COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
10:36 a.m.

PRESENT:

  COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
  COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
  COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
  COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
  COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
  COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
  COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
  COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
  COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
  COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
  COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
  COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
  COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

BILLS: 190152, 190153, 190154

RESOLUTIONS: 190164

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 2          COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:   Good morning,

 3   everyone.   We are going to get started.

 4          This is the Public Hearing of the

 5   Committee of the Whole regarding Bill Nos.

 6   190152, 190153, 190154 and Resolution No.

 7   190164.

 8          Mr. Stitt, please read the titles of the

 9   bills and resolution.

10          THE CLERK:   Bill No. 190152:   An

11   Ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the six

12   Fiscal Years 2020-2025, inclusive.

13          Bill No. 190153:   An Ordinance to adopt

14   a Fiscal 2020 Capital Budget.

15          Bill No. 190154:   An Ordinance adopting

16   the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

17          Resolution No. 190164:   Resolution

18   providing for the approval by the Council of the

19   City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year

20   Financial Plan for the City of Philadelphia

21   covering Fiscal Years 2020 through 2024, and

22   incorporating proposed changes with respect to

23   Fiscal Year 2019, which is to be submitted by

24   the Mayor to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental

25   Cooperation Authority (the "Authority") pursuant
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 1   to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,

 2   authorized by an ordinance of this Council

 3   approved by the Mayor on January 3, 1992 (Bill

 4   No. 1563-A), by and between the City and the

 5   Authority.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 7   Mr. Stitt. Today we continue the Public Hearing

 8   of the Committee of the Whole to consider the

 9   bills read by the Clerk that constitute proposed

10   operating and capital spending measures for

11   Fiscal 2020, a Capital Program and a forward

12   looking Capital Plan for Fiscal 2020 through

13   Fiscal 2025.

14   Today, we will hear testimony from the

15   following City departments: The Mayor's Office,

16   the Mayor's Office of Education, and the

17   Managing Director's Office.

18   And the first person to testify from the

19   Administration is?

20   THE CLERK: Jim Engler.

21   (Panel approaches Witness Table.)

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

23   sir.

24   Good morning.

25   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

 1   Good morning, Council President Clarke

 2   and Members of City Council. My name is James

 3   Engler, Chief of Staff to Mayor Kenney. And I

 4   am pleased to provide testimony on the Mayor's

 5   Office Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget.

 6   Joining me today are other members of the

 7   Mayor's Office and Mayor's Office of Labor. We

 8   have submitted our full testimony. But with

 9   your approval, I would like to briefly summarize

10   our work and the changes our budget for Fiscal

11   Year '20.

12   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You have my

13   full approval, sir.

14   MR. ENGLER: Thank you. Won't make the

15   same mistake twice.

16   The Mayor's Office will continue to

17   provide leadership to all departments reporting

18   to the Mayor to maintain focus on the Mayor's

19   priorities of improving educational

20   opportunities and outcomes for all

21   Philadelphia's children and improving economic

22   opportunities for all Philadelphians, developing

23   a diverse workforce that looks like Philadelphia

24   and treating that workforce with respect,

25   improving public safety for all Philadelphians

 1   while treating residents with respect and

 2   dignity, and operating government efficiently,

 3   effectively and always with integrity.

 4   The proposed Fiscal Year 2020 General

 5   Fund Budget totals $5,983 -- $5,983,633, an

 6   increase of $455,476 over Fiscal Year 2019

 7   estimated obligation levels. This increase is

 8   primarily due to hiring of additional staff and

 9   additional funding needed to continue our study

10   to bring the City into compliance with the

11   Americans with Disabilities Act. The proposed

12   budget includes $5,263,827 in Class 100, a

13   $445,976 increase over the FY19 adopted budget.

14   The Department is requesting 59 budgeted

15   positions in FY20, an increase of six over FY19.

16   This funding will allow us to hire additional

17   staff in the Office of Public Engagement,

18   including a director of faith-based initiatives

19   and public engagement coordinators. It will

20   also allow us to hire additional staff in the

21   Policy and Legislative Affairs Office as well as

22   retain employees in other departments.

23   We are also requesting $684,965 in Class

24   200, an increase of $2,500 from FY19. This

25   funding is needed for the ADA study. And

1   $34,841 in Class 300 and 400, $7,500 increase

2   over FY19. This funding will be used for

3   supplies for all of our units.

4   This concludes our testimony. And I am

5   happy to take your questions.

6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

7   Thank you for your summarized testimony.

8   Just got a couple quick questions

9   myself. Mr. Engler, in your Five Year Plan,

10 highlight the importance of Intergovernmental

11 Cooperation. And your testimony shows three

12 lobbying contracts of around 290.

13   Can you tell me what the biggest

14 concerns are regarding state and federal

15 legislation? And how are our relationships in

16 Harrisburg helping the interest of the City of

17 Philadelphia?

18   MR. ENGLER: Sure. So, I think what we

19 have seen this year with the changeover in

20 leadership, specifically in the Philadelphia

21 delegation, we are spending a lot of time

22 working with the new leadership there who are

23 very, very engaged and have a full agenda of

24 things that they like to focus on. So, we have

25 been working with them regularly. We have

 1 quarterly meetings between them and senior

 2 administration staff and the Mayor.

 3   We are always concerned with budgetary

 4 items. That's always the number one thing that

 5 occupies the time of both our lobbyist in

 6 Harrisburg and in Washington. And then there is

 7 always legislation that comes up, whether it's

 8 preemption legislation that happened last year

 9 on the beverage tax, whether that's labor

10 preemption where we like to coordinate with City

11 Council and we sent a letter up last year about

12 some of the labor preemption stuff, whether it's

13 paid sick leave or wage theft, things that we

14 are concerned about there.

15   So, those are -- those are ongoing --

16 ongoing initiatives, as well. There was

17 cosponsorship memos on some of that stuff so far

18 this year. So, we continue to be very concerned

19 about that. And then there is proactive things

20 that we want to continue to push, whether that's

21 last year we worked with the delegation of speed

22 cameras for Roosevelt Boulevard. That is,

23 obviously, a concern of Council. And there is

24 legislation moving to implement those, as well.

25   So, there is a number of initiatives

1   on -- on -- on basically every level that we are

2   trying to monitor as well as push forward.

3   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Thank

4   you. So, I know there has been a lot of

5   discussion about the expenditures relating to

6   the Sugar Tax and Beverage Tax or however we

7   want to characterize it these days. And I

8   believe that Integrity Office oversees and has

9   been looking at the expenditures.

10   Has the Administration found any

11 misappropriation or misuse or spending that was

12 not in compliance with the overall goals?

13   MR. ENGLER: No. In fact, I think, you

14 know, over the first two years of the tax,

15 really, we were somewhat stuck in neutral while

16 the litigation was ongoing. So, the

17 expenditures were lower than we had hoped. So,

18 there were limited expenditures. It was just

19 four through the Mayor's Office of Education,

20 for community schools and for preK.

21   And so, we go through regular compliance

22 with all of that spending, whether that's

23 through the City Controller's audit, whether

24 that's through the review of the Integrity

25 Office, or if we ever get a complaint, through

 1   the Office of Inspector General. And as of yet,

 2   we have not found any complaint or any issue

 3   that I'm aware of.

 4   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The whole

 5   issue about money sitting in the General Fund

 6   per the Controller's concerns that were raised,

 7   that's all been cleared?

 8   MR. ENGLER: Yes. The reason it was

 9   sitting in the General Fund is, that is where

10   the revenue sits. We -- we were holding back on

11   the expenditures. We were pretty open about

12   that even with Council through the last budget

13   cycles of holding back on those expenditures

14   while we were in litigation because we didn't

15   want to be in a situation, you know, if we had

16   lost the litigation, that we would owe taxpayers

17   a bunch of money. We didn't want to go out and

18   spend all that revenue that we raised.

19   So, the money was in the General Fund

20   because that is where it -- where it goes once

21   it comes into the City. And now with the

22   litigation being over and with the tax being,

23   you now, finally given the green light by the

24   Supreme Court, we have really been able to ramp

25   up those expenditures. We were able to expand

1   preK by about 250 seats this year. And we have

2   an additional expansion of over a thousand seats

3   in this budget. We are able to start the

4   borrowing for Rebuild. Borrowing about $86

5   million back in fall.

6   So, we are really starting to ramp up

7   these programs now that we are free from that

8   litigation.

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

10   And one last question. With respect to

11 the recently released City Council initiative,

12 closing -- narrowing the gap with respect to

13 poverty and poverty prevention.

14   Can you briefly tell me, what's the

15 City's broader diversity and equity inclusion

16 plan relating to poverty? Because

17 unfortunately, from a demographic perspective,

18 we see this disparity in the various groups as

19 it relates to poverty and disproportionate

20 wealth and opportunities and the whole nine

21 yards.

22   MR. ENGLER: Yes. It's definitely

23 something that we are concerned about.

24 Review -- we try and view every new program, new

25 initiative through that equity lens to really

 1   see how that will impact the divergence that we

 2   have in -- in our society in Philadelphia, the

 3   fact that we have a substantial proportion of

 4   the population that is below the poverty line.

 5   How we are going to focus our program and our

 6   efforts to try and enhance that. We have seen

 7   that on things like Rebuild. We did that in our

 8   analysis of the program to look at the number of

 9   sites and where they were located and how

10   that -- those improvements were going to impact

11   those specific individuals. And we do that

12   for -- for every single new program that we

13   launch.

14   We are working right now on an inclusive

15   growth strategy, working between the Commerce

16   Department and our various departments to really

17   come up with some new initiatives that we think

18   will enhance growth, but also make sure that

19   that growth is with equity. So people --

20   everyone that -- everyone in the City has an

21   opportunity to succeed. There is a number of

22   programs in the Narrowing the Gap Report that

23   Council put together that are starting -- have

24   started within the Administration and can

25   expand. Or you know, good ideas that we want to

 1   try and work with the Council on to grow and

 2   expand. Whether that's part of this budget,

 3   whether it's something that we can do within our

 4   existing means, I think there is a lot of good

 5   stuff in there that we can partner on to really

 6   impact the population that we are trying to

 7   impact.

 8   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Right. So,

 9   actually, Mr. Stitt, should I save those

10   questions for the MDO's office, the reductions

11   in the budget? I might as well give this to

12   you, too.

13   So in reviewing the budget and, to some

14   degree, the details in the budget, there has

15   been a significant number from our perspective

16   of proposed cuts in the budget from the last

17   fiscal year. And I know, we kind of do this

18   dance during the course of the -- tail end of

19   the budget process where we -- there are cuts

20   that are put in place that seem to be somewhat

21   important to Council. And we put them back in.

22   So, we don't want to have to do the double count

23   where they are taken out knowing that we are

24   going to ask for them to get back in. And then,

25   people get credit for putting them back in

 1   although people took them out.

 2   So, would it be best posed to you as the

 3   Mayor's Office or the MDO's office or budget?

 4   MR. ENGLER: I think it's probably just

 5   a discussion we have to have maybe with the

 6   budget teams to figure out what are those --

 7   what are those things that are most important to

 8   Council to make sure they continue to receive

 9   the funding levels they received last year.

10   I think -- we go through a process with

11   the budget. You guys know this, where we go

12   through the budget and try and allocate

13   resources in the best way we can with the

14   understandings that there are always going to be

15   some changes that happen towards the end. And

16   we are always happy to engage in that back and

17   forth about what are the key priorities for

18   things that need to be funded and at what

19   levels.

20   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right. I

21   just don't want to be in a position where we are

22   negotiating with ourselves again.

23   MR. ENGLER: I understand.

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

25   Thank you, Mr. Engler.

1   Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

3   Mr. President.

4   Good morning.

5   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think you know

7   what I am going to ask about, the Office of

8   Labor. And first, I want to thank the Deputy

9   Mayor. He's been very open to discussing what's

10   going on with that and open to whatever changes

11   and things we can do there.

12   But as you know, on top of paid sick

13   leave, wage theft now we have fair work week

14   that's in there. I was wondering if you can

15   kind of explain how the office sits now, the

16   staffing, what the plans are maybe as we go

17   forward.

18   MR. LAZER: Yup. Deputy Mayor for

19   Labor, Rich Lazer. I asked Amanda Shimko, who

20   is the new head of that office to come to the

21   table so she can kind of speak to the

22   adjustments in this year's budget and kind of

23   what her plan is for the office and how we can

24   kind of reboot that office under her leadership.

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

 1   MS. SHIMKO: Thank you for the question.

 2   So, I am new to the office. And we have a new

 3   two-pronged approach of how we are going to take

 4   a look at the current ordinances that we are

 5   enforcing right now, but also, the fair work

 6   week that will be coming our way. And the goal

 7   is to look at both education and enforcement of

 8   these ordinances.

 9   What I found is that most of our

10   inquiries that come in are -- from businesses

11   are asking how they can be in compliance with

12   the laws, especially paid sick leave. So, we

13   spend a lot of time educating businesses and

14   working with them on how their policies can

15   reflect the law, and they can provide their

16   workers with -- with paid sick leave or with

17   some type of paid leave.

18   We are going to spend a bunch of time in

19   the office and with a new position coming on for

20   outreach doing both outreach to businesses and

21   groups who we believe are -- fall victim to both

22   paid sick leave violation and wage theft

23   violation. We have some events already on the

24   calendar, two events in South Philly in a type

25   of Working with Cash, it's called. Working with

1 immigrant populations who tend to work only in

2 cash and have a hard time keeping track of when

3 they might be victim to these things.

4   And we also have some stuff on the

5 calendar coming up in the fall where we are

6 doing work with CCP and the Sheller Center at

7 Temple to do small business education around

8 businesses in the City and how they can be in

9 compliance with the paid sick leave and wage

10 theft.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I

12 appreciate that. Particularly, like you talked

13 about outreach, because I think we found early

14 on with paid sick leave, it wasn't the people

15 trying to avoid the law as much as they didn't

16 understand it. And particularly, outreach to

17 the workers so they would know. You know, we

18 lived in this world. Seemed like it went on

19 forever. We thought everybody knew. But

20 clearly, there is a lot that don't.

21   One last thing. As far as the staffing,

22 how many people will you have in that office

23 now?

24   MS. SHIMKO: We currently have myself

25 and two investigators. Where in this new

 1 budget, there will be an out -- a position

 2 that's specifically related to outreach and

 3 another investigator to be handling the uptick

 4 that will come along with the Fair Work Week.

 5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Fair Work Week.

 6 Sounds good. So, five total?

 7   MS. SHIMKO: Yes.

 8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Great. Because I

 9 think one time it was one, right?

10   MR. LAZER: Yes. We are getting there.

11 We are building up.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Great.

13 Thank you very much.

14   Thank you.

15   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

16 Councilman.

17   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds

18 Brown.

19   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're

22 welcome.

23   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Good

24 morning, Administration.

25   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

 1   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Will you

 2   be speaking and addressing the issues around

 3   diversity and inclusion or no?

 4   MR. ENGLER: It will be me as well as

 5   some other folks within the Administration.

 6   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 7   MR. ENGLER: Unfortunately, Nolan

 8   Atkinson, our Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer

 9   is out sick. He has the flu.

10   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

11   MR. ENGLER: But we will try and answer

12   your questions the best we can. And if not, we

13   are happy to follow up with materials you need.

14   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Very well.

15   Okay. In reviewing -- in reviewing the

16   documents that you sent to us on page 10 under

17   Performance Measures you indicate, and I quote:

18   "The office will also work to make the City more

19   inclusive place to work by expanding training to

20   additional employees around bias, LGBTQ

21   competency, disability competency, ADA

22   compliance and also by giving employees a chance

23   to provide feedback from City resource groups."

24   In your submitted budget you indicate or

25   your team indicates that there will be -- there

 1   were 24 department diversity and inclusion

 2   trainings in FY19. And you expect a whole 24

 3   again this year. However, the budget does not

 4   reflect -- let me get this right -- 24 in FY19

 5   and 24 in FY20. Yet, you say you are going to

 6   increase the number of trainings.

 7   Can you clarify that for me, because

 8   that seems incongruent? You say you are going

 9   to increase; yet, the number remains the same

10   for FY19 and FY20.

11   MR. ENGLER: Right. We are talking

12   about two slightly different things. So, the

13   trainings don't just happen -- don't just have

14   to be department based.

15   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

16   MR. ENGLER: They can be larger than

17   that. So, we may have more larger trainings

18   than we would just having them based in

19   departments. We can team up a lot of smaller

20   departments so that we have -- we have more

21   people involved in the training itself.

22   The other thing that this talks about is

23   the regular meetings that are diversity

24   inclusion staff have with department leadership

25   about where they are with their -- with their

 1   diverse hiring. So, we have regular whether

 2   they are monthly, bimonthly or quarterly

 3   check-ins with departmental leadership to go

 4   over kind of how many positions they have had

 5   open -- specifically on exempt positions, how

 6   many exempt positions they have had open, what

 7   the results of their recruiting were, how many

 8   first candidates they had in the pool, what

 9   the -- what the review panel was, making sure

10   that was diverse.

11   Because we've seen --

12   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

13   MR. ENGLER: We have seen uptick in the

14   number of exempt employees we can hire when we

15   have a diverse candidate pool. We have a

16   diverse slate of reviewers of resume. We have a

17   diverse slate of interviewers. We end up

18   getting diverse candidates that come through to

19   the end of the process and end up hiring diverse

20   candidates.

21   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And with a

22   20,000 -- 20,000 employee workforce, does that

23   happen annually? Are you able to touch that

24   many employees annually or no?

25   MR. ENGLER: We are not as of yet. We

 1   don't have a mandatory training yet. We are

 2   moving in that direction, specifically around

 3   diversity inclusion.

 4   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 5   MR. ENGLER: You will see us be moving

 6   in that direction over the next several months.

 7   Our focus has been to your legislation around

 8   sexual harassment training, trying to get

 9   everyone through that and learning the lessons

10   of getting every employee through that as we

11   work on additional trainings to come through

12   diversity inclusion. We want to make sure that

13   we are taking the best practices of what we

14   learn on sexual harassment and transfer that to

15   additional employee trainings that we are going

16   to do.

17   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. And

18   when you say departments, you are talking

19   about -- would the Library be a department or

20   what? I don't know what you mean when you say

21   "department."

22   MR. ENGLER: Yes. The Library is a

23   department.

24   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

25   MR. ENGLER: It's slightly different

 1   because they have a Board of Trustees. It's

 2   slightly different then say, you know, the

 3   Streets Department who just has a Commissioners

 4   appointed by the Mayor and by the Managing

 5   Director.

 6   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 7   MR. ENGLER: So, it'd be slightly

 8   different.

 9   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: So, the

10   clock has run for me. Give me the top three

11   departments you believe deserve an A-plus when

12   it gets to what you just described?

13   MR. ENGLER: So, I think I will probably

14   have to talk to Nolan to -- to get you some real

15   answers and data.

16   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

17   MR. ENGLER: I think the City

18   Treasurer's Office and the Finance Department

19   has done a really good job. They are ones

20   that -- they are one that come to mind

21   specifically. But I can get a couple of other

22   departments. Really, our goal is to have

23   regular public access to information around the

24   number of exempt employees and diversity of

25   those exempt employees on a regular basis. Have

1   that be open to the public. Want to put a

2   dashboard online for people to access. And we

3   are hoping to do that by the end of this fiscal

4   year.

5   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. The

6   clock has run. If not you, I then want to know

7   what departments will get an F in that area.

8   Okay?

9   Thank you, Mr. President.

10   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

11   Councilwoman.

12   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

14   Mr. President.

15   Good morning.

16   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I have a few specific

18   questions under the Mayor's budget. I am going

19   back to Fiscal 2018, comparing it to Fiscal

20   2020. And I remember, I think it was, two years

21   ago when we had an increase in the L&I budget, I

22   was told that for every dollar of labor, there

23   is 88-cents in fringe benefits and 33-cents in

24   City overhead. Which means for every time we

25   had salary of 50,000, the hit to the budget is

 1 about 110,500. And if we hit a salary of

 2 75,000, the hit to the budget is 166. And when

 3 we have salaries of a hundred thousand, the real

 4 cost to the budget is 221.

 5   So, what I would like to understand is

 6 why from Fiscal '18, the Employee Compensation

 7 Class 100 went from 3.5 million roughly to 5.3

 8 million in two years, a 50 percent increase,

 9 without including these fringe and City

10 overheard which is another, roughly, $2 million

11 or so?

12   MR. ENGLER: Right. What you remember

13 from last year, Councilman, is we did transfer a

14 department for the Managing Director's Office

15 over to the Mayor's Office, the Office of

16 Community Engagement and Volunteer Services.

17 So, that moved a significant chunk of that

18 money. We have also seen through -- through the

19 last round of negotiations, there were wage

20 increases that went to all exempt employees.

21 The Mayor's Office is all exempt employees.

22   There were corresponding wage increases

23 that also would have grown the Class 100 budget.

24 I think the largest chunk of that, though, is

25 the transfer that came last year from the

 1   Managing Director's Office to the Mayor's

 2   Office.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: How much was that

 4   transfer?

 5   MR. ENGLER: I don't -- I don't have it

 6   in front of me. I'll have to get back to you.

 7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because in looking at

 8   the numbers, it says in '18 it was 3.487. In

 9   '19, it was supposed to be 4.6, but we actually

10   spent 200,000 more and became 4.8. And in '20,

11   we are asking for 5.263.

12   So, I would like to know how much that

13   transfer was in real -- because these -- here is

14   my concern, and my concern the last two days.

15   It's my belief system that the General Fund has

16   increased 21 percent in four years. It's not

17   even a belief. It's a fact. The debt service

18   has increased 33 percent in four years. And if

19   you look back at every Mayor probably in the

20   City of Philadelphia, these last four years have

21   had the highest increase of spending in the

22   history of the City, 855 million in four years.

23   I don't think anyone other than the Mayor can

24   say they increased 855 million.

25   And by the way, I'd be totally okay with

1   that if you told me deep poverty was at 8 or 9

2   percent or 10 percent or even 11 percent. But

3   deep poverty now is 12 to 14. So, I'm trying to

4   tie this together. If we are going to make this

5   investment, let's at least see the results.

6   MR. ENGLER: Sure. And the data you are

7   referencing about deep poverty goes back to

8   2017. And so, it doesn't even capture the last

9   two years of significant increases like the

10 investment we made in the School District. So,

11 I think what we are talking about is a data lag,

12 as well, where the data is from several years

13 ago. And you are talking about increases in

14 spending that are happening now.

15   As we talked about on Monday, I think

16 you saw through the last Administration where it

17 wasn't for lack of desire to make certain in

18 investments. There was literally no money

19 because of the recession. There wasn't the

20 resources in order to make those investments.

21 And what we have seen over the last several

22 years is a City that is growing. Our job growth

23 has outpaced the national average. So, we think

24 it's necessary and proper to make the

25 investments to make Philadelphia the City that

1   we want it to be, to take a stab at that poverty

2   rate that we have talked about so often by

3   investing in things like education. By

4   developing new programs like preK and community

5   schools that we think will make a significant

6   dent in that.

7   But the programs are really just start

8   and ramping up. To hold us to account to, you

9   know, a significant drop in poverty in 2017 when

10   the most significant expansion of that spending

11   has happened in the most recent years, it's not

12   going to happen overnight. We are making long

13   term investments that will bend that trajectory

14   curve to make Philadelphia a better place.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But here is what we

16   are missing. I agree 110 percent on education.

17   You can have the smartest person in the room.

18   If they don't have a job, what good is it?

19   What are we doing to help those who are

20   21, 22, 25 and 40 who don't have jobs, what are

21   we doing in their training? It's great to train

22   preK, I agree with that. But what are we doing

23   to train the 400,000 people in poverty?

24   MR. ENGLER: We have an Office of

25   Workforce Development that released their

1   one-year report last week. We can, obviously,

2   get a copy of that to you where they made

3   significant strides on things like

4   apprenticeships, where we are trying to get

5   people into entry-level positions where they can

6   grow into that job and really have a

7   family-sustaining job for the rest of their

8   life.

9   That is why we have worked with the

10   Governor so closely to try to expand access at

11   the port to try and bring in new cranes that are

12   actually being delivered as we speak at the port

13   to expand our access to those type of jobs that

14   we know are family-sustaining jobs for people

15   that may not have a college degree and why we

16   are trying to work with community college on

17   things like dual-enrollment because we know that

18   that two and four-your degree attainment is so

19   crucial to getting into those tech jobs that are

20   really the jobs of the 21st century.

21   So, we are trying to work on them from

22   both aspects.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I want to give you an

24   example.

25   You have 33,000 people in public

 1   housing, if I recall -- 19,000 are vouchers;

 2   14,000 are actually properties that we supplied

 3   them with. You have a hundred thousand people,

 4   I'm told, on a wait list.

 5   What are we doing to attack that

 6   population to train them, help them, get them

 7   off the wait list, number one; and get them out

 8   of public housing, number two, and get them real

 9   jobs so they don't have to be in public housing?

