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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, October 6, 2010
11:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

BILL 100539 - An ordinance amending Section
9-3300 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
"Erection, Use and Inspection of Tower
Cranes," by revising the certification
requirements for the operation, signaling and
rigging of tower cranes, all under certain
terms and conditions.

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COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good

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morning, everyone. This is the Committee

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on Licenses and Inspections. I'm Bill

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Greenlee. I'll be chairing this today,

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as Councilwoman Sanchez, the Chair, is

7

out on other business.

8

Just for the record, we have a

9

quorum: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown,

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Councilman Green and Councilman Kenney,

11

who has been appointed to this Committee.

12

Mr. Dunvey, will you please

13

read the title of the bill before us

14

today.

15

THE CLERK: Bill No. 100539, an

16

ordinance amending Section 9-3300 of The

17

Philadelphia Code, entitled "Erection,

18

Use and Inspection of Tower Cranes," by

19

revising the certification requirements

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for the operation, signaling and rigging

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of tower cranes, all under certain terms

22

and conditions.

23

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

24

you.

25

Mr. Haigler, please.

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2 (Witness approached witness
3 table.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
5 morning. If you could identify yourself
6 for the record and proceed.

7 MR. HAIGLER: Good morning,
8 Mr. Chairman. My name is Otis Haigler.
9 I'm Director of Legislative Affairs for
10 the Department of Licenses and
11 Inspections. Today I'm here to provide
12 testimony on Bill 100539, which, if
13 enacted, will amend Section 9-3300 of The
14 Philadelphia Code related to the
15 operation of tower cranes to extend the
16 period for the certification of riggers
17 and signal operators from October 9, 2010
18 until December 31, 2010.

19 The proposed bill will have no
20 impact on the operations of the
21 Department of Licenses and Inspections.
22 Therefore, we offer no objections to its
23 enactment.

24 Thank you for the opportunity
25 to provide this testimony.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

3 you.

4 Any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

7 Mr. Haigler, next time try to shorten

8 your comments. Okay? Please.

9 Thank you. Thank you very
10 much.

11 Mr. Brock.

12 (Witnesses approached witness
13 table.)

14 MR. BROCK: Good morning.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
16 morning. Please identify yourself for
17 the record.

18 MR. BROCK: Yes, sir. My name
19 is Charles Brock. I'm the Director of
20 the Carpenters Training Facility in
21 Northeast Philadelphia. It's an
22 apprenticeship program for five trades.
23 We have approximately 637 students there
24 now.

25 I'd like to speak in support of

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2 the amendment to the bill. It would give
3 us more time to have our program
4 certified by NOCA, third-party body.

5 We have a 32-hour rigging
6 course, which I have the textbook that we
7 use, which is printed by our
8 International Training Committee. It's a
9 32-hour course that also involves a DVD,
10 which we've purchased, has a virtual
11 crane on it. So our hand signalers can
12 see how the crane is moving and use the
13 proper signals to make sure they know
14 what they're doing.

15 Also, at the end of the course,
16 we have a -- we rent a crane, actually
17 bring them out with an operating
18 engineer, and they have four hours for 12
19 guys with hand signals and voice
20 commands, and then they take a test. And
21 then the other half of the class comes
22 out and they flip over that way. So it's
23 a pretty involved training course.

24 We believe -- we have a letter
25 from our Training Center that Councilman

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2 Kenney's Chief of Staff has. I don't
3 know if she's given you a copy of that.
4 But we've been working for about two
5 years to get our program approved by
6 NOCA, and we're very close to having
7 that.

8 We also spend about \$5 million
9 a year on training our members,
10 apprentices and journeymen, and we have a
11 very nice program there, and we're in
12 10401 Decatur Road. If anyone would like
13 to come up and see the program, we're
14 more than happy for you to tour the
15 facility, and also let you know that on
16 the first Friday in May, we have an open
17 house, and you're more than welcome to
18 come to see some competition from our
19 graduate apprentices and our facility
20 then.

21 Thank you for the opportunity
22 to testify.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you.

25 Any questions for Mr. Brock?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
4 none, that would conclude --

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I do.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, you
7 do? Okay.

