduce crime in
6 our neighborhoods. These initiatives are proving to
7 be very effective.

8 As Mayor Rendell announced last week,
9 figures for the first six months of this year showed
10 that overall major crime is down 17 percent
11 citywide.

12 And while these statistics by no
13 means indicate that we have won the fight against
14 crime in Philadelphia, they do show that we are
15 moving in the right direction.

16 Let me say at the outset, despite
17 what you may be reading in the headlines, crime is
18 not out of control in Philadelphia. And the
19 Philadelphia Police Department continues to do the
20 job it has always done, making Philadelphia one of
21 the safest big cities in America.

22 We know that we can do better. And
23 the good news is that we are doing better.

24 Thanks to the Federal Crime Bill,
25 which Mayor Rendell and I campaigned for in 1994,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 find an extra \$156 million, in a very tight city
3 budget, shows exactly the kind of political will
4 that is necessary to make Philadelphians safer on
5 the streets and in their homes.

6 This decision is making a
7 difference. Crime was down slightly in Philadelphia
8 last year. And, as I said, figures for the first
9 six months of this year indicate that crime will be
10 down significantly in 1997, by the approximate 17
11 percent.

12 That level of reduction approaches
13 the kind of performance turned in over the last
14 several years by police in New York.

15 As you can compare Philadelphia's
16 crime rate to other cities, even right here in
17 Pennsylvania, you can see that crime in several
18 other cities around the state is rising, while crime
19 here has decreased.

20 I won't deny that more violent crime
21 occurs in Philadelphia than in these cities. But my
22 point is simply that, by any fair comparison of
23 Philadelphia by the numbers across the state and
24 across the nation, it shows that while we still have
25 a lot of work to do in fighting crime, much has

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 already been accomplished by the outstanding work of
3 the Philadelphia police officers.

4 As part of the handouts attached to
5 my testimony today, I have submitted the same series
6 of charts that Mayor Rendell made public in his
7 presentation to the State House Urban Public Safety
8 Subcommittee on September 2, 1997.

9 These charts explain in detail how
10 Philadelphia compares to other cities in terms of
11 the numbers of police officers on the force, the
12 crime rate for the nation's largest cities, and the
13 degree to which crime is either increasing or
14 decreasing in the largest cities in the
15 Commonwealth.

16 My purpose in submitting them to you
17 is merely to give you the opportunity to see for
18 yourself how well Philadelphia compares to other
19 cities around the state and around the nation.

20 What's more, I think we have enough
21 police officers already on the job to successfully
22 fight crime in our city.

23 Our numbers are almost identical to
24 New York's, when you exclude the 7,000 transit and
25 housing cops that were counted in New York's total.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 enforcement block grant of 4.5 million, we were able
3 to organize teams of officers to crack down on the
4 incidences of truancy, curfew violations, and
5 underaged drinking.

6 With the help of the extremely
7 effective night court, a program developed with the
8 help of Councilman Kenney, in which the Common Pleas
9 and Municipal Court judges volunteered to hold
10 evening hours at police districts throughout the
11 city, we are taking back street corners before young
12 people on these corners become perpetrators or
13 victims of more serious crimes.

14 We expect the federal grant to top
15 4.9 million this year. And that will enable us to
16 continue to attack quality-of-life crime in
17 Philadelphia.

18 Our efforts have been successful.
19 Look at the numbers, for example.

20 We issued 7,423 curfew citations in
21 1995. But in 1996, curfew citations total 20,560.
22 That's an increase of almost 300 percent in one
23 year.

24 On truancy, we cited 64 truants in
25 1995. And that number rose to 2,480, in '96, and

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 3,491 in just the first six months of this year.

3 And our graffiti arrests have
4 increased dramatically since we created the Graffiti
5 Squad in each police division back in November of
6 1994. From 104 in '94, prior to creation of the
7 squads, to 444 in 1995, and 575 in 1996.

8 Another area, one that Councilman and
9 Chairman Ortiz mentions in his report to the city,
10 is decentralization of the police department.

11 In New York, precinct commanders have
12 the authority to deploy officers in response to
13 crime trends.

14 In Philadelphia, we began
15 decentralizing the department five years ago, giving
16 inspectors and commanders more autonomy and
17 responsibility for, among other things, enforcement
18 of narcotics law, graffiti, vandalism, the
19 assignment of Crime Bill officers and burglary
20 teams.

21 Like New York, we are taking other
22 steps to become more proactive in fighting crime;
23 that is, stopping crime before it occurs.

24 Existing department community
25 policing efforts place police officers in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 communities through the highly successful and
3 popular bike patrols, many stations in the
4 deployment of the police department's advisory
5 committees.

6 We are also becoming more effective
7 at tracking and responding proactively to crime
8 trends in business corridors and residential
9 neighborhoods throughout the city.

10 But the fact is that we need to do
11 more, and we intend to do more. That's why we are
12 equipping our officers with information technology
13 support system that will be second to none.

14 For example, we are planning to
15 implement a state-of-the-art computerized incident
16 reporting system that is similar to the Compstat
17 system in New York, with one difference, it will be
18 better.

19 As you will see in a short
20 presentation we have prepared for you today, we
21 already have much of the technology in place.

22 Our computer system can already match
23 or exceed those of New York when it comes to the
24 compilation of recording of crime stats, and we are
25 already doing some of the crime mapping.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 But the final piece of the system,
3 one that will give us a first-rate capability to do
4 crime mapping, is all that remains to be installed.

5 We expect that this technology will
6 come on line in about four to six months. And we
7 believe that it will be extremely important in
8 helping us track crime trends much more
9 effectively.

10 These aren't the only technology
11 changes. As we speak, approximately 200 radio
12 patrol cars already are equipped with mobile data
13 terminals, MDTs, onboard computers that speed the
14 flow of information to the officer on the street,
15 thereby significantly reducing response time.

16 Within the next year we will equip a
17 total of 800 cars with MDTs, and we will soon
18 complete a comprehensive modernization of our
19 computer-aided dispatch, or CAD system, to ease
20 delays and speed responses to 911.

21 To give you a better perspective of
22 the dramatic technological improvements that we have
23 made, and will continue to make in the Philadelphia
24 Police Department, I have asked Chief Inspector
25 Brennan, who heads the department's Information

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Systems Bureau, to make a brief presentation
3 outlining the systems we have in place and how we
4 can use them.

5 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Inspector, would you
6 be good enough to identify yourself for the record.

7 MR. CHARLES BRENNAN: Yes, sir. My
8 name is Charles Brennan, and I am the Chief
9 Inspector in charge of the Communication Bureau.

10 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Please go ahead,
11 sir.

12 MR. BRENNAN: If I could just direct
13 your attention to the screen.

14 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Dim the lights.
15 (Slide presentation.)

16 MR. BRENNAN: Can everyone see the
17 screen okay, Mr. Chairman?

18 The Police Commissioner has asked me
19 to give you a very broad overview of some of the
20 technology initiatives which we have completed,
21 which are ongoing, and which we plan to do.

22 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: A brief, broad
23 overview.

24 MR. BRENNAN: Brief, broad overview.
25 I will go very quickly.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Here are some ongoing projects that
3 are going in right now. Phase 2 of the new
4 computer-aided dispatch system. We have a new 911
5 system going in now.

6 A new radio recording system has been
7 delivered. It is in a testing mode right now.

8 A new uninterrupted power supply
9 system. We just built a building in the courtyard
10 of the Police Administration Building for that
11 system, and that is going in.

12 We're expanding radio call-taker
13 positions by eight, and there are other ongoing
14 radio room improvements, such as you see there,
15 carpeting, lighting, soundproofing.

16 An FY '98 capital project which we
17 have coming in is radio mapping. And this isn't to
18 be confused with another type of mapping, which
19 we'll talk about in a second.

20 This mapping will give a supervisor
21 in police radio the ability to see realtime maps on
22 a screen. In other words, incidents as they come in
23 will update realtime maps, so supervisors can better
24 pinpoint problem areas and we can direct resources
25 to those areas.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Right now we do get the information,
3 although it is largely text based. The maps will
4 provide a very graphical image of what's going on.

5 Many of you know about the Mobile
6 Data Terminals. The Commissioner alluded to them.
7 Some of you have seen them.

8 And just to give you a broad
9 overview, we started with a pilot program in
10 Southwest Division. We expanded to the city
11 starting in February of 1997.

12 All the patrol supervisors were
13 outfitted first citywide with Mobile Data
14 Terminals. We completed the South Division.
15 Northwest Division has a few more cars to go. We
16 just started Northeast Division.

17 Every officer gets training up at the
18 Police Academy on how to use the terminals. And, as
19 the Commissioner mentioned, we have over 200
20 installed now.

21 Here is what they can do. The
22 officer can get information from national, which is
23 FBI; local, our extensive local, and state databases
24 from Mobile Data Terminal.

25 They can send car-to-car messages,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 secure messages which are encrypted. They can
3 indicate that they are en route to an assignment,
4 they are on scene, or they are back in service with
5 the push of a key on a keyboard.

6 They can search for past
7 assignments. They can find out where someone is.
8 If they wanted to know where Officer Jones is, they
9 just put "Where Jones" in, and it will tell the
10 vehicle where Jones is.

11 They can get premise history
12 information. In our computer-aided dispatch system,
13 we enter information specific to addresses. That
14 information is sent down to the officer.

15 If the officer cannot transmit on his
16 or her radio, they can hit a key, and that key will
17 alert the dispatcher as to the officer's last known
18 location.

19 They can find out all the assignments
20 that they have been on for the last eight hours, if
21 they want to, and look at them.

22 They could send messages to groups of
23 people, as well as individuals.

24 Lojack is a car locator device, which
25 is a private company. Our officers will soon -- the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 reason the asterisk is there, that's coming.

3 They will be able to get Lojack
4 information over their Mobile Data Terminal. They
5 can get the full text of their radio assignment over
6 the Mobile Data Terminal.

7 And the supervisory functions are
8 kind of interesting. Supervisors can look at
9 pending assignments; in other words, assignments
10 which have not yet been dispatched.

11 And they can also look, for the first
12 time, at the status of the vehicles; in other words,
13 where everyone under them is presently on
14 assignment, how long they have been on assignment,
15 et cetera.

16 This is a very general idea of the
17 type of information that was only available from a
18 police district. Now we have brought all of that
19 information down to the police car.

20 The officer can get to literally
21 hundreds of different computer systems across the
22 United States with the touch of a few keys in a
23 patrol car now.

24 As far as the coordination of our
25 computer systems with other agencies in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Philadelphia, we share information with all of the
3 agencies you see on the left. You will see the FBI,
4 District Attorney, DEA, ATF, et cetera.

5 We share our wants, warrants,
6 criminal history information at many different
7 levels with all of these agencies, some to a greater
8 extent than others.

9 Crime analysis tools. These will
10 just let you know some of the things that we have
11 been doing.

12 We have been sending information down
13 to districts for many years on diskette. Some
14 commanders are very innovative on how they use the
15 information, and they have been doing crime analysis
16 on personal computers located in their districts and
17 divisions for years now.

18 This type of information we sent
19 down. We sent crime information, computer-aided
20 dispatch data, arrest information. There are many,
21 many different crime statistical listings which we
22 also send out.

23 The Commissioner alluded to this.
24 This is a very new system, it started July 1. We
25 call it Incident Transmittal Automation.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And what, essentially, it is, is, we
3 have automated every incident a police officer is
4 involved in.

5 A side line, we have supplied this
6 information to the Records Commissioner, and she now
7 uses it to -- when people come in and they want a
8 police report, before they could not find it.

9 We let her now use the information to
10 find the report and be able to service the citizen
11 much better than she could before. And I have some
12 examples of this. And this information has been on
13 line since July 1.

14 This Incident Transmittal Automation
15 is the front-end system for our mapping project. So
16 this was just put on line, as I said, July 1.

17 It will give us greater coding
18 accuracy. We standardized addresses, eliminate many
19 paper reports for us.

20 Here is how we get it. It is
21 actually an accumulation of three computer systems'
22 worth of information, which is available in
23 virtually very few minutes to the officers in the
24 field.

25 Crime analysis, what we need it for,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 crime patterns. We eventually should be able to
3 predict crime. We can overlay other crime.

4 We establish a Crime Analysis Unit
5 with grant funds. As I mentioned, we started the
6 Data Collection System. And University of
7 Pennsylvania is working with us on this. And we
8 hired analysts on September 8, so they are virtually
9 new.

10 This is a little difficult to see.
11 When I blow it up, it gets a little distorted. But
12 this is what happened in the city this morning in
13 the 6th District.

14 These are incidents, and this is how
15 fast it gets down. I pulled these up sometime
16 around 10 o'clock. And the oldest one, I think, was
17 a half-hour old.

18 What you're seeing, of course, the
19 stream there, is the date, the time, our district
20 control number, the code so we understand what that
21 crime was, the location, the car that handled it, et
22 cetera.

23 You can search the system by many
24 different ways, by district, date, and time; by
25 crime code, et cetera; by district and sector.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Here is one here, it is the 25th
3 District this morning, all the incidents in the 25th
4 district. None have been coded.

5 But I pulled up one, there is one
6 there at, I think it was B and -- it is East
7 Allegheny Avenue, B and Allegheny.

8 The information came down that it was
9 a call of graffiti, and we made an arrest on it.
10 There is the D.C. number.

11 Most of the information is
12 machine-generated. It is plugged in by a computer.
13 The officer does not have to do much additional
14 input to that. And that information is very, very
15 current.

16 Again, just some more information.
17 These are vandalisms citywide. This is today. This
18 is now. We pulled these up this morning. That's
19 how fast the information is available.

20 These are stolen autos citywide
21 today. Pulled them up this morning. This is what
22 happened last night in the city.

23 This is a map of the lower half of
24 the 9th District, which was plotted from the data
25 that you just saw. And this happens to be, I

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 believe this is, stolen autos. A piece of the
3 screen is off, but I believe this might be stolen
4 autos in the 9th District.

5 Information, this is robberies from
6 the 6th District, again in August 1997. And our
7 purpose it is to look for the patterns. And you can
8 see some of them right in here.

9 And these maps have been going out to
10 our district and divisional commanders for several
11 months now.

12 Again, some more maps. 15th
13 District.

14 We can break -- we broke the stolen
15 autos by time of day, by tour of duty, so you can
16 better see where the patterns are.

17 Again, some more maps. And I will
18 just move quickly here through the maps.

19 We can plot all kinds of crime, and
20 this is what we have done.

21 This is the 6th District. This is
22 yesterday in the 6th District, robberies and stolen
23 vehicles.

24 Again, it is a little difficult to
25 see. But we had one robbery down in the 6th

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 District down here, and stolen autos are the little
3 blue dots all through here.

4 But this is information which we took
5 off the system this morning from yesterday and
6 plotted on a map, so we could get it very quickly.

7 Another system that is very
8 innovative is the --

9 CHAIRMAN COHEN: May I ask, how long
10 is this portion going to last?

11 MR. BRENNAN: Five minutes. I can
12 quit now.

13 CHAIRMAN COHEN: You know, we have
14 many witnesses to hear. I understand this is very
15 important, you know, for the top officials to be
16 studying.

17 COMMISSIONER NEAL: We will speed it
18 up, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN COHEN: We would appreciate
20 that.

21 The Committee members are rebelling.
22 They want to ask questions that are built up in
23 them.

24 MR. BRENNAN: I only have a few
25 more.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 The Digital Image Capture. We have
3 left chemical photography, and now with suspects we
4 use digital image photography.

5 We took thumbnail images of everyone;
6 we clone them out to all our districts and
7 divisions. We are able to search all of the images
8 by type of crime we arrested the person for, by
9 demographic factors such as age, race and sex. We
10 take the image, and it is stored on an optical
11 drive. It looks like this.

12 The investigator actually brings up
13 images on the screen. They can look at them and
14 print them.

15 Our network looks like this. We send
16 it out automatically to our detective divisions, as
17 well as other agencies. This is the last slide.

18 Brand-new system in the department is
19 IBIS. It is, essentially, a fingerprint system for
20 bullets and cartridge casings. It provides for the
21 identification of bullets and cartridge casings,
22 links to investigations, similar to our AFIS
23 system.

24 We had two cold hits on this already,
25 and one is worth mentioning. We had a double

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Scotland Yard come and look at some of the
3 technology that we're employing here in Philadelphia
4 because of the fact that it is state-of-the-art.

5 As Chief Brennan has demonstrated,
6 the Philadelphia police Department has already made
7 significant technological improvement critically
8 important to our crime-fighting efforts.

9 We can collect crime stats quicker
10 than ever before, and we can chart trends, and soon
11 we will be able to do crime mapping as well or
12 better than any other city in the nation.

13 Improved technology is making a
14 difference in the Philadelphia Police Department. I
15 believe that our decreasing crime stats reflect the
16 effectiveness of combining good police practices
17 with state-of-the-art technology that has helped us
18 become much more proactive in preventing crime
19 before it occurs.

20 But these changes pose questions,
21 too; such as, how to strike a balance for a problem
22 that police departments have faced for years: Where
23 to place the emphasis on fighting crime. And
24 response times when a call comes in. Or in being
25 more proactive in stopping crimes before they occur

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 with beefed-up patrols and tactical units.

3 New York has emphasized a proactive
4 response, and it has been remarkably effective in
5 reducing crime stats.

6 We in Philadelphia want to be
7 proactive, too. But, unlike New York, we have also
8 heeded the public's demand for prompt responses when
9 citizens place calls to 911 for assistance.

10 How we strike the balance between
11 these two types of policing makes a tremendous
12 difference, too.

13 As I have said before, we intend to
14 do better. We must make greater progress in the
15 battle against drug crimes in Philadelphia.

16 We must do more to reduce the
17 homicide rate, and we must do more to make our
18 citizens feel safe. We are hard at work on these
19 problems.

20 Last January, when Mayor Rendell
21 first convened an Administration retreat on law
22 enforcement issues, the city began a full-scale
23 review of police deployment.

24 We are now in the final phases of a
25 comprehensive redeployment initiative that is

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 designed to maximize police presence on the street,
3 while at the same time improving the department's
4 technical capabilities.

5 Moreover, once the Mayor signs off on
6 the final deployment plan, we will certainly honor
7 any Council requests for a private briefing on this
8 subject.

9 The fact is, we need your help on a
10 number of issues. I would ask all members of City
11 Council to join the call for help in Harrisburg and
12 Washington. Support our call for the state police
13 to assume the obligation of patrolling the
14 Philadelphia state highways, just as they do all
15 over the Commonwealth.