10   MR. ENGLER: We have done -- we have

11   done some work with PHA specifically around some

12   of the trades jobs and labor jobs. And we are

13   going to continue to work with that population.

14   It's part of an entire population of folks.

15   It's not just the folks that are in PHA housing.

16   There are plenty of people across the City that

17   need access to this. And we are going to

18   continue to work with them.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Jim, here is my point.

20   I'm going to use the prisons as an example.

21   We are spending $84,000 per prisoner.

22   We could be spending 5 or 10,000 dollars per

23   prisoner to train them, get them great jobs and

24   get them out of prison even faster and get them

25   back on track even quicker. We are making

 1   investments, but I don't always know -- I don't

 2   always think we are making the right

 3   investments. And that's my point.

 4   I will end on that note.

 5   Thank you, Mr. President.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 7   Councilman.

 8   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

 9   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,

10   Mr. President.

11   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're

12   welcome.

13   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Good morning.

14   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

15   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I want to go back

16   to Council President Clarke's line of

17   questioning relative to our relationships in

18   Harrisburg. I heard you mention that the

19   co-sponsorships have been circulating regarding

20   the potential repeal of the Beverage Tax and

21   some other legislation.

22   I want to know, have we heard anything

23   about the Sterling Act. Sterling Act. I know

24   it's been a piece of legislation, that

25   cosponsorship has come out annually. But if

1 there was any legislative tool that could

2 handicap the City of Philadelphia, it would be

3 removing all of the confines and the constructs

4 associated with the Sterling Act as it relates

5 to Philadelphia's ability to collect wage tax.

6   So, can you give us an update on that?

7   MR. ENGLER: Yes. I don't know

8 specifically if we have seen the cosponsorship

9 memo or specific legislation. There has been a

10 couple different avenues for coming at the

11 Sterling Act that really goes back to the wage

12 tax and the local enabling tax that the counties

13 have where they try and either have someone have

14 a credit against the wage tax that they pay us,

15 or require us to send a payment to the

16 municipality that has the local -- has the local

17 tax in the county.

18   I don't know that we have seen a

19 specific cosponsorship memo, but it's come up in

20 the last couple cycles. About two -- two or

21 three years ago, we went to a hearing in

22 Bensalem that was called by the House Finance

23 Committee where the finance director provided

24 testimony and talked about how this would have a

25 dramatic negative impact on the City. It hurts

1   our bottom line.

2   And for all of these workers that are

3   coming into the City, we wouldn't be able to

4   provide the services that they would expect.

5   Whether that's things on police and fire,

6   streets and sanitation, all the things that are

7   residents count on but also the hundreds of

8   thousands of workers coming from the counties

9   into the city every day. They wouldn't be able

10   to see that same level of services.

11   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Well, we would

12   hope that you would, please, in realtime -- I

13   know that we in Council monitor the legislative

14   action in Harrisburg. As for you, you mentioned

15   our delegations in both the House and the Senate

16   are working very hard. And we are proud that

17   they are at the table.

18   But whenever we see a cosponsorship that

19   would have an impact on the Sterling Act, we

20   should not take it lightly. Because the

21   foundation, the fiscal health of the City would

22   be at risk if there was any real movement there.

23   MR. ENGLER: Yeah.

24   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I want to also

25   hear your response to -- I was really pleased to

1   see the creation of a position entitled the

2   Director of Faith-based Initiatives. And I

3   think if there was any Mayor who did this well

4   and understood it, it was Mayor Street. When

5   Councilman Johnson, Councilman Jones, Council

6   President Clarke, they have been the leaders in

7   this body relative to enhancing our public

8   safety, restorative justice, reforming criminal

9   justice.

10   And for so long, the past four years

11   and, obviously, even before that during the

12   previous Administration, I kept saying, we are

13   leaving this resource on the table that should

14   play an integral role in the City's ability to

15   reduce violence, to support with reentry. So,

16   talk to us about the roles of that direct -- the

17   role of that Director of Faith-based Initiative.

18   MR. ENGLER: Sure. So, the goal is to

19   also have the director as well as a commission

20   that would help us -- what we have seen in a lot

21   of our -- a lot of our recent strategies,

22   whether that's through violence prevention,

23   things like the Resilience Project, having

24   validators out there in the community, in the

25   faith-based community is vitally important not

 1 only to give us feedback, but also to have

 2 another resource for individuals to go to and

 3 talk to and try and pull them out of whether

 4 it's addiction or whether it's life of violence.

 5 Being able to give them another resource that

 6 can help them, pull them out of it. And we

 7 think that the having the director in the office

 8 will allow us to coordinate a lot of that work,

 9 have them involved in the policy aspects, the

10 policy development aspect, and then also help

11 coordinate it with the greater commission.

12   There is a great group that's working

13 now on the Department of Behavior Health and

14 Intellectual Disability. We want to kind of

15 build that out, add some additional voices to

16 the table and really be able to send them out

17 into the community to get that feedback, bring

18 it back to us as well as sharing that message

19 that the current situation doesn't always have

20 to be that way.

21   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I also want you to

22 note that I really do think that it was

23 essential. Because sometimes, many of the folks

24 who we are trying to help, when we are not

25 reaching relative to public safety, criminal

1   justice reform, they are not into acting in a

2   very cordial way with law enforcement and/or

3   City government. But they do interact with the

4   faith-based community in some way, shape or

5   form. And even if not them directly, a family

6   member does who usually is uncomfortable or

7   afraid for one reason or another to interact

8   with government. So, I would hope that you all

9   would keep us posted on how we move there.

10   The last question I want to talk with

11   you about is this issue of cultural competency.

12   I brought it up last year with the -- with the

13   School District. It is one of grave importance

14   to me.

15   Tell me about any cultural competency

16   goals and/or training for the staff and the

17   leadership at community schools.

18   MR. ENGLER: I'm sorry. At community

19   schools?

20   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: At community

21   schools in particular. You know, we in the 9th

22   District, our community school is the FS Edmonds

23   School. We are pleased with the growth. We are

24   pleased with the engagement there. But one of

25   the issues that I have often raised, and usually

 1 this comes from leadership, we have a new

 2 principal at FS Edmonds now. Thank you, Lord.

 3 We have a new principal. But cultural

 4 competency is important.

 5   And I just want to -- you to talk, if

 6 you will, for a moment about, you know, how you

 7 are attacking that issue.

 8   MR. HACKNEY: Good morning. Good

 9 morning. My name is Otis Hackney, Chief

10 Education Officer, City of Philadelphia and the

11 Mayor's Office of Education.

12   In terms of the community school staff,

13 we put our staff through the training, through

14 the City training offered on a regular basis

15 around those things. In terms of, if your

16 question is directed towards the faculty or the

17 staff at the school, I think Karyn Lynch from

18 the School District can respond to the training

19 that takes place for staff within the school.

20   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So, yes. I am

21 referring to the staff on the ground, the boots

22 on the ground in the school.

23   MS. LYNCH: Thank you. Good morning.

24 For the record, Karyn Lynch from the School

25 District of Philadelphia. We, too, believe this

1   is an area that we are particularly interested

2   in, the cultural competency of staff for the

3   individuals who are engaging with our students.

4   It's extremely important to us that the

5   individuals who are standing in front of our

6   students are reflective, look like and relate to

7   our students.

8   For this reason, we have implemented a

9   good number of what I would call "foundations"

10 within our schools so that people are

11 understanding what they bring to the table with

12 regard to implicit bias, with regard to the

13 impact of trauma on a child's life, especially

14 chronic trauma and particularly how to build

15 relationships. And we are doing that not just

16 with positive behavioral incentives,

17 restoration. When children do things, helping

18 them to come back into the community and into

19 the fold.

20   I would say that it is something that is

21 extremely important, as I pointed out, in regard

22 to our hiring practices. We have spoken before

23 about the challenges of finding individuals who

24 are even entering the field of education who

25 look like many of the children that they are

 1   serving. But it's extremely important to us

 2   when we talk about cultural competency that we

 3   find individuals and we reach out and we find

 4   new ways to hire people for that purpose.

 5   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: My time is up.

 6   But I want to just reinforce how important that

 7   is not just for the teachers in the classroom

 8   but the leadership. Because if the leadership

 9   has not undergone the appropriate cultural

10   competency training and or the lens through

11   which they view the value of their teams in the

12   school, they won't make the -- they won't make

13   the connection or understand the importance of

14   the children in the school, seeing someone who

15   looks like them, who understands their

16   experience, associated with all of the issues

17   that you have just discussed.

18   So when the School District comes, I

19   want you to be prepared to talk about this as a

20   whole, because I think it's extremely important

21   in our City.

22   Thank you, Mr. President.

23   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

24   Councilwoman. And I believe preK is up next in

25   the school.

 1   MR. HACKNEY: Correct.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You guys will

 3 be around for any follow up. Okay. Thank you.

 4   Thank you, Councilwoman.

 5   Chair recognizes Councilwoman

 6 Quinones-Sanchez.

 7   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank

 8 you.

 9   Good morning. Good morning to your

10 first budget process.

11   MR. ENGLER: Thank you.

12   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: You

13 don't even look nervous. So, one of the things

14 that we have appreciated here in Council over

15 the last few years in particular is how the

16 budget presentation, you know, we have been able

17 to drill down on hiring, executive pay, you

18 know. Because a lot of times when we talk about

19 equity and inclusion, those are very loaded

20 words. And I think the reflection in the

21 budgets and the materials have been very helpful

22 not only for departments but all of us to see

23 kind of where we started and where we are

24 moving, right. And we have made some positive

25 directions.

 1   One of the areas that I still feel a

 2   little bit that we struggle with is we started

 3   from the premise that we were going to do

 4   zero-based budgeting. We are now doing

 5   performance-based budgeting.

 6   What is your financial philosophy around

 7   what your role as the Chief of Staff to make

 8   sure that in that process of this performance

 9   goal setting, that we are looking at those

10   efficiences and the reinvestments? Like

11   Councilman Domb, I am okay with investing in

12   neighborhoods. I have a neighborhood that needs

13   a lot of support.

14   But how are -- what is going to be your

15   role in drilling down, because that's been an

16   area that is ongoing? And I know some of it has

17   to do with our technology. And you know, what

18   is the commitment of this Administration to say

19   loads no on steroids is not adequate?

20   How do we come to the 21st century?

21   So, what do you see your role over the

22   next year or so in helping us go through those

23   hurdles?

24   MR. ENGLER: Sure. So, I think

25   specifically on technology is where we haven't

 1   made investments over the decades. I mean, we

 2   are dealing with financial technology in a lot

 3   of places older than I am, which is just

 4   unacceptable. So, we are making investments in

 5   key programs whether that's, you know, One

 6   Philly which is launching this month. Whether

 7   that's the changes we are going to make to

 8   systems like Famous that will allow us to better

 9   track --

10   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: What is

11   the timeline for that? Because I've been

12   hearing that Famous discussion -- I mean, if we

13   really want to get to the core of this, right,

14   we want to compare apples to apples.

15   MR. ENGLER: Yeah. I think there was a

16   decision made several years ago to launch the

17   payroll side of that work first, which is the

18   one that we are in now. So, that's the one

19   Philly payroll side. And it will be building

20   off of that. So that way, we are not going out

21   and buying a whole new solution. We will be

22   building off of that into our other systems.

23   Another area of investment will be on

24   the tax side. So, a lot of the issues we

25   have with -- I know there has been a push for

 1 online payments. And we allow that. But being

 2 able to do it in newer and better and different

 3 ways the way other jurisdictions do it, we'll be

 4 replacing our integrated tax system over the

 5 next two to five years.

 6   So, it will come in phases. We don't

 7 want to go into something where we are doing it,

 8 you know, all at one time and it's too big to

 9 fail, which is really what we want to avoid. I

10 think technology is one of those most

11 significant investments we talk about regularly.

12 We have a weekly meeting right now on One Philly

13 where we are monitoring progress.

14   We are doing the same thing on other

15 large projects, whether it's the Voting Machines

16 Project where we are meeting weekly. There are

17 representatives from City Council, from the City

18 Commissioners as well as the operating partners

19 from the City that are working on that. We

20 found that those regular interactions on a

21 weekly or biweekly basis allow us from a

22 management perspective to stay up to date on

23 milestones, get a real clear idea of what the

24 plan is, what the milestones are and what

25 progress we are making towards those milestones.

 1   And I think that's -- that's where I

 2   see, kind of my role as the Chief of Staff for

 3   the Mayor's Office is to make sure the operating

 4   departments are keeping track, that they are

 5   meeting their goals. And if they are not

 6   meeting their goals, why. And is it a matter of

 7   resources? Is it a matter of staff? Is it a

 8   matter of capacity inside the government.

 9   Should we be looking outside the government for

10   additional capacity?

11   Trying to answer all those questions and

12   hold where it's commissioners or cabinet members

13   accountable to those goals.

14   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So, in

15   terms of, again, going back to kind of this

16   performance-based budgeting where we have not

17   been able to demonstrate, you know -- I'm a real

18   proponent of you can -- if you put a bad

19   bureaucracy in a computer, you are still going

20   to have a bad bureaucracy, right?

21   So, what would you say are some of the

22   systems, you know -- and I always encourage

23   department heads to really look at their

24   systems, right, so that before we move into

25   technology. We have not been able to see that

 1   kind of work in some of the performance-based

 2   reporting.

 3   Why do you think that hasn't happened?

 4   And what are you looking to see differently over

 5   the next year? Because even in this year's, the

 6   material that we have so far, you don't really

 7   see where folks are saying, hey, this is huge --

 8   you know, the performance matrix is still not to

 9   par for you to be able to say you have a

10   performance-based budgeting process.

11   What do you think is going to happen

12   over the next year because it's still not there?

13   MR. ENGLER: Right. I think there is a

14   couple different things.

15   One, for the program-based budgeting

16   side, we really wanted to drill down, especially

17   in this first round where we are trying to get

18   every department within the City to be part of

19   this new program, was to really drill down and

20   understand the cost associated with each

21   program, and then be able to manage up from

22   those costs. And say why are -- why does X cost

23   Y. I think we are seeing some of that now as we

24   are starting to get to year two and to year

25   three. It's not going to happen overnight.

1   And I think there is other kind of

2   management tools and philosophies that we can

3   use as a government that goes beyond just a

4   budgeting process. I think it's important for

5   Council to get an understanding of what

6   departments are doing, why they are doing it,

7   why the choices were made to do certain things.

8   And then there is kind of the next level down of

9   management decisions that commissioners,

10   department heads, cabinet members need to hold

11   their departments accountable to. And that's an

12   area of focus we are going to have over the next

13   year.

14   We have had internal discussions about

15   how we build out that performance management

16   matrix better for the City. Whether that's on

17   just a process improvement side. I mentioned

18   the other day about the work to the Commerce

19   Department, the Health Department and L&I are

20   doing around the restaurant pilot. So, trying

21   to better design that process. We do flow

22   charts and, you know, there is boxes here or

23   there. There is arrows going every which way,

24   but to better streamline that process

25   improvement across that entire project from a

1   constituent basis.

2   And we have done a lot of work on

3   that -- that system design and service design to

4   better build that out. It's one of the reasons

5   that in the Mayor's Office budget, we are

6   looking to expand the Policy Office to include a

7   full time social scientist, someone that can

8   help us better design programs, look at the data

9   we are seeing from departments to better design

10   the program so that way from a -- just from a

11   constituent perspective, the end user, how are

12   they going to feel about the program that we are

13   designing.

14   I think that was a roundabout way of

15   getting to your answer. That there is a couple

16   layers of metrics. You are seeing one here.

17   There is another layer that goes into the

18   Quarterly City Manager's report that we send to

19   PICA, and then there is the management level

20   data that we really want to build out, as well,

21   to help the department heads better manage the

22   flow of information and the flow of resources

23   within their departments.

24   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Right.

25   I think this is hugely important. Because

 1   again, when people see -- people can say the

 2   budget has grown 25 percent, right, but we

 3   forgot that we came out of a recession. There

 4   were a lot of really basic core services that

 5   weren't being offered. And as we ramp up

 6   departments, you know, you hear the Mayor talk

 7   about potholes and all that other stuff. I

 8   think we owe it to folks. And I just want to be

 9   able to be more transparent of this is what this

10   is cost, this is where we come from, right? And

11   then there is a service delivery model to it,

12   right?

13   If we are budgeting for 10,000 potholes

14   but there are 50,000 potholes, right, we need to

15   be able to see that. I don't know how long it's

16   going to take us to get there. And I think that

17   is going to be the key to be able to debate, you

18   know, the budget and what the numbers should be.

19   And I just feel like we are struggling with that

20   in every single department.

21   And part of it is, you know, the

22   bureaucrats, and I love them dearly. It's like

23   they protect their little pet project, right?

24   And part of this process was supposed to be

25   there are no pet projects other than the

 1   priorities the Mayor has spelled out, right?

 2   And so, I look forward to working with that a

 3   little bit better because I think if we want to

 4   argue to folks that we are making key

 5   investments, particularly as we are talking

 6   about an aggressive plan like Narrowing the Gap,

 7   it's going to require strategic investments.

 8   And I don't want to be debating -- the budget is

 9   5 billion. I want to be debating -- there is

10   50,000 potholes. $10,000 in funding is not

11   going to fill them.

12   Thank you.

13   Thank you, Mr. President.

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

15   Councilwoman.

16   Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

17   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

18   President.

19   Good morning.

20   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

21   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Just wanted to follow

22   up with some questions I had from last year's

23   budget process. I know that Mr. Atkinson is not

24   here. He's sick with the flu. But I did have a

25   question in reference to some of the aspects of

1   his office, especially as it pertains to the

2   Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities.

3   That's been a concern in reference to the

4   funding for that office and that commission.

5   When you look at how Philadelphia as fifth

6   largest City in the nation compared to other

7   cities, we are woefully underfunded in that

8   regard.

9   When you see that the growing number of

10 people that live in our City and our region that

11 have a learning and physical difference, it

12 doesn't make sense that we are not making this

13 type of investment into this office and these

14 services, especially as more and more people who

15 have a physical learning difference who are

16 getting older, as have a major impact in our

17 City and our region.

18   I wanted to get your thoughts on that.

19   MR. ENGLER: Yeah. So we recently lost,

20 obviously, the Executive Director Charles Horton

21 recently.

22   COUNCILMAN GREEN: My question, also,

23 what's the process in reference to filling

24 Mr. Horton's position? Are we doing national

25 search? Regional search? And what's the

 1   timeline?

 2   MR. ENGLER: So, we posted the position

 3   as we do throughout the exempt hiring process.

 4   I think some good candidates through that

 5   process. We are in the interview process now.

 6   They are reviewing candidates and starting the

 7   interview process.

 8   I think we want to try to fill the

 9   position as quickly as possible. To your point,

10   it's vital work. We don't have a huge amount of

11   staff that are working on it. So, we want to

12   try and fill that position as quick as possible.

13   I think a lot of the work we have also

14   been doing kind of in this sphere, I mean, not

15   being included in this commission, but really

16   work that we have done around our compliance

17   with the ADA. We are doing start of the study

18   last year. We will continue developing plans to

19   bring the City into compliance. Whether that's,

20   you know, our physical structure or even our

21   online presence, making sure that our website is

22   accessible to as many people as possible, making

23   sure that the documents that we have on there

24   are accessible and viewable and usable by as

25   many constituents as possible.

 1   So, I think when it comes to funding, we

 2   should obviously have that discussion. And we

 3   want to do that with the new Executive Director

 4   when they come on and see, we have -- obviously,

 5   Nolan and his team have a vision for the office.

 6   But we also want to make sure we bring in

 7   someone who is dynamic and can also help us

 8   build out the work of the office to reach as

 9   many people as we can.

10   COUNCILMAN GREEN: The reason I am

11   raising this question, I think we are at a very

12   pivotal time, also, key opportunity. The

13   Special Olympics, Pennsylvania has already

14   worked with our national office to make

15   Philadelphia a city of inclusion. Their goal is

16   to make City of Philadelphia the world's first

17   City of Inclusion.

18   I have a meeting with representative

19   from the Eagles on Monday. They are getting

20   ready for the Eagles Autism Challenge. And

21   really making -- their goal is to make

22   Philadelphia a international leader in reference

23   to research, specifically from a perspective of

24   autism.

25   So -- and we have a number of

1   institutions. People know Philadelphia as eds

2   and meds, internationally known perspective of

3   education and medical research. But also, we

4   have a number of institutions who have been

5   around decades just focused on the world -- in

6   the space of autism and other physical learning

7   differences. And as we get closer to a 250th

8   Anniversary of this nation, I think it's a real

9   opportunity to really put Philadelphia on the

10 map to be the world's first City of Inclusion,

11 which can benefit us not just for the residents

12 and people of the region, but also help us from

13 a marketing and branding perspective, much like

14 we did regarding hospitality during the time

15 period of Governor Rendell's Administration as

16 Mayor.

17   Connected to that in reference to the

18 Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs, that is another

19 office that also has had a smaller funding

20 source. And I want to get some perspective on

21 that, as well.

22   MR. ENGLER: Did you want -- I think --

23 did you want Amber to come up and share some of

24 the work that they are doing?

25   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Uh-huh.

1   MR. ENGLER: Okay.

2   (Witness approaches table.)

3   MS. HIKES: Good afternoon.

4   So Councilmember Green, are you

5   interested in the work -- oh, yeah. I'm Amber

6   bark. I'm the Executive Director of the Mayor's

7   Office for LGBTQ Affairs for the City.

8   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah, just curious in

9   reference to the funding for your office

10   compared to other cities of comparable size, how

11   does it compare?

12   MS. HIKES: So as -- so as you are

13   aware, we are one of only four offices in the

14   entire country. Washington, DC has an Office of

15   LGBT Affairs as does Santa Clara County,

16   California and Union County, New Jersey.

17   And so with that in mind, we don't

18   really have comparable cities who are doing this

19   work. In terms of our partner offices, the

20   Philadelphia Office for LGBT Affairs is the most

21   community-engaged office. Those other offices

22   focus mostly on policy, so they do not do the

23   community-engagement work or the education work

24   that we do both internally and externally for

25   the City. So, we don't really have -- we don't

 1 really have peers in that particular way. But

 2 our office is the Office of Diversity and

 3 Inclusion. And we have a bunch of it situated

 4 there that includes my salary and Deputy

 5 Director's salary.

 6   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Also, have

 7 another question in reference to Office of

 8 Educations and the Mayor's Office. I think I

 9 saw Mr. Hackney around.

10   This is a follow up question that I had

11 from two days ago. Mr. Engler provided some

12 context in reference to the work that the

13 Administration is starting to take in having

14 conversations with other jurisdictions at the

15 executive level regarding education and the fact

16 that the William Penn versus the Pennsylvania

17 Department of Education litigation is moving

18 forward and is before the Supreme Court.

19 Hopefully, there will be some type of decision

20 coming this year or early next year.

21   However, I had some conversation -- the

22 questions about what are we doing to be

23 proactive in reaching out and trying to build

24 coalitions with the other school districts

25 around the Commonwealth, especially cities like

1   from Harrisburg to a Pittsburgh to a Norristown.

2   And do those cities have comparable offices and

3   positions like yours that we can start a

4   conversation in addition to what's been

5   happening on the executive level with the

6   Mayor's Office.

7   MR. HACKNEY: So once again, Otis

8   Hackney, Mayor's Office of Education. I think

9   to -- with Jim Engler's responses on Monday,

10   would be very much the same in terms of us doing

11   outreach between offices in Harrisburg but also

12   in partnership with the district in those

13   coordinated conversations around that case. We

14   have to be very mindful in terms of Philadelphia

15   in terms of the roles that we play. And so, we

16   are very respectful to the process. And eager

17   to, once that case is heard, you know, wait for

18   that decision.

19   In terms of counterparts across the

20   Commonwealth, I am not aware of any in terms of

21   my work that I am doing across the state.

22   Actually, I have more interactions with other

23   superintendents as I am part of a cohort of

24   superintendents, even though I'm not a

25   superintendent, across the Commonwealth. There

 1   is about 60 of us that I meet with every other

 2   month for a couple days. And we talk about a

 3   number of issues.

 4   And when it comes to school funding and

 5   issues around that, that is something that is

 6   shared from those superintendents who are in

 7   rural school districts to those right outside

 8   Pittsburgh to, you know, our end of the state

 9   that are aware of the funding issues. And they

10   are just as eager to see some changes to those

11   funding. Even some superintendents

12   acknowledging that on the winning side of that

13   funding formula, currently they are aware of

14   those issues, as well, and would like to see

15   some changes.

16   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you for your

17   response. Actually, that is what I was looking

18   to hear that not only are we doing the outreach

19   at the executive level through various mayors

20   around the Commonwealth, but also around the

21   School District level. And the fact you are

22   part of a cohort coalition of superintendents

23   from around the Commonwealth and meeting

24   regularly is very encouraging.