8 And would the record please
9 reflect that Councilman Kelly, a member
10 of the Committee, is also present.

11 Councilwoman Brown.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

13 Good morning, gentlemen. Thank
14 you for your testimony, and we on this
15 side of the table are always pleased and
16 thrilled to hear when efforts are
17 underway to further train citizens of the
18 City so that they can continue to grow,
19 and, of course, the more training you
20 have, the more money you earn.

21 I am concerned for sure, but
22 interested in knowing of the population
23 of the class participants, what efforts
24 are made to ensure that the training
25 class looks like Philadelphia in terms of

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2 women and people of color?

3 MR. BROCK: Well, we have -- we
4 test once a year, and anyone that is of
5 17 or above is eligible to come take the
6 test, and then if they can find a
7 sponsor, they're into the program. We
8 reach out to -- I can't think of it off
9 the top of my head right now.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: One of the
11 local schools?

12 MR. BROCK: Yes. We send
13 information to the schools and we're
14 online, and we send out information to
15 them also. We have our open house, and
16 we have pamphlets that if people stop in,
17 we give those out to them.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: How often
19 do you have your open house and what time
20 of year is that?

21 MR. BROCK: It's once a year
22 and it's the first Friday in May, and we
23 announce it through different newspapers.
24 The Public Record is one. I know in the
25 Northeast Times I believe is another. We

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2 have a list of publications that we send
3 it to and schools also.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Could you
5 share that information going forward with
6 members of this body as well?

7 MR. BROCK: Certainly.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: When you
9 say "sponsors," define what that means.

10 MR. BROCK: That would be a
11 signatory contractor, either the GBCA or
12 with IFCA, the General Builders
13 Contractor Association or the Interior
14 Finish Contractors Association. And they
15 would send a letter to the schools saying
16 they want to sponsor the apprentice
17 that's passed the entrance exam.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And the
19 apprentice entrance exam is also
20 sponsored by your organization?

21 MR. BROCK: Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

23 Are -- I don't know the update, so I
24 won't pose that question. I will say,
25 however, for the record that there

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2 continues to be a strong interest by
3 members of this body to look to members
4 of the labor community across the board
5 to strengthen and grow the ranks of
6 people who are women and people of color,
7 and from where I sit and from the little
8 I know, there's still a lot of work that
9 needs to be done in that area. I don't
10 know the work effort of the Carpenters,
11 but what we do know, having had numerous
12 meetings and questions and hearings on
13 this matter, that our City can still do
14 better when it comes to ensuring that the
15 building trades look like Philadelphia.

16 MR. BROCK: Okay.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
18 for your testimony.

19 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
21 you, Councilwoman.

22 I'm sorry. Did you want to
23 testify?

24 MR. PIGLIACELLI: I don't want
25 to testify, but --

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2 do their part. So we're thrilled to hear
3 that report.

4 MR. PIGLIACELLI: Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

6 MR. PIGLIACELLI: You're
7 welcome.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you.

10 Councilman Kenney.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me
13 to be part of the Committee today. I
14 just wanted to offer formally for the
15 record a letter from the General Building
16 Contractors Association here in
17 Philadelphia, which is in support of the
18 amendment allowing the National
19 Commission for Certifying Agencies or the
20 successor agency thereto. They are in
21 agreement with the language. They
22 believe that it strengthens the bill, and
23 I just want to put it in the record
24 formally.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you, Councilman. That letter will be
3 part of the record.

4 Any other questions from
5 members of the Committee?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Anyone
8 else here to testify on this bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
11 none, thank you, gentlemen.

12 MR. BROCK: Thank you.

13 MR. PIGLIACELLI: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That will
15 conclude the public hearing of the
16 Committee on Licenses and Inspections.
17 We will now go into our public meeting,
18 and the Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Kenney.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
22 100539 be reported out of this Committee
23 with a favorable recommendation and a
24 request made for rules suspension to
25 allow for first reading at our next

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2 Council session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
5 moved and seconded.

6 All in favor please say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
12 none, the motion carries and Bill No.
13 100539 has been reported out of this
14 Committee with a favorable
15 recommendation, with a rules suspension
16 to allow first reading at our next
17 session of Council.

18 That concludes the business of
19 the Committee on Licenses and Inspection
20 and the meeting stands adjourned.

21 Thank you all very much.

22 (Committee on Licenses and
23 Inspections concluded at 11:25 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on October 6, 2010, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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