16 This initiative, which has been
17 advocated by Councilman Rizzo, will free up 50
18 Philadelphia police officers immediately.

19 Support the effort to re-examine
20 sentencing guidelines, so that more convicted
21 criminals can serve their sentences in state
22 prisons.

23 That will free more space in city
24 jails so that we can hold criminals, especially drug
25 cases, that we arrest and keep them from making a

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 quick return to the streets.

3 Just a quick example to illustrate
4 the severity of this problem.

5 In August, our 50-officer Narcotics
6 Strike Force made 243 arrests at dozens of
7 high-profile corners in East Division, yet in all
8 but 26 cases the suspects were back on the street
9 again almost immediately.

10 That's enormously frustrating, and it
11 makes it difficult to make meaningful progress in
12 the drug war.

13 I would also ask for your support to
14 call to eliminate the preliminary hearing process in
15 criminal cases.

16 Preliminary hearings do not determine
17 guilt or innocence. The defendant still gets to
18 have his day in court.

19 But preliminary hearings
20 unnecessarily tie up hundreds of police officers who
21 spend thousands of hours waiting to testify, instead
22 of patrolling our streets.

23 I also want to join in the support in
24 the 10 cent sur-charge on the state lottery tickets
25 in Philadelphia. Under the Mayor's proposal, the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 heard before the questioning begins by the Council
3 members?

4 MANAGING DIRECTOR CERTAINE: Yes,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Just introduce
7 yourself for the purposes of the record.

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR JOSEPH C.
9 CERTAINE: My name is Joe Certaine. I am Managing
10 Director. Actually, it is Joseph C. Certaine,
11 Manager Director for the City of Philadelphia.

12 And I have been asked here today to
13 provide a status report on the city's Town Watch
14 program by the Chairman of the Public Safety
15 Committee, Councilman Ortiz.

16 Let me say, I was glad to see that
17 the Council considers the city's Town Watch Program
18 part of the Administration's overall crime-fighting
19 strategy.

20 Too often when we think about crime,
21 especially drug-related crime, we tend to focus our
22 attention on the police department solely.

23 It is important to remember that the
24 fight against crime is multi-faceted and not solely
25 the province of the Philadelphia Police Department.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Therefore, our response to the city
3 must encompass all aspects of the crime problem,
4 including those addressed by agencies such as the
5 Health Department and the Department of Human
6 Services and, most importantly, concerned citizens
7 in the local community groups.

8 The fight against crime simply cannot
9 be won alone. That's why I believe that
10 community-based programs like Town Watch, as well as
11 the Administration's anti-drug/anti-violence efforts
12 are so important.

13 Since we began expanding our Town
14 Watch effort back in Fiscal Year 1995, the
15 Administration has made a strong and clear
16 commitment to funding and working with Town Watch
17 groups as extra eyes and ears of our neighborhoods.

18 The Administration's support of Town
19 Watch could not have been accomplished alone. I
20 think that all Philadelphians are indebted to City
21 Council for its continued support of neighborhood
22 anti-crime efforts such as Town Watch.

23 Due to our collaborative efforts, the
24 approximately 565 certified Town Watch groups, which
25 consist of 312 groups that patrol and 253 stationary

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 eyes and ears groups, in this city are on the street
3 every night watching our neighborhoods and helping
4 to make them safer places.

5 I have no doubt that part of the
6 recent 17 percent drop in crime is due to their
7 constant vigilance.

8 While the efforts to build Town Watch
9 have been impressive, we must remember that Town
10 Watch, no matter how extensive, cannot take the
11 place of the police department.

12 Town Watch members are not police
13 officers trained to make arrests or to enforce a
14 law. Their primary responsibility is to help their
15 neighbors by maintaining a visible presence in their
16 community and contacting the police should they
17 witness a crime.

18 I am happy to report that, as we
19 speak, membership in the Town Watch organizations is
20 at an all-time high and continuing to grow.

21 Membership grew from 11,320 in Fiscal
22 Year 1996, to approximately 14,500 in Fiscal 1997;
23 an increase of 27, 28 percent.

24 To date, in Fiscal Year 1998, the
25 number of Town Watch members has reached 15,200 in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the City of Philadelphia.

3 Despite these increases, the city has
4 been able to continue to support Town Watch by
5 providing training, support, and equipment to its
6 members through the Managing Director's Office.

7 In the last three years, the MDO has
8 vastly increased the city's support we provided to
9 communities trying to make our neighborhoods safer,
10 cleaner places to work and raise our families.

11 Since Fiscal 1995, the MDO has used
12 money specifically targeted by the Mayor and this
13 City Council to ensure the community-based
14 anti-crime programs, including Town Watch, anti-drug
15 and anti-violence programs receive the tools and
16 training they need to be as effective as possible.

17 Between FY '95 and FY '97, the MDO
18 dedicated approximately \$5.9 million, \$1.95 million
19 both Fiscal 1995 and '96, 2 million in 1997 to these
20 initiatives.

21 A total of \$1.55 million have been
22 budgeted in Fiscal Year 1998 to continue supporting
23 these initiatives.

24 Between Fiscal 1995 and '97,
25 approximately \$3.6 million has been used to fund

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 anti-drug/anti-violence initiatives, with an
3 additional 935,000 budgeted in 1998.

4 The MDO's anti-crime money has also
5 been used to fund a portion of the city's newly
6 organized and expanded anti-graffiti effort. In
7 fiscal 1996 and '97, a total of \$633,000 have been
8 used to support anti-graffiti initiatives.

9 Approximately \$1.3 million has been
10 used over the last three years to ensure that Town
11 Watch groups receive the tools and training that
12 they need to be an effective on-street presence in
13 the city's neighborhoods.

14 Of this total, approximately \$265,000
15 has been awarded in the form of direct cash grant to
16 Town Watch groups.

17 Approximately 727,000 has been used
18 to purchase equipment such as radios, flashlights,
19 clothing for distribution through the police
20 districts, and 323,000 administrative costs have
21 been incurred.

22 In fiscal 1998, \$410,500, an increase
23 of 20 percent from 1997's 342,500, has been budgeted
24 to support the Town Watch program to accommodate
25 rising demand for Town Watch support.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 In addition, the MDO has developed a
3 standardized training program for Town Watch
4 volunteers and participated in the formation of a
5 Town Watch advisory board to set policy, improve
6 training, and recruit new members.

7 The advisory board helped to develop
8 certification criteria for Town Watch groups, as
9 well as an operations manual for training purposes.

10 I have copies of those booklets with
11 me today, as well as a GIS-based map that would show
12 you the location of the Town Watch groups in the
13 City of Philadelphia.

14 It is not as sophisticated a
15 presentation as the police department had, but you
16 are free to take a look at it, if you choose.

17 In order to be certified, Town Watch
18 participants must complete five training classes,
19 covering such topics as safe control methods,
20 first-aid, radio communications, organizational
21 dynamics, and recruiting offered by the MDO Town
22 Watch staff.

23 The MDO Town Watch Office includes
24 free training and recruiting staff. These
25 staff people help interested residents form Town

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Watch groups throughout the city and reach out to
3 community leaders to form Town Watches in
4 low-participation areas using data from the city's
5 geographic information system.

6 Over the next five years, the MDO's
7 goal is to foster enough Town Watches to cover every
8 neighborhood in the city.

9 Over the next few months, the office
10 will hire two additional trainers for a one-year
11 pilot program to focus on increasing Town Watch
12 participation in the American Street and North
13 Central Empowerment Zones, two areas of the city
14 with the lowest participation rates in Town Watch.
15 These staff people will be funded through
16 Empowerment Zone resources.

17 Each spring the MDO holds its annual
18 Town Watch conference. The one-day conference
19 consists of workshops, vendor presentations and
20 awards for outstanding Town Watch organization.

21 The event is open to the public so
22 that interested people can learn what it takes to
23 form and maintain a successful Town Watch program.

24 The MDO and the police department
25 also ensure that Town Watch groups now have the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 equipment and supplies, including radios, T-shirts,
3 jackets, flashlights, batteries, and the other
4 essential tools, that they need in order to patrol
5 their neighborhoods.

6 These items are distributed by the
7 Managing Director's Office to the police community
8 relations officer in each police district.

9 The PCRO then distributes the
10 equipment and supplies to the Town Watch groups in
11 their districts, only those groups that attend the
12 sessions necessary for certification, as well as
13 groups that require new or additional supplies.

14 From FY '95 through FY '97, 1,300
15 radios and 400 free cellular phones, roughly four
16 radios and one phone for each of the patrolling 312
17 Town Watch groups, were distributed, along with
18 7,000 sets of T-shirts, jackets, caps, and 2,000
19 Town Watch Patrol signs.

20 MDO Town Watch personnel expenditures
21 have risen over the last two years, as
22 responsibility for training and program
23 administration were transferred from contract
24 agencies to the MDO staff, although personnel
25 expenditures are lower than when the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 much.

3 Councilman DiCicco.

4 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,

5 Mr. Chairman.

6 Before I begin my question to
7 Commissioner Neal, with all due respect,
8 Mr. Chairman, I understand your earlier remarks that
9 we are here today to see if there is something that
10 we can all do collectively in the area of crime in
11 the city.

12 And that the nature and the tone of
13 these hearings should be in regard to not pointing
14 fingers at any one individual or any one department,
15 but to find out and flesh out some of the things
16 that we may be able to do to support each other.

17 But the fact remains, Mr. Chairman --
18 and you have been around here much longer than I
19 have -- that we as Council members do have a
20 responsibility to not only the citizens of our
21 district, but also of the city.

22 And some hard questions are always
23 being posed to us every night of the week that we
24 are out meeting with the community groups and the
25 Town Watch groups.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 So my question, I guess, is, it kind
3 of may sound critical, but I think it is a question
4 that needs to be asked.

5 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Hard questions have
6 to be asked.

7 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

8 And I want to compliment you on the
9 screen, the projection statistics. And I think
10 that's something maybe we might want to talk to the
11 District Attorney's Office about. It is a
12 flattering demonstration on how computers and
13 digital stuff and all works.

14 Commissioner, in front of you -- and
15 I believe my colleagues may have gotten a copy of
16 the little map with some dots on it; my chief of
17 staff should have handed that out a few minutes
18 ago.

19 I can get some more. I will get you
20 a few more, if you don't mind. Well, you can have
21 this one.

22 I am told that the map in front of
23 you is a map of a portion of the East Police
24 Division, which Councilman Mariano and I share, and
25 Councilwoman Krajewski.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 people, as the testimony indicates, are being
3 incarcerated at this point.

4 So I don't have any reason to
5 disbelieve the fact that these are, in fact, drug
6 corners. But I would submit to you that we have
7 repeatedly made arrests at those locations.

8 And we are prepared to continue to do
9 that, as evidenced by the fact that the strike force
10 at this very moment is working in a grid in East
11 Police Division and making arrests at this very
12 time. And we are going to continue to do that.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

14 And, again, Mr. Chairman, maybe in
15 the spirit of these hearings, the comments by the
16 Police Commissioner, we will continue to ask similar
17 questions, maybe, about East Police Division with
18 the other authorities that will be here, the courts,
19 the District Attorney's Office.

20 And collectively maybe we can find
21 out if there are some cracks in the foundation
22 here.

23 And something is falling through the
24 cracks, obviously, if people are still active at
25 these corners for five years.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That is not
3 really a term you want to use, Councilman.

4 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Councilman, I think
5 what we did say is that, the problem we have is not
6 only a policing problem, but that it is sort of a
7 collective aspect of the whole government.

8 It is the court systems; it is the
9 parole; it is the Probation Department; it is the
10 D.A.'s Office and how that office is functioning,
11 and collectively.

12 Because I think if we expect the
13 police department to finish the criminal activities
14 in neighborhoods by itself, that is not going to
15 happen, unless you establish some sort of
16 totalitarian system.

17 So it is a system in which we have to
18 begin putting it together.

19 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Maybe we could
20 do that on a pilot program.

21 And, again, this is not critical of
22 the police department. I think it is a question
23 that we can continue to maybe work, using this as a
24 basis for some of the continuing dialogue.

25 CHAIRMAN COHEN: All right. For just

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 address that.

3 If you look at the total amount of
4 crime over the last five years that has occurred
5 here in Philadelphia, and you measure that against
6 what has occurred in all of the cities, the major
7 cities, in this country, and you divide that into
8 five, Philadelphia is still the number one city as
9 it relates to the issue of crime.

10 Because over that time period, we
11 have averaged 650 crimes per 10,000 residents. And
12 the second city, which would be San Diego, is 660,
13 and New York is 704 over that same time period.

14 Also, in looking at the stats that
15 were presented by the Councilman, although you see
16 some decline, downward trend, in a couple of those
17 cities, in most of those cities they are
18 experiencing an upward trend.

19 And plus the fact that, even though
20 with the cities, even though there are some downward
21 trends, that their total amount of crime per 10,000
22 residents is higher than Philadelphia.

23 Because of the fact that, for
24 instance -- and let me turn to my sheet -- for
25 instance, if you look at, let's say, Houston for a

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 moment, that although Houston went down in '95,
3 Houston went up in '96, and they're averaging 780
4 crimes, as opposed to the 691 that's being
5 demonstrated by Philadelphia.

6 Here again, if you look at Phoenix,
7 although Phoenix went down in '96, Phoenix is
8 averaging 10,000 crimes, as opposed to 691 crimes,
9 as compared to Philadelphia.

10 If you look at Chicago, Chicago
11 demonstrates a downward trend. However, in '96,
12 Chicago shows 941 crimes, as compared to 691.

13 Now, just to explain for a moment
14 when we talk about the issue of the deployment.

15 When we look at the numbers of
16 officers who are deployed -- and the Councilman's
17 stats conclude at the end of 1996 because all of the
18 data that was requested was '96 data -- it does not
19 take into consideration the fact that we have had
20 three classes graduate from the academy in 1997,
21 year to date, for a total of 312 officers that came
22 out during this period.

23 If we examine the period from January
24 15, 1992, to present date, in East Police Division
25 there has been an increase by 26 percent of

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 personnel assigned to that division. That's a
3 greater increase than any other division in this
4 city.

5 When we talk about the Crime Bill
6 officers, East Division has had assigned 83 Crime
7 Bill officers out of the 453 Crime Bill officers
8 that have graduated thus far, which is clearly
9 higher than any other division in this city in terms
10 of the number of Crime Bill officers.

11 So what I submit to you is that, in
12 terms of allocation of personnel, that we have
13 certainly taken into consideration all of the
14 demographics. We are aware of the issue of the
15 crime, and we have allocated our personnel
16 appropriately.

17 It should also be noted, the fact
18 that we currently have 216 officers that are in the
19 Police Academy. Those officers will be graduating
20 in December.

21 As those officers graduate from the
22 Police Academy, we will be deploying them around the
23 city.

24 As we deploy them, a consideration
25 will be the issue of crime as it relates in East

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Division, as well as it relates around the city.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilman Mariano
5 and Councilwoman Fernandez.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you.

7 Commissioner, since I have been a
8 Councilman, I am fortunate or unfortunate, no matter
9 how you look at it, to have a police radio in my
10 car. So I get to listen to everything that
11 happens.

12 And I spend a lot of the time in the
13 East, because I represent the 24th, 25th, and 26th
14 Districts. And that's the whole East; I have mostly
15 all of it. I share it with Councilwoman Krajewski,
16 Councilman DiCicco, and a lot of it with Council
17 President Street.

18 Everything I hear is a waste of time
19 with people, with your patrolmen, stopping cars that
20 are unlicensed. You know what I'm getting at. The
21 confiscation and impoundment. The law was passed
22 here two years ago. Representative Michael Horsey
23 added some state teeth.

24 I am going to introduce a resolution
25 tomorrow that looks into it with this Committee, why

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 we are not doing this. And everybody will have a
3 chance.

4 But do you see this as a good
5 crime-fighting tool? I mean, I know they are hiding
6 guns and drugs in these cars. And it is a
7 distraction from the citizens and it is a
8 distraction from the patrol people, because they are
9 spending a lot of time.

10 And, frankly, they have told me that
11 it is useless. What's the sense of stopping
12 somebody? They take the gun. Okay, that helps.
13 But they are not going to be able to take this car
14 off the street because of the way the law is. And
15 now it has changed, but we are not enforcing it
16 here.

17 Can you tell me a little about that?

18 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes, I will touch
19 on that. And then I will have Deputy Commissioner
20 go into a greater explanation on that, because he
21 has been assigned to the committee to specifically
22 facilitate the issue of the impoundment.

23 But one of the things that has been a
24 hinderance thus far is the law, in terms of our
25 ability to confiscate those vehicles.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Another issue that has come into
3 play, because there have been laws passed that will
4 give us, in other instances, ability to confiscate
5 cars, particularly as it relates to people not
6 having their vehicle registered and so on, and one
7 of the problems has been, where are we going to
8 store these cars.

9 And that's one of the issues that the
10 Deputy Commissioner has been working very diligently
11 on in an effort to try and resolve. And he will
12 further expound on that question.

13 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Identify yourself,
14 sir, for the record.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS J.
16 NESTEL: Tom Nestel, Deputy Police Commissioner.

17 As far as the impoundment of
18 vehicles, there are numerous obstacles in the way.
19 We have overcome almost all these obstacles.

20 I have been working very closely with
21 Judge DeAngelis in Traffic Court concerning this
22 bill. We are at the stage now that Traffic Court is
23 preparing their RFP for contracts.

24 Just to give you a little background,
25 we explored whether or not the city had the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 facilities to store all these vehicles, how many tow
3 trucks it would take to do this, what would be
4 involved in implementing that.

5 After looking at all the options, the
6 determination was made that the best way to handle
7 this would be to contract out the towing and to --

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Commissioner,
9 not to interrupt you. We will be talking about that
10 after I do this resolution. And we will figure out,
11 us as a legislative body will figure out, how we are
12 going to contract this or privatize. That's not
13 decided yet. We are going to figure it out.

14 But what I want to know is, if we do
15 this, in the great scheme of things, it has got to
16 help. I mean, it is going to help.

17 Is it going to help a patrolman? Is
18 it going to help -- I know it will help the
19 perception of people that it is a little safer out
20 there.