25   Because clearly, you are having

1   conversation about this issue and there's an

2   infrastructure already there in place to help

3   coalesce and build that coalition. Because we

4   are going to need that help regardless of --

5   depending on what type of impact that case has,

6   there is probably some type of either writ of

7   mandamus or some type of directive to the

8   General Assembly based on how our state

9   constitution is written and compared to other

10   states. And the fact you are having that

11   conversation is encouraging, so thank you.

12   Thank you, Council President.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

14   Councilman.

15   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gym.

16   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much,

17   Council President.

18   Good morning.

19   MR. ENGLER: Good morning.

20   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So could you -- I

21   have a couple of rapid questions, sort of rapid.

22   But can you speak to your strategy for how you

23   plan to engage with Harrisburg through the

24   Governor's budget plan?

25   You know, there is concerns, obviously,

1   that we talked about in the Five Year Plan about

2   school funding but also the minimum wage and

3   whether the City of Philadelphia will weigh in

4   on Harrisburg's responsibility to raise minimum

5   wage above the shameful federal minimum that is

6   currently at. Especially because, you know,

7   Jersey is going to 15.

8   MR. ENGLER: We have already started

9   that. We have had discussions with the

10 delegation. We had discussions at the

11 Governor's Office. We have done social media

12 and kind of earned media strategy around

13 improving the minimum wage.

14   We were happy to support Councilwoman

15 Parker's charter amendment or charter question

16 on the minimum wage. We think that will be

17 helpful and persuasive to make sure that

18 everyone understands the will of the voters of

19 Philadelphia. We think that will pass

20 overwhelmingly. We think it will also give us

21 some additional push and impetus to really kind

22 of bring us to the next level in Harrisburg.

23   But it's, obviously, it's a huge impact.

24 It would be hugely impactful for a lot of people

25 in poverty in Philadelphia to raise the minimum

 1 wage, so we think that's really important.

 2   On the -- the other issues around the

 3 budget, we have regular meetings, obviously,

 4 with our lobbyist weekly. We have done some

 5 coordination meetings with our lobbyists, the

 6 School District lobbyists. We do it also with

 7 PIDC to try and make sure all of us are working

 8 in tandem together. And then, we go to

 9 Harrisburg, we usually go up with one joint set

10 of talking points. So that way, everyone has

11 the same message about what we need, why we need

12 it and why it's so important and crucial that it

13 be funded in this budget.

14   I think we will continue that. I think

15 it will be more enhanced. As I mentioned on

16 Monday, we are doing it in much more close

17 coordination with the delegation so that way all

18 of us are completely aligned.

19   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay. And you

20 believe the minimum wage will be part of that

21 conversation?

22   MR. ENGLER: It's certainly a priority

23 for the Administration. I think we have said we

24 wanted to really step up from the City's

25 perspective and say we want to be a leader on

1   this. And that's why we are happy the

2   legislation passed in the fall, and we are going

3   to continue that discussion.

4   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Great. Thank you.

5   And I want to talk a little bit about

6   the Racial Equity Here Program, which is cited

7   in your accomplishments.

8   Could you talk about it a little bit

9   more, particularly in terms of the impact of

10 Philadelphia's participation and especially as

11 it relates to the specific work of municipal

12 departments? And is there a plan to have any

13 reporting on this work that could be publicly

14 shared?

15   MS. SICKOUT: Hi.

16   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good morning.

17   MS. SICKOUT: Good morning. I'm

18 Nefertiri Sickout. Could you please of Deputy

19 Diversion and Inclusion Officer in the Mayor's

20 Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

21   I think I got the entirety of your

22 question, but would you mind just asking one

23 more time?

24   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yeah. I don't

25 know -- you know, the Mayor's Office cited the

 1   Racial Equity Here Work as one of the

 2   accomplishments. So could you just talk to me a

 3   little bit about what you see the impact has

 4   been, how it exhibits itself across specific

 5   municipal departments and whether you have any

 6   -- any reporting on the work that you can

 7   publicly share.

 8   MS. SICKOUT: Sure.

 9   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Or plan to share.

10   MS. SICKOUT: Thank you for the

11   question. So, Racial Equity Here is an

12   initiative that started roughly in 2016 with a

13   grant from Living Cities. It was a two-year

14   grant to teach us how to approach programs and

15   services with an equity lens.

16   And what we did with that grant to get

17   racial equity kind of started to be embedded in

18   City operations was to pick a few discrete

19   projects to apply an equity lens to because the

20   work is very time consuming in that you really

21   need to disaggregate data by race and by gender

22   to look for disparities in program outcomes or

23   service outcomes and things of that nature.

24   So, we did a discrete project with the

25   Department of Licenses and Inspection and Philly

1   311 where we looked at the City's response time

2   to complaints made by residents calling into 311

3   for different issues. And what we found was

4   there that was a difference in the time that it

5   took the City to respond to complaints,

6   particularly around housing complaints and

7   abandoned buildings in communities of color.

8   And so, we worked with the Department of

9   Licenses and Inspections to make some policy

10   recommendations on how to have more equitable

11   time to serve the community. We also did a

12   project with the Health Department around

13   tobacco legislation for youth who are being

14   targeted in that area.

15   So after that -- those two projects, and

16   I am getting to your question, we are now

17   working on a workforce project in the civil

18   service sector where we took three different

19   positions in two departments, the Streets

20   Department and the Water Department, to try to

21   figure out why these positions are pretty much

22   filled by people who are not of color, and what

23   are the barriers that are going on within those

24   civil service sector from the exam, the hiring,

25   the recruitment and trying to figure out what is

1 happening so that we can have more equity in

2 outcomes.

3   We also just submitted an application, a

4 grant application, to look at how the City

5 imposes fines and fees in a way that its fines

6 and fees may disproportionately burden community

7 of the color. We also are due to submit a grant

8 application next week on equitable procurement

9 practices.

10   So, the approach over the past couple of

11 years has been project driven. The reason it's

12 been project driven is because it takes a good

13 amount of time to disaggregate data and really

14 look at how a policy or program is impacting

15 communities of color. Going forward, we would

16 like to have a more systemic way and approach to

17 really rolling out a racial equity, gender

18 equity framework across departments. But that

19 takes -- that takes some capacity. It takes

20 some time, you know, to be able to do that.

21   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you.

22   And we would love to be able to talk

23 with you a little further afterwards about how

24 you see that evolving.

25   MS. SICKOUT: Would love to, thank you.

1   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much.

2   Two quick questions. Are there any

3   planned increases to the budget of the Mayor's

4   Commission of People with Disabilities?

5   And have we looked at how staffing

6   functions compare to other large cities?

7   MR. ENGLER: I think to Councilman

8   Green's question, right now we have a vacancy in

9   the Executive Director's position, so our focus

10 right now is on filling that position and then

11 building out the vision of that person to match

12 the office's vision for how big. So, we don't

13 have any planned increased right now for staff.

14 I think that is something they are going to

15 revisit once the executive director position is

16 filled.

17   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay. And then

18 really quickly, can you update us on the

19 possibility of including ASL interpretation in

20 the video feed for the City broadcasting? I

21 think that's one of the questions that some of

22 our community members have asked before.

23   MR. ENGLER: Okay. I will have to look

24 into it and get back to you. I don't have an

25 answer today.

1   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Thank

2   you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

3   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds

4   Brown.

5   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you,

6   Mr. President.

7   The Office of Public Engagement, your

8   testimony states that you intend to launch a

9   newsletter that will be sent to over 1,000

10   contacts monthly. Who is the lucky thousand?

11   MR. ENGLER: I think Ajeenah Amir, our

12   director, will come up and answer that question.

13   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you.

14   (Witness approaches table.)

15   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Who is the

16   targeted audience? Who ends up in that lucky

17   1,000 number? And how will you share the news

18   for individuals who do not have email access?

19   Meaning, how are we going to and what are we

20   going to do to ensure that seniors are in the

21   loop?

22   MS. AMIR: Good morning, Councilwoman.

23   Thank you so much for the question. The -- my

24   name is Ajeenah Amir, Director for the Office of

25   Public Engagement. Our universe of emails right

1 now is going to be culled from our various

2 offices in Public Engagement, Office of Black

3 Male Engagement, the Office of Engagement for

4 Women, and the Office of Youth Engagement, as

5 well as some contacts from our sister office, so

6 to speak, of Civil Engagement Volunteer

7 Services, mainly through their civic engagement

8 academies that they've been hosting.

9   We find that this universe is, you know,

10 people want to be engaged. They want to be

11 informed about City activities and the Mayor's

12 priorities. And that is something we are

13 excited to roll out within the next couple of

14 months. As far as plans for, I would say a hard

15 copy version of the newsletter, that is

16 definitely something that we are looking into

17 and, you know, ascertaining how we would

18 distribute that within our capacity.

19   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

20   MS. AMIR: But primarily, it will be a

21 digital format.

22   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Repeat the

23 last statement.

24   MS. AMIR: I said, primarily it will be

25 a digital format which will promote and share

1   visual media, which a number of seniors or

2   people who don't necessarily have computer

3   access, they definitely have cell phone access.

4   And so, that would be a strategy or a tactic

5   that we'd approach.

6   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: So

7   respectfully, I would offer friendly

8   disagreement when it comes to seniors. My staff

9   the last 19 years have visited senior citizens

10   centers around the City eight consecutive weeks

11   from September through Thanksgiving giving

12   and -- my staff and I wrestle with how we be up

13   to speed with my daughter's generation but we

14   don't lose and leave out my mother's generation.

15   And so, when I travel to those senior

16   citizen centers, they are thrilled to have hard

17   copies of a newsletter that we have been doing

18   for 19 years. And so, I would urge the

19   Administration to be mindful that there is a

20   sector of our community that cares, that want to

21   be connected, that should be connected. And if

22   left out, exacerbates the poverty that they are

23   enduring because they don't have access to the

24   services that are in City departments across our

25   Administration.

 1   It's a great thing that we do the Evite

 2   and the emails. That's the future. We still

 3   have responsibility to capture and wrap our arms

 4   around seniors who want to be informed.

 5   MS. AMIR: Councilwoman, you're

 6   absolutely right.

 7   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 8   That's my soapbox.

 9   So, back to this issue of diversity in

10   hiring. When there is the discovery that a

11   particular department gets an F when it comes to

12   ensuring that the department looks like

13   Philadelphia at all levels of the ladder, how

14   does the Administration reckon with those

15   department heads who simply have not drank the

16   Kool-Aid and understand that one of the Mayor's

17   priorities are to have suites and executive

18   offices look like Philadelphia?

19   The broken record has started playing

20   again.

21   MR. ENGLER: Right. I think what we

22   have done this year is really different and,

23   it's allowed us to expand our work. We went

24   through a process over the summer meeting with

25   every department and every cabinet trying to

 1 department what their workforce planning for the

 2 year was going to be. How many openings they

 3 would see.

 4   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: What was

 5 the assessment? What was the -- how was that

 6 useful?

 7   MR. ENGLER: So, the goal was to be

 8 forward looking and to really look at what we

 9 were going to do over this fiscal year, what the

10 plans on hiring were when those hirings would

11 occur so we can determine, you know, what

12 really -- what are meaningful goals that we can

13 look at specifically around exempt hiring.

14 Because exempts are really the one we can impact

15 directly.

16   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Exempts

17 what? Talk closer in the mic.

18   MR. ENGLER: Sorry. The exempt

19 employees, so people that are not subject to

20 civil service we think is the best avenue for us

21 to see significant change in the short term.

22   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

23   MR. ENGLER: So, that was our focus.

24 Some departments, obviously, have more exempt

25 employee than others. So, departments like the

 1   Mayor's Office have a lot of exempt employees.

 2   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Sure.

 3   MR. ENGLER: The Law Department has a

 4   lot of exempt employees. And there are some

 5   departments that have more than others. But we

 6   wanted to see how many exempt openings that

 7   people expected to have throughout the year.

 8   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 9   MR. ENGLER: And really from a

10   self-reflection perspective, what do they

11   think -- what are they going to be able to

12   accomplish. What are their numbers going to

13   look like.

14   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: That is

15   intentional effort. I am only cutting you off

16   because my time is so short. There is an

17   intentional effort and intentional strategy to

18   deal with that?

19   MR. ENGLER: Yes.

20   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Please

21   help us understand why the Library and the

22   Administration there have not figured it out.

23   Help me figure it out.

24   MR. ENGLER: If I can go back to the

25   previous point, what we have done is on a

 1 quarterly basis, review the data for each

 2 department to figure out who has met what they

 3 said they were going to meet and who hasn't.

 4 And then, work with them to determine how we,

 5 for future openings, how we make sure the

 6 recruitment is there to fill those positions.

 7   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 8   MR. ENGLER: For departments like the

 9 Library, I think the Library doesn't have a lot

10 of exempts. They have a lot of civil service

11 employees.

12   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

13   MR. ENGLER: They have significantly

14 more seasoned workforce, I would say, than a lot

15 of departments. I would say a lot of employees

16 with, you know, a lot of experience. So, I

17 think change there is going to be --

18   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: It's

19 harder.

20   MR. ENGLER: Is going to be harder. To

21 Nefertiri's point, we want to start focusing

22 more on departments that are in the civil

23 service system, positions that in the civil

24 service position.

25   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 1   MR. ENGLER: And that the Office of the

 2   Chief Administrator Officer has been directly

 3   working with the Library on a lot of their

 4   positions. Because even from the diversity

 5   perspective, yes, it's been lacking. Just from

 6   the ability to fill positions, it's been

 7   lacking, as well.

 8   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Is it

 9   because it's hard? Is it the test? Where is

10   the impediment?

11   MR. ENGLER: I think it's a number of

12   things. I think I will have to get back to when

13   the CAO is here and Library is here. Might be

14   good to ask those questions specifically.

15   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. I

16   will. This is a tee up to the Library, since

17   there is the wrestle with -- they deserve the

18   funding to make sure our children have a place

19   to go. But should -- is anyone entitled to

20   increased funding when you have a department

21   that looks the way it looks?

22   MR. ENGLER: Yeah.

23   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Speak to,

24   if you will, the Diversity Advisory Council,

25   which is new. And it says it's comprised of

 1   thought leaders.

 2   How are they selected? Who are they?

 3   Are you at liberty to say who they are? How

 4   often do they meet? Because that becomes a

 5   structure with the purpose of helping us wrap

 6   our arms around diversity and inclusion, which

 7   we still don't have yet.

 8   MR. ENGLER: Right. We just started.

 9   They just had their first meeting, I think,

10   earlier this month or late last month. But

11   Steve can speak to that more.

12   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you.

13   (Witness approaches table.)

14   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Good

15   morning.

16   MR. PRESTON: Good morning. Steve

17   Preston, First Deputy Chief Diversity of

18   Inclusion Officer.

19   So yeah, like Jim Engler just said, we

20   put together the Diversity and Inclusion

21   Council. It's made up of twelve leaders around

22   the community in different areas. So, we have

23   leaders in tech community. We have leaders in

24   recruiting. We have leaders in the LGBT

25   community. So, we tried to make sure that all

 1   of our bases are covered.

 2   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Very good.

 3   MR. PRESTON: We also have disability

 4   community. All of them are represented. The

 5   first meeting that we had with them was

 6   actually, basically, we handed them a document

 7   that was around 30 pages. That was a

 8   description of all the work we have done so far

 9   in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion just

10   because we wanted to catch them up to speed.

11   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Sure.

12   MR. PRESTON: And then we had a two-hour

13   presentation based on everything we have done so

14   far and what are hopes and dreams are for the

15   next year. And they started to give us a little

16   bit of advice on some of the things we are doing

17   to make sure we are following best practices

18   from the industry.

19   So, the first meeting was basically an

20   information download. And the future meetings

21   are where we are going to hone in on one

22   specific project. And they are going to get a

23   download of everything we have done and give us

24   advice on how we can do things better.

25   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: That's

 1   encouraging for sure.

 2   My last question, we spoke to the

 3   trainings, so I am finished.

 4   Thank you very much.

 5   And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 7   Councilwoman.

 8   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

 9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

10   Mr. President. I just wanted to go back to a

11   few questions.

12   When you -- you are going to check the

13   numbers on the Class 100 on when the increase

14   occurred from MDO to the Mayor's budget?

15   MR. ENGLER: Yeah. We will get you

16   those numbers.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And then, I

18   just want to give you some observations. We are

19   all in this together. I want you to take this

20   constructively and not --

21   MR. ENGLER: Always.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I look out over

23   the terrain, let's just say, and I see that we

24   have of the top 20 cities in the country, the

25   highest taxes. We have the highest poverty. We

1   have the lowest entrepreneurship rates. We have

2   the lowest job creation of the top 20 cities.

3   We have the lowest average income. We have the

4   lowest median home price income, like, 142,000.

5   San Francisco is 800, but different ballgame.

6   But in that backdrop, in that backdrop,

7   a recent survey, share this with you if you

8   haven't seen it. From 2011 to 2017, when we

9   surveyed the people who left Philadelphia,

10   81 percent did not have children; 19 percent had

11   children. They are probably -- those 19 are

12   probably leaving, I am guessing, because of the

13   schools, but 81 percent did not. And the

14   reasons why the 81 percent left, the number one

15   reason, was taxes. And the number two reason

16   was job opportunities.

17   And so in that context, I guess my

18   question is how do we work together to address

19   that and make it so those 81 percent don't leave

20   and we attract more people?

21   MR. ENGLER: I think you are -- is this

22   the Pew Report of people that have left the

23   City? Is that what you are referring to? Data

24   from Pew?

25   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Yeah. One of the

 1   entities here.

 2   MR. ENGLER: Yeah. It's obviously an

 3   area of focus. I think from a tax perspective,

 4   Pew's also looked at our tax burden in

 5   comparison to not just all the other cities, but

 6   the surrounding counties. And what we have seen

 7   is that over the years, starting in the early

 8   2000s and getting closer to now, that our

 9   relative tax burdens have gotten closer.

10   Because in a lot of surrounding counties, they

11   have increased property taxes to make up for

12   cuts in state education -- state education aid.

13   And that's been their investment. They have

14   been investing in education. Whereas

15   traditionally, in places like Philadelphia, not

16   been able to.

17   I think you would see when you look at

18   other northeast cities, people leaving those

19   cities for tax reasons, a lot of them are going

20   to the sunbelt states where taxes are much less

21   and you are seeing significant growth, and

22   significant growth around jobs. So, that is

23   always something we are going to have to compete

24   against. I think where we tried to make

25   investments, and we have talked about this back

 1   and forth a lot, we are trying to make sure that

 2   we have a workforce that is educated to meet

 3   those jobs.

 4   So, it doesn't just start in preK. It

 5   runs through continuing of education, through

 6   community college and beyond. I think it's

 7   obviously areas where we still have to work. We

 8   are talking about, you know, turning around a

 9   significantly sized ship of people and giving

10   them new opportunities. But you know, we have

11   to also maintain services at the same time.

12   So, that's always the back and forth we

13   have about -- when we are talking about taxes,

14   is maintaining an acceptable level of services.

15   And a lot of time, we have to make additional

16   investments to increase our level of services.

17   And that requires money.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Do you have the

19   numbers as to how many people who live in the

20   City commute to suburban jobs every day?

21   MR. ENGLER: Not in front of me. I know

22   that I have seen -- the reverse commute numbers

23   are significant.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: It's, like, 35 to

25   40 percent. And so, I think that's an area

 1   where we should focus on, in many ways, how do

 2   we get those companies that are going -- I think

 3   we have had a few successes in that area. Like,

 4   Vanguard opening a branch.

 5   Look in Boston, Fidelity is in downtown

 6   Boston. And why are we not going after Vanguard

 7   in a much bigger way in figuring out how to get

 8   them into the City. Or actually, do a focus 50

 9   suburban companies and say, how do we get them

10   to bring jobs into our City so we eliminate that

11   reverse commute and get more jobs in the City.

12   MR. ENGLER: Yeah, we are. You should

13   definitely bring that up with the Commerce

14   Department. I think our focus, the first

15   several years, has been trying to get them to

16   open -- to have an entree into the City, right?

17   Open a satellite office here with a number of

18   employees. And then, we would work with them to

19   try and grow that office out. I think that's

20   going to continue to be our focus.

21   We are going to try and poach as many

22   companies from the suburbs as we can,

23   especially, as the workforce wants to be in the

24   City. I think that's where we are seeing a

25   shift for a lot of people. The younger force

 1 workforce wants to be in the City. They don't

 2 necessarily want to be in Malvern or somewhere

 3 else. A lot of things that we deal with is that

 4 in the C-Suite, we have a bunch of individuals

 5 that live outside the City and don't want to

 6 have that long commute downtown.

 7   We have to attract those individuals to

 8 want to live in the City, providing a high level

 9 of service as well as making sure that the

10 talent base that they have that's in the City,

11 also has the level of services they need and the

12 jobs to match.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: What we have going for

14 us is that the younger people and older people

15 are dying to live in the City. They love to

16 live urban. Love to live urban. I don't know

17 young person that says, I can't wait to move to

18 Wayne, Pennsylvania, okay? It's not happening.

19 They want to live urban. They want to live

20 urban.

21   So, we have that going for us, which I

22 don't think we have had for, you know, quite a

23 long time. So some of it -- we have to figure

24 out the rest of the piece. I just want to

25 mention one other thing.

 1   I want to say to you, Jim, I think this

 2   is your first budget hearing.

 3   MR. ENGLER: Yes.

 4   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Doing a good job, so

 5   thank you.

 6   Thank you, Mr. President.

 7   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 8   Councilman.

 9   Chair recognizes Councilwoman

10   Quinones-Sanchez.

11   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank

12   you. Yeah, we should continue to debate some of

13   the -- I just came from a Biz Now presentation

14   on the opportunities zone. There were 200

15   people in the room all eager to use this federal

16   tax benefit. And then, obviously, their concern

17   is always the City and what we do to facilitate

18   that process.

19   And obviously, my role there was to

20   assure them that Philadelphia is open for

21   business. And that we are regionally -- our

22   location is so good in comparison to Boston and

23   New York and others, you know, day's drive from

24   75 percent of the country. I think we have

25   moved in the right direction around some of the

1   business taxes, particularly the reduction of

2   the net profits tax.

3   Tell me what, if any, conversations have

4   been internally, as you talk to -- you know,

5   again, you're now the new Chief of Staff. You

6   know, the net profits tax and its impact --

7   Councilman Domb is talking about recruiting

8   people here. The net profits tax, this need to

9   hide profits has been a long term impediment.

10   And that is why people went over the City line.

11   Has there been any discussions about

12   looking at all of that? I know we are doing a

13   study on our tax relief programs and some of the

14   benefits of underutilization.

15   Has there been any philosophical

16   discussions about how do we -- how do we make

17   sure the Philadelphia-based businesses are not

18   penalized for being located here? I mean, what

19   is your thought around that?

20   MR. ENGLER: There is always

21   philosophical discussions especially with our

22   Commerce Director. He is so eager to try and

23   drive as many businesses here as possible. We

24   have had discussions about the BIRT. I think

25   our feedback that we get from a lot of

 1 businesses is that it's not just the BIRT,

 2 sometimes it's the complexity of the process.

 3 So, we have -- we have a lot of tax credit

 4 programs, as well, that provide some relief, but

 5 sometimes they are very complex to do. And

 6 because the Revenue Department is driven by

 7 compliance, as they should be.

 8   A lot of times it's very complex in

 9 order to even access those programs. That is

10 why we have tried over the last couple of years

11 to move to more grant-based programs. Whether

12 that's the Fair Chance Hiring Grant for

13 returning citizens. What we are doing now with

14 the CDC Grant, trying to make it easier for

15 organizations to comply with that. I think

16 that's going to be the end result of the tax

17 incentive study, as well, as to try and get us

18 to -- try and get us to a point where the

19 programs are easier to access, our tax structure

20 overall is easier to access.

21   And it doesn't just have to be, I think,

22 one tax. It can be multiple taxes as long as,

23 you know, we are dealing with one form. Like,

24 if we can align Use and Occupancy Tax and the

25 Real Estate Tax and the BIRT to be more aligned

1   and easier to file and comply with, I think you

2   will see a lot of businesses be happier with

3   just that. I think people are willing to pay

4   taxes. It's the complexity of the process that

5   drives a lot of the problems.

6   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: It's the

7   predictability. And you know, when we started

8   the Business Tax Reform we didn't finish, you

9   know, we compromised that therein lies the

10   hundred thousand dollar exemption. One of the

11   things that we found in that discussion is, you

12   know, our Net Profits Tax, we are one of four

13   jurisdictions -- Detroit, New York, Washington

14   DC and Philadelphia. And at a certain point, we

15   have to own the fact that a tax of that -- of 6

16   and a half percent when people are penciling

17   projects, when we are dealing in a global market

18   is challenging.

19   I just like -- I mean, I think that the

20   Administration agreed that the Net Profits Tax

21   was detrimental to Philadelphia businesses. And

22   that is why we are pursuing those reductions.

