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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
1:10 p.m.

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PRESENT:

10 COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
11 COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
12 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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14 BILL 090577 - An ordinance authorizing the
Mayor, on behalf of the City, to execute the
"Southeastern Pennsylvania Mutual Aid and
15 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement"...

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COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good

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afternoon. The Committee on Public

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Safety is now in session.

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Will the Clerk please read the

6

title of the bill.

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THE CLERK: Bill 090577, an

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ordinance authorizing the Mayor, on

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behalf of the City, to execute the

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"Southeastern Pennsylvania Mutual Aid and

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Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,"

12

by and between the City of Philadelphia

13

and Bucks, Chester, Delaware and

14

Montgomery Counties, under certain terms

15

and conditions.

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COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank

17

you.

18

Is someone from the

19

Administration here to testify?

20

(Witnesses approached witness

21

table.)

22

MS. TIERNEY: Should I start?

23

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I

24

understand that you have a statement?

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MS. TIERNEY: Yes. That's

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2 correct.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Is
4 this it? Four pages here?

5 MS. TIERNEY: Yes, but my
6 testimony --

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Well,
8 most of this could be read into the
9 record.

10 MS. TIERNEY: My testimony is
11 actually -- there's an appendix to my
12 testimony that I won't be reading.
13 There's a short statement I will read.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Okay.

15 MS. TIERNEY: My name is
16 MaryAnn Tierney. I'm the Deputy Managing
17 Director for Emergency Management. This
18 is Edward Atkins. He's the Director of
19 Emergency Services for Chester County,
20 and he will also be providing a brief
21 statement as well.

22 I want to thank Chairwoman
23 Miller and the members of the Committee
24 on Public Safety as well as the other
25 Councilmembers present today --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Do you
3 want to pull the mike a little closer to
4 you?

5 MS. TIERNEY: Sorry.

6 (Continued) -- for holding a hearing
7 regarding the needed changes to the
8 Southeastern Pennsylvania Mutual Aid
9 Agreement. The version of this agreement
10 you have before you incorporates specific
11 changes that are necessary if we are to
12 improve the overall effectiveness of the
13 current agreement. Appended to my
14 testimony is supporting information as to
15 why this is important for local
16 governments to enter into mutual aid
17 agreements, as well as some examples as
18 how mutual aid agreements have, or could
19 have, enhanced the response to previous
20 disasters. This appended information
21 puts our request for formal approval of
22 the proposed budget into overall context.

23 In May 2005, the City of
24 Philadelphia and the four other counties
25 in Southeastern Pennsylvania entered into

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a mutual aid agreement to establish a task force to coordinate homeland security-related efforts in the region as well as a system for providing assistance during emergencies. This was prompted by a Commonwealth requirement to have such an agreement in place in order to receive federal homeland security grant funds. Since 2005, many changes have occurred that necessitate a revision to this agreement.

First, the complexity and requirements of the federal homeland security grant program have increased dramatically and the 2005 agreement lacked some of the organizational elements now articulated in the revision. Specifically, items numbered 3 through 19 in the revised agreement provide for more detail on the management of the task force than existed in the 2005 agreement.

Second, the 2005 agreement stipulates that Bucks County will serve as the fiscal agent of the task force.

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2 Bucks County no longer wishes to serve in
3 this role and, as such, the agreement
4 must be revised. Items numbered 13 to
5 16, 18 and 19 address this.

6 Third, the 2005 agreement does
7 not clearly articulate the need for
8 parties to cooperate in emergency
9 planning, training and exercise
10 activities to support the region's
11 preparedness or to share information,
12 whether that information is in hard copy
13 or electronic form. This is addressed in
14 items numbered 21 and 22 of the revised
15 agreement.

16 Fourth, in 2008, the
17 Commonwealth enacted Act 93 of 2008,
18 which I have copies of if you would like
19 a copy, which establishes a statewide
20 mutual aid system. Many of the
21 provisions in this new law are not
22 reflected in the 2005 agreement. In
23 addition, the 2005 agreement lacked
24 sufficient detail to organize an
25 effective mutual aid response. Items

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2 numbered 22 through 36 in the revised
3 agreement address this.

4 Fifth, and lastly, the 2005
5 agreement specifically precludes
6 reimbursement for mutual aid response
7 costs. This stipulation is not contained
8 in the revised agreement.

9 Three of the five signatory
10 counties have already approved the
11 revised agreement. Those are Bucks,
12 Chester and Montgomery Counties. In
13 order to keep the process of revision
14 moving forward in a timely manner, we
15 request prompt action on the part of
16 Council to approve the revised agreement.
17 The City has a vital interest in a number
18 of fiscal issues that directly affect the
19 ability to move forward in improving
20 overall regional emergency response
21 capabilities.

22 Ratifying this revised mutual
23 aid agreement is vital to establishing a
24 clear communications chain for requests,
25 organizing the request, deployment and

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2 demobilization process and identifying a
3 mechanism for cost recovery. In
4 addition, this revision is an important
5 evolution in the region's preparedness
6 posture and will allow the region to
7 continue its important work to ready
8 first responders and communities for
9 emergencies and disasters of any kind.

10 Once again, thank you for the
11 opportunity to testify. I welcome any
12 questions you might have on this
13 important matter.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
15 you very much.

16 I believe, Mr. Edward Atkins,
17 we can have your testimony read into the
18 minutes. All right?

19 MR. ATKINS: That's fine.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: You're
21 in favor of the bill?

22 MR. ATKINS: Yes, ma'am, I
23 certainly am.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Okay.
25 Thank you very much for coming in.

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2 Are there any questions from
3 members of the Committee?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Seeing
6 none, thank you.

7 That ends our public hearing --
8 or is there anyone here to testify
9 against this bill?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Seeing
12 none, okay. Is there anyone else here to
13 testify?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Okay.
16 That ends our public hearing on Bill
17 090577. Now we will go into our public
18 meeting.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Greenlee.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
23 090577 be reported out of this Committee
24 with a favorable recommendation and,
25 further, that the rules of Council be

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2 suspended to allow for first reading at
3 our next session of Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All
6 those in favor?

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
9 Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
12 Therefore, Bill 090577 will be reported
13 out of this Committee with a favorable
14 recommendation, with a suspension of
15 rules so as to permit first reading at
16 our next session of Council.

17 Thank you.

18 (Committee on Public Safety
19 concluded at 1:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter on October 7, 2009, and that
this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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