21 If you make a car stop, and a guy --
22 I was listening the other night, somebody was
23 running around with a bullet-proof vest and an AK-47
24 in the East. I mean, that's unthinkable. That's
25 unthinkable.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 The common citizen, they need the
3 perception of safety. That is the problem here.

4 We can bring the guy from New York,
5 whatever the heck his name is, we can read Tucker's
6 plan until it is blue in the face. But if these
7 people don't feel they are safe -- they have to feel
8 they are safe.

9 I'm not blaming you. I am not
10 blaming Judge DeAngelis. I just want to know, you
11 are the top cop here, you are the top guy. Would it
12 help if we go through all these motions?

13 COMMISSIONER NEAL: We agree with
14 you, Councilman, and certainly any tools that will
15 help us and enable us to fight crime and to send a
16 message to the criminal, that certainly there is a
17 price to pay for his or her actions, is going to be
18 beneficial.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Number two
20 question. Video surveillance.

21 I wrote a resolution a year ago. It
22 is floating around in Council limbo, I guess because
23 I'm not as tall as somebody here. Who knows.

24 But do you think video surveillance
25 would do something here? Regardless if we get the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 money. Let us work on the legislation and the
3 money.

4 Do you, the top cop in the City of
5 Philadelphia, think that video surveillance will
6 help?

7 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, here again,
8 as I said, any tool that is going to help us to
9 fight the issue of crime, then certainly we
10 support.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay. One last
12 question. I know everybody else is chomping at the
13 bit.

14 Back to the chief that spoke about
15 991 communications. Is he still here? Was he a
16 chief, or did I demote him?

17 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes, he is a
18 chief.

19 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Chief, can I ask
20 you one question? I didn't know you were floating
21 away, Brennan.

22 MR. BRENNAN: As long as you don't
23 demote me, you can ask me whatever you want,
24 Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No, I won't

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 demote you. And I couldn't, anyhow.

3 The old sector car ideas. When Frank
4 Rizzo's father was the mayor of the city and the
5 police chief, we had a sector car.

6 Explain that to somebody that doesn't
7 have any police experience, how that worked, and
8 would that work today, if we had the manpower? I
9 don't know if we do.

10 But I hear a lot about this. I don't
11 know if it is doable.

12 Do you understand what that is?

13 MR. BRENNAN: I guess you mean,
14 theoretically, that a car is assigned to an
15 individual sector. Districts are broken down into
16 smaller units that we call sectors.

17 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: The 24th
18 District, Juniata, Harrigate, how many sectors would
19 that be broken down into, theoretically?

20 MR. BRENNAN: I don't know how many
21 sectors.

22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Say ten?

23 MR. BRENNAN: No. Probably more.

24 COMMISSIONER NEAL: No. It is
25 probably around at least 15.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: So you stay in
3 that sector. If you are in a certain sector in the
4 24th, do you roam into another sector?

5 How does that work?

6 MR. BRENNAN: Usually what happens
7 is, you are assigned a sector or sectors to cover,
8 until the whole district is covered, depending on
9 how many people come in that tour of duty.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Do you think --
11 I'm putting you on the spot here, but it's the big
12 showdown here -- do you think that's something we
13 could do, or is that something against the
14 Administration's policy, or is it not worth going
15 back to that?

16 MR. BRENNAN: That's something that
17 we do do.

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: We still do
19 that? We still do do that?

20 MR. BRENNAN: Sure.

21 COMMISSIONER NEAL: What we're saying
22 is that, that is one of the issues that we are
23 currently reviewing as part of deployment study and
24 looking at the various --

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And that could

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilwoman
3 Fernandez.

4 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ:

5 Commissioner, it feels like there are sort of two
6 major issues when we're talking about deployment of
7 officers and dealing with the various kinds of crime
8 in the city.

9 One would be officers deployed to
10 deal with the drug business, and to really go after
11 not only the drug dealers people might see on the
12 street, but actually the drug organization that's
13 managing and organizing the whole thing.

14 The other kinds of crime are what
15 people are just seeing and feeling on the streets
16 every day, from the quality of life, nuisance kind
17 of issues, to more serious things like robberies.

18 And I think around the deployment
19 issue, the question is, in broad scope, over the
20 last couple of years you have gotten additional
21 officers, and there has also been a move to get more
22 of the officers who might have been doing paperwork
23 behind the desk, to get them out into the field.

24 Is it correct to assume that there
25 are now more officers out on the beat, out in the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 moment, Councilwoman?

3 On the number of officers, didn't you
4 engage in a difficult battle -- I think it went to
5 court -- in which you were given the authority to
6 change the number of police officers at different
7 shifts corresponding to the need?

8 COMMISSIONER NEAL: That's correct.

9 CHAIRMAN COHEN: And doesn't that
10 make more officers available?

11 COMMISSIONER NEAL: That makes more
12 officers available, also.

13 CHAIRMAN COHEN: For where you need
14 them.

15 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes. Thank you
16 very much.

17 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: What I
18 wanted to get clear, which I am not as clear on, I
19 have had the feeling -- and you confirmed that --
20 that more officers are out on the street dealing
21 with some of these crimes that drive people up a
22 wall.

23 But the other issue, I am not clear
24 how many officers -- are there more, less, or about
25 the same -- really dealing with the in-depth

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 question was, in terms of deployment, are the
3 numbers of officers directed towards in-depth
4 narcotics kinds of investigations, is that fewer
5 than before, the same as before, or have additional
6 officers also been assigned there?

7 COMMISSIONER NEAL: With the
8 exception of, when I was here last, of the 25
9 additional officers that we have assigned to
10 narcotics, that the number of narcotic officers have
11 remained the same.

12 However, with the redeployment that
13 we are currently looking at, entails a portion
14 whereby there would be a significant increase in the
15 number of officers assigned to narcotic enforcement.

16 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: You are
17 saying, in the deployment current plan you are
18 currently discussing?

19 COMMISSIONER NEAL: That's right.

20 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And when do
21 you expect that to be presented to us, or to go into
22 effect?

23 COMMISSIONER NEAL: As I stated
24 earlier, that as soon as the Mayor -- I believe that
25 the Mayor is also looking at some other aspects

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 relative to deployment, in conjunction with the
3 entire group of people who are participating in this
4 process.

5 And as soon as that is complete, and
6 the Mayor signs off on the recommendations that have
7 been submitted, then we will provide that to
8 Council.

9 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilman Kenney,
12 then Councilman Nutter, then Councilman Rizzo, and
13 then Councilman Ortiz.

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

16 Commissioner, I want to talk about
17 the issue of training, ongoing training.

18 What is it that we do, what do we
19 require our officers to do, once they are hired on
20 patrol, both officers and management people, to go
21 through continuing education or continuing training
22 in police science and police work?

23 Would you lay out for us what we do
24 with our officers? And, in addition -- let me get
25 the whole question in, this way maybe you can

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 any training that the police department on its own
3 decides is significant and important to impart to
4 our officers.

5 In conjunction with that, we have
6 supported outside training on the part of our
7 officers with a number of institutions. And we do
8 police executive training, we do training involving
9 some private entities.

10 We have brought in outside
11 consultants to provide training to the officers on
12 an ongoing basis.

13 We realize, too, that training is an
14 important component to an officer's development, and
15 that's why we place such a high emphasis.

16 And I will allow Deputy Commissioner
17 Nestell, who is the head of the training and
18 administration, to address that issue.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTELL:

20 Councilman, in addition to it, I guess we really
21 need to go right back to the basic training.

22 When the recruits report, they're
23 given a series of tests to identify what their
24 reading skills are, what their vocabulary skills
25 are, and so forth. And a lot of individual training

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 scholarship for someone to get their entire
3 undergraduate education. And, yes, we do encourage
4 people to pursue their education.

5 We do not have a system, such as some
6 other jurisdictions do, where there is actually a
7 monetary reward that goes with it. But it has a lot
8 to do with self-satisfaction of the individual and
9 motivation of the individual.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There is nothing
11 more self-satisfying than more money. And maybe
12 that's something we need to look at in the next
13 budget, to provide those dollars to reward those
14 officers who are training, improving themselves, and
15 excelling.

16 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Any other
17 questions?

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes.

19 Still on the issue of training. For
20 a long time now, I have been disappointed with the
21 condition of the Police Academy. Even though we do
22 a good job, I think, with the staff people there,
23 the facility itself has many things lacking.

24 And one of the things that I have
25 pursued with members of the state legislature is

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 perhaps the creation of a regional training
3 facility, where the state would invest capital
4 dollars to build the facility to expand a facility
5 or to expand the facility we have and improve it,
6 and allow officers from the surrounding townships
7 and municipalities to come in on a more regular
8 basis to train there, creating a regional training
9 center for police officers, and, therefore, allowing
10 us and our own officers to matriculate through a
11 better facility than we have today.

12 I mean, the signs of age have really
13 begun to show.

14 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Councilman, I
15 know the deputy wants to respond, but I am going to
16 supersede him for a moment and respond to that.

17 Because one of the things that we did
18 was that, several years ago, in realizing the
19 possibility of the training of significant officers
20 was going to be a reality, I had built at the
21 training facility -- for the first new major
22 construction up there in over 15 years -- did we
23 build a state-of-the-art facility up there now?

24 That we have a building that is a
25 two-story building that encompasses eight brand-new

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 classrooms, that has all of the current equipment
3 that's needed in there. And it is something that
4 this department is very proud of the fact that we
5 have been able to accomplish.

6 And one of the ways that we did it
7 was that, we spent \$1 million in forfeiture money,
8 money we took from drug dealers from around this
9 city, and built that facility up at our training
10 bureau.

11 And we are doing that very thing,
12 that we are recognized as a regional training
13 facility in this area.

14 We train police officers for just
15 about all of the surrounding police departments. So
16 we are moving in that direction.

17 However, I don't want you to feel for
18 a moment that we would discourage the fact that if
19 you were able to get some legislative money and
20 wanted to build another facility up there to even
21 enhance the one that we have done, that we would
22 certainly be supportive of that.

23 And now the deputy can respond.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTELL: There
25 is nothing left.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Very good.

3 Excellent response.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Mr. Chairman, I
5 would like to come back on another round for some
6 other questions and might yield now.

7 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Well, that might be
8 October the 21st. Because we have various groups
9 here.

10 May I address for just a moment,
11 before Councilman Nutter begins, we would like to
12 finish somewhere between 4:30 and 5 o'clock.

13 There is a group from New York that's
14 here. They are there are a group of local folks,
15 Stefan Presser, James Fyfe, William Gonzalez,
16 Charles Kluge, we would like to get them on. There
17 are groups here from Victim's Advocacy and Community
18 Perspective.

19 Any one of these groups, or the
20 groups that testified, can take all day long in
21 questioning, but we can't do that.

22 Now I am going to suggest, there are
23 certain Commissioners here. And since Councilman
24 Ortiz is back in the audience, I can make the
25 decision myself -- he probably won't agree -- but I

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 would like to suggest that Commissioner Reeves,
3 Commissioner DiBerardinis, if agreeable to them,
4 feel free to leave, and note October 21, at 10:00
5 a.m., a Tuesday, October the 21st.

6 Because I don't think we can begin to
7 do justice to what you want to talk about in the
8 tight time schedule today.

9 If that's agreeable to you --

10 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I was talking to
11 them about that.

12 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Oh, very good.
13 Good. Then we were in agreement without having
14 talked to each other.

15 All right? Because you have been
16 very patient. And we appreciate the fact that you
17 stayed here very much.

18 Everybody else, we think, ought to
19 stay here and we can cover this.

20 Councilman Nutter.

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

23 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

24 On Page 8 of your testimony -- and
25 Councilwoman Fernandez went over this, but I want to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 be very clear about where we are -- your statement
3 is, "Moreover, once the Mayor signs off on the final
4 redeployment plan."

5 Is that where we are in this
6 process? We are awaiting the Mayor's review, or
7 compilation, of various pieces of information? And,
8 so, in the sports sense, I guess, the ball is in the
9 Mayor's court about redeployment plan and its
10 release?

11 Is that where things are?

12 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes. We are
13 awaiting the Mayor's decision and his signing off on
14 the deployment plan before it is presented.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

16 Same Page 8 of your testimony, in
17 response to Councilman DiCicco's question -- would
18 you like to add something?

19 Please identify yourself for the
20 record.

21 GREGORY S. ROST: My name is Gregory
22 S. Rost. I am Mayor Rendell's Chief of Staff.

23 I would just like to add that this
24 has been a back and forth --

25 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Is this your first

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 appearance before City Council since you have
3 assumed the post?

4 MR. ROST: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN COHEN: This is the
6 successor to David L. Cohen, the former Chief of
7 Staff, Gregory Rost.

8 And we welcome you here, and we
9 promise to treat you as gently, if that's what we
10 did, as we treated David L. Cohen.

11 The Inquirer misses him so much, they
12 put the L in my name in their Monday editorial when
13 they referred to me. They gave me a middle initial
14 which I do not have, and they used David L's name.

15 But Gregory Rost comes with an
16 excellent background. And while during the
17 summertime I had occasion on several times to speak
18 with him, I found that he was very responsive.

19 David L. Cohen is a hard act to
20 follow. We think you are going to follow it very
21 well. And we welcome you here to City Council.

22 MR. ROST: Well, thank you. That's
23 very kind of you. I appreciate that.

24 What I wanted to add was that, the
25 process that we have engaged in, really since last

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 January, when the Mayor had his retreat on law
3 enforcement issues, has been a collaborative effort
4 between the police department, the Managing
5 Director's Office -- in particular Joe Certaine and
6 First Deputy Managing Director Joe Martz, and the
7 Mayor's Office.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This was an
9 Administration process?

10 MR. ROST: Excuse me?

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This was an
12 Administration process? This is internal to the
13 Administration?

14 MR. ROST: The deployment question?

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

16 MR. ROST: The genesis of the
17 deployment question that I understand was derived
18 from the retreat that the Mayor held in January.

19 And at that retreat, Commissioner
20 Neal; his top deputies; David L. Cohen, my
21 predecessor; Joe Martz; Joe Certaine and some other
22 staff from the MDO were in attendance.

23 One of the issues that the Mayor was
24 very, very concerned about -- and I think it derived
25 from some of the questions that were raised by this

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 chamber -- was the deployment issue.

3 So coupled with the interest that
4 Council has continued to express, and the interest
5 that Council expressed beginning, to the best of my
6 knowledge in my new position, in the spring, again,
7 we have been working on this since January, and it
8 is a collaborative process.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

10 Do you have an estimated time of
11 completion?

12 MR. ROST: We fully expect the
13 deployment plan to be done in the next one or two
14 months. As soon as it is completed, we will bring
15 it to Council for a private briefing.

16 The Mayor and I were talking this
17 morning. The Mayor fully expects to implement the
18 new deployment by January 1, 1998, if not sooner.

19 We certainly appreciate the patience
20 of this body. Deployment is a very, very difficult
21 issue, it is a complex issue, far more complex than
22 I would have imagined.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. ROST: Thank you.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Commissioner
3 Neal, on Page 8, in response to a question raised by
4 Councilman DiCicco, you amended the situation of 243
5 arrests of dozens of high-profile drug corners in
6 East Division. Yet, in all but 26 cases, the
7 suspects are back out on the street.

8 That's about a 90 percent drop-off
9 from arrests to who is out on the street. Why?

10 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, because of
11 the fact that in some instances they are back out
12 because they were able to make bail, in other cases
13 there was no bail that was rendered and the
14 individual is back out on the street again.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Was that because
16 bail was not requested?

17 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, I don't
18 know if the bail was requested or not.

19 But apparently, in going through the
20 system, the person was released without bail.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You also
22 mentioned, I believe -- it may not have been in your
23 testimony, maybe it was in the same colloquy --
24 discussions about an individual being arrested seven
25 different times.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why do we have
4 all these people getting arrested, going through the
5 system, getting arrested, going through the system?

6 I mean, why does this go on?

7 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, that's a
8 good question. And that's a question that we would
9 like an answer to, also, the fact that the police
10 are repeatedly making these arrests, and these
11 people are back on the street.

12 I can show you that in the first six
13 months of this year, the drug arrests have increased
14 by over 28 percent. And, yet, we are still dealing
15 with the fact of many of these drug corners and many
16 locations where we make return visits.

17 And one of the illustrations that I
18 gave at the last meeting that we had on this subject
19 was the illustration of that individual who had been
20 arrested all of those times, in a four-block area,
21 and he is back out on the street again.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, before I
23 make --

24 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Councilman, if I
25 may.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 I think that goes, once the arrest is
3 made, the D.A. and the court system take over. And
4 that goes into the municipal court, and then
5 whatever prima fascia case is presented.

6 So once the arrest is made --

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But they don't
8 know how many drug cases they have, Councilman.

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We understand that.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well,
11 Commissioner, before I ask this question, or make
12 this request, do you have computers over at the
13 police department?

14 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Can you
16 provide us with any data on this continual arrest
17 problem, or dilemma or phenomena, that the
18 department continues to arrest and rearrest the same
19 people time and time again, and give us some
20 opportunity, I guess, with that data, on a day that
21 the D.A. actually, legitimately wants to have a
22 discussion about these issues, and can maybe factor
23 City Council into her busy schedule so we can go
24 over these matters?

25 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, one of the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 things that we attempted to do, because of the fact
3 that that very data that you are talking about seems
4 to be data that's difficult to obtain, that in the
5 last two programs, or last two initiatives that we
6 instituted with our strike force, that we have begun
7 gathering that data ourselves.

8 That, with the project that we did in
9 Southwest Division, we gathered the data.

10 I indicated to the narcotic unit that
11 I wanted them to track everyone who they arrested,
12 and let's find out what happens to these people.
13 When we went into East Division, we did the same
14 thing.

15 So the information that we would give
16 you would be information that we have recently
17 obtained.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's fine. I
19 know the Chair is going to give me the hook any
20 second.

21 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Before I do that to
22 you, I would like to suggest to the new chief of
23 staff that this may be something worth his time, to
24 try to work on the problem that is being discussed
25 and to bring all the parties together.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Because I think it is going to lead
3 to a meeting between, maybe, the Mayor's people, the
4 Council's people, and the court system.

5 Because, obviously, the D.A.'s
6 office, but the judges are the ones that determine
7 the question of bail.

8 I'm sure the District Attorney's
9 Office generally asks for bail. But the prisons are
10 crowded, and the judges are in a position where, if
11 they occupy space with a drug dealer that was
12 arrested on a corner, but has no violent crime
13 recorded in his past history, that they will keep
14 him out of the cell to have it available for
15 somebody else. There are things of that sort that
16 they consider.