23   I'd like us to spend a little bit of time as we

24   look at the tax relief programs. Because, you

25   know, Use and Occupancy Reform, having worked on

1   all of those, ultimately, philosophically, we

2   have to take ourselves off that -- that burden

3   that we give Philadelphia-based businesses. I

4   am, obviously, a great believer that eliminating

5   the Net Profits Tax is a way there. You know,

6   small businesses don't have to hide profits.

7   They are not circling the band wagon when they

8   go to expand and all those things.

9   So, I just think we need to pay

10   attention to that a little bit.

11   Want to ask you, again, one of the

12   things is we look at this Narrowing the Gap and

13   how do we ensure that all neighborhoods are

14   receiving core services? I appreciate the fact

15   that the Administration over the last couple of

16   years in particular, has made substantial

17   investments in every part of the City, not using

18   just our CDBG kind of sometimes unreliable

19   predictability.

20   How far are we from -- you know, the

21   Mayor talks about, you know, Passyunk Avenue.

22   How far are we from making a commitment

23   to every single commercial corridor, like on a

24   baseline? You know, the trash is a big issue.

25   How far do you think we are from saying

 1   every commercial corridor recognized, not

 2   recognized is going to receive some base

 3   support, and then let other factors trigger?

 4   Public Safety, you get a little bit more. Trash

 5   index, now we tell people what their litter

 6   index is, do you get a little bit more.

 7   How far are we from that real equitable

 8   every commercial corridor deserves this? Every

 9   industrial corridor deserves these core

10   services, right? I know bids and things become

11   popular. And just having a bid discussion -- I

12   know Council President Clarke and them are

13   moving it. But you know at some point, moving

14   away from 2009 where we talk all this money out,

15   at a certain point we say, this is what

16   government should be providing across the board

17   for people's tax dollars.

18   How far do you think we are from that?

19   MR. ENGLER: I think we are probably

20   still a little bit away aways from that. We

21   have done some expansion through Council

22   legislation expanding the CDC tax credit, which

23   has allowed some more commercial corridors to

24   become involved in that. I think we might need

25   to just tighten up some of the restrictions on

1   that, as well, to make sure that it's really

2   commercial corridor driven. And that is another

3   area where we are going to invest through the

4   CDC through the grant program to allow us to

5   reach more corridors.

6   I think from a service base, we are

7   still trying to recover a lot of our services to

8   the point where expanding it through -- ensuring

9   that the residential base receives the amount of

10   services that they need on things like

11   sanitation on things like street cleaning,

12   right, as we bill that out this spring, I think

13   through the next several years as the pilot gets

14   larger, I think we will put more and more of a

15   focus on our commercial corridors as being the

16   drivers of that trash to begin with. If it's a

17   duplex, if it's a business putting the trash

18   out, all those things will get driven into the

19   decisions that are made about what corridors to

20   focus on as that corridor gets built out, as

21   well.

22   I think it's going to take a little time

23   before we are ready to say every single

24   commercial corridor is going to receive at least

25   this base level of services.

1   I think in the short term, that the

2   conjunction of CDCs, I think having CDCs work

3   more closely, I do think bids sometimes do work,

4   right? Like, having the assessments on the

5   businesses. It's not always feasible because

6   some businesses don't have the bottom line to be

7   able to sustain that. For those that do, we

8   should be trying to take advantage of that, and

9   then be able to backfill services for commercial

10   corridors that can't support something like a

11   bid.

12   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Yeah. I

13   think, again, one of the challenges is that most

14   of our incentives are driven to new businesses.

15   Very few are for the existing, the people who

16   have just been hanging in there, you know,

17   hanging in there. And I just feel like that is

18   what levels out the playing field for folks to

19   say who have hung in there, right?

20   The new business gets abatement. The

21   new business gets this, the new job creation.

22   The new business gets this. Those folks who

23   have been there, right, it's like we have to

24   level it out. And I feel like doing at least

25   some -- everybody gets this, right? This is the

 1 starting point is hugely important.

 2   And if we don't talk about it and

 3 challenge ourselves, even knowing what the

 4 costs, right, what does that look like around,

 5 you know, multiple trash pickups in commercial

 6 areas where we want to encourage residential

 7 density, right? It's going to take more trash

 8 pickup, right?

 9   And having that vision, it's hard to

10 know where we are going if we are not saying

11 core values is this, right? And that goes back

12 to what I was saying earlier around performance

13 measuring for departments. Is you don't budget

14 for 10,000 if you have 50,000 potholes. Like,

15 we need to narrow that gap and that discussion

16 because that really goes to the core of equity.

17   Thank you, Council President.

18   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

19 Councilwoman.

20   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

21   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,

22 Mr. President.

23   Mr. President, I want to go back to

24 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown's line of

25 questioning relative to diversity and inclusion.

 1   And Mr. Engler, you mentioned the

 2   Diversity Advisory Committee. I want to ask,

 3   because we always talk about the end game

 4   relative to our research being data driven. The

 5   one thing we don't always know and that doesn't

 6   always make it into the discussion is how many

 7   people and who were the people who actually

 8   expressed an interest in a position.

 9   So if you are attempting to measure what

10   diversity and inclusion looks like, and I don't

11   care if you are talking about in government, in

12   corporate or in the nonprofit sector, it's very

13   important to document once you posted who

14   responded and what did the demographic look

15   like.

16   Did we capture that information now?

17   MR. ENGLER: We do. It's self-reported,

18   but we do capture and we post all of our exempt

19   positions on Smart Recruiter, which is the

20   website that we use. We are able to capture

21   that data. And it's something that when we go

22   through the hiring process, we do review to make

23   sure we have a diverse candidate pool. That is

24   one of the things we want to drive. In addition

25   to the things that we can control around having

 1   a diverse group review the resumes and have a

 2   diverse group of individuals around the

 3   diversity panel, so that way we are getting to

 4   the likely diverse results. We are able to

 5   capture some of it, but it is self-reported.

 6   It's not always a hundred percent accurate.

 7   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I don't know

 8   whether or not it is -- whether or not it is

 9   possible or how we get there, and maybe this is

10   something that you all can strongly encourage

11   that this new Diversity and Inclusion Advisory

12   Council, that they work on is how do we

13   incentivize people to tell us who they are. We

14   never get a real snapshot about the

15   corporation's success rate if we don't have

16   that -- that information.

17   So, we can say, well, we haven't done

18   well enough. There aren't enough. But I would

19   like to know how many women, how many

20   African-American women, how many Hispanic women,

21   how many Asian women, how many African-American

22   men, who were they. And I get that we are

23   self-reporting. But I am asking that you take

24   back this charge to this committee so that they

25   can even work with our Law Department to figure

1   out if there is a legal way for us to capture

2   that data. Because it will, in fact, help us in

3   the future.

4   The second thing I wanted to comment on

5   was this issue, and you know it's one that I've

6   been pretty passionate about, particularly

7   because I watched the investment. And I know

8   the issues that Councilwoman Marian Tasco went

9   through long before I got here when I was

10   chugging it along in Harrisburg relative to this

11   spending on commercial corridors.

12   Much of it, during her tenure, was

13   driven by the Community Development Block Grant

14   spending. And I know a lot of people don't like

15   to talk about it, but the rules, regs and

16   guidelines associated with where you can spend

17   that CB -- Community Development Block Grant

18   money, our rules are much more stringent than

19   the Federal Government's rules are. And so, we

20   would have out of the 9th Councilmanic District,

21   only one to two corridors that could actually

22   participate.

23   So, as we figure out how we scale our

24   programs, I ask that you all make sure you take

25   strongly into consideration that for many years,

1 commercial corridors that were in the middle,

2 that were in the middle neighborhoods -- I can

3 speak for Councilman Jones' district because

4 he's been a very strong advocate for commercial

5 corridor funding along with what I know we

6 experienced in the 9th. We could not get access

7 to any of it. Not because we were, you know,

8 120 percent above the guidelines. We usually

9 were a nickel over.

10 And so, I just ask in the middle of that

11 discussion, we make sure that there is access

12 and equity across the board. And everything

13 that we do is not just driven simply by what

14 the -- what the poverty guidelines are, but we

15 also think about the people who have helped to

16 keep this tax base going before we have had all

17 this growth in other regions because they have

18 normally gotten left out of the equation.

19 MR. ENGLER: Yes. We are happy to do

20 that. And I think it will -- there will be

21 additional questions I am sure that you will ask

22 the Commerce Department about the Grant Program

23 and the guidelines around it. I would keep that

24 one for that upcoming hearing.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

1   Council Lady.

2   Appears to be no additional questions

3   for Mr. Engler. Thank you very much for your

4   testimony. I am sure before the end of the

5   budget process, we will ask you to come visit us

6   again.

7   Thank you very much.

8   Next up, think we have Community Schools

9   and PreK.

10   (Panel approaches Witness Table.)

11   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

12 Mr. Hackney from the Mayor's Office of

13 Education.

14   MR. HACKNEY: Good afternoon, President

15 Clarke and Members of City Council. I am Otis

16 Hackney, Chief Education Officer. Joining me

17 today are Christine Piven, Deputy Chief

18 Education Officer; and Shante Brown, Interim

19 Director for PHL PreK.

20   We are pleased to provide testimony on

21 the Mayor's Office of Education Fiscal Year 2020

22 Operating Budget of $45.4 million. In Fiscal

23 Year 20, the PHL PreK Program will add over a

24 thousand new PreK seats, expanding the program

25 to 3,300 seats in total. As PHL PreK expands to

 1   serve more children and families, strategic

 2   priorities are improving instruction and center

 3   quality, strengthening early childhood education

 4   systems and providing every sources for PHL PreK

 5   providers.

 6   Our major proposed investment includes

 7   instructional coaching, new curriculum and

 8   assessment resources for PHL PreK providers,

 9   personalized quality improvement plans for

10   providers and education classes for teachers.

11   In Fiscal Year 20, MOE will establish five new

12   community schools and partnership with the

13   School District.

14   To support student outcomes -- to

15   support student outcomes, each of the 17

16   community schools will follow a site-specific

17   plan to address those needs within four core

18   components: Family and community engagement,

19   integrated health services, school climate and

20   expanded learning time. Within each component

21   we will leverage City resource and partnerships

22   with other departments.

23   Our proposed key investment for Fiscal

24   Year 20 is the braiding of Philadelphia

25   Department of Human Services out-of-school time

 1   resources with Philadelphia Beverage Tax funding

 2   to leverage more quality OST opportunities for

 3   students in the community schools. We will also

 4   partner with the Office of Workforce Development

 5   and grow our partnership with the Office of

 6   Adult Education and Office or Arts, Culture and

 7   the Creative Economy to promote student outcomes

 8   and expand family and community engagement at

 9   the schools.

10   Our department's programs have benefited

11   thousands of children and families. And as the

12   programs expand in the coming year, those

13   benefits will grow. I appreciate this

14   opportunity to provide testimony regarding the

15   Mayor's Office of Education proposed budget for

16   Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget. And thank

17   you for the continued support of our work.

18   We are happy to answer any questions

19   that Council may have.

20   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

21   Caught me off guard. Quick testimony.

22   I want to start with community schools,

23   one of our favorites. As you know, the Mayor

24   and I -- and I know a number of you all went to

25   Oyler in Cincinatti probably, to some degree,

1   the most significant and robust program as

2   related to community schools. And we all had

3   different visions. But this should -- I am

4   happy that we understood that they should be

5   tailored to neighborhoods and the demographics

6   of that particular neighborhood.

7   So, I think we have, how many, twelve

8   that we have designated so far?

9   MR. HACKNEY: Correct.

10   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can you

11 briefly kind of give me a sense of where we are,

12 the status of full blown, or if we are at full

13 blown with any -- basically, the status of all

14 of the designated preschool, I'm sorry,

15 community school models that we have in the

16 City.

17   MS. PIVEN: So a brief overview of each

18 of the --

19   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Pull the mic.

20   MR. HACKNEY: And introduce yourself.

21   MS. PIVEN: Christine Piven, Deputy

22 Education Officer. So, you want a brief

23 overview of each of the twelve?

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If you --

25 briefly. I mean, it's kind of -- if you want to

 1   categorize them, because I know that we did -- I

 2   think it was two phases of designation.

 3   MS. PIVEN: Yeah. It was cohort one

 4   and --

 5   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So, start

 6   with the ones that, I guess, are not that far

 7   along, I guess, the most recent and then the

 8   ones that we initially --

 9   MS. PIVEN: Sure. So, each of the

10   community schools, as you know, have a full-time

11   coordinator that was hired in partnership with

12   the principal. Each community school did a

13   Community Needs Assessment, so that was with

14   community engagement and with the school

15   community, as well. And based on the Community

16   Needs Assessment, they developed strategic plans

17   to help guide the work. And depending on those

18   Community Needs Assessment, you may see

19   different programs in each of the schools.

20   This year, one of the key pieces in most

21   of the elementary schools' strategic plans was a

22   desire for extra curricular or afterschool

23   programs. So in FY19's budget for community

24   schools, we partnered with the Department of

25   Human Services to put in out-of-school time

 1   programming in those schools that didn't have

 2   any. So, you can look at Gompers or Edmonds and

 3   also Loche, as well, as having new OST

 4   programming based on their community needs

 5   assessment as a piece.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Let me

 7   be more specific.

 8   MS. PIVEN: Sure.

 9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So, I want to

10   ask you about capital, because I've asked a

11   number of the Administration.

12   One of the things that happen in the

13   world -- again, we are not Cincinatti. We are

14   not Oyler. There was a significant capital

15   investment in the community schools. I am not

16   seeing that here particularly as it relates to

17   the revenue generated by the Beverage Tax. It

18   appears that the School District has been

19   responsible for capital investment in the ones

20   that I am familiar with, particularly as it

21   relates to Gideon. And I haven't gotten an

22   answer yet to the question that I posed.

23   Are there community schools that have

24   been designated eligible for capital investment

25   from the Beverage Tax dollars?

 1   MS. PIVEN: It was a policy decision

 2   that no -- that the dollars for community

 3   schools would not be used for capital

 4   investments in the School District schools. So

 5   they -- those dollars are being dedicated to

 6   working on --

 7   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can you pull

 8   that a little closer to you?

 9   MS. PIVEN: Oh, sorry.

10   Working on investing in the program

11   pieces of building a community school model.

12   And so as you noted, the facilities piece, the

13   capital piece, sits with the School District.

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. So, it

15   was a policy discussion/decision that involved

16   whom? Because I know I wasn't a part of that

17   policy discussion. I don't know if any other

18   member of Council. So when -- and I got to tell

19   you, when I voted for this, and it was a

20   difficult vote, I was under the impression that

21   the dollars generated would not only be spent

22   capital for rec centers, libraries and all those

23   things, but also spent on facilities as it

24   related to community schools. Because to me,

25   speaking from a personal perspective, that was

1   one of the most significant reasons for my

2   support for the Beverage Tax.

3   So how and when was that decision made

4   not to invest any capital dollars in community

5   schools.

6   MR. HACKNEY: That decision when we

7   first started with the community school original

8   planning with the first budget was not part of

9   the plan when we first did it from Year One with

10   the community schools in terms of making capital

11   investment with the schools. We -- our hope was

12   that as we identified opportunities with the

13   District, that we could have conversation with

14   them around how capital improvements would be

15   made given different facilities.

16   So, I think when the District looks

17   at -- I don't want to get too far ahead of the

18   District, looking at some of the issues that

19   they have to address in the schools in terms of

20   how they prioritize what the capital

21   improvements are in those buildings. But in

22   terms of from a budgeting standpoint, it was not

23   something -- especially if we look at the --

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah, I know.

25   You just told me that. I'm asking who -- how

1   and who made that decision that there were not

2   going to be any capital investment in schools?

3   MR. HACKNEY: That was --

4   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This is an

5   initiative of the City. This wasn't the School

6   District's initiative. This is something we

7   wanted to do. And the School District was a

8   part of that process after at we made the

9   decision to fund and create community schools.

10   So, is there like some prohibition, a

11 limitation in the money? You know why I ask you

12 this question because of how long it took

13 Gideon -- I'm not sure Gideon is at the level

14 that it needs to be as we speak. We had to wait

15 for the School District to patch together money

16 to deal with the healthcare component in Gideon.

17 And I don't understand why we're not spending

18 capital dollars on Gideon and other similar

19 types of initiatives and community schools.

20   I mean, why -- why is that?

21   MR. HACKNEY: Because the -- in terms f

22 the revenue coming in, in terms of what we can

23 do with that, what we proposed in our original

24 Five Year Plan, that was not reflected in the --

25 that was not part of our plan in terms of doing

1   major capital improvements in schools. Our hope

2   was, as I stated earlier, was to work with the

3   District. And when we saw opportunities that we

4   would look at, ways to -- if there were capital

5   improvements that needed to be made, that we

6   would have those conversations and seek other

7   resources. But that was not part of the

8   original plan. That was --

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That was

10   determined and the Administration made that

11   decision?

12   MR. HACKNEY: Correct.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's kind

14   of, like, no consultation with Councilmembers?

15   MR. HACKNEY: I would say that,

16   especially in the first year or two, we talked a

17   lot with Councilmembers around that plan. But

18   we never discussed that or stated that we would

19   make those large capital investments when we did

20   a number of briefings. We always talked about

21   in terms of looking at opportunities and

22   identifying partnerships, you know, in the

23   future once those opportunities were identified.

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

25   Would you -- maybe you could or couldn't. It

 1   may impede our ability to move in a timely way

 2   without additional capital resources in

 3   facilities where that was needed given the

 4   School District's limitations on capital dollars

 5   to deal with crucial issues relating to

 6   environmental challenges with schools. They

 7   were probably the least likely entity within

 8   that partnership to be able to have additional

 9   dollars to come forward and deal with issues

10   that, frankly, was our initiative, the City's

11   initiative.

12   So, I am just trying to understand why

13   when we step to the plate and try to facilitate

14   support for capital needs in community schools,

15   seeing that our fund balance was much higher

16   than the School District's fund balance and our

17   ability to entertain capital improvements

18   because the Beverage Tax was our tax, the City

19   of Philadelphia's tax, not the School District's

20   tax.

21   And you may not be able to answer that

22   question today. I understand that was probably

23   a determination made by, you know, whatever

24   level made that decision. So, I guess my

25   question today -- and you may not be able to

 1   answer this.

 2   As we move ahead, if there is a need for

 3   capital investment in a community school,

 4   because it's going to happen based on what I

 5   have been seeing, is that decision set in stone

 6   to not invest in capital needs utilizing

 7   Beverage Tax dollars?

 8   MR. HACKNEY: I guess in terms of when

 9   you say is it set in stone, like I say, we would

10   look at future opportunities. If there was an

11   opportunity where we saw that, but it is not

12   reflected in our current budget propose that we

13   have this year and moving forward.

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I understand.

15   That's why I'm asking.

16   MR. HACKNEY: Yes. I understand. And

17   we are happy to -- I'm happy and our offices to

18   meet with you and your team and other

19   Councilmembers around some expectations that

20   they have and see if that's something that we

21   can explore moving forward.

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right. I

23   mean, big capital investment in the initial

24   model, which was Oyler. I mean, big capital

25   investment. And when I look at Gideon I'm a

 1 that little, frankly, disappointed in the scope

 2 of what we have done and the pace of what we've

 3 done. But anyway, I won't get into that.

 4   All right. Okay. I'm going to pass it

 5 on. I will come back to that.

 6   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

 7   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,

 8 Mr. President.

 9   And hello to each of you. As we were

10 moving forward with our PreK PHL plan, in the

11 summer of 2016 my staff called 267 PreK

12 providers in my district. We ended up surveying

13 139 of them. And we yield to the 52 percent

14 response rate, which I think was a very good

15 sample size, to ensure that we were touching

16 base with our commercial and home-base

17 providers.

18   With that being said, I would like to

19 know from you -- and I am looking at the last

20 bit of data that we received relative to the

21 City, and then the data for the 9th District.

22 And I want you to tell me if there have been any

23 changes? I know in the 9th there were 16

24 centers, 359 slots allocated, 347 were filled.

25 And the average fill rate was 97 percent. That

 1   was just the 9th. And the City overall, we had

 2   88; 2,234 slots, 2063 were filled. And that was

 3   a 92.3 percent fill rate.

 4   Talk to us about where we are today

 5   specifically.

 6   MS. BROWN: Shante Brown -- good

 7   morning. I'm Shante Brown, Interim Director for

 8   PHL PreK. So, I will start with Council

 9   District 9. You are right. You do have 16

10   total sites. That's 382 contracted slots for

11   that Council district. And that is a

12   99.5 percent average fill rate.

13   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Hold, 9th

14   District, did you say a 99 percent fill rate?

15   MS. BROWN: Yes.

16   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: 382 slots

17   allocated?

18   MS. BROWN: Yes. And 380 of them are

19   full.

20   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now, I want to

21   give credit to you all. I think you have done a

22   great job. But I want to give a strong shout

23   out to my staff because this started with us on

24   the ground, the work that we did. I am talking

25   about not just the big guys, because you know my

1   priority, let me be quite frank, has been

2   improving the quality and access of my home-base

3   providers in the 9th Councilmanic District. So,

4   that meant that they also had to go out and

5   canvas. Now, I know you all don't do the

6   politics, so you know canvas meant that they had

7   to go out and knock on doors of homes of people

8   they didn't know. But where it looked on the

9   outside like they had a home base daycare there,

10 so that they can get access to the information.

11   With that being said, I want to say a

12 special thank you to my team because their work

13 paid off. I also want to ask you now, of the

14 City-wide sites, how many of them would you

15 consider to be commercial and how many

16 residential?

17   MS. BROWN: I would have to get back to

18 you. I do know that in our system, we have

19 about 20 family providers currently. But I can

20 get you the exact --

21   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So when you say

22 family, I am thinking of home based. Are we

23 saying the same thing?

24   MS. BROWN: Yes.

25   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay. So, you

 1   said about 20 home based?

 2   MS. BROWN: Yes.

 3   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now so for me,

 4   that is the -- that's the rub, right? That's

 5   the rub. How can I get more of our home-based

 6   providers engaged in the program? So when you

 7   talked to them, what have been the barriers for

 8   entry for them?

 9   MS. BROWN: We have not -- we are one of

10   the PreK entities that actually partner with

11   family providers. Some of the other two -- the

12   state program does not when it comes to the

13   School District. So, I think that's a benefit

14   to our program is partnering with family

15   providers.

16   We have not really -- none of your

17   family providers have expressed any real disdain

18   or hardships in being able to partner. I think

19   it would just be getting the message out about

20   the benefits to participating in PHL PreK and

21   the benefits for the children in the

22   neighborhood. I think that would be the biggest

23   message that we would need to provide to our

24   family-based providers.

25   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So for me, I know

1   your office can't support all of the PreK

2   providers. Since you mostly support those that

3   are just actually in PHL PreK, but we have to

4   use this opportunity as a tool to get more

5   home-based providers into the pipeline so that

6   they are even in a position where they can

7   participate in the program. And I know one of

8   the tools that we simultaneously use when we had

9   our large meeting at the York House last year

10   was that we made sure that you all were just not

11   there but that Power Up was also there.

12   Because part of the home-based

13   providers, actually getting prepared to get

14   engrained is a lot of the technical backroom

15   supports, access to the capital. So, I would

16   humbly suggest, if it at all possible, while you

17   are working on your outreach to that home-based

18   constituency, that you, one, produce for us

19   during the cycle. And I will ask it during call

20   backs. If you have any kind of overview of a

21   direct strategy that you are using to reach that

22   very specific constituency. Because if we are

23   only focusing on commercial and we are not doing

24   all that we can do to reach the home-based

25   providers, that is going to be very challenging.

1   Because almost on every other block and every

2   other neighborhood, we have multiple. So, I

3   just want to make sure -- make sure that that is

4   something that is done.

5   In addition to that, I wanted to just

6   echo Council President's Clarke's comments

7   relative to investments in community schools.

8   Edmonds is doing well under the new leadership.

9   And he can have an impact on what is going on

10   inside of the building. But no matter how many

11   volunteer efforts that we have to go and paint

12   inside, people -- I am talking about the private

13   sector now, they have expressed an interest in

14   helping us improve our schoolyard on the

15   outside. It is very difficult when the

16   infrastructure is crumbling.

17   And so, I do want to state for the

18   record, Mr. President, that I will be working

19   very hard to also advocate for the use of a

20   portion of these funds to make capital

21   improvements. Again, we know what Councilman --

22   State Senator Vincent Hughes and his research.

23   They did an awesome some job with the

24   improvements, facility improvements,

25   infrastructure improvements needed in the School

1   District. It was $5 billion price tag. We have

2   a coalition that has been formed and we are

3   going to talk about on Friday our campaign of

4   this year to secure resources to address the

5   infrastructure issue.

6   But I think, Council President, your

7   laser-like focus on that, we are not talking

8   about the overall big challenge. But let s

9   carve out access to opportunity for those

10   community schools. Not does it only,

11   Mr. President, make good economic sense, it's

12   worth taxpayer dollars. So, I just wanted to

13   echo those concerns.