17 But what Councilman and the
18 Commissioner are talking about is very important. I
19 think we have to get an understanding of it.
20 Because that really gripes out in the community.

21 When they finally see police action,
22 say, where they may have been working on it, and
23 finally the police do go and make these arrests, and
24 they find the drug dealers back out on the corner,
25 they blame the police. They think the police have

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 absolutely that working with the other agencies is
3 extremely beneficial in trying to address the issue
4 of drugs in our city as it relates to the staffing
5 levels, in that we have tried to be responsive to
6 those staffing requests that are made by other
7 agencies, within reason.

8 However, at times it may be cases
9 where certain federal agencies may expect that the
10 staffing level may be at one height, and we feel
11 that it is only reasonable that it be at a different
12 level because of our other commitments. So
13 sometimes it has to be resolved that way.

14 However, there have not been any
15 significant increases in the staffing levels with
16 the federal agencies since we last met, in light of
17 the fact that we are still in the process of
18 discussing the redeployment plan.

19 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Thank you very much,
20 Commissioner.

21 Councilman Rizzo.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Neal, before I ask my
24 question, I learned that today, but I also learned
25 before today's hearing, that your department,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Philadelphia Police Department, has the highest
3 percentage of officers, sworn officers, on the
4 street than almost any police department in the
5 United States.

6 So you have freed up, from what I
7 understand, more officers than most police
8 departments in the country.

9 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Yes.

10 We have endeavored, through many,
11 many initiatives, to ensure that our on-street
12 commitment is as high as it possibly can be.

13 And as I stated earlier, as a result,
14 through the contractual award that was won to
15 civilianize those positions, the 179 positions, as
16 well as some rethinking in terms of the allocation
17 of personnel, we have been able to accomplish that.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner,
19 going back to Chief Inspector Brennan's
20 presentation -- and I don't think I need to drag him
21 up here; I think you will be able to answer the
22 question -- the Mobile Data Terminals, has a
23 criteria been developed that the information, the
24 messages that are sent between officers, the
25 messages that are sent between supervisors and

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 presently, today, how long we retain that
3 information?

4 CHAIRMAN COHEN: All right.

5 INSPECTOR MITCHELL YANAK: Good
6 morning, Councilman. My name is Inspector Yanak. I
7 am in charge of grants.

8 In answer to your question,
9 information that's captured in the CAT system is
10 maintained indefinitely on tape backup.

11 The information from the cars that
12 are point-to-point messages, as far as, "I'm at 5th
13 and Market. There is a fellow at 8th and Market.
14 We may have to arrest him," Chief Inspector Brennan
15 is looking into that with the vendor now, because he
16 realizes the importance of possibly that coming up
17 in court later on.

18 There is no concrete information
19 there because that is considered just like a phone
20 call from me to you, as opposed to information such
21 as, an arrest occurred at 15th and Market.

22 That information is still being
23 explored.

24 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Last question,
25 Councilman.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes, sure.

3 Inspector, just real quick, though,
4 the radio communications are recorded.

5 INSPECTOR YANAK: That's correct.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Why wouldn't the
7 computer --

8 INSPECTOR YANAK: The computer
9 information is recorded.

10 But when you start to send a lot of
11 information, such as, "I'm going to lunch," they
12 will let another go, know where you are going, it
13 starts to take a lot of additional disc space and
14 technology.

15 But that is being reviewed at this
16 time.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
18 Inspector.

19 Thank you, Commissioner.

20 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Councilman Kenney.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman, for your understanding in allowing me to
23 get in this last set of questions.

24 Two, I guess for want of a better
25 term -- because it has been used so much it is

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 beginning to make people nauseous, is this quality
3 of life moniker.

4 Two areas that are extremely
5 unsettling for people, one is death from auto. And
6 I am saddened to say, it is sad to say -- and it is
7 not a reflection on the officers or the command in
8 the 9th District. And perhaps the 9th District has
9 become the theft from auto capitol of the world.

10 It seems that you could walk down any
11 street at any given time in the 9th District, and
12 many places in the 6th District, and see broken and
13 shattered windows, people having their car's windows
14 broken, theft from autos happening five, six, seven
15 times a year, a major reason for people to decide
16 when their lease in Center City is up, to maybe get
17 an apartment in Radnor, as opposed to staying in
18 Philadelphia.

19 And the second one is a neighborhood
20 issue that affects Kensington Avenue, Frankford
21 Avenue, parts of the 15th District, 25th, 24th,
22 parts of South philadelphia, street-walking
23 prostitution.

24 The citywide vice people and the
25 district people, I think, do a wonderful job in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 trying to round up, corral, arrest, harass, do
3 whatever has to be done to get these people off the
4 street.

5 But my understanding now is that,
6 through the Internet, Philadelphia is becoming a
7 famous place for street-walking prostitutes to come
8 to from Washington, New York, Atlantic City, and
9 other places because of the lax attitude of courts
10 and other individuals in charge of enforcing this,
11 not wanting to do anything about it.

12 Another reason why people who live in
13 those districts come to their door, see a plethora
14 of prostitutes along Kensington Avenue and Frankford
15 Avenue, and decide maybe it is better for us to go
16 to Bucks County or New Jersey at this point in
17 time.

18 I know what your people are doing,
19 but it seems we are swimming upstream or we are
20 drowning in this morass, and that nothing is really
21 getting resolved, even though you are making the
22 arrests, you are doing what has to be done.

23 How do we stop, how do we limit
24 break-ins from autos at every neighborhood, but
25 especially the 9th District, and what do we do about

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 street-walking prostitutes?

3 COMMISSIONER NEAL: I think that this
4 goes back to the same issue that we were talking
5 about earlier as it relates to the issue of the
6 drugs. And the fact that we can demonstrate
7 thousands and thousands of drug arrests, and yet the
8 individuals are back on the street again.

9 As recently as last week, I had a
10 conversation with the lieutenant who is in charge of
11 our citywide vice unit concerning Kensington and the
12 fact that I had received some complaints that,
13 apparently, prostitutes from out of town were
14 frequenting that area.

15 I sent the unit up there. They went
16 up there. They made hundreds of arrests.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Hundreds of
18 arrests.

19 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Right, hundreds
20 of arrests.

21 And yet, many of these people, the
22 same people, are back on the street again.

23 And here again, that we have gone
24 there and and we have arrested them over and over
25 and over again.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Isn't the true
3 solution to street-walking prostitution, in addition
4 to drug treatment and other types of thing --
5 because a lot of times these women are on the street
6 for various reasons that are beyond some of their
7 own control -- aren't the real offenders the johns?

8 And aren't the real offenders the
9 ones that need to pay the price by having their cars
10 impounded?

11 I will go back to the issue of
12 liability, and where we put the cars, and all that
13 other stuff.

14 And from my own anecdotal
15 information, half the people who solicit prostitutes
16 on Broad Street are not from Philadelphia; they are
17 from the counties and they are from New Jersey.

18 You take that guy from Washington
19 Township's car, and let him explain to his wife how
20 he got home and why he has to go get his car from
21 the impoundment lot, I think there may be a behavior
22 modification effort, that he may not be back on that
23 street again.

24 How come we cannot take these cars
25 off these men?

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, as we
3 stated earlier when we were talking about the issue
4 of confiscation --

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Maybe it is not
6 you that needs to answer it. Maybe it is the chief
7 of staff or someone from the Administration that can
8 tell us why we are so fearful of doing what's
9 necessary to harass those individuals who are coming
10 into our city to do bad things.

11 I mean, we seem like we bend over
12 backwards to ensure the rights of those guys and
13 where their cars are going to be, as opposed, I'll
14 take their cars and drag them into the river, if we
15 necessarily do it.

16 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Maybe the city
17 solicitor should write an opinion on that.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Or someone.

19 Is there someone from the
20 Administration that can respond?

21 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Right. Well, if
22 you will, I think that, you know, here again, it is
23 a case of the law.

24 And the fact that the police
25 department, certainly, we would support working with

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Commissioner.

3 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Go ahead, Councilman
4 Ortiz.

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, in
6 your statement you had incorporated it, but I think
7 you skipped over, but just for the record, there has
8 been talk about amending the Philadelphia Charter in
9 order to give the Police Commissioner the management
10 tools necessary to hold supervisors accountable for
11 their work.

12 And going on that line, I am just, in
13 your statement, you speak about the autonomy and
14 independence that has been given to the captains and
15 inspectors.

16 And given the current Charter and
17 given the current circumstances, what happens to a
18 captain, what are the goals that are given to him,
19 if any at this point, and what happens if he doesn't
20 meet those goals in terms of crime prevention, in
21 terms of going ahead and bringing the quality of
22 life to a better degree than he found it in his
23 district?

24 And I would like you to address the
25 issue of the Charter change along those lines.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, as was
3 stated earlier, that we have been holding crime
4 analysis meetings, whereby we bring in the
5 respective commanders and sit down with them and
6 discuss all of the issues of concern that are
7 existing in their particular areas.

8 We deal with the issues of crime; we
9 deal with arrests; we deal with everything that is
10 pertinent to the operation of that particular
11 command.

12 We ask the captain and we go over, is
13 crime up, is crime down. If crime is up, why is it
14 up, what is he doing about it. Is he aware where
15 the problems exist, who is responsible or what is
16 responsible for those problems.

17 If we find that crime is down, and
18 the captain has employed some unusual techniques in
19 an effort to decrease crime, then we ask him about
20 that. Because then we want to impart that to other
21 captains so that this can be utilized in their
22 commands.

23 Ultimately, if in fact the captain is
24 not doing a good job in his particular command, and
25 all of these areas are not going in a positive way,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 then certainly we will remove the captain from that
3 command.

4 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: When you say remove
5 him, you know, what happens?

6 COMMISSIONER NEAL: I mean --

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: That means you
8 transfer him. You are not removing him; you are
9 transferring him.

10 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, we are
11 removing him from that command. He is being
12 transferred elsewhere.

13 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: So he will be
14 somebody else's problem?

15 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, not
16 necessarily.

17 When you say someone else's problem,
18 in what way?

19 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Well, if he is not
20 accomplishing the goals and objectives in that
21 command, what makes us think that he is going to be
22 able to be a success in another area?

23 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, maybe it is
24 the case where the captain needs some retraining.
25 And we might send him to Command Inspections Bureau,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 so that he can do retrained.

3 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: What I'm trying to
4 say here because you say in your statement that you
5 presented that, given the current situation of the
6 Charter, that you are inhibited from using your
7 management skills and the other aspects to be able
8 to institute the types of reforms that you need to
9 do.

10 If that is the case, you know, give
11 me a rationale as to, how do you visualize a Charter
12 change being of help to you in bringing about the
13 reforms that we want to talk about in the
14 department? In terms of the policy-making officers,
15 from the captain, inspector level on up.

16 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Well, one of the
17 things that being able to identify who those
18 individuals are going to be in a command position is
19 that, one, it gives the Commissioner the ability to
20 develop his own team, a team of people that
21 certainly are going to be responsible to him,
22 accountable to him, accountable to the department,
23 in terms of ensuring that he goes into that command
24 and that things work appropriately as it relates to
25 that particular command.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 The fact that if, in fact, he doesn't
3 do a good job, then certainly you would have the
4 ability to, in essence, demote the person who had
5 been assigned there.

6 And by demoting that individual, it
7 has a significant impact on him financially, you
8 know, as far as his pension is concerned.

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Demotion is very
10 different from transferring, isn't it?

11 COMMISSIONER NEAL: That's correct.
12 Yes.

13 And by developing or by having that
14 ability, it also is a way of certainly making a
15 person accountable to a greater extent.

16 Because the person has a vested, a
17 vested interest in ensuring that he or she is
18 operating at the highest level of responsibility in
19 that particular command.

20 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Just to follow up on
21 that, Commissioner, wouldn't that mean that if a
22 Commissioner comes in, say, at the end of the year,
23 the Mayor is unhappy with that Commissioner, or for
24 some other reasons, since the Mayor under the
25 Charter would have the absolute right to take

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 action, that if a new Commissioner came in, that
3 there would be the possibility of a total change of
4 all the captains because the new Commissioner would
5 feel that he or she wants to have his own team?

6 I understand the purpose in that, you
7 know, wanting to have your own team and holding them
8 responsible, but I worry about the threat of total
9 turnovers.

10 MR. ROST: Mr. Chairman, certainly
11 that is one of the many issues that would need to be
12 addressed if you were to move forward with the
13 proposal to modify the Charter, to increase the
14 level of exempt employees in the police department.

15 I said, excuse me, certainly that's
16 one of the many issues that you would need to
17 address if you were to consider modifying the city's
18 Home Rule Charter, to increase the number of exempt
19 positions in the police department.

20 There is a host of other issues,
21 legal, collective bargaining issues, that would need
22 to be addressed.

23 This is something that shouldn't be
24 rushed into, although we are all supportive of it
25 conceptually because of the dramatic successes in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 New York, where I think former Commissioner Bratton
3 said that he had shifted 75 percent of his
4 commanders the first year he was on the job.

5 And he said that, he has said that,
6 it was one of the most important management tools at
7 his disposal.

8 In our efforts to improve public
9 safety in Philadelphia, I think we are all
10 interested in any idea that would dramatically
11 improve it.

12 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Couldn't the
13 Commissioner do it under his present powers now?

14 MR. ROST: Well, the Commissioner can
15 certainly speak for himself. But what I think the
16 Commissioner is --

17 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Well, I mean, under
18 the powers that a Commissioner has. I didn't mean
19 particularly Commissioner Neal.

20 MR. ROST: Well, the palpable
21 difference, as I understand it -- and it was
22 included in Councilman Ortiz' materials -- is that
23 in New York, Bratton wasn't transferring people; he
24 was demoting them. He was demoting them from
25 captain.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And when people were demoted, they
3 made a decision -- I'm not exactly sure how the
4 pension works in New York City -- but people made a
5 pension calculation, as I understand it. And they
6 determined that it was better for them to go out as
7 a captain, than to stick around as a lieutenant.

8 So that was sort of the -- I think
9 Thomas Hobb said, "Covenants without the sword are
10 but words." And that was the sword in New York.

11 CHAIRMAN COHEN: But, of course, the
12 New York story has also another version to it. And
13 that is that Bratton saw himself as the central
14 person. And I'm not saying this is true or not.

15 But I have been following the story
16 in the New York Times. And it appears that Bratton
17 lost his position as Commissioner because Mayor
18 Guiliani found that Bratton was assuming certain
19 policy functions that Mayor Guiliani thought
20 belonged to the Mayor.

21 And, therefore, Bratton was, in
22 effect, dismissed by the Mayor.

23 Now, it may indicate that Bratton saw
24 himself as the center of everything, you know, and
25 shifted everybody around, and tried even,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 practically, to shift the Mayor around, to pay no
3 attention to the police department. And we're just
4 raising a lot of questions.

5 The Police Commissioner is treated
6 the same as every other Commissioner under the Home
7 Rule Charter. He has two deputies. It may well be
8 that some change ought to be made.

9 But when we're told that 160
10 positions may be at stake, that's an altogether
11 different matter from this vantage point.

12 I would surely recommend that the
13 Mayor and others give reconsideration to that
14 figure, and work on it, to see what they really
15 think is needed.

16 You know, I think maybe the
17 Commissioner does have to be strengthened in the
18 police department, beyond what maybe other
19 departments require because of the nature of the
20 police work. But that's quite a shift.

21 MR. ROST: Two points.

22 Number one, who am I to dispute the
23 New York Times?

24 And, number two, we certainly
25 recognize that the Charter issue, again, there are

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 many facets to it.

3 There are questions about how many
4 people would actually be exempt, what would the
5 impact be under the Collective Bargaining Agreement
6 that the city has with the Fraternal Order of
7 Police, et cetera, et cetera.

8 So we view this as a preliminary,
9 albeit a somewhat promising, proposal at this
10 point. And we are happy to work with Council to
11 bring it to fruition.

12 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Is it true that the
13 top police officials, maybe other than the
14 Commissioner and the two deputies, are also members
15 in the FOP? I mean, are they eligible to be?

16 Because I have never known of a
17 situation where management, you know, and the
18 working staff are in the same organization. And I
19 don't understand how that could be.

20 COMMISSIONER NEAL: Everyone is a
21 member of the FOP.

22 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Everyone.

23 COMMISSIONER NEAL: That's correct.

24 CHAIRMAN COHEN: Well, I think that
25 might be a matter that has to be dealt with, too.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: You have a followup
3 to this? Go ahead.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Just one comment
5 to the record relative to the Civil Service
6 discussion. And we haven't received a plan yet, so
7 we really don't know what that plan is going to be.

8 From a deputy commissioner's
9 standpoint, I really find a lot of problem with
10 having all the deputy commissioners exempt and able
11 to be appointed and removed by the Commissioner, and
12 maybe the rank of chief inspector. The issue of
13 captain, however, I think is problematic in one
14 particular area.

15 My father spent 23 years in the fire
16 department, and rose to the rank of deputy chief.
17 One of the things that was the most prideful about
18 that situation was his ability to take and pass
19 tests in competition with his peers, without any
20 belief that somehow favoritism was played, studying
21 the book, doing the flash cards.

22 This was a family project, almost, to
23 get from lieutenant, to captain, to chief. And it
24 was something that we all took pride in as a
25 family.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 I think if we begin to play with
3 that, that somehow those lieutenants who are
4 friendly with the Commissioner -- not this one, but
5 anyone -- or friendly with the Mayor or friendly
6 with a councilperson, and becomes a captain because
7 of that, breaks down and damages the paramilitary
8 tenor that the police department should have.

9 And that's just one caution I would
10 give you in that regard. And that was my only
11 comment.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Councilwoman
14 Fernandez.

15 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Yes. As
16 long as we are on this topic --

17 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: It is on this topic?

18 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Go ahead.

20 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: I also have
21 some concerns about this proposed 150 exempt
22 positions. And I think I would request a couple of
23 things.

24 First, you look back to what some of
25 the other Charter change proposals were before there

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 was all the sort of crisis look at the police
3 department.

4 And I think we ought to seriously
5 consider whether we deal with all of the
6 departments, or just the police department.

7 Because I think I was just reading
8 the other day, there are 44 exempt positions out of
9 the Managing Director's Office that are basically
10 used to, in some ways, circumvent the literal word
11 of the Charter now.

12 So I think this is an issue not just
13 for the police department, but in other
14 departments. And I think we ought to take a very
15 comprehensive and careful look at this.

16 So I think the numbers should go
17 perhaps somewhere between seven, with the police
18 department. And I think that was based on
19 proportionate to the number of employees in the
20 department. Somewhere between seven and some other
21 very reasonable and defensive number.

22 I would also like to just say for the
23 record, New York has had some dramatic improvement
24 in the last four or five years, but let's not just
25 jump to think that everything that works in New York

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 works here.

3 First, the state did give them the
4 money for a thousand new officers. Second --

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: 7,000.

6 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: 7,000 new
7 officers. That's even better. But it was the state
8 gave the city the money for that.

9 They, then, were on duty when
10 Guiliani's Administration came in.

11 They did have Bratton as a police
12 commander. But, as you notice, he got removed for
13 various political reasons.

14 And, there are differences,
15 demographically and geographically between New York
16 and the City of Philadelphia.

17 One case in point, large percentages
18 of people in New York City use public transit. So
19 when they cracked down on criminals and other people
20 who were jumping the transit turnstiles, we wouldn't
21 have probably the same dramatic results here,
22 because not as many people are totally dependent on
23 the public transit system.

24 So I would just caution us not to use
25 New York all of a sudden as the Holy Bible and the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 model for everyone across the country.

3 But, particularly, this Charter
4 change issue I think needs to be looked at very
5 carefully.

6 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I think the Mayor is
7 looking at this in a very careful way.

8 I think you pointed out the issues
9 that are involved, from collective bargaining and
10 the Civil Service situation.

11 And I think Councilman Cohen brought
12 up a good point, then, in whether the rank of
13 management offices above captain is going to switch
14 from Mayor to Mayor and Commissioner to
15 Commissioner.

16 So that that is something that we all
17 have to begin looking at as we begin inching towards
18 managerial reforms that will probably aid in the
19 overall aspect of deployment and being able to carry
20 out policy.

21 The situation of accountability, if
22 you give goals and objectives to captains, as is
23 very key, and whether you can either demote or what
24 is the process that takes place, but obviously
25 transferring an incompetent supervisor from one

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 district to another is not a solution.

3 And I think it brings us back to the
4 situation that we find ourselves in, in which we
5 have a perception of people.

6 Even though the statistics and the
7 trend is going one way, we still have the perception
8 in neighborhoods that we are in a very, very
9 difficult criminal situation and atmosphere in the
10 city.

11 So I think we know that. But I just
12 want us to be able to get this on the record, that
13 everything is on the table in terms of reform.

14 And I want to hear that from the
15 Mayor's Office, the chief of staff, from the
16 Commissioner.

17 Is that right? Right, Commissioner
18 and Greg?

19 MR. ROST: Well, I certainly think
20 that we are interested in any types of reforms that
21 would improve the performance not only of the police
22 department, but of any department in city
23 government.

24 So we look forward to working with
25 you, Chairman Ortiz, and the other members of the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 have to look at the demographics of the community,
3 in terms of what size the district is, what the size
4 of population that may be in a particular district
5 is, what is the amount of businesses and residences
6 that make up that district.

7 And not only with Part 1 crime, but
8 in also looking at Part 2 crime, as well as call for
9 services, and what is the demand for services in a
10 particular area.

11 And then, after analyzing all of
12 that, make a decision in terms of how many people
13 are going to be allocated to a particular district.

14 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, I am
15 going to leave you, because this is the first
16 hearing of many that we are going to have along
17 these lines.

18 I want to thank you for the support
19 you gave us in terms of developing the statistics
20 and the charts, and that we were able to put
21 forward.

22 I do understand that they were
23 limited, and we finished at the '96 level. So I
24 would appreciate, if you are able to, to send us the
25 new statistics that are coming in that give us the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 trend in terms of the 17 percent drop rate. And,
3 Greg, if you and the Commissioner can do that, so
4 that he can then better prepare for the hearing on
5 the 21st of October.

6 At that point we will be doing
7 juveniles. And we will be dealing with the aspect
8 of juvenile crime and the court system and the
9 police department, and we will be trying to get the
10 ideas that we need to see for ourselves to begin
11 formulating certain policies.

12 So, Commissioner, thank you very much
13 for your presentation and thank you for being so
14 kind.

15 Mr. Dexter Green from the
16 Philadelphia Housing Authority.

17 We will not keep you as long,
18 Mr. Green. You will be out of here very quickly.

19 Please identify yourself for the
20 record.

21 MR. DEXTER GREEN: Yes. I'm Dexter
22 Green. I am the Acting Chief of the Housing
23 Authority of the Police Department.

24 And I have to note that I am also the
25 Chief Inspector in the Philadelphia Police

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Department, on loan to PHA.

3 With me is John Giulo, who is in
4 charge of our Drug Elimination grants. And so I
5 brought him along for this discussion.

6 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Continue,
7 Mr. Green.

8 MR. GREEN: Okay. I have been asked
9 to come here and talk a little bit about the PHA
10 Police Department.

11 And let me just start off by saying
12 that the PHA Police Department has and will continue
13 with the collaborations that we have been doing with
14 both the local, state, and federal law enforcement
15 agencies, just to name a few.

16 We have had some collaborations with
17 DEA, ATF, Philadelphia Police Department, the
18 District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of
19 Narcotics Enforcement.

20 When I first came to the PHA Police
21 Department, they had a number of issues on the
22 table, a number of things they considered to be
23 their priority.

24 And I am not going to take up a lot
25 of time, because I know there are other folks that

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 want to testify.

3 But among those were the street--

4 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I appreciate you
5 staying, by the way, this length of time.

6 MR. GREEN: That's no problem at
7 all.

8 The drug sales on the corners, the
9 outdoor drug sales, what I have heard earlier
10 talking about quality of life. We're talking about
11 improving livability in housing developments. And
12 they talked about a safe environment as one of their
13 major priorities.

14 And what was impressive about the PHA
15 Police Department, and continues to be impressive,
16 is their whole, their beginning -- and as far as I
17 am concerned, they are still in the beginning
18 stages, even though they have been doing it for a
19 couple of years now -- of community policing.

20 And like other departments throughout
21 the country, they have taken the position to do a
22 pilot program in what we call the 11th Street
23 Corridor of North Philadelphia, which consists of
24 the Richard Allen, Harrison, Cambridge, and
25 Fairhill, and Norris developments.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And what they have really done is,
3 taken an approach -- we know, and it has been said
4 over and over again, so I am not going to spend a
5 lot of time talking about it -- law enforcement
6 alone is not going to solve the problems of these
7 communities.

8 Arresting people is not going to
9 solve -- just arresting people is not going to solve
10 the problems of some of these communities.

11 And what we feel is that, what is
12 good for the housing developments, if we are
13 successful in some of the programs we put in place,
14 it is good for the neighbors around these
15 developments. So that has been the Authority's
16 approach.

17 And as part of that, with our Drug
18 Elimination grants, we have -- and I am going to
19 turn the mike over for a second to John Giulo -- we
20 have been involved with a number of projects and
21 programs because we want to approach, one of the
22 things John is going to talk about is child
23 development.

24 We are interested in changing
25 behavior, and that starts with dealing with young

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 people.

3 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: But how does a
4 police department get into that?

5 MR. GREEN: John is going to explain
6 that for you.

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: You are security
8 force in the development. And that's, you know,
9 that's a totally new activity for a police
10 department to do.

11 MR. GREEN: Absolutely. But I also
12 think it is a very important one. Why don't you
13 talk a little bit about it, John?

14 JOHN GIULO: My name is John Giulo.
15 I am the Executive Officer from the Philadelphia
16 Housing Authority Police Department.

17 What the chief is talking about is a
18 program that was first implemented in New Haven,
19 Connecticut. It is called the Community
20 Policing/Child Development/Mental Health
21 Partnership.

22 And in New Haven, the New Haven
23 Police Department partnered with Yale University
24 Child Study Center in providing immediate counseling
25 to children who have been victims of or witnesses to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 violence or violent acts.

3 In Philadelphia, we are attempting to
4 develop that program in a pilot situation at the
5 Martin Luther King Plaza.

6 And we have partnered, the
7 Philadelphia Housing Authority Police have
8 partnered, with Children's Hospital Philadelphia
9 Child Guidance Clinic in developing the same type of
10 immediate counseling programs.

11 Where a child who has been a victim
12 or a witness to a violent act, the police officers
13 on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis can call in a
14 counselor to counsel that child, and then arrange
15 for followup counseling sessions.

16 In the New Haven study, they found
17 that children who lived in areas with high violence
18 also developed substance abuse problems, they became
19 academic underachievers, and many other
20 psychological problems that have been addressed
21 through their program in New Haven.

22 Philadelphia is one of at least five
23 other cities that are replicating that program.

24 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have anything
25 in writing along those lines that you can submit to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the Committee?

3 MR. GREEN: We will give it to you.

4 Yes, we will.

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Okay. How many
6 people do you have right now in the Philadelphia
7 Housing Authority Police Department?

8 MR. GREEN: Approximately 250. That
9 includes supervisors. In fact, that's all sworn
10 personnel. Another, maybe, 30 or 40 nonsworn.

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Are they deployed on
12 foot or cars, bicycles, and so on, or do you have a
13 mix of all of those?

14 MR. GREEN: We have a mix of all of
15 that.

16 We have bike details throughout the
17 entire city; we have folks that are stationed on
18 stationary beats, and then we also have motorized
19 patrols.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: How do you police --
21 the Latino community, it doesn't actually live in
22 developments, but lives in scattered sites in the
23 barrio.

24 How do the police, how do you, handle
25 that detail?

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 MR. GREEN: Well, a couple of things
3 happen there.

4 One of the things -- and I should
5 say, and when I was doing the introduction here, a
6 lot of what we have been doing has been with the
7 Philadelphia Police Department.

8 One of the things -- and I just met
9 with Commissioner Neal in the earlier part of this
10 month.

11 One of the things that we are looking
12 at -- and we are going to make a proposal, because
13 we want to communicate better between the
14 Philadelphia Police Department and PHA -- is
15 developing a way for us to communicate calls at
16 scattered sites with the Philadelphia Police
17 Department.

18 If a 911 one call comes in from a
19 scattered site, sometimes we don't get that
20 information. So we are trying to develop, using the
21 city's computer system, a way of identifying those
22 scattered sites.

23 A lot of those scattered sites
24 currently are being policed by the Philadelphia
25 Police Department. But when we get those calls, in

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 conjunction with them, we do respond, and we also do
3 followup in some of those locations.

4 If you have somebody who is selling
5 drugs, for example, out of a scattered site, we will
6 follow that through.

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have data in
8 terms of drug arrests, in terms of drug hot spots
9 within the Philadelphia Housing Authority
10 jurisdiction?

11 And, if you do, can you make that
12 available to us?

13 MR. GREEN: We will also supply you
14 with that. We will supply you with all of that.

15 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have data in
16 terms of the arrests that are made in terms of drugs
17 and different type of criminal activity that
18 occurs?

19 MR. GREEN: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you divide it
21 along the same way, in terms of property and crimes
22 against people, like the police department does?

23 MR. GREEN: We have all that. We
24 have it by Part 1, Part 2, by narcotic arrests. We
25 break it down.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Could you give us
3 that data and make it available to us?

4 MR. GREEN: Sure.

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And then maybe we
6 can begin speaking with you. Maybe we can set up a
7 session in which we can get together with it and go
8 over it.

9 Because I want to make it part of
10 whatever report would come out of here, and listen
11 to whatever recommendations you have to make for us
12 in terms of uniting the two forces.

13 What do you think of that idea, of
14 putting together the Giulianization of Philadelphia,
15 as I call it?

16 You know, we keep on trying to
17 Giulianize Philadelphia. And sometimes that worries
18 me very, very deeply.

19 MR. GREEN: Well, if I can respond.
20 I just want to remind you that I am still the Chief
21 Inspector of the Philadelphia Police Department.

22 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I understand that.
23 I have not forgotten that.

24 And I want to be able to say that you
25 are still on loan over there. We can take you away

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 from them any time we want.

3 MR. GREEN: Let me respond this way:
4 I think it is worthy of exploring.

5 Just because it worked in New York
6 doesn't mean it will work in Philadelphia. To me it
7 is all about efficiency and how we deliver service
8 to the people of Philadelphia, including people that
9 live in PHA residences.

10 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I would like to talk
11 to you more in depth about that. But, definitely,
12 that's something we are going to keep on exploring.

13 MR. GREEN: Okay.

14 MR. ORTIZ: Okay? Thank you.

15 There are no other Councilmen here.
16 You see, once the Commissioner left, everybody else
17 loses importance, it seems. Right?

18 Thank you, Chief.

19 Richard Perez, please. Thank you for
20 waiting, coming from New York. I really appreciate
21 it. And I know you have a train to catch, but it is
22 important.

23 Since we have spoken so much about
24 New York today, since we have spoken so much about
25 New York, I thought it interesting that we bring

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 some people from New York to be able to express
3 community perceptions.

4 And I know there are others, but we
5 have invited a greater grouping of folks. And
6 hopefully in the next hearings we will have some
7 other persons from New York and Boston come down.

8 But could you please identify
9 yourself, for the record, and the individuals that
10 are with you.

11 RICHARD PEREZ: My name is Richie
12 Perez. I am speaking here today in my capacity as
13 National Coordinator for the National Congress for
14 Puerto Rican Rights.

15 And in that organization I deal
16 specifically with issues of police brutality and
17 racially motivated violence across the country.

18 Joining me here today are two
19 families whose children and loved ones have been
20 killed by police in New York City.

21 Amilta Calderon, whose son Anibal
22 Carrasquillo was shot by a New York City police
23 officer. He was shot in the back.

24 The police officer initially said
25 that he had shot Anibal in the stomach. An autopsy

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 showed that he was shot in the back.

3 That officer was never punished for
4 lying in his initial report, nor was he ever
5 disciplined for shooting an unarmed young man in the
6 back. And also --

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Had he committed a
8 crime?

9 MR. PEREZ: No. He was unarmed.

10 The police said he was acting
11 suspiciously. And this is one of the issues that I
12 want to speak on.

13 This is something that we believe
14 flows from the quality-of-life policing strategy,
15 which targets young people. And even in its initial
16 document, the Broken Windows Theory talked a lot
17 about teenagers.

18 The second person that's with me is
19 Jose Martinez. His uncle, Jose Librado Sanchez, was
20 cook in a restaurant in Queens during a
21 quality-of-life raid on that restaurant.

22 His uncle was shot to death as he
23 exited from the kitchen, where he worked. He was
24 shot to death by a police officer carrying out a
25 quality-of-life raid, that the intention of that

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 raid was to fine the restaurant owners for selling
3 beer without a license.

4 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And they went in
5 armed and --

6 MR. PEREZ: They went in like a
7 S.W.A.T. team for what would have been a misdemeanor
8 arrest. Some person would have been out of jail
9 that evening. And, in the process, his uncle was
10 killed.

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Martinez is
12 the --

13 MR. PEREZ: Nephew.

14 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And he was the
15 cook?

16 MR. PEREZ: Jose Librado Sanchez was
17 the cook, 51 years old, large family, hard-working
18 man, no record, veteran of the armed forces in his
19 native Dominican Republic.

20 Jose Martinez and his family have
21 continued the struggle for justice in their uncle's
22 death.

23 And it is unfortunate that the police
24 officers all left, because they need to hear this.
25 The Giulinization of inner cities around the country

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 bases its current anti-crime strategy on a theory
3 called The Broken Windows Theory, which was
4 developed in 1982 by two criminologists.

5 This article, The Broken Window
6 Theory, promotes a style of policing that is based
7 on attacking quality-of-life offenses.

8 In 1994, under now Mayor Giuliani,
9 police in New York began to enforce behavior that
10 had not been considered criminal previously:
11 Drinking in public, loud noise, panhandling, not
12 having identification that a policeman determines is
13 proper.

14 The Broken Windows Theory holds that
15 petty offenses like these create an atmosphere of
16 disorder that leads to more serious offenses.

17 And, Councilman, I gave you a copy of
18 the original article. I think it would be
19 informative for people to read it. Because in the
20 original theory --

21 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We will place it in
22 the record.

23 MR. PEREZ: In the original theory it
24 talks about -- and I just want to highlight a couple
25 of points, because I think they are important for

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 the fact that they are not doing anything wrong, we
3 have a very serious problem.

4 If we as a society fear them and we
5 empower police officers to operate on that fear,
6 that's a serious problem.

7 The authors of the article noted two
8 problems that they saw. They said that in the 1960s
9 and '70s, protest movements had imposed legal
10 restrictions on how police could deal with suspects,
11 and that this was hurting the police's ability to
12 maintain public order.

13 At the same time, they said that if
14 police officers were allowed -- and they cited a
15 number of cases where police officers were
16 allowed -- to do whatever was necessary to, quote,
17 maintain public order, and they said some of the
18 things done by police to maintain order probably
19 would not withstand a legal challenge.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Richard Perez, what
21 do you say to -- because I had a conversation with a
22 New York Congressman. I don't want to identify
23 him.

24 And he said to me, "You know, in the
25 district, the people in my district, Puerto Ricans,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 are going to vote for Giuliani.

3 And, he said, because the little old
4 lady, dona chench, before could not open her window
5 or go to the grocery store. And now within that
6 neighborhood, given that situation, that old lady
7 feels that she can walk to the grocery store and
8 come back without being harassed by the drug dealer
9 on the corner or the other individuals that are
10 selling drugs, or whatever it is that they were
11 doing before, and being inopportune.

12 And that was an elected official
13 saying to me, "I don't agree with the guy, the
14 Mayor. But every time I go to a community meeting,"
15 which is what happens to a lot of us here, "the key
16 situation is, these things are happening. What are
17 you going to do to prevent these things from
18 happening?"

19 Now, he says, "He is going to get
20 reelected. And our people, the people that you are
21 talking about, are going to vote for him."

22 So, you know, give me a perception.

23 MR. PEREZ: First of all, it is a
24 good thing that dona can make it to the store in
25 safety. It is a good thing.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Life Arrest Program in full swing, all of the
3 following categories of complaints increased: Guns
4 fired by police, up 21 percent; guns pointed, up 36
5 percent; use of pepper spray, up 254 percent;
6 improper searches of persons, up 9 percent;
7 unjustified threat of arrest, up 56 percent.

8 During Giuliani's first year in
9 office, juvenile arrests in New York City jumped to
10 98,553, an increase of more than 22,000 over 1994.