14   And if -- I'll be interested in hearing

15   your office's and the Administration's response

16   to that would be when you come back before

17   Council. Even if not all because we are talking

18   specifically about -- how many community schools

19   do we have now?

20   MR. HACKNEY: Twelve.

21   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: We are talking

22   about twelve and then are we talking about

23   adding -- is it five more?

24   MR. HACKNEY: Correct.

25   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: That would get us

 1   to 17.

 2   MR. HACKNEY: Correct.

 3   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: How very

 4   specifically for the dollars allocated for each

 5   of those schools can we make a portion of those

 6   dollars available for capital improvements. And

 7   I listened to your response to the Council

 8   President, so I don't expect a response. I just

 9   wanted to, on the record, echo concerns about

10   that.

11   Thank you, Mr. President, for your

12   leeway.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

14   Councilwoman. Always give you leeway when you

15   are, like, echoing the sentiments made by the

16   Chair. Thanks, Councilwoman.

17   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

18   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

19   Mr. President. I just had a couple questions on

20   community schools.

21   And the first is -- well, actually, good

22   afternoon. Let me start there.

23   But my first question is, I was

24   surprised when I heard that extracurricular

25   activities were part of the community schools

1   program. Did I hear that correctly or --

2   MS. PIVEN: Yes.

3   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is that something

4   that is being done through community schools

5   now?

6   MS. PIVEN: Yeah.

7   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: As far as I had

8   known, the School District had always provided

9   some level of extracurricular activity.

10   So, that is not the case anymore?

11   MR. HACKNEY: Just to clari -- the

12   difference between extracurricular activities

13   versus out-of-school time. What we are

14   supporting is out-of-school time activities.

15   Schools and school budgets that can manage those

16   extracurricular activities, like, sports or

17   certain clubs, those schools are still

18   responsible and are --

19   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

20   MR. HACKNEY: -- still responsible for

21   EC, extracurricular activities. What we are

22   doing is out-of-school time activities.

23   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: What are

24   out-of-school times? Can you define the

25   difference?

 1   MS. PIVEN: Sure. These are in

 2   partnership with the Department of Human

 3   Services, out-of-school time funded programs.

 4   So, these are five days a week, three hours a

 5   day. So, they are considered traditional

 6   out-of-school time programs. And those happen

 7   during the school year. And they also offer

 8   summer camps for six weeks, as well.

 9   So, it's investing in those types of

10   programs that, again, are five days a week,

11   three hours a day.

12   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So, I am trying to

13   understand. The difference between

14   extracurricular activities sponsored or held by

15   the Philadelphia School District versus

16   out-of-school time activities that are sponsored

17   by community schools. So, can you give me an

18   example of what are out-of-school time

19   activities?

20   MR. HACKNEY: So, you can do

21   out-of-school time and I'll do EC.

22   MS. PIVEN: So for example, at Loche

23   Elementary, we have Episcopal Community

24   Services. So, they offer various arts programs.

25   They can do STEM. Depending on the program and

1   what they are offering, it may shift. But

2   that's one of the pieces. And they offer

3   various additional activities, like, sports and

4   other things, as well.

5   MR. HACKNEY: So, like EC as a principal

6   and from a basketball coach, like, basketball is

7   an extracurricular activity that is funded by

8   the school, that would not be funded through

9   out-of-school time slots.

10   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Because I think of

11   things like art as being programs that would be

12   offered by the School District, as well. So,

13   I'm just not really clear in terms of exactly

14   what we are offering. And I guess my surprise

15   is that I thought that when we talked about

16   community schools -- I guess it's just what your

17   assumptions are.

18   But my assumption was that extra -- the

19   programs offered by community schools are

20   programs that are not traditionally offered in

21   our schools such as extracurricular activities,

22   you know, sports, art, you know, things that,

23   you know, like, programs that kids can go to

24   after school. But more neighborhood building,

25   family building, you know, community building

1   around community schools. I guess I'm not

2   really clear like how much of the out-of-school

3   time stuff are we doing, which sounds like it is

4   still important work. But how much of the other

5   community building stuff are we doing, as well?

6   Because again, that's what I think a lot

7   of folks thought of when they thought community

8   schools.

9   MS. PIVEN: Right. I think when we

10   think of community schools, we think of seven

11   different core components. One of them is

12   expanded learning time and opportunities.

13   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

14   MS. PIVEN: It's also the integrated

15   health and social supports. It's thinking about

16   specifically around school climate, as well, and

17   to your point, the family community engagement.

18   The other areas in which we are

19   investing, as well, you have seen our FY20

20   budget, are the adult literacy classes. ESL and

21   those other classes, as well. Those are held at

22   the school to bring in parents but also

23   community members, as well.

24   We also engage with the Office of Arts,

25   Culture and the Creative Economy to invest in

1   community public facing arts programs. So,

2   those could be jazz concert. Those could be

3   other things, as well. There are other key

4   investments that do bring in the community.

5   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

6   MS. PIVEN: And again, depending on the

7   needs of that specific community, there could be

8   other community-focused events and activities

9   and programs that come in.

10   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Are these programs

11   throughout the community schools network? Are

12   they evenly distributed? Or do some schools

13   have more programs than others? Or --

14   MS. PIVEN: Yeah. So, the adult

15   literacy, those are throughout the community

16   schools. And again, that is data driven. Some

17   of the schools, there wasn't as much demand or

18   need.

19   But for example, George Washington has a

20   high ESL population. So, we have actually four

21   ESL classes there. So again, it's driven by

22   need.

23   All of the community schools have the

24   arts and culture, office of -- sorry, engagement

25   with the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative

 1   Economy. Every school has that.

 2   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

 3   MS. PIVEN: And the -- the out-of-school

 4   time will be across right now. We, in FY19 as I

 5   said, we invested in elementary. But now it

 6   will be K through 12. So looking at the high

 7   school, that will mean focusing on summer jobs,

 8   as well.

 9   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So, can you

10   give us a list of -- breakdown of the programs

11   at each community school?

12   MS. PIVEN: Sure. I can provide that.

13   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That would be most

14   helpful so we can get a sense, so I understand.

15   And it does make a lot of sense that, you know,

16   you might have ESL classes in the areas where

17   there are larger -- there are larger immigrant

18   population and non-English speaking population.

19   And you want to try to be helpful there.

20   I also want to make sure that in other

21   areas where you have, you know, a majority low

22   income, minority community, the appropriate

23   program and services. Just GED services, you

24   know, that we have multiple classes there, you

25   know, things of that nature. I would like to

1   see a list if you can provide that to the

2   President, that would be fantastic.

3   I still have time, right? Okay.

4   Also, I -- I just wanted to ask

5   regarding community schools in terms of impact

6   and how we measure success. So now, I did see

7   in your testimony that there were a couple of

8   performance measures which didn't really answer

9   my question in terms of how we are measuring the

10   success of the programs that we are placing in

11   our community schools.

12   MS. PIVEN: One of the pieces that --

13   the key outcome or the key benchmark we are

14   looking is driving towards attendance. So,

15   really working to be --

16   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Attendance.

17   MS. PIVEN: Yeah. To really thinking

18   about the programs that we are investing in and

19   the ways in which we are connecting with

20   community and looking at how that's driving

21   increases in improvements in student attendance

22   is one of our key benchmarks. But we will

23   certainly have internal measures for each of the

24   programs in which we are investing and working

25   with to make sure that they are on progress

1   depending on what their key metrics are.

2   So for example, the adult literacy

3   classes would have different metrics that we

4   would be looking at, as well.

5   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Is there a

6   way to break that down so that it's a little

7   more obvious to us in terms of what those

8   measurements are for success? Because again,

9   from what was provided, I just don't get a clear

10   sense of, you know, what we are doing, how we

11   are making sure we are coming out on top.

12   I certainly understand attendance and

13   making sure that we increase attendance wherever

14   possible. You know, that's very, very

15   important. I see we went from 42 percent to

16   about 60 percent according to your document.

17   MS. PIVEN: On attendance?

18   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

19   MS. PIVEN: That's the target.

20   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Oh, that's the

21   target. Okay.

22   MS. PIVEN: Yeah.

23   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I should put my

24   glasses on. Okay.

25   But your target -- I see. Your target

1   is 60 percent. So -- but if we can have some

2   additional information in terms of -- how are we

3   getting there? How are we, you know, measuring

4   these milestones along the way? How are we

5   making sure that we reach the performance that

6   we are really trying to get? And I think that

7   the programs that are offered are very valuable,

8   very important.

9   But also, you know, just some of the --

10   when you peel back the onion, why are we doing

11   what we are doing? And why does this make

12   sense? And just really being able to lay that

13   out in a comprehensive argument would really be

14   helpful to us.

15   MS. PIVEN: Happy to.

16   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.

17   President. Do I -- I have more. Can I keep --

18   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Let me get

19   Councilwoman and come right back to you.

20   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

21   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Chair

22   recognizes Councilwoman Gym.

23   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much,

24   Council President.

25   So, I want to follow up on some of my

 1   colleagues conversation about the community

 2   schools model. You know, we held a teacher town

 3   hall. And one of the top things that were

 4   raised repeatedly with and among teachers was

 5   the importance of prioritizing behavioral and

 6   mental health conditions in our schools, and how

 7   little support that many teachers continue to

 8   feel with larger class sizes, with the depletion

 9   of counselors, with not having anymore classroom

10   aides, with not having as many NTAs as used to

11   exist.

12   You know, we have got -- we have got

13   classrooms of 30 plus. And then you have got

14   unmonitored hallways, bathrooms, cafeterias,

15   recess yards where there is no, like, navigation

16   of young people's ability to work with one

17   another. We see, you know -- Mr. Hackney, you

18   and I have worked together around issues on

19   racial harassment and bias, about sexual

20   harassment that occurs in these spaces when

21   young people -- I mean, this is not a natural

22   thing that they should know how to do this. We

23   understand that spaces have to be navigated and

24   young people have to be taught.

25   So you know, this is a place where I've

1 been really glad to work with CBH and the School

2 District to bring back that social worker

3 program to expand the concept of bringing social

4 workers that are paid for on the City side hired

5 by the School District, and to double the number

6 of social workers in schools but also reformat

7 social workers so that they actually serve the

8 whole school and not individual children so that

9 we are rising the old C-Sat model of having

10 millions of dollars wrap around individual kids,

11 but having the whole school feel kind of bereft

12 of certain supports.

13   And I've also been really impressed by

14 Gideon School and their effort to expand on the

15 behavioral health suite and have like a calming

16 down room. Dobbins students under the

17 leadership of Toni Damon distribute fresh

18 produce to their communities while learning

19 about the value of nutrition.

20   So you know, the question that I guess I

21 have is how much of the community schools

22 looking to validate an understanding that mental

23 behavioral health, as it relates to children's

24 ability to navigate the school environment, is

25 actually like directly impacting the climate at

1   the school and, hopefully, leading towards

2   opportunities for academic success?

3   MR. HACKNEY: Thank you for the

4   question. I think what we have done, and in the

5   Mayor's Office of Education and to highlight

6   from my testimony this morning, was working with

7   other City departments. We have really great

8   relationships with those City departments. And

9   I think some of them are probably coming up this

10   afternoon to talk about supports that we put in

11   schools and great partnership with the School

12   District.

13   That's why we asked Karyn Lynch to join

14   us today to talk about those exact services that

15   are taking place, but to highlight the level of

16   partnership that we have between the Mayor's

17   Office of Education and those City departments

18   and the School District.

19   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yeah. And I

20   definitely appreciate Karyn Lynch being here.

21   Thank you so much.

22   But I really do want to ask the Mayor's

23   Office of Education to what extent you are

24   prioritizing the community -- I mean, the

25   behavioral and mental health needs of young

 1   people in the community schools model?

 2   What is it looking like?

 3   I see it very clearly at Gideon. We

 4   have to complement by pushing for a school

 5   security officer and other types of thing. But

 6   what is the Mayor's Office -- like, how does

 7   mental behavioral health fit into your

 8   understanding of what community schools can and

 9   should do? And how are you evaluating it? And

10   what kind of supports are -- is the City giving

11   not so much the School District doing, but the

12   City giving towards that effort.

13   MR. HACKNEY: So, one, it's one of our

14   core components in terms of integrated health

15   services. We have out of our community schools

16   eight -- in our Step Programs, where they do

17   have a social worker in those buildings.

18   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Every community

19   school has a social worker?

20   MR. HACKNEY: No, eight.

21   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Eight.

22   MR. HACKNEY: Of those schools have --

23   if I am correct.

24   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Would you want every

25   community school to have a social worker? I

1   mean, wouldn't that be something that --

2   MR. HACKNEY: Is that Otis Hackney pie

3   in the sky?

4   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: No.   This is not pie

5   in the sky.

6   MR. HACKNEY: So in terms of -- I think

7   that is in terms of the partnership that we have

8   between the City departments and the district

9   are helping us to determine what the right

10   number is because of the complexity of that

11   work.

12   Karyn, do you want to speak to --

13   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I don't think so.   I

14   mean, I would like to know would the Mayor's

15   Office of Education push to have a social worker

16   in every community school?

17   MR. HACKNEY: We will work with those

18   departments to see if that is possible.   If it

19   was something in terms of providing the

20   supports, especially where you would want to

21   prioritize schools first that would need that

22   social worker, we would work with the District

23   and other City departments to see if we can make

24   that happen.

25   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Because my

1 understanding is that CBH may actually be

2 expanding the social worker model. And if that

3 is the case, would the Mayor's Office make the

4 case community schools should have top priority

5 for any additional social workers. Are they

6 looking to do -- is that a --

7   MR. HACKNEY: We are at the table on

8 those discussions. I mean, those discussions

9 between CBH and the School District and

10 community schools, we are at the table in terms

11 of how those resources are designated. Just --

12 but we want to be very thoughtful to schools

13 that are community schools. But other district

14 schools also may be of high need that have not

15 been designated community schools at this time.

16   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: When the community

17 schools did a survey of need amongst its own --

18 I think you did an early survey, right? What

19 would you say was the number one need that was

20 cited by most of the schools?

21   MR. HACKNEY: I am trying to remember

22 from Year One.

23   MS. PIVEN: I would certainly say

24 behavioral health was a key need. And again, to

25 reiterate what Otis said, I mean, we -- the

 1   community stools are part of the Step Program.

 2   Part of the Step Program because they are

 3   community schools. They are being prioritized.

 4   And so in that sense, we are working

 5   with the departments to make sure that community

 6   schools are prioritized. But again, that is a

 7   conversation with the School District looking,

 8   obviously, to your point, looking at the data,

 9   making sure that it's the right resource for

10   that school.

11   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Is there any downside

12   to social workers in schools?

13   MS. PIVEN: I can't --

14   MS. LYNCH: No.

15   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I mean, part of the

16   reason why I ask because I think this is a newer

17   partnership and we are trying to build out a

18   sense of understanding public will. To the

19   extent that -- I mean, the School District is

20   already working hard in this area. CBH is

21   working hard in this area. I think what I am

22   trying to understand is whether the Mayor's

23   Office of Education is not just at the table,

24   but whether there is a big push in this area.

25   That this is an area where, I think, you know,

 1   when we talk about integration or complementing

 2   City services with our -- with our School

 3   District, this is one of the areas where we have

 4   DHS social workers and CBH. And we have got

 5   federal grant access.

 6   Is there a possibility that, like, a

 7   unified push together between the district and

 8   CBH, DHS and the Mayor's Office of Ed can

 9   actually help accomplish what many people

10   thought was impossible, which was to really get

11   a synergy around this effort?

12   MR. HACKNEY: The answer to that would

13   be yes. We would very much like to see that.

14   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay. I will come

15   back for a couple other questions.

16   Thank you.

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

18   Councilwoman.

19   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council

21   President.

22   Good afternoon. A few questions.

23   First one is, how many of the PreK

24   providers have had their Keystone stars rating

25   upgraded since taking part in Philadelphia PreK?

1   MS. BROWN: At the initial start of the

2   program, we had 39 goal providers. So, 35 of

3   those folks have moved into quality. And we

4   have had three that have exited the system since

5   the initial start. So, those folks did not

6   move. But the folks that are still here, 35 of

7   them have moved.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you.

9   The performance measures show that

10   through December there were 2,120 students

11   enrolled in the Philadelphia PreK. Any idea how

12   many might be enrolled now?

13   MS. BROWN: Currently, as of

14   March 2019 -- I apologize -- we have 2,160

15   approved enrollments for PHL PreK.

16   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 2,160?

17   MS. BROWN: Yes.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I don't

19   remember the numbers when we approved the

20   program. What is the rough cost per seat in

21   PreK?

22   MS. BROWN: The allocation for providers

23   is $8,500.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 8,500?

25   MS. BROWN: Yes. And that is aligned to

1   the state rate for PreK counts providers, as

2   well.

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And of the 33 million

4   proposed for the PHMC contract, is there any way

5   we can see a breakdown of how much of that is

6   for administrative costs?

7   MS. BROWN: Yeah. Their admin cost is

8   10 percent, but we can definitely break down the

9   numbers for you. Yes, it's 10 percent.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: The records that I

11   have, I just want to verify this. The Beverage

12   Tax so far has generated about 137 million

13   through Fiscal Year 19 and 31.7 million has been

14   spent or about 23.2 percent on PreK; 3.5 million

15   or 2.5 percent has been spent on community

16   schools; 605,000 or four-tenths of a percent

17   were spent on Rebuild, which means there is

18   about 101 million or 74 percent remaining in the

19   General Fund.

20   Can we get a verification of those

21   numbers?

22   MR. HACKNEY: We can get back to you

23   on -- to verify those numbers, yes.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay.

25   And then the last question is, I am a

1   big -- this Council a few weeks ago passed a

2   resolution asking the State of Pennsylvania to

3   provide and require mandatory PreK to 12th grade

4   financial literacy, mandatory technology and

5   coding courses toward our PreK to 12th grade,

6   entrepreneurship courses 7th to 12th grade, and

7   allowing students in high school to work one day

8   a week, 9th to 12th grade on a job, and get

9   credit for that work.

10   Now, the state has to make that happen.

11 I don't know when that will happen. But for a

12 moment, we are talking about community schools.

13 Is there any way we could adopt some of those

14 ideas into the community schools?

15   For example, like financial literacy and

16 maybe some of the technology?

17   MS. PIVEN: Yes. Yeah. And one of the

18 areas in which we are beginning to partner more

19 deeply is with the Office of Workforce

20 Development around really thinking about how we

21 put in place a career development framework.

22 So, I think this would be a nice -- a great

23 place to make that connection.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me be more

25 specific with you. You know, the Federal

1   Reserve has a program to teach financial

2   literacy. And if we can provide the funding for

3   it, not through your budget, would you be

4   willing to commit to having the teachers and the

5   community schools take the program at the

6   Federal Reserve? They get paid for their time.

7   They get paid for the course.

8   We already have had 122 school teachers,

9   including PreK, go through the financial

10 literacy courses. Are now teaching over 3,000

11 students. I am trying to make the community

12 schools the model where maybe we can get every

13 teacher to teach financial literacy in community

14 schools.

15   MS. PIVEN: Okay. Yes. We will explore

16 that with the School District.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So, can we reach out

18 to my office? I would like to see that happen.

19   MS. PIVEN: Okay.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.

21   Thank you, Mr. President.

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

23 Councilman.

24   Before I call on Councilwoman Gym, I am

25 going to revisit my earlier questions.

 1   Community schools. Community schools are

 2   supposed to be way beyond, just from my

 3   perspective -- I know you guys, we pass the

 4   money. We appropriate. We vote the tax. It

 5   goes to the executive branch. And the executive

 6   branch kind of, like, okay, we got the money.

 7   We are going to do what we going to do. Which

 8   is -- that's part of the deal, right?

 9   It's a lot of that going down on

10   Washington. Saying, oh, you can't have the

11   money for the fence -- and I'm not comparing the

12   two. But when you gave us money over here, we

13   are going to spend it on the fence, the wall.

14   So this whole -- this response on the

15   community schools, I'm really not comfortable

16   with that about your Five Year Plan for no

17   capital improvement, this issue about after

18   school. You know, every time we go to a

19   building, you go to a community and the whole

20   premise about community schools was the -- we

21   didn't have all different types of services and

22   neighborhoods, just the whole spin where we were

23   convincing people, this is the way to go. But

24   there is a school in every neighborhood. There

25   may not be a doctor in every neighborhood, a

1   clinic. There may not be a library in every

2   neighborhood. There may not be this and that,

3   but there is a school in every neighborhood in

4   the City.

5   And the community school is supposed to

6   be the beacon. So, it's best possible if we can

7   expand those afterschool services -- you know,

8   we go to a school and we -- yesterday. Thank

9   you again for yesterday. We are talking about

10 the ability to use the school in after hours for

11 really good programs. And you know, it's like

12 16,000 -- I forget what the number was, they

13 were being asked to pay. The local community

14 group.

15   Why are we doing -- why aren't we

16 utilizing the community school money, the PreK

17 money -- sorry, the Beverage Tax money, to go

18 beyond simply hiring school coordinators. We

19 got some good school coordinators. I mean, why

20 are we not using this money for genuine

21 community schools? I mean, adult opportunities,

22 you know, recreational opportunities. All the

23 things we should have -- if you want to just

24 keep it to operational, you know.

25   Say, okay, I can't spend it on capital

1   for whatever reason. I don't understand that.

2   Then why don't we use that money to pay for the

3   engineer and all the other things that are

4   required to keep schools open in the after

5   hours? I mean, this very narrowly tailored

6   community school model, I'm really not feeling.

7   MS. PIVEN: It maybe that I

8   misunderstood when you talked about capital

9   investments. So, the community schools model,

10   community schools are paying to keep buildings

11   open for community activities. So the adult --

12   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: They are?

13   MS. PIVEN: Yes.

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You have to

15   be a community school to have the building open

16   after hours to get paid for -- we went through

17   the school, not to cut you off.

18   But we went to a school, and all the

19   schools you got to pay -- these community groups

20   have to pay to keep the schools open after

21   hours.

22   MR. HACKNEY: Correct. That has been a

23   policy of the District in terms of --

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I know.

25   MR. HACKNEY: When organizations want to

1   use the building after hours or weekends, that

2   they would have to pay a certain cost. With

3   community schools, if there are programs that

4   are in partnership with us or certain programs.

5   Like at Dobbins, Dobbins is open on

6   Saturday. There are number of programs that

7   take place.

8   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Paid

9   for by beverage money?

10   MR. HACKNEY: It is under the community

11   school's umbrella.

12   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

13   MR. HACKNEY: I think what is not

14   highlighted in our budget detail are actual

15   programs and events that are taking place. And

16   I think what might be helpful is, I mean, we

17   can -- because we do weekly reports. That we

18   can provide summaries by school of different

19   type of events and activities taking place after

20   school and on weekends that are in partnership

21   with our office and those in the district in

22   those schools.

23   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

24   MR. HACKNEY: It's hard to capture all

25   of those in terms of, you know, food drive

 1   activities to, like I said, the adult education

 2   classes that are taking place. But also, you

 3   know, like to highlight Dobbins. Like Get Fit

 4   Saturdays at Dobbins are, you know -- they are

 5   well attended by members in that community.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

 7   MR. HACKNEY: To even programs -- I'm --

 8   Christine can probably speak to it better. In

 9   terms of there is a partnership with adults that

10   are going into the culinary arts field and

11   trainings that have been hosted in partnership

12   with our community schools. And Dr. Damon is a

13   great partner with that. We can highlight

14   programs.

15   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You are doing

16   that.

17   MR. HACKNEY: Oh, yeah.

18   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I will

19   withdraw -- I will withdraw that, and I will

20   ship back to capital. All right.

21   So but I did -- just want to say, thank

22   you for that information. Because the need is

23   way beyond just the simply just the daytime

24   hours. It's probably to some degree more so

25   because we have to deal with the adult

1 population in these neighborhoods. You know, we

2 are making progress with our children. But we

3 are not making nearly the progress that I would

4 like to see for the adult educational process,

5 skills gap, the whole nine yards dealing with

6 poverty.

7   Those community schools are really

8 something that we should utilize in full force.

9 I am glad to hear we are doing that. All right.

10 Okay. Just wanted to piggyback on that to

11 emphasize the importance of that.

12   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gym.

13   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much,

14 Council President.

15   So one of the -- I'm interested in

16 learning and hearing from you, like, what you

17 are learning about community engagement and our

18 community schools. In particular, do community

19 schools manage parent and community engagement

20 different from district schools that you feel

21 like?

22   You know, I have heard from a lot of

23 caregivers and organizations, institutions about

24 the struggles that many schools have to

25 maintain, you know, like what you used to be a

 1   parent ombudsman role, a community-based role to

 2   help people navigate attendance issues, academic

 3   supports, behavioral concerns. And you know,

 4   the loss of that parent ombudsman community

 5   contact has been profound for some of the

 6   communities.