11 According to News Day, four of five
12 arrests in Giuliani's first year were for nonviolent
13 offenses, such as disorderly conduct and drug
14 possession, and half were for violations so minor
15 that they did not require fingerprints, just a
16 summons.

17 Arrests of youth for disorderly
18 conduct jumped from 4,516 in 1993, to 7,579 in
19 1994.

20 If you put together any two
21 teenagers, when they are talking to each other is
22 disorderly conduct.

23 Young people are being victimized and
24 criminalized not for criminal activity, but for
25 being young and looking a certain way.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 The New York City Police Department's
3 quality-of-life sweeps are jailing an average of 280
4 young people a day for activities like playing loud
5 music, not having proper identification -- and every
6 police officer has the discretion to determine what
7 is proper identification, although there is no law
8 that says you have to have any identification in the
9 United States -- loitering and drinking beer in the
10 streets. This arrest policy coincides with deep
11 cuts in youth programs.

12 With declines in funding, and roughly
13 1 in 14 youths in New York City arrested annually,
14 youths age 13 to 20 have a greater chance of getting
15 arrested than they do of getting a job after school
16 or having a community youth program to go to.

17 The point -- and there are some other
18 statistics, but they are included in the testimony.

19 The point that I want to make here is
20 that our communities, more than any others, want to
21 see efficient crime fighting. We are the victims of
22 crime. We are the primary victims of crime.

23 However, we can't be asked to
24 sacrifice our civil and human rights in the name of
25 fighting crime and be told that's the only way.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 leaving your house to buy a container of milk, as it
3 happened with my compadre, and you don't have
4 identification with you, you are held overnight
5 until somebody can be brought to verify that.

6 Now, those kinds of policies and
7 practices --

8 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Are these the
9 tactics that are being used in New York today?

10 MR. PEREZ: Absolutely. This is the
11 Quality of Life Program. Street sweeps, the
12 cordoning off of entire areas.

13 And, by the way, drug-prone area is a
14 description that describes all of our communities.
15 So now if you live in a community that is plagued by
16 drugs, you have a second plague now.

17 You have the worry that because you
18 live in that community, the police will target you
19 as a potential drug dealer.

20 The head of the Latino Offices
21 Association in New York City made a comment on
22 this. And he said, "This policing strategy can be
23 an effective tool when used with tolerance and
24 common sense. But some officers use the new powers
25 disproportionately against minority youths." We are

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 seeing that over and over.

3 It has reached the point in New York
4 where we get so many complaints -- and we work very
5 closely with the Center for Constitutional Rights --
6 that we get so many complaints for illegal stops and
7 searches, that lawyers will no longer even argue the
8 cases unless there has been serious physical
9 injury.

10 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Well, I understand
11 what you're saying. And as part of the organization
12 that you belong to, explain to me the popularity
13 within those neighborhoods of the mayor.

14 MR. PEREZ: Sure. Well, first of
15 all, let me say that on the issue of police abuse --

16 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Is it that people
17 want that in those neighborhoods?

18 MR. PEREZ: What people want -- and
19 let's be clear that politicians have been able to
20 sell bad social policy before through the use of
21 good spin doctors and good media.

22 And the concept of a Teflon
23 politician that is sometimes used to describe the
24 President is very often used to describe the Mayor
25 of New York City.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 But let me say this: That in the
3 most recent public opinion poll --

4 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Because you sat here
5 through the hearing.

6 MR. PEREZ: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And you heard the
8 testimony glowingly -- I mean everybody speaks
9 glowingly -- about New York.

10 MR. PEREZ: Because the flip side,
11 because the underside, of these policies have not
12 been discussed nationally. And it is only now that
13 we are even beginning to break into national media.

14 We had a rally in Washington, D.C.,
15 this weekend, where we brought a number of families
16 from New York whose children have been killed, whose
17 loved ones have been killed, whose families have
18 been beaten by police. And for the first time we
19 got national attention to this issue.

20 That's the flip side of this policy.
21 That's this policy gone bad.

22 And let me just read this statement.
23 Because one of the authors of The Broken Window
24 Theory --

25 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Can the policy be

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 done in a correct manner?

3 MR. PEREZ: Well, that's the issue.

4 That's the issue.

5 Because we have no problem with
6 computerized targeting of crime. And we have no
7 problem with tough enforcement of crime.

8 But there is a difference between
9 tough enforcement of crime and wholesale violation
10 and suspension of civil rights.

11 And that is one of the challenges for
12 all leaders. And it has been raised here a number
13 of times.

14 If we don't want to move in the
15 direction of totalitarianism, then we have to pay a
16 lot of attention and not just disregard these as
17 like civil liberty, you know, quacks. These are our
18 young people.

19 We are being asked -- I have an
20 18-year-old son. We are being asked to abandon one
21 kind of fear for another kind of fear.

22 So now I no longer have to worry that
23 the main thing that could happen to my son when he
24 goes out is that he will be caught in a cross-fire
25 between drug gangs, because that's less of a problem

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in New York now, and that's wonderful.

3 Now I have to worry that he will be
4 caught by policemen who see a young man and a woman
5 of color, with their baggy pants and their hat on
6 sideways.

7 And the first thing they will see is
8 a potential perpetrator, go over to him and say,
9 "Let me see your identification, and what are you
10 doing here."

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I was watching CNBC
12 the other day. Phillipe Luciano was on with Charles
13 Grodin from Crown Heights, and he was interviewing
14 three African-American young men.

15 And at one point Phillipe asked them,
16 he said, "When you see a police car coming, what is
17 it that you do?"

18 And the three individuals, they all
19 did the same thing. First they took their pockets,
20 pants pockets, they took them and turned them inside
21 out, and they raised their shirts, like that.

22 I don't understand that.

23 MR. PEREZ: It is that routine.
24 That's how routine it has become in New York City.
25 It is that routine.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Windows Theory recently was disturbed by what's
3 happening, especially in New York City. His name is
4 George Kelling, and he is a Rutgers University
5 professor. He helped Bratton implement the theory
6 in New York.

7 And this is what he said -- and I
8 included this article in the packet that I gave
9 you -- "There is an enormous potential for abuse,"
10 he says. "He criticizes departments that encourage
11 cops to demand IDs from residents or conduct
12 neighborhood drug sweeps, indiscriminately stopping
13 and frisking people, too often involving excessive
14 force."

15 This is The Broken Windows Theory
16 taken over the other side. But this is the main
17 danger.

18 Because what we're saying is that
19 there is inadequate training, there is inadequate
20 supervision, that many of the police officers in New
21 York City, at least, that are patrolling innercity
22 communities come from segregated communities on the
23 fringes of the city, in the suburbs, who don't
24 understand the culture of the people, who bring with
25 them the fears and the racial anxieties of the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 larger society, and view people of color as
3 potential perpetrators before they view them as
4 human beings.

5 So that this approach -- because The
6 Broken Window Theory, one of the principles was, it
7 can't work unless you have community policing along
8 with it.

9 Unless you have a collaborative
10 relationship between the police department and the
11 community, you can't do this targeted computerized
12 targeting. Because every act of police abuse
13 undermines the community's ability to collaborate
14 with that police department.

15 So that the 90,000 juvenile arrests,
16 four-fifths of which probably should not have
17 occurred --

18 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Is the community not
19 integrated in terms of the community policing?

20 MR. PEREZ: There is no community
21 policing in New York; that policy was abandoned.
22 That policy was abandoned.

23 The money is not for community
24 policing; the money is for quality-of-life street
25 sweeps.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And officers receive promotions based
3 on the number of arrests they make, not based on the
4 number of crimes they prevent, because that is one
5 of the principles of the --

6 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: So you heard that we
7 have Town Watch programs.

8 MR. PEREZ: Forget the Town Watch.

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: So those Town Watch
10 programs are not integrated into the overall
11 aspect?

12 MR. PEREZ: Forget Town Watch
13 programs.

14 No. No.

15 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We are going to have
16 Commissioner Bratton on the 21st.

17 MR. PEREZ: Well, you know, I was
18 hoping that Commissioner Safir would be here today.

19 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: No. He is concerned
20 with what is happening with a Haitian person.

21 MR. PEREZ: I know. I may get a
22 chance to speak on that.

23 But let me say this finally, because
24 your question is why do people support this. The
25 streets are safer, but there are a number of reasons

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 why they are safer.

3 Many of the people who comment and
4 study this will also tell you that in New York City,
5 one of the reasons why drug violence has stopped is
6 because it is already shaken out, there are no
7 longer competing drug gangs.

8 The gangs that are the drug gangs now
9 control their areas, and they have moved inside.
10 They are not fighting for corners anymore.

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And the drug is
12 different, you said.

13 MR. PEREZ: And the drug is
14 different, but the drugs are still there. Because
15 the phenomena is that we are arresting street-level
16 users; we are not arresting the distributors and the
17 dealers.

18 But there are a number of factors
19 that need to be taken into consideration. Because
20 the danger in the application of this theory in New
21 York City is that everything is seen as a police
22 action solution.

23 We would say that, as important as a
24 police action, are the strengthening of all of the
25 factors that I said, the gang truce, the community

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 initiatives against drugs, the church-based
3 initiatives against drugs. All of those are
4 extremely important.

5 You can't say that you are going to
6 fight violence and crime and cut funding for
7 after-school programs. In New York City, they have
8 been practically eliminated.

9 You can't eliminate all of the
10 programs where the kids are supposed to go. And
11 then, when they are sitting on the corner, arrest
12 them and harass them because they are sitting on the
13 corner.

14 Where are they supposed to go? They
15 have no place to go. And that's the dilemma that
16 people are facing.

17 So in New York City parents -- and
18 you can speak to any parents of teenagers in New
19 York City -- they worry about the police and their
20 children. That is the worry that has replaced other
21 worries.

22 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: My daughter lives in
23 Manhattan, and she worries. She is an actress. You
24 know her. She has told me she worries about the
25 police.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 MR. PEREZ: Okay.

3 So let me just -- well, for the sake
4 of time, let me just say, I attached to my
5 presentation some recommendations for changes.

6 Because the balance between fighting
7 crime and protecting civil and human rights is a
8 fine balance. And it is a challenge all the time to
9 figure out how best to address that.

10 And we attached some recommendations
11 for things that could be done both at the local
12 level, at the state level, and at the federal
13 level.

14 So I'm not going to speak too much
15 about that. Perhaps I could just let you ask me
16 some questions.

17 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Do you have anything
18 to say?

19 I think my thing -- and I think I
20 have asked you the questions as you went along -- is
21 the issue that worries me about this whole thing.
22 That's why I call it Giulianization.

23 And it worries me because it comes
24 from a perspective of law enforcement, without
25 taking into consideration the actual social aspects

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 we'll have a couple of the Democratic mayoral
3 candidates here from New York City, because they
4 want to carry the message.

5 And one of them, Sal Alborese, an
6 Italian-American from Brooklyn -- who I have become
7 friends with over the phone, and we share many of
8 the same political philosophies as such -- said to
9 me that he was going to come down, but the primary
10 in New York just ended, so he is like decompressing,
11 but that he will make it on the 21st.

12 Because we want to hear about what
13 are the different viewpoints from all of these
14 cities. And we are bringing some people from
15 Boston, so that we can hear that.

16 Because I think if change is going to
17 happen, it is going to have to be pushed from this
18 body. If we are going to get some change, and we
19 are going to get the right change, it is going to
20 have to be done by us in City Council.

21 So I appreciate it, Richie and the
22 young lady and the man, for your coming down.

23 And we have been through that here in
24 Philadelphia in the '70s, and we don't want it to
25 come back again. But we want to be able to get rid

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 of the street-corner drugs.

3 And the next people that are coming
4 on, Sister Carol and Miriam and Will Gonzalez and
5 other folks, can speak to that sort of thing.

6 So if you could stay, I would
7 appreciate it.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Miriam. Charles,
10 Will, Miriam, Sister Carol, why don't you all come
11 up at the same time.

12 And, Charles, come up. Will. And
13 Gregory Allen, Joe White. Why don't you come up.
14 Okay.

15 Charles, you can begin, and then,
16 followed by Will, then we can go down the line.

17 I just want to give everybody a sense
18 that we're reaching the end.

19 CHARLES P. KLUGE, JR.: Good evening,
20 Councilman Ortiz, Councilwoman Verna.

21 When I was asked to come here and
22 speak, I wasn't sure exactly what you wanted from
23 me, in terms of what it is that I do.

24 I'm the Executive Director of the
25 Police Advisory Commission. And the impression I

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 got was that you might want from me, or anyone else
3 who spoke here, some ideas on how to approach the
4 drug problem in Philadelphia.

5 And so I won't talk to you about the
6 Police Advisory Commission, unless you want me to.
7 And I can come back on the 21st, if you want.

8 I mean, I have all kinds of
9 statistics prepared. But I got the impression that
10 you wanted something else from me today.

11 And so let me read my statement, and
12 hope that it is what you wanted. And, please, if
13 you want me to come back on the 21st and talk about
14 the Police Advisory Commission in general, and
15 civilian review, I surely will.

16 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you.

17 MR. KLUGE: I am sure that
18 Mr. Gonzalez is going to do that.

19 The mission of the Police Advisory
20 Commission is to improve the relationship between
21 the police department and the community.

22 Our tasks, that is, the Police
23 Advisory Commission's task, is to find ways to
24 significantly reduce civilian complaints against
25 police.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Your focus here today is, what can
3 be done about the drug plague in this city, which
4 seems to overwhelm efforts to bring it under
5 control. And I stole that right from your
6 brochure.

7 I have read your eleven-point
8 approach in your resolution, and heartily applaud
9 it.

10 Your suggestion that more undercover
11 agents be hired to make drug buys, leading to better
12 evidence and more convictions, is certainly not
13 without merit, and as is your suggestion that more
14 uniformed police officers be detailed in and around
15 drug hot spots.

16 It is on this first approach of yours
17 that I would like to focus attention and suggest one
18 remedy which perhaps dovetails your concern and ours
19 at the Police Advisory Commission.

20 Let me preface my comments by
21 assuring you that despite my quarter-century service
22 as an FBI agent, I am by no means an expert in that
23 area.

24 Rather, these are observations I have
25 made over the years through contact with the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 stop suspicious cars and individuals in their
3 individual sectors, record that information on an
4 incident report called 75-48, and turn those stops
5 into the district when they report off. This
6 information was then sent to the various detective
7 bureaus for evaluation.

8 If a crime was committed in a
9 particular sector, the detective in charge would
10 review the car and ped stops reported in that
11 sector, in the sector where it had taken place, and
12 in and around the time of the crime.

13 The detective would then investigate
14 those individuals listed in the 75-48 for possible
15 suspects to the crime. That was, and still may be,
16 the purpose of activity today.

17 Activity in the Philadelphia Police
18 Department has lost its original purpose, or somehow
19 been overshadowed by the old numbers game.

20 Our entire society is based on
21 numbers. Production workers are measured on the
22 number of widgets the produce every shift. Lawyers
23 are measured by the number of cases they win.
24 Salesmen are measured by the number of sales order
25 they bring into the companies. Sports teams are

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 certainly measured by the number of games they win.
3 So, too, are police officers measured by the amount
4 of activity they submit.

5 There are districts in the
6 Philadelphia Police Department who have set up point
7 systems to evaluate and reward officers who submit
8 the most activity in a measuring period.

9 There is a negative side to the point
10 system. Police officers who have the lowest points
11 scored for the period are subjected to unwanted
12 details in and out of the district.

13 If an officer does not agree with the
14 point system philosophy, he or she is labeled as not
15 being a team player, and often finds his or her
16 assignment changed, transferred, harassed, and a
17 victim of peer pressure often encouraged by
18 supervisors.

19 The numbers game is played out at
20 every level of the police department. And, as
21 evidenced in a recent Daily News article, has its
22 origin at the very top.

23 In that article, the Police
24 Commissioner identified the new shift changes as a
25 major factor in the numbers being up.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Commissioner Neal is quoted as
3 saying, "Our numbers have increased, arrests,
4 tickets, car stops, ped stops are up, and that's
5 across all shifts," is what he said.

6 Nowhere in the article does the
7 Commissioner identify the word quality car or ped
8 stop.

9 There is a significant difference
10 between a car stop and a quality car stop, if I may
11 use an analogy.

12 One police officer stops a caravan of
13 15 out-of-state nuns driving from their hotel to the
14 Cathedral, and tickets the last nun in the caravan
15 who drove through a red light trying to keep up with
16 the other 14 nuns.

17 At the end of his shift or her shift,
18 15 car stops and 1 traffic ticket is turned in, and
19 that officer looks very productive.

20 A second officer stops two cars, both
21 of which fit the description of a vehicle involved
22 in an armed robbery.

23 Some time later the detective bureau
24 investigates both of these car stops, and one leads
25 to an arrest. But at the end of that officer's

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 shift, he or she has only two car stops to turn in.

3 Quantity versus quality.

4 One of the other factors to consider
5 in a numbers game, officers who write activity,
6 whether quality or just for numbers sake, require
7 backup on their investigation, a necessary evil.

8 While the investigating officer is
9 churning out activity, his backup is not. The
10 police department will argue that this procedure
11 will even itself out if both cars are active.

12 When two cars are out of service
13 during vehicle and pedestrian investigations, a
14 third car must cover three sectors for radio calls.
15 This could and often does affect response time to
16 emergency calls.

17 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Kluge, it
18 reminds me, because in the East Division -- and
19 Councilwoman Verna just showed me a chart of her
20 district --

21 COUNCILWOMAN VERA: A very small
22 area.

23 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: -- in a very small
24 area in the East Division --

25 COUNCILWOMAN VERA: Locations.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 impacts on the traffic and so on, but it is an
3 arrest.

4 And the policeman can say, "Well, I
5 arrested two drug dealers today."

6 MR. KLUGE: That's basically where I
7 am going with this thing.

8 Because the numbers game that's
9 created by the police department on the street
10 officer is causing him to make more stops.

11 I mean, I think that's how the Police
12 Advisory Commission and how Will's group gets so
13 involved, as we do.

14 They're going out and they are making
15 stops. They are stopping people for no reason,
16 because it is a numbers game. They have to produce
17 numbers to look good.

18 And there is a level of frustration
19 with that. And that frustration is coming out on
20 the street, and it is being taken out on the people.