 7   So, to what extent do community schools

 8   have a different point of contact for parents

 9   and other community members? And is that

10   something that the community school coordinator

11   directly plays in our youth study in any way?

12   MS. PIVEN: I think it -- sorry. I

13   think it depends on the school and -- but there

14   is -- there is a relationship with the face

15   staff that's there and the community school

16   coordinator and really thinking about how to

17   work with parents but also with the community,

18   as well.

19   One of the areas that we are working to

20   focus on is as we move forward in FY20, is we

21   put in an application for Vista to really think

22   about how to structure more parent and community

23   involvement in the school in discrete ways, so

24   being able to make that a stronger structure.

25   Yeah. Does that answer?

 1   MR. HACKNEY: So, in terms of additional

 2   pieces, our offices work very closely with the

 3   principal.

 4   I know in our schools, in terms of like

 5   when it comes to parent/student surveys, trying

 6   to increase the number of responses because that

 7   information is beneficial to us and to the

 8   district and, obviously, those principals and

 9   those buildings. And also, what they are able

10   to do during their school day because they are

11   not limited to the building, so they can go and

12   do continuous outreach to different partners

13   that are in the community and align resources

14   that are there, so that way they can do that

15   additional outreach.

16   To highlight a program that just

17   happened is at Gideon where our students worked

18   with a City department and did an asset map of

19   their community and Strawberry Mansion. And so,

20   there was the students out learning about what

21   resources or lack thereof. They learned a lot

22   about their community. But that was in a

23   program that took place over a number of weeks.

24   And they presented their findings here in the

25   City around regarding Strawberry Mansion.

1   So, that level of outreach at Gideon

2   at -- so working, you know, from the outside in

3   but also getting the students out to look at

4   their neighborhood in a different way. We also

5   include in terms of that, how they engage people

6   in the community but also the community itself.

7   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I want to say that

8   I'm very deeply invested in the community

9   schools model. I think it's something that we

10 fought for, for a long time.

11   I think people have really thought

12 about, you know, what ultimately it should be

13 able to do especially when we are trying to

14 define a much healthier and holistic vision of

15 not only the rights of a child, but the role of

16 public schools in a complicated 21st Century,

17 especially in our City, where there is a lot of

18 competition around other alternatives.

19   I would just urge you to, especially as

20 the community schools coordinator, that depends

21 on the schools is not exactly the best approach.

22 Like we want -- part of the issue is that we

23 want a disciplined approach towards how we look

24 at the very limited resources that both you and

25 the School District have. And the strongest

1   thing that we lacked in the prior Administration

2   was the ability to integrate the City's

3   services, our strengths as a City, with real

4   deficits within the School District. I would

5   say that one of them, which has been clearly

6   identifies, is around behavioral mental health.

7   And that there is a lot of opportunity to do

8   that.

9   But the other one is around that

10   community input. I know that Mr. Hackney knows

11   this really well. But that many communities

12   feel so isolated. And you know, once you burn

13   that bridge with the community member or a

14   parent, those things last a long time and people

15   lose trust and they talk about it.

16   But on a very much more serious level,

17   truancy is one of the number one reasons why

18   children are removed from families. It has

19   massive consequences. You know, if the School

20   District does not have the ability to meet the

21   needs of parents and community members who are

22   trying to figure this out or we're not following

23   up, you know, the community school ability to

24   address attendance, truancy, would go a long way

25   towards, like, meeting a lot of City problems,

1   not just School District issues. But it is a

2   really close alignment.

3   So, we can talk further. Yeah. Thank

4   you.

5   And then the last question I have is, as

6   you expand to 20 more community schools, what

7   are the metrics that you are using to look at

8   this last batch of schools? And you know,

9   the -- you have a huge number of schools, dozens

10   of schools who are clamoring to be part of the

11   model.

12   What are you hoping to fill out? What

13   are school that you think are missing from your

14   cohort that you hope to include in terms of

15   better understanding what the possibilities are

16   of this model?

17   MS. PIVEN: I think part of what we are

18   looking at in terms of picking the next set of

19   schools is looking at their SBR scores, looking

20   at the youth poverty in that area. We are also

21   doing site visits with various schools to really

22   understand the leadership's capacity and

23   willingness to take on this model and really

24   think about where they are in their process of

25   embracing the community school model in terms of

1   their existing partnerships and such.

2   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: All right.

3   Thank you.

4   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

5   Councilwoman. That appears to be all the

6   questions for the Mayor's Office of Education.

7   We are going to take a break till around

8   1:45. At which time, we will hear from the

9   Managing Director's Office.

10   Thank you.

11   - - -

12   (Break taken at 12:58 p.m.)

13   - - -

14   (Hearings resumed at 1:56 p.m)

15 (Councilman Greenlee sitting in as Chair.)

16   - - -

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Let's resume the

18   hearings. Next office is the Managing

19   Director's Office.

20   (Panel approaches Witness Table.)

21   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good afternoon,

22   please.

23   Mr. Abernathy.

24   MR. ABERNATHY: Good afternoon,

25   Councilman Greenlee and Councilman Jones and

 1   Members of the Committee. My name is Brian

 2   Abernathy. I'm the City's Managing Director.

 3   I'm joined today with Tumar Alexander, my First

 4   Deputy; and Chris Rupe, my Chief of Staff.

 5   We have submitted our testimony for the

 6   record. And we are happy to answer any

 7   questions.

 8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That really is

 9   brief. You've been around here a few times,

10   haven't you? Okay.

11   I know the general subject was

12   approached this morning I think with Mr. Engler.

13   But we notice in the budget there is a number of

14   items that were put in by City Council that are

15   removed in this year's budget including Energy

16   Authority, Animal Control, CLIP, you now,

17   reduction in say Philadelphia Prevention

18   Project. Was there any -- you know, I think you

19   know individual Councilmembers are particularly

20   interested in this.

21   Was there any discussion with them

22   before this reduction?

23   MR. ABERNATHY: You know, I think as the

24   budget was put together, we all have to try and

25   prioritize what that solution --

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Little closer to

 2   the mic, Brian, please.

 3   MR. ABERNATHY: As we put together the

 4   budget, we all have to figure out our priorities

 5   as we move forward. I think as always, a

 6   conversation. I see the budget process as a

 7   conversation. And this is the initial

 8   submission. But certainly, I don't expect this

 9   budget to be passed in its current form.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No. And we know

11   that. I guess it's just the -- you know, a lot

12   of these things you have to assume

13   Councilmembers are going to be interested again.

14   And to just take them out and say, okay, it's

15   almost like, okay, now it's a new request.

16   Well, it's not really a new request because we

17   have it in there. We requested it before.

18   So it's -- I -- for the record, it sits

19   a little -- doesn't sit a little right with some

20   of the members, I would say.

21   MR. ABERNATHY: Understood.

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Particularly on,

23   you know, we have talked about the animal

24   control issue. And the whole idea to get to the

25   No Kill aspect or make this a No Kill City. I

1   know we talked about that Vector control issue

2   with them moving at some point.

3   Is that anywhere close? Because that

4   will give more room, right, to have in the

5   building up there.

6   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, sir. So, we have

7   explored moving Vector from the building which

8   would allow Animal Control to expand. There are

9   significant costs associated with that for the

10   Health Department. We haven't been able to

11   figure out how to prioritize those costs over

12   some of our other key core programs.

13   I think having said that, we are still

14   investing in Animal Control from our submitted

15   budget last year. We are increasing by a

16   hundred thousand dollars in their general

17   operating budget. We have also, in the capital

18   budget, are covering -- are paying for a new

19   roof for the building as well as new kennels.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Now, what is the

21   200,000 reduction that we understand in the

22   budget? What is that? What is that for?

23   Trying to remember.

24   MR. ABERNATHY: So, it was general

25   operating support that was added at the end of

1   the budget cycle last year. We are able to,

2   without any additional dollars from the

3   general -- from the budget, we are able to

4   maintain. That reduction is actually going to

5   be a hundred thousand as we -- as we --

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sorry, say

7   again.

8   MR. ABERNATHY: We are actually adding.

9   That original $200,000 decrease was part of the

10   Caucus Amendment through the Managing Director's

11   work on our budget. We are actually increasing

12   the original FY19 allocation by $100,000. You

13   actually will see an increase from FY19 from

14   4.26 million to 4.36 million.

15   You are actually seeing an increase, not

16   a decrease.

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. All right.

18   Okay. One other thing, and I know Councilman

19   Jones has some questions.

20   CLIP we know is very popular. And this

21   is my last budget meeting to or budget time to

22   recognize the Tom Conway annual appreciation

23   day. But I -- from our understanding is there

24   is 100,000 reduction in that; is that accurate?

25   And is that what because --

 1   MR. ABERNATHY: So --

 2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: None of us like to

 3   see -- most want to see CLIP expanded more than

 4   reduced. Do you know what that is about?

 5   MR. ABERNATHY: So last year, there was

 6   an increase of $100,000 at the end of the budget

 7   process for alley trees. We are actually

 8   increasing CLIP from FY19 estimated obligation

 9   of $6.43 million to $6.64 million. So, an

10   increase of $216,000.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. But you

12   took out the 100,000 for the -- I'm a little

13   lost there, trying to figure that out. The

14   alley trees, I know you hear a lot of members

15   talk about that.

16   MR. ABERNATHY: Certainly. There is

17   ways we can address the alley trees, as well. I

18   think we have increased -- we recognize that

19   CLIP is an important function of the City.

20   Managing Director's Office is certainly

21   committed to the program and to Mr. Conway to

22   make sure that he continues to provide the great

23   services to all of our District Councilmembers.

24   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I guess if

25   the Council President was sitting here, he would

1   note that the things that Council put in there

2   you are taking out, but you are putting other

3   things in, correct?

4   MR. ABERNATHY: We are trying to manage

5   our budget the best that we can recognizing what

6   Council's priorities are but also what the

7   Administration's priorities are. That is why we

8   are able to find the additional funding for

9   Animal Control. That's why we were able to find

10   additional funning for CLIP in our current

11   allocation.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And one last thing

13   that appears to be in here, which is fairly

14   significant. And I know Councilwoman Gym and

15   others, including myself, been interested in.

16   It's the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention

17   Project. We are told $850,000 reduction?

18   MR. ABERNATHY: So, it's actually a

19   $350,000 reduction. We are funding the Eviction

20   Defense Fund at a level of 500,000. That's our

21   original proposal. Again, this is a proposal we

22   expect to continue in conversations through the

23   budget cycle. This is important work. We

24   recognize the success of the program. It's work

25   that we have every intention of continuing.

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

 2   MR. ABERNATHY: But again, we are trying

 3   to work -- trying to balance budgets as we go

 4   forward. Again, this is a starting point.

 5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I got you. A lot

 6   of priorities out there.

 7   MR. ABERNATHY: Lot of priorities.

 8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I get you. I

 9   understand. I understand. There is one other

10   thing, but I have a feeling Councilman Jones may

11   mention this, so I am going to leave it alone.

12   Councilman Jones.

13   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

14   Mr. Chairman. And by the way, about your last

15   budget hearing, there is an aggressive write-in

16   campaign as we speak being organized.

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If elected, I

18   refuse to serve. How about that?

19   (Laughter)

20   COUNCILMAN JONES: That's pretty

21   definitive.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Councilman Domb tried

23   that, also.

24   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, good afternoon.

25   And particularly, congratulations as you now are

1   in the big chair as Managing Director. And

2   congratulations. That's a classic case of

3   working your way up. I remember when you were

4   on our side of the aisle, frustrated with the

5   questions and answers that sometimes the

6   Administration would or would not provide. So,

7   everybody gets a fair turn.

8   I would like to focus my questions on a

9   couple of areas. One, criminal justice reform

10   and the evolution of that being implemented by

11   your office. And also, the violence prevention

12   effort that you've kind of undertaken, as well.

13   So you came in and jumped head first in the

14   pool.

15   So, we would like to get some responses

16   to that and get a sense of particularly, we have

17   had hearings on the plan. And it is an

18   ambitious plan that is multifaceted. It

19   incorporates partnerships with the community.

20   It incorporates breaking down silos of

21   departments that have holistic participation.

22   And we think that is good. Now, the question I

23   have is how we paying for it.

24   Question being, is a lot of those

25   dollars already existing dollars? And how much

1   of those dollars are additional funds being

2   added to the effort? So Julie, you should

3   already be working your way up here.

4   (Witness approaches table.)

5   COUNCILMAN JONES: And also, I mean, you

6   know you coming next. We want to kind of get a

7   better sense of that And which departments,

8   particularly, are going to bear that burden of

9   financing this effort. And I want to thank you

10   publicly for taking on this task. This is --

11   you could have done -- you could have gone

12   anywhere in government. You chose violence

13   prevention.

14   So, if you can give a brief overview for

15   people who may not have heard about the plan.

16   But also, sharing the responsibility of funding

17   that plan and then we will go to you.

18   MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Vanessa

19   Garrett-Harley, Deputy Managing Director for

20   Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The

21   Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities is a

22   Five Year Comprehensive Plan around violence

23   prevention as well as violence reduction. It is

24   looking at the violence in the City, gun

25   violence in particular as the Mayor has

1   rightfully called it out as a public health

2   crisis and taking public health approach as to

3   how do we address the violence in the City.

4   It is a sort of comprehension because we

5   are trying to look at the root causes of the

6   violence. While certainly there is a

7   significant portion of the plan that does

8   involve collaboration and our work with the

9   Police Department, it also involves many

10 additional City agencies as we try to look at

11 what other services, communities, as well as the

12 victims and the perpetrators of those crimes may

13 need to be able to change the trend as,

14 unfortunately, we are currently trending upwards

15 in the numbers of shootings and homicides in the

16 City.

17   COUNCILMAN JONES: I guess my question

18 becomes -- I think the number that has ranged is

19 $34 million in addressing that effort. And what

20 I want to guess is how much of that is existing

21 dollars? How much of that is new

22 appropriations?

23   MR. ABERNATHY: Sure. It's actually

24 $31 million commitment over five years.

25   COUNCILMAN JONES: I was trying for four

 1   more.

 2   MR. ABERNATHY: I understand. It's

 3   $31.4 million commitment. All of that is in new

 4   funding. Some of it was added in FY19. It was

 5   funding that did not exist prior to FY19. The

 6   funding is broken down in the Managing

 7   Director's Office between three programs for a

 8   million dollars total. That is 500,000 for

 9   CCIP, the Community Crisis Intervention Program;

10   another $250,000 in addition to YVRP's base

11   funding; and another $250,000 for community

12   grants. With the FY19 dollars should carryover.

13   So, we should have about 750,000 to a million

14   dollar pool for community grants in FY20.

15   In addition, the Police Department is

16   being funded at 1.7 million in FY20. L&I is

17   receiving funding of 1.75 for blight

18   remediation. And the MDO is receiving another

19   nearly a million dollars in FY20, which will

20   increase to over 3 million by the end of FY24

21   for neighborhood resource centers.

22   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, that's -- that's

23   the price tag. How are we doing on

24   collaboration within the departments? You have

25   DHS. You have the Police Department and others.

1   How is that working?

2   MR. ABERNATHY: I actually feel over the

3   past -- I am going to actually take a step back.

4   What we have learned in the Resilience Project

5   in Kensington, is the importance of breaking

6   down barriers, breaking down boundaries,

7   breaking down silos. And I think we've also

8   been able to create a different level of

9   engagement between departments.

10   I will let Vanessa speak in more detail.

11   But I believe that the collaboration between

12   departments is stronger than it's ever been

13   certainly in my tenure on the Administration

14   side. And I believe that -- this is what --

15   this is what having a strong chief operating

16   officer should be able to provide. Ways for all

17   of -- all of my deputies, who are working in

18   different clusters who may have different

19   perspectives come to bear, have solid

20   conversations and create a plan that we can

21   implement. And then, if there are portions of

22   that plan that aren't effective, be able to make

23   changes and adjust quickly.

24   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, reason I say that

25   is because in Game of Thrones, they say "Winter

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 1   is Coming."  In Philadelphia we say, "Summer is
 2   Coming," and that's the exact opposite.
 3             MS. GARRETT-HARLEY:  So, the
 4   collaboration amongst the various City
 5   departments are going extremely well.  Not only
 6   were they part of the work group that helped
 7   create the plan, but we have built into the plan
 8   a governing structure which includes
 9   implementation team so that we can make sure
10   that the plan actually gets implemented and does
11   not just become another piece of paper.
12             The implementation team is chaired by
13   myself and Police Commissioner Ross.  And we
14   meet every other week because we understand the
15   importance of it.  So you can imagine, at that
16   implementation team table is the executive level
17   of the various departments.  Some of the key
18   departments is Office of Workforce Development.
19   School District is there.  The Department of
20   Behavioral Health, the Department of Health.
21   DHS is there, Parks and Rec, all of the integral
22   parts of the plan is there.  And everybody is
23   working quite well together, so that we can
24   overlay the stuff.  And we do understand the
25   urgency of the work that we have undertaken in.
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1   In particular, understanding the summer

2   and the hot water is coming, which sometimes

3   impacts the work we are doing.

4   COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, I am encouraged

5   to hear that. That this Administration, Mayor

6   Kenney has committed us to not only putting his

7   money where his mouth is by appropriations, but

8   the memo goes to the various departments to

9   understand that from top down, we are a part of

10   a team to address this. That's what I

11   appreciate.

12   They talked about the resource center.

13   I always call them day reporting centers. But

14   they are actually Philadelphia -- what do you

15   call them, Julie? Sorry. What's the new name?

16   MS. WERTHEIMER: Julie Wertheimer,

17   Senior Director, Office of Criminal Justice.

18   They are Neighborhood Resource Centers is what

19   we have landed on for now, Councilman. And as

20   you know, we are excited to see them come to

21   fruition in the form of pilot funding for FY20.

22   The intention is building on collaboration

23   through the MacArthur funded efforts and other

24   efforts. But it will allow us to co-locate

25   services, both community-based services and City

1   services along with probation officers so that

2   people and, specifically, the medium to high

3   risk population can report to their probation

4   officer somewhere in or close to their community

5   rather than downtown while also having access to

6   an array of supportive services.

7   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, for those of us

8   who don't speak fluent government, that is a

9   situation where instead of going to State Road,

10   people can be deferred to a location where they

11   still have an oweness to be responsible for

12   their acts, but also getting a portion of that

13   time to work on whatever the causal effects are

14   for criminal behavior, and in a cost effective

15   manner in engaging the community in the process;

16   is that right?

17   MS. WERTHEIMER: Right. And recognizing

18   that some of these folks may have transportation

19   barriers that may make it difficult for them to

20   report, you know, now probation is at 7th and

21   Market, and so getting down there. Whereas, if

22   they can go to somewhere that's a few blocks

23   from their home, they are more likely to be able

24   to go and be in compliance with the terms of

25   their probation.

 1   COUNCILMAN JONES: So similar, how are

 2   you finding the breaking down of traditional

 3   silos going in this process?

 4   MS. WERTHEIMER: So, I think we have

 5   been fortunate with our partners in the courts,

 6   DA, the Defender in addition to all of the City

 7   departments that are involved in the criminal

 8   justice work in that we have been collaborating

 9   under the MacArthur Grant since 2015, which has

10   lead to a 43 percent jail reduction in the jail

11   population since. And we use that table and

12   that structure to kind of create an outgrowth,

13   you know, with your leadership for the

14   Neighborhood Resource Centers.

15   And it fits into all of the other

16   efforts. We were recently refunded by the

17   MacArthur Foundation for $4 million for the next

18   two years. And there is significant probation

19   reform or new programs in that grant. And so,

20   NRCs fits with that, fits with the Philadelphia

21   Roadmap for Safer Communities and a lot of our

22   other efforts.

23   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, we have gone on a

24   lot of road trips from New York to other

25   counties to look how it's done there. One of

 1   the big issues is probation. How are we working

 2   with our partners there?

 3   MS. WERTHEIMER: Chief Miller, who just

 4   assumed the role of chief, has been an engaged

 5   parter on a lot of our collaborative works. And

 6   she was deputy chief. And so, I think that we

 7   are working to carefully craft numerous ways to

 8   address those who are in on violations of

 9   probation as the largest driver of our jail

10   population right now.

11   While trying to take a holistic approach

12   of looking at the whole system, we never try to

13   focus on one singular issue or singular

14   department because that can perpetuate the

15   silos. Instead, we try to look at all the

16   different pieces.

17   COUNCILMAN JONES: A large task to say

18   the least.

19   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Councilman, if I

20   could.

21   COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah. I'm going to

22   stop.

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Give everybody a

24   chance here.

25   COUNCILMAN JONES: Any location yet?

 1   MS. WERTHEIMER: We do not have a

 2   location.

 3   COUNCILMAN JONES: Good answer. Thank

 4   you, sir.

 5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

 6   Councilman Domb.

 7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

 8   Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon.

 9   I have a few questions. Just wanted to

10   start off by asking, in the budget for the

11   Managing Director's Office two years ago, when

12   you are looking at your testimony on page 3,

13   Section 39, it says the Fiscal 2018 obligations

14   were a hundred million roughly. And then it

15   says in 2019, you came to this body. And we

16   approved, I guess, 106.6 million. And it looks

17   like we ran over last year $5 million because we

18   wound up spending 111 million. Now we are

19   asking for 115 million.

20   I guess my question is, over the last

21   two years, this budget has gone up 15 percent or

22   7 and a half percent per year, far greater than

23   the rate of inflation which, the last two years,

24   is probably 2 and a half percent.

25   What do you attribute those increases

1   to? I see personal services is probably the

2   biggest issue of increase.

3   MR. ABERNATHY: There are a handful of

4   things that have attributed the increase. One,

5   are continued increases to the Defender's

6   Association, to work on pay parity between the

7   District Attorney, the Law Department and the

8   Defenders. We also had a new fee schedule

9   implemented for outside counsel for indigent

10   defense.

11   We've also added in the Managing

12   Director's Office, a number of key programs to

13   tackle priorities. And Rebuild being one of

14   them, municipal ID. The census in this fiscal

15   year is being added to the Managing Director's

16   budget as well as violence prevention and police

17   assisted diversion.

18   Thank you.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is that covering the

20   $15 million increase the last two years?

21   MR. ABERNATHY: In broad strokes, yes.

22   I can get you a complete breakdown at a later

23   time, but that is broad strokes.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Yeah. Just get us the

25   detailed breakdown. Would be helpful.

1   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, sir.

2   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And then the -- I'm

3   not sure if this is in your area. I can go to

4   another question if it isn't. The hiring of

5   people for the City. Do you have any -- is that

6   under Managing Director?

7   MR. ABERNATHY: And so, the Chief

8   Administrative Officer oversees HR and is the

9   current, the interim personnel director.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Right.

11   MR. ABERNATHY: But certainly, each

12   department has a large role in the hiring

13   of their -- of their staff.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: They are not in your

15   umbrella?

16   MR. ABERNATHY: So, HR is not in my

17   umbrella specifically. But again, HR, I would

18   say, serves the departments. And so, if you

19   have a specific question, I might be able to

20   answer it.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Just a general

22   question, because I know Pew did a report. And

23   it seems to me that takes a very long time for

24   somebody who applies for a job with the City to

25   actually get the job.

1   I guess my question is, how do we

2   streamline that process? Because if I was

3   applying for a job with the City and I had to

4   wait six months to a year, I would probably go

5   somewhere else.

6   MR. ABERNATHY: That is more of a

7   question for the CAO, but we are working in

8   conjunction with her to be able to address those

9   issues. To your point, if we have vacancies

10   that can't be filled or it takes too long to

11   fill, we lose various qualified candidates. And

12   the work suffers itself.

13   I will say the CAO has been a tremendous

14   partner in addressing those concerns. And we

15   started to see improvements in that hiring

16   process already.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: What do you think is

18   causing the delay in your opinion?

19   MR. ABERNATHY: I think there is a few

20   things that cause the delay. One, I think civil

21   service is complicated. And so, in the way we

22   have historically managed our civil service list

23   where we have a list that stays open for two

24   year causes some challenges. Now, I don't think

25   we need to change Civil Service, but I think we

```
 1   need to streamline Civil Service.
 2            We need to figure out a way how to enter
 3   into rolling testing.  So when we do find a
 4   qualified candidate for engineers or for the
 5   Fire Department or for surveys, any of our hard
 6   to fill positions, we can slot them into a test
 7   in the near term.  And we will always have
 8   vacancies in certain departments.  Engineers
 9   come to mind immediately as a specifically hard
10   to fill position.
11            COUNCILMAN DOMB:  Right.
12            MR. ABERNATHY:  And I think we need to
13   do a better job both recruiting, testing and
14   streamlining that process.
15            COUNCILMAN DOMB:  To me that's -- when I
16   talk to department heads, that's one of the
17   biggest problems we have in the City right now.
18   Is the ability to hire people in a timely way.
19   Then there is even some rules.  You interview
20   two people, you must hire one of them even if
21   they are not qualified.
22            MR. ABERNATHY:  Yes.  I think that is --
23   so, I wouldn't say necessarily that they are not
24   qualified.  I think there are specific
25   provisions that are in the Civil Service.  And
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1   so, I have challenged some of our department

2   heads to really look at their job specs and

3   whether those specs are appropriate or they need

4   to be changed, whether we are testing for the

5   right things.

6   So while I think Christine Lopez, our

7   CAO, is making tremendous changes in HR and

8   really providing them the support that they need

9   and the leadership that they need, I would also

10   say that our departments need stronger and

11   more -- some thoughtful leadership around HR

12   themselves. You know, I think you and I have

13   talked about financial acumen in certain

14   departments. I would say that HR acumen in

15   certain departments is also a weakness.

16   COUNCILMAN DOMB: To that point -- let

17   me go back. Right now, what is the average

18   time? If someone said to me, hey, I want to

19   apply for a job in the City, what's the average

20   time it takes for us to apply, go through the

21   process and then hear from the City whether or

22   not they are hired?

23   MR. ABERNATHY: I don't have that

24   information with me today. And I would also say

25   it's going to vary tremendously between

1   departments and positions, as well. But we can

2   certainly get back to you. And also, we will

3   make sure we have a conversation with the CAO so

4   she's prepared.

5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: What do you think is a

6   good goal to try to achieve to when somebody

7   applies to when we get them an answer? Is it 30

8   days? 45 days?

9   MR. ABERNATHY: You know, I think the

10   challenge on that question is for an engineer,

11   my answer is going to be different than for a

12   sanitation worker or for a police officer or for

13   a firefighter or paramedic. And so it's -- I

14   don't think there's a one size fits all.

15   I do think that having someone wait for

16   two years and us surveying and auditing the list

17   to see if they are still interested in the

18   position isn't the most effective or efficient

19   way to manage our HR hiring.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And my -- I

21   have some other questions.

22   Beginning with the submission of this

23   proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget,

24   going back to that time, the Finance Director

25   was to submit to Council together with the

1   Mayor's proposed annual operating budget an

2   Annual Information Technologies Strategic Plan

3   that followed the information technology

4   strategic plan procedure adopted by the Managing

5   Director. It's under Section 21-2502.

6   Have we prepared Information

7   Technologies Strategic Plan for this year?

8   MR. ABERNATHY: Not to my knowledge.

9   However, I would say OIT reports to the CAO. In

10   2016, the CAO or the OIT reported to the

11   Managing Director. And so, I think we will have

12   to get back to you with more detail.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'll come back next

14   round. Thanks.

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

16   Councilman.

17   Before I recognize Councilman Jones

18   again, another reduction we see in here, and I

19   don't know if anything was added somewhere else,

20   Mr. Abernathy, in the Philadelphia Unemployment

21   Project, the 55,000 reduction, I think it was

22   dealing -- the reason it was put in, I know

23   Councilman Green, Councilwoman Parker and myself

24   and a lot of others for the reverse commuting

25   issue, do you know is that plan to be -- is that

 1   somewhere else that we can't find? Or --

 2   MR. ABERNATHY: At this point, no, it is

 3   not somewhere else.

 4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Pardon me?

 5   MR. ABERNATHY: No, it is not anywhere

 6   else.

 7   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So, there is

 8   nothing in there for that?

 9   MR. ABERNATHY: That is my

10   understanding, yes.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Is there --

12   was there some reason for that? Was it checked

13   out? Did it not feel to be worthy or --

14   MR. ABERNATHY: Again, I think as we go

15   through the budgeting process, we try to set

16   priorities. And certain things get cut and

17   certain things get funded. Again, it's a

18   priority conversation. Again, I expect that to

19   be part of an ongoing conversation with Council.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yeah. I think

21   there will be a push to get that and maybe more

22   in. Because we have found it helps people keep

23   jobs, you know. Which is, I think, a lot of

24   people think is kind of important.

25   And one other thing. The census. I see

 1   you are adding 11 employees and, you say, about

 2   the dedicated team of organizers we charge

 3   working with the community-based organization.

 4   So, that is where those people are going to be

 5   basically?

 6   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, sir.

 7   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. And is

 8   that -- do you work in conjunction with the

 9   federal folks on that?

10   MR. ABERNATHY: I actually think

11   Stephanie Monahon or Deputy Director Otero Cruz.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Thank you.

13   (Witnesses approach table.)

14   MS. REED: Stephanie Reed.

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hi, how are you?

16   MS. REED: I was recently married.

17   MR. ABERNATHY: I'm still not used to

18   it.

19   MS. REED: That's okay. Executive

20   Director at Philly Counts.

21   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes.

22   MS. REED: We are working very closely

23   with the Census Bureau. So, the first month

24   that I was on --

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Little closer to

 1   the mic again.

 2   MS. REED: Yeah, sure. So, the first

 3   month I was on was primarily spent meeting with

 4   the Census Bureau. I meet with them every other

 5   week on Friday afternoons. And we will be

 6   looking at how our plan compliments their plan.

 7   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Thanks.

 8   Do you want to add something?

 9   MS. CRUZ: I didn't know if you had any

10   other questions.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's basically

12   it. We just wanted to see how it was working.

13   And obviously, it's a very worthwhile endeavor.

14   So appreciate it. Appreciate your efforts.

15   MS. REED: Thank you.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Councilman Jones.

17   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, again,

18   Mr. Chairman.

19   Just on the census. In the last census,

20   I been around long enough to have experienced

21   that the 4th District lost 5,000 people. So

22   what that meant was an expansion in the North

23   Philadelphia thanks to President Clarke, we

24   picked up some population.

25   But we want to pay particular attention

1   to that so that we are not undercounted. By way

2   of criminal justice reform, particularly among

3   incarcerated individuals, other counties

4   Frackville and other places count our population

5   as theirs and then receive CDBG subsidies and

6   things of that nature, building playgrounds in

7   Podunk, Pennsylvania as opposed to North Philly,

8   West Philly, South Philly and others.

9   So, we really count on you to make, play

10   on words, the proper count. So, we are

11   counting.

12   MS. CRUZ: So, Joanna Otero Cruz, Deputy

13   Managing Director of Community Services. And we

14   are aware that the last count was 63 percent.

15   And so, we are really working with Stephanie and

16   her team to build an infrastructure to ensure

17   that we are working with both state and the

18   federal partners as well as other coalitions

19   across the state to really focus on building a

20   community, infrastructures, committees to really

21   work with how do we get to those difficult to

22   count populations.

23   And so, that is something that we are

24   working on collectively.

25   COUNCILMAN JONES: We appreciate that.

 1   Could I have Tumar Alexander come up to the

 2   table along with a representative from the

 3   Office of Special Events. Is there anyone here

 4   for --

 5   (Witness approaches table.)

 6   MR. ALEXANDER: This is the Tommy Conway

 7   hour?

 8   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, no. I would

 9   never ask --

10   MR. ALEXANDER: Tommy treatment?

11   COUNCILMAN JONES: Was that a direct

12   question? I will take advantage of this

13   opportunity to ask questions now.

14   Two quick things. First of all,

15   welcome. And can you describe your new

16   responsibilities? You're, like, three

17   Administrations in. So, can you tell us what --

18   MR. ALEXANDER: Make me feel old,

19   Councilman.

20   COUNCILMAN JONES: You're young.

21   MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you. So my new

22   role as First Deputy Managing Director is really

23   supporting the Office of Managing Director and

24   supporting the Managing Director. I work a lot

25   on the Resiliency Project, along with some work

 1   with Vanessa on violence prevention and other

 2   programs.

 3   COUNCILMAN JONES: Good. So my direct

 4   question is, recently there has been an effort

 5   to quell violence in this way. A lot of it has

 6   centered around block parties. And there was a

 7   proliferation in violence. And some blocks

 8   actually were asked not to apply for a permit.

 9   In your anticipation of the summer

10   months, how is that going to work? I know you

11   guys give permits, but also --

12   MR. ALEXANDER: It's really not a

13   Special Events Office thing. It's really a

14   Streets Department piece. It's always been sort

15   of cross-communication with Police Department

16   and Streets throughout the years even before

17   this sort of process changed.

18   I think what this process allowed us to

19   do a little closely from the police department

20   level is to drill down and have the unit and the

21   sort of district sort of drill down outreach

22   more to those blocks and get to know those folks

23   over the winter months. And we really trying to

24   focus and sort of curate a dialogue with those

25   folks.

1   For instance, there were blocks that may

2   have applied and got denied. And the Captain

3   took it upon himself or the Community Relations

4   Officer took it upon themselves to sort of go

5   outreach to the blocks and sort of build that

6   relationship in anticipation of us working

7   together to be able to host events for them.

8   I don't know if Mike want to come and

9   talk more about where that process is as it

10   relates to the Streets Department. But that is

11   something we sort of worked on to make sure we

12   streamlined it for the person applying where

13   they don't have to go to two separate places to

14   sort of get that approval.

15   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, one other thing.

16   I would encourage us looking at rec centers and

17   recreation yards to try to encourage more of

18   those activities there. If we built that stage,

19   gave them access to electric and maybe some

20   pavilions, they might be inclined more to do

21   activities there.

22   MR. ALEXANDER: That's a good idea. We

23   going to work with finance and capital to see if

24   we can pilot in your district with some of our

25   test supports. Let's try it.

 1   COUNCILMAN JONES: You know, I have

 2   other colleagues here. But it always begins in

 3   the United States of the 4th District, so.

 4   MR. CARROLL: I would just add that --

 5   Michael Carroll, Deputy Managing Director's

 6   Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and

 7   Sustainability.

 8   Pardon me, Councilman. I would just add

 9   that we did discover that there was opportunity

10   for improvement in the application process. And

11   so, what had been happening was there was

12   essentially an approval or denial that the

13   applicant was getting sometimes without the

14   follow up to explain that there was an

15   interaction with police. And sometimes, the

16   interaction with police was not contained within

17   the review process itself.

18   So, what we have done is we have made

19   sure that the City all gets on the same page

20   before we communicate with the applicant to let

21   them know what's going on. And so, at least

22   through the application process, we don't have

23   that confusion.

24   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, is it true that

25   we have a list of blocks that are prohibited

1   from having block parties? That is a

2   urban legend.

3   MR. ABERNATHY: Sure. It's not a list

4   of blocks that are prohibited from block

5   parties. The Captain does weigh in on the

6   approval of block parties and will consider

7   what's happening, what are the current events,

8   what is the current -- are there current

9   challenges in that block that a block party

10 might heighten tension by bringing two groups

11 together that maybe should stay apart.

12   COUNCILMAN JONES: Makes sense.

13   MR. ABERNATHY: And that's the

14 Captain's -- yeah, it's a Captain's decision,

15 but there is no list.

16   COUNCILMAN JONES: Urban legend.

17   Can I have the Office of Special Events

18 back up, please?

19   State your name for the record.

20   MS. GHEE: Ilia Ghee, Office of Special

21 Events. Hello, Councilman.

22   COUNCILMAN JONES: How are you?

23   MS. GHEE: I am wonderful. How are you?

24   COUNCILMAN JONES: You're a constituent,

25 so I'm going to treat you -- you all right. I

 1   know it's election time.

 2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: She looks scared

 3   when she walked up there.

 4   COUNCILMAN JONES: I know, she does.

 5   I just want to point out that you guys

 6   have received a special award a couple years

 7   straight. And what's the nature of that award?

 8   MS. GHEE: Yes. We have received The

 9   International Festival and Events award for the

10   past four years, just highlighting the City as

11   an international events city encouraging more

12   people to bring their events here. I know

13   sometimes that is a challenge for constituents

14   in certain districts that have a larger number

15   of events. But as a Philadelphian, I would much

16   rather live in a City that people want to come

17   visit.

18   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, you are familiar

19   with the Concourse West and Concourse East Roads

20   out in Parkside right near the Please Touch

21   Museum down to the Abstinence Fountain?

22   MS. GHEE: Yes, sir.

23   COUNCILMAN JONES: Any event you don't

24   want down on The Parkway, just send it right

25   there, okay?

 1   MS. GHEE: We encourage plenty of events

 2   to check out the 4th District.

 3   COUNCILMAN JONES: The 4th has open

 4   arms.

 5   MS. GHEE: Absolutely.

 6   COUNCILMAN JONES: All right. You have

 7   a nice day.

 8   MS. GHEE: Thank you. You, too.

 9   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

10   Mr. Chairman.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

12   Councilman. There would be some people in my

13   home area that would be willing to let that go.

14   Councilman Domb.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

16   Mr. Chairman.

17   I just want to go back to that last

18   question I had asked. I just want to make sure

19   I am clear that in The Code it says Information

20   Technology Strategic Plan procedure has been at

21   a loss in 2013. But we haven't prepared it?

22   MR. ABERNATHY: Again, Councilman, I am

23   not aware. But that would likely flow through

24   the Chief Administrative Officer at this point.

25   COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right. Let me

1   just tell you the benefits of it. Says when you

2   prepare the plan, the code dictates it should

3   include an assessment of how the City is working

4   to improve management of telecommunications,

5   establish IT performance, minimize overlap

6   redundancy, reduce costs of City government

7   through the use of IT, improve the delivery of

8   services through the use of IT, reduce the

9   amount of paper the City uses, promote the

10   availability of all public records on the

11   internet and a few others things.

12   I think it's important. So, maybe you

13   can get back to us on that.

14   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, sir. We will.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Program-based

16   budgeting is meant to determine the component

17   cost of each function of City government. The

18   code states that program-based budgeting shall

19   determine metrics for measuring the

20   effectiveness of each function funded by

21   appropriations made by the City. Performance

22   measures are meant to help departments evaluate

23   their progress towards strategic goals with the

24   aim of improving the efficiency of the City's

25   budgeting process year to year.

 1   With this in mind, what are we learning

 2   from the program measures for the administration

 3   policy program?

 4   MR. RUPE: Councilman, Chris Rupe, Chief

 5   of Staff. The Administration Policy Program is

 6   a difficult program in the Managing Director's

 7   Office to put metrics around. That is sort of

 8   the catch-all part of our budget where the

 9   executives that live on our floor are funded

10   from.

11   One of the most significant

12   transactional activities is contract management

13   because we do provide administrative support not

14   only for the Managing Director's Office, but for

15   several smaller units that don't have their own

16   teams. The reason why we chose contract

17   conformance is because this is an area that the

18   City has historically struggled with doing in a

19   timely manner. And it's something that we want

20   to focus on streamlining. It is a goal and a

21   metric that was set forth to try to challenge us

22   to us make sure we are constantly doing better

23   with moving forward on those contracts.

24   Because as you pointed out in your prior

25   round of questioning, we have a lot of contract

1   dollars that sit on our budget. So, it's very

2   important that we have that conformance period

3   be as short and as reasonable and efficient as

4   possible.

5   I will say that we -- you know in the

6   Managing Director's Office whenever we adopt a

7   program-based budgeting in Fiscal 2018, it was a

8   challenge to come up with good metrics that

9   really usefully quantify and measure what some

10   of our internal functions do. Some were much

11   easier, CLIP and 311 for example, because they

12   are providing direct service. For some of our

13   other aspects, due to the unique nature of our

14   office, a lot of that outward facing service

15   delivery really happens in the individual

16   operating departments rather than in our office.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me ask another

18   question on that. How does measuring the

19   percentage of contracts conform within 90 days

20   of their start date help you evaluate your

21   progress towards your stated goal of addressing

22   the City's persistent deep poverty or

23   addressing, for example, the opioid epidemic?

24   MR. RUPE: I would say with that

25   specific metric, one of the big challenges we

1   have as a City is it's really difficult for

2   small businesses and vendors to do business with

3   the City. It takes a very long time for

4   contracts to get conformed. And we cannot pay

5   people until those contracts are conformed. By

6   trying to streamline the process and make sure

7   that our contracted vendors have contracts in

8   place in a timely manner, that reduces some of

9   those barriers and makes it easier for small and

10   emerging business to do business with the City.

11   And it's an overall goal that the entire

12   government has, is trying to make sure that we

13   can get that conformance process as quick as

14   possible so people can get paid and so people

15   can do business here without it putting them out

16   of business.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I guess -- I guess the

18   goal of -- the joint goal is to have all the

19   contracts confirmed before their start date.

20   MR. RUPE: That would be a great goal to

21   have, yes.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. The Office of

23   Workforce Development lists four performance

24   metrics for Fiscal Year 20.

25   Can you provide the unit cost for each

 1   performance measure in their workforce

 2   development program?

 3   I will give you an example. How much

 4   does it cost the Office of Workforce Development

 5   to transition one individual from temporary or

 6   seasonal work to permanent employment?

 7   MR. RUPE: We can try to provide that

 8   information. I will say, we don't have a huge

 9   amount of historical data. The Office of

10   Workforce Development was only formed this

11   fiscal year. We can try to pull that together

12   for you. Yes.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I have another

14   question. This is regarding ACCT. Because I am

15   a new board member of ACCT. And I went up there

16   and took a visit couple times. And the

17   conditions are not great, but they are better

18   than they were. That's a plus.

19   But I notice you have Vector Control,

20   Vector is in ACCT share space. And ACCT needs

21   more space. So, what can we do to move Vector

22   out of the building?

23   One of the thoughts was we get three

24   office-type trailers for the parking lot there.

25   But I know that ACCT needs the space. What can

1   we do -- doesn't sound right to me that Vector

2   Control is in the same building as ACCT.

3   MR. ABERNATHY: Certainly. So, we have

4   explored that issue. The costs the Health

5   Department would incur are significant in order

6   to move Vector. Some of that is depending on

7   what process they use. As I responded to

8   Councilman Greenlee earlier. I have long

9   advocated to move Vector out of ACCT, but there

10   are costs and there are priorities. As I look

11   at the violence epidemic, opioid crisis, it's

12   hard for me to prioritize moving Vector over

13   some of those other priorities in the City.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Well, let me ask you a

15   question. If you just did three construction

16   trailers in the driveway there -- when I went up

17   and visited, there were maybe six or seven

18   people at Vector, seven people, and have all

19   this square footage.

20   How much square feet does Vector have?

21   MR. ABERNATHY: I believe it's around

22   9,000.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 9,000?

24   MR. ABERNATHY: To be clear, they have

25   more than seven staff. They have a number --

 1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: When I was there,

 2   that's all I saw.

 3   MR. ABERNATHY: Yeah. They have a

 4   number of staff that are in the field.

 5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Was a ton of empty

 6   desks. But I mean, in today's environment, that

 7   square footage for that employment level is

 8   insane. I mean, the average square footage in

 9   the top four county firm today is about 150 feet

10   per employee.

11   So, we have 9,000 feet. And when I

12   walked through, there were seven people there.

13   MR. ABERNATHY: I will be sure that

14   Dr. Farley is prepared to answer some of your

15   questions about Vector's operations when he

16   testifies.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Yeah, bring him on.

18   That will be good.

19   MR. ABERNATHY: I certainly will.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right. Thank you.

21   Thanks very much.

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

23   As a follow up on that real quick, I

24   think one of the issues that the space is there

25   as the employees come back and forth, but they

 1   are not really there that much; is that correct?

 2   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes. So they are in the

 3   field a lot. I think that's a far point.

 4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Pardon me?

 5   MR. ABERNATHY: They are in the field a

 6   significant --

 7   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Right.

 8   MR. ABERNATHY: I think that's a fair

 9   point, yes.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just real quick,

11   want to mention to -- Councilman, you want to

12   follow up on that?

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Point of reference, if

14   that would be okay. You could do like a

15   co-working space, like a we-works for Vector.

16   You don't have to have all the desks. Think of

17   in the future, just have high-top desks. They

18   in, do their work and get out. They are not

19   going to need that much space.

20   MR. ABERNATHY: Understood. And I

21   already asked the Health Department to explore

22   those options.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you very

24   much. Thank you.

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

 1   Councilman.

 2   Just real quick before I recognize

 3   Councilman Jones. On the issue of the special

 4   events, I do have to say as somebody who lives

 5   close to those, a lot of the big events on the

 6   Parkway, I have to say the office does a great

 7   job in interacting with the community, trying to

 8   work out problems. As you know, you can't

 9   solve -- please everybody. There are some

10   people, I am going to get in trouble for this,

11   who think it was still 1967 and nothing was

12   going on in The Parkway. But it's not that.

13   But I think the office does a great job

14   in their interaction with the community. As far

15   as doing a great job, I also have to mention I

16   see Miriam over there, Office of Immigrant

17   Affairs. Some of the programs they have put

18   together has been terrific. And i think it's

19   really benefited the City.

20   See, we have nice things to say, too.

21   We notice that.

22   Councilman Jones.

23   COUNCILMAN JONES: On the issue of

24   Vector Control, you don't appreciate them until

25   you need them. Squirrels, possums, raccoons and

 1   bats have --

 2   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And ground

 3   hogs.

 4   COUNCILMAN JONES: Oh, ground hogs. So,

 5   we -- you know, I am glad they're not in that

 6   office and out in the field taking care of

 7   business.

 8   How we doing with the Police Advisory

 9   Council? I just want you to know, my eye always

10   goes to who is hiding behind the pillar. That's

11   an old veterans kind of thing.

12   How you doing? I sincerely just -- I

13   know you have gone through a reorganization kind

14   of restructuring in Focus. When you first came,

15   you were kind enough to share that vision. I

16   just need to get update on where we are.

17   Particularly, how many complaints? What is

18   going on?

19   I know you are more outreach now. But

20   did the public get the memo? And I know you are

21   interacting with Internal Affairs. Can you

22   explain for us how that works?

23   MR. MENOS: Certainly. Hans Menos,

24   Executive Director of Police Advisory

25   Commission. For the record, I wasn't hiding.

 1   Just the best view for the Councilman. This is

 2   why I sat over there.

 3   And thank you to the Mayor and to

 4   Council for the support of the PAC over the last

 5   little over two years now since I started. The

 6   PAC, as you referenced, is doing different work

 7   now. I would say not completely different, but

 8   we are trying to focus on the policy, the

 9   practice and the custom of the Philadelphia

10   Police Department as it relates to the improving

11   the relationship with the police and the

12   community.

13   What we try to do is do that by looking

14   at either specific instances or looking at

15   specific policies and make recommendations. We

16   focused on email usage of the public facing of

17   the Police Department as our first report. We

18   did a review of the Police Department's Body One

19   Camera Policy by looking at both what they

20   believe is a priority and what other

21   jurisdictions are doing.

22   We reviewed the Starbucks incident,

23   which is a major incident arrest that occurred

24   in Philadelphia that caused a lot of strife

25   among the community. We felt we needed to

1   assess it. We review the ICE protest report.

2   The ICE protest that occurred last summer.

3   Again, similar incident in Starbucks that people

4   were concerned about how that was done.

5   There was a Mazzoni protest that was,

6   again, another incident that folks were

7   concerned about that we reviewed. And then more

8   recently we brought down self-help eviction.

9   And that is the police's role when a landlord

10   engages in what is called self-help eviction.

11   All those reports included policy

12   recommendations. And the Police Department has

13   responded to all those reports with explanation

14   as to why they appreciate our perspective and if

15   they agree or disagree on those objectives.

16   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, have we kept

17   track of the number of complaints? And give us

18   a sense of what that statistic is.

19   MR. MENOS: Certainly. First, let me

20   say, that when it comes to complaints, we have a

21   unique way of dealing with them now. In some

22   cases, we have acute issues that are occurring.

23   A citizen is currently, as I mentioned with

24   evictions, experiencing a self-help eviction.

25   Actually, was dealing with one of those about 15

1   minutes ago. Where somebody is currently upset

2   about the fact that their eviction is occurring.

3   And they are not terribly interested in a long,

4   protracted investigation of what they felt was

5   an occurred -- wasn't handled appropriately.

6   But they want more immediate help for what is an

7   acute issue.

8   So, those are become tracked separately

9   from complaints because we try to resolve those

10   in realtime. But we do keep track of

11   complaints. We are looking at complaints

12   somewhere in the area of between 30 and 40 per

13   month if you include the ones that come in and

14   are ultimately diverted into a self-help -- I'm

15   sorry, a constituent service.

16   COUNCILMAN JONES: What is -- one of the

17   issues was the time it takes from a filing of a

18   complaint to an investigation and conclusion.

19   Have we narrowed that time frame?

20   MR. MENOS: So, if you are asking about

21   the conclusion by the Internal Affairs?