21 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I think that is the
22 level of frustration that is being shown by City
23 Council, in terms of the changes and so on that are
24 being asked about. Because I think that's what
25 we're talking about.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 corners that Councilwoman Verna is talking about are
3 coming from the East Division, the distribution
4 center. And we're not able to go after that.

5 I mean, we haven't made an impact.
6 That was told to us two years ago. It was told to
7 us again a few months ago. And I don't think it has
8 changed.

9 So what I'm saying is, again, the
10 numbers game is something that I am very concerned
11 about, and it is something that we will pursue in
12 terms of the following hearings.

13 Continue. Yes.

14 Can you summarize it so that we can
15 get the other folks, too?

16 MR. KLUGE: Yes. As a matter of
17 fact, I will go as quickly as I can.

18 Our experience at the Police Advisory
19 Commission is that far too many insignificant or
20 even unnecessary car and pedestrian stops are being
21 made.

22 And when the civilian questions the
23 stop, the incident escalates into a verbal or
24 physical confrontation, resulting in a complaint
25 against police being filed.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 up and submit it to the Committee, I would
3 appreciate it. I will make sure that it gets
4 distributed to the Council people.

5 MR. KLUGE: Are you surprised that,
6 with my limited budget, I have a computer? I wish
7 Councilman Nutter was here.

8 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I think he heard
9 you. He is probably in the office.

10 MR. KLUGE: Well, I am honored to
11 appear before you.

12 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Thank you for
13 staying.

14 MR. KLUGE: Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Will, and then we
16 will have the street fighters, as I call them all,
17 coming in, Miriam and Sister Carol and all the other
18 folks.

19 WILL GONZALEZ: Thank you for
20 inviting me today. My name is Will Gonzalez. I am
21 the Executive Director of the Police-Barrio
22 Relations Project.

23 The Barrio Project is a
24 community-based, civil rights organization that is
25 trying to improve relations between the Latino

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 community and the police by addressing the issues of
3 police misconduct and the delivery of public safety
4 services to the barrio.

5 We believe that no comprehensive
6 effort against the problems of drugs and violence in
7 our communities can succeed without suring up the
8 mechanisms that promote good relations between
9 citizens and the police, and which also address
10 police misconduct and corruption.

11 The need to improve relations between
12 the police and the Latino community is critical. In
13 the barrio, relations between the cop on the beat
14 and the man in the street are ruled by mutual fear,
15 mistrust, and lack of understanding.

16 Police misconduct, we believe, is one
17 of the root causes of that distrust. The evil
18 effects of police misconduct transcend the civil
19 rights violations of its direct victims. The trust
20 and security of all communities is affected by each
21 act of misconduct.

22 If the community is afraid of the
23 police, then to who does it turn to address its
24 public safety concerns? If the police cannot rely
25 on citizens to help them, then how can they deter

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 and stop crime?

3 A lot of discussions have taken place
4 over the last few months about the New York City
5 policing model. That model, in terms of deployment
6 of officers, its focus on quality-of-life crimes,
7 and its improved accountability of police to their
8 commanders is worthy of Philadelphia to emulate.

9 In looking to New York City, however,
10 we caution you to avoid the turning of a blind eye
11 to issues of police misconduct that took place in
12 New York.

13 The most evident manifestation of
14 that deliberate blindness was Mayor Giuliani's
15 evisceration of the New York City Civilian Review
16 Board.

17 Civilian review board, for those of
18 you who were not following, he basically came in and
19 fired a number of people, got rid of a number of
20 investigators, and basically slashed their budget,
21 rendering them inoperable.

22 Civilian review boards are integral
23 to addressing issues of police accountability. In
24 this era, police departments professing to develop
25 closer working relations with citizens, review

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 ahead of the curve, rather than behind the curve.

3 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: That was because of
4 the incident?

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Exactly.

6 And we don't want to have
7 Philadelphia reacting. Because I believe that Mr. ^
8 Luiema, in this litigious society, will collect more
9 than \$1.5 million.

10 So if the city had spent that money
11 ahead of time, they might have prevented the Luiema
12 situation. It is a matter of paying up front and
13 preventing, or paying double or triple at the back
14 end.

15 Civilian review boards, however, do
16 not obviate the need for the police to continue to
17 have their own internal accountability division.

18 We need as many tools as possible to
19 address all situations that can harm the
20 relationship between the community and the police.

21 So we also emphasize the need to
22 strengthen the Internal Affairs Division of the
23 police department.

24 The police department needs to make
25 IAD a bastion of trust and respect for the community

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 underequipped, understaffed to try to investigate
3 these situations.

4 Please, for the integrity of the
5 police department, for citizens, we need you to make
6 sure that that unit is given the tools to do its
7 work.

8 Responsibility to improve relations
9 between the community and the police does not rest
10 solely with the department. Citizens also need to
11 increase our efforts to improve that relationship.

12 However, for the Spanish-speaking
13 community, certain organizational improvements need
14 to take place in the department to help us better
15 work with the police, to build a bridge over the
16 barriers of a language and culture that sometimes
17 separates us.

18 One improvement is to increase the
19 department's ability to communicate in Spanish.

20 Currently, the department does not
21 have a professional Spanish language interpreter.
22 It relies on volunteers from within and outside the
23 department to interpret for them.

24 We would like to see the department
25 retain its own Spanish interpreter, or interpreters,

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 to help with its investigations.

3 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: And if they are in
4 South Philly, Cambodian.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes. And in the
6 Northeast, Russian.

7 I mean, look, you need every tool
8 possible to carry out a job. And I know that people
9 are focusing on computers and high-tech equipment,
10 but the human element is as important.

11 For example, I mean, the Martinez
12 case, a family saw their father, husband killed by a
13 robber. That person, that robber, came back to the
14 store a month after the incident.

15 They called the police, the police
16 come, have this person in custody, and they let him
17 go because they did not speak Spanish.

18 And the store, the people in the
19 store, were trying to tell the police why they had
20 called and what was going on, and they let this
21 person go. It took the police another two and a
22 half years to finally get this person again.

23 And, so, that shows how important it
24 is to have the language skills, especially for
25 Spanish. We are the largest language minority group

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in the city.

3 To give you another incident -- this
4 was relayed to me by one of the officers from SALEA,
5 Spanish American Law Enforcement Association.

6 They were doing a drug raid, and they
7 had come upon this location where they had good
8 intelligence that this was a place where drugs were
9 being stashed. But they looked everyplace, and they
10 couldn't find it, and they couldn't find it, and
11 they couldn't find it.

12 And one of the people who was being
13 detained in the room said to the other in Spanish,
14 "Wow, I'm glad they haven't looked under the pool
15 table."

16 So this officer, who understands
17 Spanish perfectly, heard it, stepped outside, and
18 said, "Guys, look under the pool table," and, boom,
19 they found what they were looking for. Otherwise,
20 they would not have found it.

21 So the need for language is so key.
22 And in doing investigations, especially in
23 homicides, and other investigations, you just don't
24 go by what the person says; you also go by how they
25 say it, whether they were --

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: By the way --

3 MR. GONZALEZ: So all that is
4 important.

5 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: District Attorney
6 Abraham said to me that right now the drug
7 investigations are being hampered from her office,
8 being hampered because they do not have personnel
9 detectives, detectives that can do the
10 investigation.

11 So sometimes they have a wire tap on
12 a key individual, and they miss it all because they
13 can't speak either Cambodian or Spanish or Russian,
14 which is becoming a very big factor in drug aspects
15 in the city. And they don't have detectives that
16 have the language skills to be able to do that.

17 And that is one of the reasons we
18 have been asking her, why don't you put that
19 forward.

20 Go ahead.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: And there is a tool in
22 the City Charter, which is Selective Factor
23 Certification.

24 And we encourage you to continue to
25 ask the city to use Selective Factor Certification

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in the hiring and promotion, to help bring people of
3 various-speaking languages into the department to do
4 this work.

5 Another needed improvement in the
6 department that will break down the barriers of
7 defective communication between the community and
8 the police is to improve the mechanism that promises
9 confidentialities to citizens that call police.

10 Unfortunately, if someone calls the
11 police to complain about a neighbor's criminal
12 activity, that neighbor finds out immediately who
13 called the police on him or her.

14 In some cases the police go to the
15 house of the caller before they go to the house of
16 the person against whom the allegation is made.

17 I am not suggesting that the police
18 throw discretion out the window and never contact
19 the caller, or blindly follow calls and allegations
20 it receives; however, what we need is an increased
21 awareness and sensitivity for the safety of those
22 who are willing to inform the department about
23 problems.

24 We hope that while you look at
25 improving the department, that you also look beyond

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 improvements in the size of the force.

3 The size of the force is but one
4 component. Diversity of the force, the compensation
5 of officers, the state of the equipment they use are
6 equally important.

7 The Philadelphia Police Department
8 must do everything it can to better reflect the
9 community it serves.

10 Currently, the Philadelphia Police
11 Department does not reflect the diversity of the
12 city. While the city is over 70 percent people of
13 color, the department is only 30 percent people of
14 color.

15 Eliminating this diversity gap is
16 important to building a better relationship between
17 citizens and police.

18 Philadelphia must also improve the
19 compensation for its police officers. Currently,
20 Philadelphia police are underpaid, vastly underpaid,
21 for the dangerous and demanding work they do.

22 A pay that better reflects the risks
23 and demands of the job will help the department draw
24 a better pool of candidates and retain experienced
25 officers.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 you have any questions --

3 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you. Your
4 testimony was very enlightening. Thank you very
5 much.

6 Sister. Would you please identify
7 yourself for the record and proceed with your
8 testimony.

9 SISTER CAROL KECK: My name is Sister
10 Carol Keck. I am a School Sister of Notre Dame, and
11 I am the Executive Director of Norris Square
12 Neighborhood Project, an urban environmental
13 education center; and a volunteer member of the
14 United Neighbors Against Drugs.

15 In Norris Square we work with
16 children and neighbors to improve our community,
17 turning vacant lots into gardens, covering
18 graffitied walls with murals, and working with
19 families just to generally improve our community in
20 which we live.

21 And school children come to our
22 center for environmental lessons during the day,
23 cultural lessons, help with homework after school,
24 arts and crafts, et cetera, and summer day camp.

25 We have a number of children that we

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 accommodate in summer day camp. And we find
3 children like our 9-year-old Stephanie, who, on a
4 three-day camping trip that our staff took the
5 children out to French Creek State Park -- camping
6 is a lot of work, you know, putting up the tents,
7 getting the wood, building the fire.

8 So one of the board members asked the
9 children did they like camping, with all this hard
10 work. And little 9-year-old Stephanie says,
11 immediately, "Yes. It is three days out of the year
12 I don't have to worry about getting shot when I walk
13 out my door."

14 You know, and that's a dramatic
15 statement from a 9-year-old, that this is obviously
16 something that's on her mind all the time.

17 And it was this concern for our
18 children and our neighborhood that caused, about
19 eight years ago, a group of people in our
20 neighborhood, members of Norris Square, Woodrock,
21 St. Boniface's, First Spanish Baptist Church, KJAC,
22 to come together with the police to form United
23 Neighbors Against Drugs.

24 And then after intensive community
25 organizing, community members of all ages, races met

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 every Monday night with the police, for six or seven
3 years, giving information, turning over information
4 on tip sheets. Neighbors would report what was
5 being sold where, who was doing it, giving
6 descriptions.

7 And the police came back the next
8 week and reported to us what they had done about
9 that.

10 And during these efforts, we have
11 kept over \$25 million worth of drugs off the streets
12 in our small area of Philadelphia.

13 Friday nights found us out on the
14 streets, marching together with the police, chanting
15 anti-drug slogans, going to some of our neighbor
16 groups, to West Philadelphia, they coming to help
17 us, to send out the message to buyers and users and
18 dealers that we didn't want this on our streets.

19 The persistent citizen actions,
20 working with police over the past six or seven
21 years, has made a difference in the Norris Square
22 area.

23 When the then U.S. Attorney Mike
24 Baylson wanted to do some intensive community work
25 along with law enforcement, after attending one of

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 our meetings, it was to UNAD that he sent an
3 invitation in saying, we want to work with the
4 community on this concentrated way to weed out the
5 criminal elements in our community, and to seed it
6 with community rebuilding efforts. We can't have
7 one without the other.

8 And this particular federal project
9 brought some resources to our part of the East
10 Division. And the disadvantage is that it's only a
11 small part of the East Division. We need a mammoth
12 Weed and Seed Project, with the adequate resources
13 to do that.

14 And the Philadelphia police have
15 worked effectively with the community, which has a
16 high percentage of Latinos and African-Americans.

17 And one gets to know others pretty
18 well standing around on street corners until 2:00 or
19 3 o'clock in the morning. So the people have
20 developed a different type of relationship with the
21 police than probably some other community groups in
22 the city.

23 And this particular brand of
24 community policing has benefited both the community
25 and the police.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And neighbors tell the police that,
3 yes, drugs is a problem, but so are the high numbers
4 of cars sliding through stop signs, abandoned cars
5 left on streets, abandoned buildings where
6 prostitutes go in and drug dealers.

7 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Those are
8 quality-of-life issues.

9 SISTER CAROL: I didn't want to use
10 that word.

11 And no one is stopping these
12 infractions -- we were telling the police this -- so
13 it gives the impression that it is okay to commit
14 the next-higher level of crime.

15 And they get by with that, so the
16 next higher level is committed. And pretty soon we
17 have what looks like the wild west. East Division
18 has been called any number of names.

19 I spent part of this morning out with
20 the reporter and a photographer in the infamous G
21 section of the 25th District, which is right around
22 the corner from our so-called Safe Haven, where we
23 have replaced the windows several times. We have 18
24 bullet holes in the ceiling from drug dealers
25 shooting that.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 city did this amazing thing called coordination.

3 You know, if we take a target area, and we clean the
4 streets, we install the stop signs, the Health
5 Department works there, L & I seals the buildings,
6 there are amazing results. You know, it seems like
7 such a simple tactic.

8 And neighbors then came and swept in
9 front of their buildings, painted over the
10 graffiti. And criminals began to say, you know
11 people care here, and they moved on.

12 And it look us a lot of
13 soul-searching, but UNAD members take a pledge of
14 nonviolence. So there were a lot of discussions
15 about, do we want all of our young people in jail.

16 And we came to the conclusion that,
17 yes, we do have to have a number of them in jail to
18 give us a breathing period to regain the community.

19 And we follow -- and the Inquirer has
20 documented this several times -- we follow some of
21 our cases into court.

22 I think Councilman Ortiz knew about a
23 particular case that a judge told him he would have
24 thrown the case out, because the ADA wasn't
25 prepared. But he saw 15 people sitting there with

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 for some of these young people, including this one
3 young man who had finally been sentenced. It's
4 like, "We can't get away from you anywhere. You are
5 even here in jail, too."

6 But we are also there when they come
7 out of jail, to support them, because they come back
8 to the same neighborhoods.

9 And the other piece of this is, we
10 try to concentrate on some of the customers who come
11 in. They are not people from our neighborhoods;
12 they are the many cars that are coming in from
13 Jersey and Delaware, coming in by cabs.

14 We researched the records to find out
15 to whom does this brown BMW belong, of this
16 well-dressed young man. Could be a lawyer, stock
17 broker. Found out that he lived in Phoenixville.

18 We instituted a system of sending
19 postcards. Because you know what happens when a
20 postcard comes in the house and it is put on the
21 table, everybody looks at it as it goes there. So
22 the wife who didn't know what her husband was doing
23 at lunchtime, now did.

24 Or if parents didn't know what their
25 kids were doing with that car, they now did, because

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 this postcard said, "Your brown BMW, Tag ABC-123,
3 was seen in a known drug area. This is an unhealthy
4 and unsafe condition. Please stay out. United
5 Neighbors Against Drugs," and we put our address.
6 We wanted them to contact us. We haven't heard from
7 anybody, yet.

8 And, incidentally, you can imagine
9 the look on the face of this young man, who a few
10 months later, as he was getting his brown BMW into a
11 parking place at the Valley Forge Shopping Center,
12 sees me getting out of the car next to him.

13 Because I had been in the group that
14 had chased him several blocks, and telling him to
15 stay out of our neighborhood.

16 And, you know, he was sort of
17 surprised that here we are in his neighborhood, and
18 didn't know what was going to happen next.

19 Another effective tactic that we have
20 been able to use with the Weed and Seed Project is
21 to utilize some of the funds to purchase a mobile
22 police station.

23 And this has now become very popular,
24 because it is an effective means. And it is
25 something that the community devised, with the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 police, as a way to solve the problems.

3 And there are now seven or eight of
4 those in the city. And they have been accompanied
5 now by bike patrols, because that's much more
6 effective than walking the streets.

7 The police had said to us, "We can
8 get around much faster and do more, if we had
9 bikes." We went to corporations and we came up with
10 money to buy that first set of bikes.

11 And I hope you are hearing this
12 constant theme here of strategizing, problem-solving
13 together, coming up with a solution, and being
14 proactive about it. And, to me, that is a real part
15 of community policing.

16 We could do all of this. But if the
17 higher-ups didn't buy into it, it wouldn't work.

18 And we have had very good cooperation
19 from supervisors, sergeants, lieutenants, captains,
20 on up to the Commissioner, but it has to become a
21 department-wide not only philosophy, but a
22 practice.

23 And this whole issue of numbers that
24 Charles spoke about, you can't continue to answer
25 911 calls, get numbers, and do quality community

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 policing. That has to be proactive and preventive,
3 and people need time to do that.

4 With our Weed and Seed Project, which
5 I think is one of the more successful models of
6 community policing and problem-solving and community
7 improvement, the seeding piece can't be ignored,
8 also.

9 I agreed with the young man from New
10 York who said, "You can't say that you're making
11 more arrests and working with youth, but at the same
12 time cut the amount of money given to youth
13 programs." And our city can't do that.

14 Some of our direct wars are going to
15 be won on the playgrounds. So that when
16 Commissioner DiBerardinis comes to you for an
17 increase in his budget, he needs to get it so we can
18 reopen places like --

19 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I tried to do that.

20 SISTER CAROL: So that we can go back
21 to reopening pools that have been closed and
22 recreation programs for children after hours.

23 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: You know, most of
24 the juvenile crime is committed between 3:00 and 8
25 o'clock in the afternoon.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 SISTER CAROL: Yes; when young people
3 need things to do.

4 And so, for this reason, we have set
5 up Safe Havens in our communities in buildings that
6 have been taken away from drug dealers, confiscated
7 and forfeited to our community groups.

8 We have also utilized an AmeriCorps
9 project, where young people give a year of service
10 to their community and set up Safe Havens, Safe
11 Corridors, increase Town Watches, and install smoke
12 detectors, doing playground peace patrols.

13 And for this service they are given a
14 living stipend, health insurance, and child care,
15 and an almost \$5,000 award for their education.

16 More of these kinds of efforts -- and
17 out of these 30 AmeriCorps members, 80 percent of
18 them are community members.

19 This has been a five-year effort, and
20 we have seen some success. We meet, still meet,
21 monthly at a meeting co-chaired by Deputy Mayor
22 Wilder and the U.S. Attorney Mike Stiles.

23 And we took a month's break last
24 month, and we came back. We had our meeting
25 yesterday. And I am encouraged, again, by the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 coordinated efforts that are happening from
3 information that we bring to the police, to the U.S.
4 Attorney, to the DEA, to the D.A. on help that we
5 need in that area and the coordination that they
6 work with.

7 Yesterday morning they had a violent
8 traffickers meeting in which their plans for, in this
9 case, the 25th District are being laid out. And I
10 have some hope that soon we're going to see some
11 improvements in these areas.

12 But I want to bring out a point of,
13 we in the community are very disturbed when this is
14 working, we are working with police, and those
15 people are yanked out of our areas.

16 And that just doesn't make sense,
17 that officers have gotten the people in the
18 community to trust them, to give them the
19 information, and the department pulls them out. It
20 just seems to me that, do they really want this to
21 work.

22 And Managing Director Certain
23 mentioned the Town Watch, increase in Town Watch.
24 And he also mentioned that there would be two
25 additional coordinators hired next year, one to work

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 in the American Street area.

3 And I would just call to your
4 attention, yes, that's true. And I Chair the
5 Community Safety Committee, and it was one of our
6 projects. And it has taken us two years.

7 We have the money. We wanted to
8 allocate somebody to go out and mobilize people.
9 And the city's law department can't get the bloody
10 contract through in two years to do that. You know,
11 which is an outrageous thing that maybe you can help
12 do something about.

13 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I wish you would let
14 me know when that happens.

15 SISTER CAROL: Well, you are on
16 notice, it is happening.

17 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Just call up and
18 say, "Why is this not happening?"

19 SISTER CAROL: I mean, we have the
20 money. We want to transfer it through the Managing
21 Director's Office, hire a person. We could have had
22 20 or 30 coordinators, Town Watches, going by now in
23 these two years.

24 But coming back to this Weed and Seed
25 effort, I just want to point out that we must be

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 doing something right.

3 During the past year, UNAD as hosted,
4 and the officers from the mini-station have hosted,
5 a number of visitors: The Police Commissioner from
6 India, who was spending some time here at the
7 Olympics, and he wanted to study what we're doing
8 with the community and with the police;

9 A high-ranking police official from
10 China; a group of journalists from the Middle East;

11 One of the few female members of
12 Parliament of another province in India. Her
13 husband was the Police Commissioner there and was
14 killed by terrorists. She was very much wanting to
15 see how we implemented the Town Watch program.
16 Because she was convinced the police are not going
17 to be able to handle the terrorist problem there,
18 but people in the community working together could.

19 Other visitors have been the
20 Constitutional Committee from South Africa. You
21 know, after all of those years of struggle, and they
22 finally are now going to write a constitution, and
23 they came to America to study federalism. And they
24 came to our part of East Division to find out how
25 we're working with the police.

2 The community has put out the word that we are not
3 going to tolerate it, and that is important.

9 And the Commissioner can't put
10 additional federal-funded police officers there, who
11 are brand-new out of the academy, but then tell them
12 to come in with huge numbers, if they are telling
13 them to follow the community policing philosophy.
14 They really have to do one or the other.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I mean, we are not
21 dealing with rocket science.

23 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We know what can
24 work.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 isn't it being done?

3 SISTER CAROL: At every meeting you
4 go to, people want safe streets, clean streets, a
5 safe neighborhood to raise their children. I'm sure
6 that's what you hear all the time. That's all
7 anybody wants.

8 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Yes.

9 That, to me, is the frustrating
10 thing. Because we ask, why is it not being done?

11 And when you ask and you ask, and you
12 say, how are you deploying people in the East
13 Division, and then you look, and it is not
14 equitable -- I mean, if you put the people where the
15 crime is, it is like when they asked Willie Sutton
16 why he robbed banks, he said, that's where the money
17 is.

18 Where do you put police? You put
19 them where the crime is. So let us begin thinking
20 that way. And that's what I hope these hearings
21 accomplish.

22 SISTER CAROL: And one of the
23 recommendations is that we ought to take some of
24 those officers that are in management review, doing
25 what seems to us nothing, and out on the streets.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 These are more experienced police
3 officers; they know. If they have to fill out
4 reports, let them sit at the corner of 4th and
5 Cambria and fill them out.

6 We don't need that number downtown in
7 those offices; we need them out on the streets day
8 and night.

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Miriam, then.

10 MIRIAM COLON: For the record, thank
11 you for inviting me here. My name is Miriam Colon,
12 and I am CUNAD, Community United Neighbors Against
13 Drugs.

14 CUNAD started in 1989. And we
15 started as a group of parents, a priest, just
16 regular people from the community.

17 And the reason we started was because
18 at 8th and Hutchinson, 9th and Hutchinson, there was
19 a church, which was St. Bonaventure's, and there was
20 a school.

21 And in front of the school, there was
22 a lot of drug dealing, and there was a lot of
23 vials. And our kids had to come out there and play
24 in that street, because that school didn't have any
25 playground.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 So from the window of the school, the
3 kids were able to see all the drug dealing that was
4 being done around that school. And we finally kind
5 of realized that we had to start talking and getting
6 organized. And a group of parents and the priest
7 became organized.

8 We started talking to other
9 organizations, which became CUNAD, because of UNAD.
10 We called ourselves cousins.

11 What happened was that we looked at
12 what they were doing. They were going to the
13 corners, and saying, "Get away from our corners. We
14 don't want no more drugs," and so forth and so
15 forth.

16 And we did this for a year or two,
17 and we just helped other organizations and went out
18 there.

19 In the years that we were there, the
20 community started saying, "Well, okay. You are in
21 those corners, and why are you -- you know, we got
22 these kids in the corners, and there's no place for
23 them to go." So we started looking into the
24 neighborhoods and what was in the neighborhoods, and
25 there was no after-school programs. From there, we

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 weeding and seeding, and that was what we were all
3 about. The police would come in and weed out the
4 vandals. The organizations were really going to
5 work out really good.

6 But what we really didn't realize,
7 there was not enough police in the neighborhood for
8 the neighborhood that we served, which is the
9 Fairhill section, which is where 4th and Cambria and
10 3rd and Indiana, and all those nice little
11 neighborhoods.

12 We have been organizing, we have been
13 doing rallies, we have even brought out up to 17
14 schools to march in the neighborhood because our
15 parents needed to take charge of their lives. And I
16 think we're seeing a little bit of that light on the
17 other end.

18 But what I'm saying is that, we need
19 to start working, you know, getting more police in
20 our neighborhoods. We don't have enough police
21 officers, especially in the 25th District.

22 Sister Carol, on the other hand, she
23 has a little bit of that corner, you know, where she
24 is in Norris Square, and they are seeing that
25 light.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 But in our neighborhood there is such
3 an abundance of so much drug dealing, that we need
4 more officers. We need more officers into doing
5 problem-solving, not just arresting.

6 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Doing what, though?
7 What do you want those officers to do?

8 MS. COLON: The officers --

9 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: This is for the
10 record.

11 MS. COLON: Yes. Yes.

12 We want the officers to be out there
13 with the community. And if there is a situation --
14 like when we started a block captain's curriculum
15 training, eight sessions, when the officers are
16 there, the community gets to know the officers and
17 they get to start talking about the problems in
18 their blocks. Not in the whole neighborhood; their
19 blocks.

20 And just by answering that problem,
21 how to solve one simple problem, gets the community,
22 or the residents, to really work with the officers.

23 But if you don't have enough officers
24 to come to one meeting because they have to be doing
25 a lot of arrests in just those little kinds of

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 arrests, not problem-solving, then this is why we
3 have so much arrests and not a lot of
4 problem-solving.

5 And this is what we're asking for,
6 more officers in our neighborhoods that are
7 problem-solving, working with the community and the
8 residents.

9 And that's basically what I have to
10 say. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

12 Mr. Gregory Allen.

13 MR. GREGORY ALLEN: Boy, my
14 involvement with our particular case has to do with
15 a property. And I need to be clear about that,
16 because that's my involvement. And I want to thank
17 you for inviting me.

18 And two people here, Wanda Correra
19 from your office and Joe White had a lot to do with
20 our success.

21 And my participation is more on a --
22 I'm a graduate student at Temple. And about seven
23 years ago I was doing some training with Jack Green
24 from the Center for Public Policy, on a grant called
25 Urban Initiatives, in the Cecil B. Moore community

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 time, these guys got frustrated, and they left.

3 And the D.A.'s Office, in cooperation
4 with, I think, L & I and a couple of other folks,
5 came in and closed the house up. And they did such
6 a good job of it. They used corrugated steel from
7 the inside, so you can't really tell that it's kind
8 of an abandoned house. And, boy, you know, it was a
9 collaborative.

10 You know, I know my neighbors are
11 kind of looking for one person to thank for
12 everything. And a lot of times that tends to be
13 Wanda or Joe or myself.

14 But it was truly a partnership that
15 involved Wanda, Joe, myself; and the local churches
16 who provided a space and came out and stood with us;
17 block captains; the captain and the officer, the
18 community relations officer; the D.A.'s Office;
19 Councilman Nutter; State Representative Bishop.
20 Everybody.

21 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: It isn't just the
22 police.

23 MR. ALLEN: Not at all. In fact, it
24 couldn't be just the police, because we had done
25 that for five years.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 is to increase public awareness of community-based
3 organizations and initiatives like the D.A.'s
4 office, or other community-based organizations.

5 And, thirdly, the D.A.'s Office has
6 made a commitment to us to use a portion of the
7 proceeds from the sale of the property to improve
8 our community.

9 I know that when property or when
10 material is sold, a lot of organizations benefit
11 from it, but a lot of those proceeds don't actually
12 reach the community. And we are the guys on the
13 front line.

14 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I don't know if you
15 were here, but we asked the D.A. to give us a full
16 accounting of those funds and how they are spent.

17 Once we get it, you know you are
18 going to get it, so we can all then have a
19 discussion as to where this should go and where they
20 will be more effective.

21 MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

22 And, also, to encourage
23 collaboratives and partnerships. Because, truly, in
24 our situation, the one I am connected with, it was
25 truly a collaborative and a partnership.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And I guess, lastly, I have one more
3 to add. And you know I want to compliment you on
4 having these hearings and for, you know, staying
5 with it until the end, when the community, the folks
6 that are on the front lines, are involved.

7 But it is interesting to me, you
8 know, it is kind of curious, how do you get
9 community residents involved? When it is their time
10 to really say things, nobody is available to hear
11 it.

12 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: I think they need to
13 understand because I think, like Sister Carol, I
14 remember when I first got here, 8th and Butler was
15 going on.

16 And at that point everybody was
17 scared, because there were no UNADs, no CUNADs, no
18 anything, no one out there.

19 And I remember I began going out and
20 holding meetings in churches. And the first time we
21 held a meeting up at around 8th and Butler, Hunting
22 Park, nobody came.

23 And then we held another couple more
24 meetings, and a lot of people came. But then when
25 we got there, the back rows of the church got filled

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 to do certain things, and this Council to propose
3 certain things, that will be of benefit and that
4 will begin making changes.

5 I'm tired of the bad lands and
6 everybody saying, "Well, the bad lands." And even
7 the kids now, the Julio DeBurgos School, they wrote
8 a whole song about the bad lands, with that title.
9 And so it is kind of something that we have to work
10 on.

11 Mr. White, do you have anything else
12 to contribute? I don't know if you have anything
13 else. I mean, almost everything --

14 JOE WHITE: Just a few things.

15 My name is Joe White. I am with
16 Laborers Local 332, also the President of Overbrook
17 Against Drugs.

18 I thank you for being here, for
19 inviting me.

20 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: Thank you for being
21 here and staying.

22 MR. WHITE: We do have a problem.
23 The problem, you know, is in the communities. The
24 problem is, a lot of times, with the communities.

25 We have to make a stand to let them

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 know that we are tired of these drugs being sold in
3 our area.

4 Myself, we had a bad area that was
5 heavily infested. It looked like the bad lands.
6 You understand? But we went out and we dealt with
7 it.

8 We met with Herman Rice. Herman
9 Rice, he travels all over the world organizing
10 communities against drugs, you know. He started the
11 White Hats.

12 He did things with Lynne Abraham with
13 this program that's called the Lions Program. It is
14 an excellent program. It started in the 18th
15 District, and then it came over to the 19th
16 District.

17 It is a program where they go out,
18 you tell them, you make a call and you tell them
19 that they're selling drugs here, and who they sell
20 to and everything, and they will go out and make a
21 buy.

22 When they make that buy, they come
23 back and go out again and lock them up. And once
24 they lock them up, they follow that case with one
25 D.A. all the way through the system.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 And say if that person get out and
3 open the store back up, or the home back up,
4 they'll -- when you call and tell them that they are
5 opened back up, they will come right back out and
6 seal it up. They confiscate the property, no
7 questions asked.

8 And when they go to court, see, a lot
9 of times when they go to court, a lot of the drug
10 dealers don't go all the way through. They have a
11 court date, and they don't show up.

12 So what the judge do, he give a
13 subpoena to the D.A., they give it to the detective,
14 and they go out and lock them up.

15 We found out that that program
16 works. We wish it was all over Philadelphia.
17 Because they're there, they're involved. They
18 helped us a lot.

19 Also, Laborers Local 332, Sam
20 Stanton, Sr., along with Michael Nutter, Herman
21 Rice, and the FOP with Michael Lutz, are coming
22 together to form -- to help us in our fight against
23 drugs.

24 And what they are doing, they are
25 getting the people, the bodies. See, where the

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 communities are scared, we're getting the bodies and
3 going into the communities.

4 All we need is a couple of people in
5 that community to say they are tired of this
6 problem. And what we will do is, we will go into
7 this area, and we will stay there and help them
8 fight drugs.

9 We will help them. We will show the
10 drug dealers that these people is not alone, there
11 are people out here that care about them.

12 And with that, and also working with
13 the police department, we found out that that
14 works.

15 Because a lot of times we don't get
16 the bodies. You know, we might get 5 percent out of
17 a neighborhood that will come out.

18 So with the union and the FOP, and
19 Herman Rice and Michael Nutter, we're doing things,
20 we're putting this thing together, and we're going
21 into other areas now. You understand?

22 We're helping in sealing up houses.
23 We are helping get the graffiti off. We are
24 involved. This is what we need. We need more
25 unions, more people involved with our fight.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 Because we can't sit here and deal
3 with these numbers. These numbers don't mean
4 anything to us. All they are is just for paper,
5 shuffling paper.

6 We need people to be involved. And
7 this is what we need, the bodies. And this is what
8 we're putting together.

9 We hope that everybody in City
10 Council would get involved. Because, see, we're
11 dealing with a large area, Philadelphia, but it
12 works everywhere else.

13 Herman Rice go to Africa, he went to
14 Florida, Texas, all over. We was up Pottstown a
15 couple of months ago. But everybody gets involved;
16 that is the key. You know?

17 So I'm not going to keep you here. I
18 just want you to know that I, you know, I would like
19 to come back and tell you more about this program
20 that we're doing.

21 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: That's very good.

22 MR. WHITE: Get other unions involved
23 in this thing, because it also helps the kids.

24 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: It might interest
25 you and Sister that the followup hearing is going to

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 be about juveniles. And we are going to have the
3 court system.

4 We are going to have the judges, the
5 administrative judges, come in and talking about the
6 programs and what happens once an arrest is made.

7 So --

8 SISTER CAROL: The court system is
9 where so many of the problems are.

10 CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: We're going to have
11 that in the next hearing. And so we are going to be
12 talking about the juvenile aspect of this.

13 And I hope that as we keep on going,
14 I want to hold and take this Committee to the
15 community and hold a hearing in which we actually go
16 up to Hunting Park or 5th and Lehigh, and hold a
17 meeting up there, and hear, and take the
18 Commissioner and let the Commissioner and some of
19 the judges and the D.A., and let the people come in
20 and testify.

21 And I think that's one of the areas
22 in which we want to begin pushing for reforms.
23 Because unless the community and the people are
24 pushing for the reforms, just because I talk about
25 it, it is not going to happen.

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 We have to have an army of people
3 saying to the Mayor and the City Council, this is
4 what you guys have to do, and you have to begin
5 going in this direction.

6 So I want to thank all of you for
7 staying the course and being here. And we are going
8 to call on you again as we proceed with this.

9 I want to read a letter from the
10 Fraternal Order of Police, from Richard B. Costello,
11 President.

12 "Dear Councilman Ortiz: At
13 approximately 5:20 p.m., on Friday, September 12,
14 1997, I returned from court to find your invitation
15 to appear before your Public Safety Committee on
16 Wednesday, September 17, 1997.

17 "Unfortunately, at this late date I
18 will be unable to break several other commitments
19 which have already been made for September 17,
20 including among which is the murder trial of a
21 Philadelphia police officer. Nevertheless, I would
22 like the opportunity of testifying at a future
23 date.

24 "I am already aware that these
25 hearings are ongoing, in that several months ago I

1 RESOLUTION 970176

2 was invited to appear pursuant not to this
3 Committee, but I was invited to appear pursuant to a
4 same or very similar Council resolution.

5 "I appeared to testify, as
6 requested. And after waiting for seven hours, I was
7 advised by the Council President that I would be
8 rescheduled at a later date. I am now respectfully
9 requesting the same courtesy in return.

10 "Thank you for your consideration.
11 Sincerely, Richard Costello."

12 And that goes into the record.

13 I want to thank all of you. It has
14 been a long day, and I have to see if I can find my
15 two kids. Thank you.

16 I did not adjourn the Committee. The
17 Committees on Law and Government and Public Safety
18 hearing on Resolution 970176 is adjourned until
19 October 21, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.

20 (Hearing adjourned at 6:15 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Wednesday, September 18, 1997, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY and
LAW AND GOVERNMENT

DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD, RPR