22   COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

23   MR. MENOS: Okay. So, I cannot narrow

24   down the way that their investigation --

25   COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Put a pin in

 1   that. When we get an opportunity when the

 2   police come up with that, is something we want

 3   to circle.

 4   MR. ABERNATHY: Certainly.

 5   COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. So, I

 6   appreciate it.

 7   MR. MENOS: I appreciate you. Thank you

 8   very much.

 9   COUNCILMAN JONES: One other issue,

10   Mr. Managing Director. So, there is a hotel in

11   West Philadelphia called the Blue Moon. Never

12   take anyone there. It's been recently shut down

13   I understand, but it was allowed to exist for

14   decades. And nothing good happened in the Blue

15   Moon. If you wound up in the Blue Moon and you

16   were -- it's just nothing happened.

17   Similarly now in my district, there was

18   an article today about the North American Motor

19   Lodge and sex trafficking that was happening

20   there.

21   How do we -- I guess my question is, how

22   does that happen? And how do we prevent it from

23   happening again? I know it's a police issue,

24   but it's also an L&I issue. It's also a

25   responding to complaints and mapping where these

 1   kinds of incidents happen.

 2   If you remove the Blue Moon from City

 3   Avenue, it would probably rival Roxborough in

 4   not having crime. So, we just need to

 5   understand how to put our arms around that.

 6   MR. ABERNATHY: Yeah. Thank you,

 7   Councilman. I think the -- all of those kind of

 8   business -- nuisance business compliance,

 9   whether it's a bad hotel or motel or a

10   stop-and-go takes joint effort to work through.

11   And that's not just L&I and the Police

12   Department but also the Health Department as

13   well as some of our federal partners and some of

14   our state partners.

15   On sex trafficking specifically, there

16   is a Human Trafficking Task Force that is run

17   through our Special Victims Unit that partners

18   with federal agencies to target those issues.

19   Again, it takes a significant amount of

20   coordinated investigation in order to shut some

21   of these businesses down. Some of these

22   businesses are very good at finding loopholes,

23   as you well know, in order to maintain their

24   operations. And so, it takes continued targeted

25   and protracted effort in order to address those

 1   issues. But it's not one that we are blind to.

 2   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, a clue in finding

 3   out where these activities are. If they rent by

 4   the hour, circle them and go after it. And one

 5   of my staffers Josh Cohen got a number of

 6   complaints about it. Went all the way up to the

 7   owner's house in New York and delivered a letter

 8   saying clean up your act. And obviously, he did

 9   not, so we need your help.

10   Thank you.

11   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

13   Councilman, just to let you know, I recently put

14   in a bill and working with the Administration to

15   try to find ways to hold the owners of those

16   buildings. Because a lot of times they will

17   say, oh, I didn't know what was going on, you

18   know. And hopefully, working on that bill, we

19   can do something with that.

20   Josh must have heard you say his name.

21   Councilman Domb.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

23   Mr. Chairman. I have a couple other questions I

24   want to just ask so I can understand better.

25   What is the budget right now of the

1   Office of Workforce Development?

2   MR. ABERNATHY: For FY19?

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And for 20, Fiscal

4   Year 20. While we are looking for that, I just

5   want to ask these questions. It looks like --

6   is this the -- maybe give me an overview of what

7   I am looking at, page 6 of your testimony. And

8   it talks about a number of individuals who have

9   transitions from temporary seasonal work to

10   permanent employment to City as the model

11   employer.

12   Are these actually the City employees

13   or -- so, did we have in '18, 154 and now we are

14   down to 25?

15   MR. RUPE: Can I take the first part of

16   your question first?

17   FY19, the current target budget for the

18   Office of Workforce Development is 2.84 million.

19   The FY20 proposed budget, 3.652 million.

20   MR. ABERNATHY: And I'm going to ask

21   Sheila Ireland to address the second part of

22   your question.

23   MS. IRELAND: Hello, Councilman. Sheila

24   Ireland, Executive Director, Office of Workforce

25   Development. Total budget 3.652 for next year.

 1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Walk me through in the

 2   testimony on page 6. I don't know if you have

 3   it handy. In Fiscal Year 18, we are at 154; and

 4   in '19, we are at -- says 25. Just wonder why

 5   that's --

 6   MS. IRELAND: No, that's additive,

 7   right? So today, the number is 176 placed into

 8   permanent positions.

 9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Why is it down so many

10   from --

11   MS. IRELAND: No, no. That's additive.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: It's all three

13   together?

14   MS. IRELAND: Right. Yes. So today, we

15   are at 176.

16   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But it says --

17   MS. IRELAND: That's additional

18   placements.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: If I was looking at

20   Fiscal Year 19, it would be 45 total?

21   MS. IRELAND: No, 154 plus 20 plus 25.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 154 says '18.

23   MS. IRELAND: Yeah. So actual plus 20,

24   right, plus 25.

25   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Little confusing.

1   MS. IRELAND: Yeah. I guess if you want

2   to -- I guess a better way to have characterized

3   the numbers would have been the total placements

4   if you added them all together, right? So it

5   would have been actual 154. FY19 to date should

6   have been 174. FY19 target would have been plus

7   25.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's for one year or

9   over the time?

10   MS. IRELAND: Yes. Cumulative from the

11   beginning of the program.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So, let me ask the

13   question a different way. What are the total

14   number of people we have helped with workforce

15   development?

16   MS. IRELAND: So, for a City as small

17   employer, it's one program in the office.

18   Placements to date, 176.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 176?

20   MS. IRELAND: Yes.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is that for a 12-month

22   period?

23   MS. IRELAND: No. That's from the

24   beginning of the program.

25   COUNCILMAN DOMB: When did the program

 1   start?

 2   MS. IRELAND: FY18.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And so then my

 4   question is, how much money have we spent on the

 5   program since FY18?

 6   MS. IRELAND: So, the program has only

 7   been staffed by one civil service employee. We

 8   received a significant investment from the

 9   Linfest Foundation that actually paid for

10   operations of City and small employer.

11   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But you just said the

12   budget is 3 billion 652?

13   MS. IRELAND: No. That's for the Office

14   of Workforce Development. We are spread across

15   a myriad of programs. That is just one program

16   in the office.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I guess what I'm

18   looking for is to figure out how many people we

19   have helped with workforce development and what

20   the budget has been in order for us to

21   accomplish that goal?

22   MS. IRELAND: So, if you are talking

23   about monies that came from the Office of

24   Workforce Development since its inception

25   March 5 of 2018, we are talking about an office

1   that just opened with one new hire, and then

2   aggregated work that was already being done

3   throughout the City to formulate this office.

4   So Zakia's program, which is City and small

5   employer, has been in existence already.

6   Other programs of the office actually

7   does work on are just up and running. This is a

8   new office.

9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So, you don't have to

10   give it to me today. But maybe you can send to

11   me our cost -- money we have invested for this

12   development and how many people we have helped

13   and what type of jobs they have achieved.

14   MS. IRELAND: Will do.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And the other question

16   I have is, walk me through the process of what

17   we actually do to help people with this job

18   training. Give me the 30-second overview.

19   MS. IRELAND: Okay. So, the 30-second

20   overview would be for about 18 months before the

21   office opened, 50 leaders across the City of

22   Philadelphia are from labor, education,

23   workforce, business, employers came together in

24   something called Fueling Philadelphia's Talent

25   Engine. These 49 leaders developed the

 1   City-wide Workforce Development Strategy. They

 2   Mayor announced it at his launch. We opened the

 3   office on March 5. And our role is to execute

 4   that specific strategy.

 5   If you look at the strategy, which I

 6   would be happy to give you both original plan

 7   and then the one year progress report that came

 8   out on Friday, it is definitely about the office

 9   playing several different roles in workforce

10   development. One, we are convener of the major

11   institutions across Philadelphia for the first

12   time sitting at the same table to talk about

13   workforce development and how we are going to

14   combat poverty and unemployment.

15   Secondly, the office itself executes a

16   number of strategies that are designed

17   specifically to combat unemployment.

18   And then lastly, it's about

19   collaboration among City departments and us

20   being the face of workforce, frankly, for City.

21   So, from Office of Violence Prevention,

22   I mean, you have heard us mention all day long

23   the roles where we sit in where we are actually

24   bringing expertise, subject matter expertise

25   about how the development effective workforce

1   development strategies. And then more

2   importantly, trying to be that connective tissue

3   between organizations, so that we are leveraging

4   synergy, leveraging the opportunity to work

5   together in a collaborative manner to bring

6   results that we haven't had to heretofore.

7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me ask the last

8   question on this topic.

9   What do you think is the best investment

10   for us in all these projects we are working on?

11   Where can we invest the least amount of money to

12   get the best results? And then ramp that up

13   dramatically, so we can create a lot more

14   opportunities and jobs for people.

15   MS. IRELAND: Yeah. It's been an

16   interesting time for me over the last year. And

17   I can tell you where I think the real sweet spot

18   for what we are trying to do is, is that finally

19   we are working together.

20   So for instance, the work that Vanessa

21   is doing, where we actually look at with police,

22   pinpoint areas where we understand specifically

23   the lack of investments. So when we looked at

24   the areas, we realized, wait a minute, well our

25   key spot system is not there. Wait a minute,

1   there is no libraries. There is no recreation

2   centers. There are no resources. The schools

3   are lowest performing. Then you start to

4   understand what happens why, right?

5   And so, I think with the concerted

6   efforts of departments finally working together

7   and not being in silos, you have this

8   opportunity to build a program or systems are

9   response that really effectively helps leverage

10   what's already going on.

11   I mean, as you point out, there is a ton

12   of money being invested in workforce

13   development. But are we intentionally, right,

14   targeting and working together to make sure that

15   our efforts have some synergy, right, that makes

16   some sense. It's not enough to apply Band-aid

17   to one particular situation. You need a

18   comprehensive response to what's going on.

19   And I think we are finally there. I'm

20   not sure that requires a significant amount of

21   money as you build new systems. I think it does

22   require a significant amount of cooperation.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you very

24   much.

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

 1   Councilman.

 2   Councilman Taubenbeger.

 3   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you,

 4   Mr. Chairman.

 5   In regards to the opioid crisis, can you

 6   walk us through some of the broader

 7   objections -- objectives of the Administration?

 8   MR. ABERNATHY: As it relates to opioids

 9   specifically, I think there is some -- there is

10   a few objectives, right? So, I think we have

11   tried to approach this work in two ways. One

12   that could give a City-wide approach, which the

13   Mayor's Opioid Task Force has really laid out

14   the roadmap for that.

15   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: What kind of

16   a -- I didn't quite hear that?

17   MR. ABERNATHY: I'm sorry.

18   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: You're fine.

19   MR. ABERNATHY: The Mayor by executive

20   order created the Mayor's Opioid Task Force that

21   created the City-wide approach that focused on

22   the number of prescriptions that were being

23   issued, the number of overdoses, the number of

24   overdose deaths and the number of treatment

25   options that are available City wide. At the

1   same time, we have created the Resilience

2   Project also by executive order that is really

3   focused specifically in Kensington. And it's

4   really focused on neighborhood concerns.

5   And so, there is a -- that's the quality

6   of life issues that folks are experiencing.

7   It's the open air injections. It's the needles

8   on the ground. It is really the challenges that

9   the community is having to face because they are

10   ground zero for this crisis.

11   Overarching, I would say that the two

12   efforts compliment each other. Where Resilience

13   can support much of the work the task force is

14   doing and vice versa. The task force is

15   supporting the work that Resilience is doing.

16   Overarchingly, the hope is that we are

17   addressing the crisis not just from those who

18   are addicted. We have to help them. We have to

19   help their families. But also from those who

20   are having to suffer with the crisis and the

21   quality of life issues that are caused by the

22   crisis, as well.

23   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I mean, many

24   of these people -- and I guess it gets blended

25   in -- are literally living on the streets. I

1   would -- do we call them homeless? Are they in

2   your count? I mean, they are in tents in places

3   that really is not good for them, not good for

4   the community, not good for anybody.

5   MR. ABERNATHY: Agreed. So, yes. There

6   are a number of addicted and homeless, although

7   our entire homeless population is not addicted

8   and homeless.

9   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: No. I

10   understand.

11   MR. ABERNATHY: It's a big chunk. I

12   would -- I think it's really important to note

13   that the City is approaching this differently

14   than cities like Seattle or San Francisco. We

15   are not allowing tents to pop up. We did make

16   the mistake of allowing encampments to crop up

17   in Kensington.

18   All of those encampments have been shut

19   down. And we are addressing any new encampment

20   aggressively. We don't want tents on our public

21   right-of-way. And don't expect it anywhere in

22   the City.

23   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Can you walk

24   me through, if you could, and other

25   Councilmembers the coordination between the

 1   Philadelphia Department of Police and the

 2   treatment organization for addicts.

 3   MR. ABERNATHY: I'm sorry. Treatment

 4   for --

 5   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: For

 6   organizations for addiction, for addicts. Is

 7   there any kind of coordinated effort?

 8   MR. ABERNATHY: So the Police

 9   Department -- yes, is the short answer.

10   So, the Police Assisted Diversion

11   Project is actually specifically aimed at

12   providing diversion programs and addiction

13   services prior to an individual being in charge.

14   That is being worked on for a number of charges.

15   And that allows both a referral directly from

16   the Police Department or a voluntary referral at

17   times for services.

18   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you.

19   Something that isn't always so sexy in the sense

20   it doesn't get the attention, I guess the

21   attention that it needs, but was brought up

22   earlier by Councilman Jones and Councilman Domb,

23   Vector Control.

24   How long has that been under the

25   direction of the Managing Director, or has it

 1   always been?

 2   MR. ABERNATHY: So, Vector Control

 3   actually reports to the Health Department

 4   directly.

 5   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Oh, it does?

 6   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes.

 7   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Is it direct

 8   report?

 9   MR. ABERNATHY: Vector is the Health

10   Department.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Really? In

12   your chart, it more or less has it coming to

13   you.

14   MR. ABERNATHY: Are you meaning Animal

15   Control?

16   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Okay. Well,

17   sometimes Vector --

18   MR. ABERNATHY: There are two.

19   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Then explain

20   the difference.

21   MR. ABERNATHY: Sure. So, Vector

22   Control is rats. I'm going to put it really

23   simply. It's mostly rats. These are things

24   that you don't want in your home, you don't want

25   in your sewer.

 1   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: No. Nobody

 2   wants rats.

 3   MR. ABERNATHY: They kill animals.

 4   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Or mice.

 5   MR. ABERNATHY: So, Vector kills

 6   animals. Animal Control saves animals. And so,

 7   Animal Control and Control Team, which is a

 8   non-profit that the City has contracted with, is

 9   a City-run shelter. It has reported to the

10   Managing Director's Office since 2012 when we

11   actually created the new non-profit.

12   And so, when I was in my prior role in

13   the prior Administration, I was one of the

14   founders of animal care and control.

15   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: All right.

16   Well, then, maybe you are the perfect guy to ask

17   the next question. And that would be, as it

18   relates to raccoons and ground hogs.

19   They're not helpful to human beings. We

20   don't always get along so well. We once had a

21   hearing on it and we talked about coexistence.

22   I thought I was listening to some detente

23   between the United States and the Soviet Union.

24   I just -- a lot of people have concerns and

25   problems with raccoons, ground hogs and maybe

1   some other animals that we wouldn't think of but

2   we do today.

3   In fact, I have to cite within the last

4   two years was a situation that was very

5   traumatic where raccoons had gotten into

6   someone's house and attacked their little

7   daughter. That was awful for anyone to go

8   through that. What do we do about that? Where

9   does that fall in? Is that Vector or is that

10 Animal Control?

11   MR. ABERNATHY: So, that is Animal

12 Control. And once an animal is within someone's

13 property, meaning within the living space,

14 Animal Control will respond. If it is -- and

15 Susan, probably makes sense if you come on up

16 because I don't want to -- make sure I don't get

17 any of this wrong. It's been a while.

18   If an animal is gaining access or

19 getting into your trash, that's not something

20 Animal Control would respond to. Raccoons are

21 considered wildlife under state law. And so,

22 are treated a little bit differently than, say,

23 a dog or a cat.

24   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well, agreed.

25 But we had hearings on this. We had people from

 1   the Pennsylvania Game Commissioner come down.

 2   And more or less said if we wanted to -- because

 3   they are considered varmints, I guess, which is

 4   another terminology that comes -- because we are

 5   not a rural county. But we certainly have some

 6   of the problems of urban county -- or rural

 7   county in the sense that they are here, you

 8   know, with raccoons and also ground hogs.

 9   What are -- I mean, they fall through

10   the cracks right now. In some ways, it's a bit

11   humorous. In other ways, if those animals are

12   bothering you, what do we do about it.

13   MS. RUSSELL: Good afternoon, everyone.

14   Susan Russell from ACCT Philly. Thank you for

15   your question.

16   Brian, you did summarize that very, very

17   well. I will say that. But I will also say we

18   do -- we do go get trapped animals or injured

19   animals, injured wildlife. Unfortunately, with

20   only -- we do have twelve Animal Control

21   officers at present. For the most part, we

22   focus on those priorities where there is a

23   public safety risk, especially with dogs running

24   stray. We do, if a raccoon is in the living

25   quarters or any other kind of wildlife, we will

1   go there if it's part of the living space. But

2   otherwise, it does become more of a pest control

3   company type problem for people to hire a person

4   or to check with the game wardens to help them

5   with that.

6   Raccoons, and their are other species,

7   as well, are considered Vector species. And I

8   know you might not be too sympathetic to this.

9   But when they do come into our organization,

10   unfortunately, they are euthanized.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Sure.

12   MS. RUSSELL: We would love to work with

13   the districts more closely and provide more

14   coexistence materials so that people can help

15   prevent the nuisance and keep the nuisance away

16   by taking a few steps, whether it's keeping your

17   lids on garbage or, you know, bird feeders out

18   of the yard. Anything that attracts the

19   nuisance can be mitigated.

20   And so, there are a lot of things we all

21   can do to keep the wildlife from becoming a

22   nuisance. And you know, I know there are a few

23   folks as well who think it's okay to feed

24   wildlife. And that is something we would

25   strongly discourage, as well.

 1   MS. CRUZ: Hi. Joanna Otero Cruz,

 2   Executive Managing Director of Community

 3   Services.

 4   I know we have had a lot of

 5   conversations in your office about raccoons.

 6   And so, we have as part of 311 also for anybody,

 7   have a service request that individuals are

 8   given information about pest control. One of

 9   the things that they can do is basically

10   educational in terms of what they can do to --

11   it's all preventative stuff.

12   For example, things like having their

13   trash covered and doing an education in their

14   community, as well.

15   And so, those materials that have been

16   developed in conjunction with the Vector's

17   Office in conjunction with the Department of

18   Public Health is something that we have

19   distributed and will be happy to distribute to

20   all of City Councilmanic Districts.

21   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well, let me

22   run one scenario by you. And just let me know

23   if you think it's worth exploring or doing

24   nothing about it or tell me what the flaws are.

25   A community group has had an infestation

1   of ground hogs. And they were -- well, yes.

2   They had an infestation of ground hogs. It was

3   a South Philadelphia neighborhood. They are not

4   used to ground hogs. Up in Northeast

5   Philadelphia where I come from, yes, on occasion

6   you will see a ground hog. And they had an idea

7   because they had never -- they were -- these

8   yards were very small, but they had ground hogs.

9   They showed me pictures.

10   And the fact is, they wanted to trap

11   them in live traps. Their problem then was,

12   what to do with Mr. Ground Hog who now is -- who

13   wasn't as cut as the one with the Pennsylvania

14   Lottery, keep on scratching. He was in the trap

15   or she was in the trap.

16   What can they do? They were willing --

17   this group was actually willing to put the

18   ground hog in the trap in their car and drive it

19   somewhere to where it could be euthanized or

20   whatever. But probably the best thing would be

21   euthanized because ground hogs are not pretty

22   animals generally.

23   MS. RUSSELL: I won't argue with you on

24   that point, though they are kind of cute, you

25   have to admit.

 1   But truly, I think it would be good to

 2   consult with the wildlife sanctuaries and with

 3   Schuylkill Centers when it come to that

 4   magnitude of wildlife, and the Game Commission.

 5   Because sure, we can poison them and round them

 6   up. Not us personally, not ACCT, but the

 7   public. And then it becomes, well, if you do

 8   try to relocate them, will they just return.

 9   If you try to relocate some species, you

10   are not going to get rid of the problem because

11   another family will just move in right behind

12   them.

13   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Correct. And

14   actually, the Game Commission said there are

15   ordinances or laws on the state level that you

16   are not allowed to do that. You either have to

17   kill the animal or leave them there.

18   MS. RUSSELL: And I'm not sure, quite

19   frankly, if ground hogs are Vector species. I

20   do know raccoons are. But that is something

21   that we euthanize and not try to rehabilitate at

22   this point mainly because we don't quite --

23   there is no facility that will take some of

24   these little raccoons, the baby raccoons at this

25   time. But they are Vector species. Coyotes, I,

1   believe are the same thing here in Pennsylvania.

2   So, there are some species that we have

3   to euthanize when they come in, but it's never a

4   popular thing to do a mass euthanasia wildlife.

5   If there is a possibility of finding some kind

6   of, say, birth control for the animal or

7   something to actually manage the -- I know that

8   sounds odd, but there is such -- there may be

9   such things. I know they were trying that with

10   raccoons at one point, as well.

11   MS. CRUZ: That was something that was

12   presented here in terms of sterilizing them.

13   So, I think, Councilman, we would be happy to

14   really sit with your office and --

15   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Sure.

16   MS. CRUZ: I know that we have welcomed

17   the opportunity to meet with your group, and to

18   do those follow-up conversations and maybe

19   really kind of define what are ways that we can

20   remedy that so that the community can feel a

21   little safer.

22   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yeah. I think

23   it is important. I mean, it sounds -- for

24   someone who has not experienced this, sort of

25   somewhat silly or funny in some ways. But for a

1   family that is actually going through this and

2   the -- the houses that I visited in South

3   Philadelphia had small yards and they were full

4   of ground hogs.

5   And when we did have the hearing, the

6   one woman said, listen, I'm going to show you my

7   property, Councilman Taubenbeger. It was

8   Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. And she actually

9   had a photograph. And she lived not far off of

10   South Street. And she had a little patio. And

11   on that patio was a group of -- a family of

12   raccoons -- could have got a Pulitzer Prize had

13   we put it through the newspaper of raccoons

14   peering into their house from the outside. It

15   was actually humorous. But the fact is, they

16   went through it.

17   And well, I think the City somehow

18   because of their taxpayers need to come up with

19   some kind of solution. Working with them, I

20   think that's what we do. It is a problem and

21   it's a serious problem in certain neighborhoods.

22   MS. CRUZ: Sure.

23   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I would love

24   to work with you further.

25   MS. RUSSELL: We will work with you.

 1   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you.

 2   Mr. Chairman, thank you.

 3   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

 4   Councilman.

 5   Councilman Domb.

 6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr.

 7   Chairman. I have a few more -- last few

 8   questions.

 9   I just want to agree with Councilman

10   Taubenberger. And also, I want to bring up this

11   ACCT thing. When you think about it, I know you

12   probably agree, Brian, here we have Vector

13   Control that kills animals next to ACCT where we

14   are trying to save animals. I think it's really

15   for me a big issue and also that ACCT needs more

16   space. I'm not going to continue on that. I

17   just want you to be on board with that.

18   Two others thing I wanted to ask you

19   about, Philly 311. When people call 311, I

20   assume the operator either helps the person or

21   directs them -- directs their call to someone

22   who can help the person.

23   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes. Generally, yes.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And then, is there a

25   follow up to that caller, like, three days

1   later? You know, hi, this is so and so from the

2   City of Philadelphia, want to make sure we took

3   care of your problem.

4   MS. CRUZ: Hi, again. Joanna Otero

5   Cruz, Deputy Managing Director of Community

6   Services.

7   With regards to following up, we have

8   definitely been utilizing data a lot different

9   over the last, I want to say two years, where

10   our managers, supervisors are really looking at

11   our service levels and those individuals that

12   have been in cue. What I mean by service

13   levels, is they are going over beyond. They

14   committed time with the operational's team and

15   they are still pending.

16   And so, really looking into taking a

17   deeper dive as to what's going on, working with

18   the service department, whoever that may be, and

19   then being able to follow up with the end user,

20   meaning the residents. A lot of times, they may

21   not like the answer, but at least there is an

22   explanation as to what's happening and where the

23   progress is -- you know, what progress has been

24   made and what are the hurdles.

25   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Even though -- I'm a

1   big believer in customer service. Even if the

2   311 operator got the email of the person and

3   sent them an email that says, dear whatever,

4   your call was handled as follows. I rerouted to

5   so and so. If they don't reach you within three

6   days or whatever, just call me back.

7   Even if there was something of a

8   level -- by the way, I also am a big believer in

9   high tech, but high touch. And that personal

10   phone call from the City of Philadelphia, these

11   people would be shocked that we are calling

12   them, asking if we took care of their problem.

13   MS. CRUZ: We agree with you. I don't

14   know if Jim wants to add something.

15   MR. MORSE: James Morse, Senior

16   Operation Manager for 311.

17   Councilman, one of the other things we

18   will do is monitor and follow back with any

19   feedback we have received, whether it be through

20   social media. If -- as would -- the information

21   that's received to follow back with our

22   customer, if there is also anomalies that are

23   seen in the data that comes back. Like if a

24   ticket is closed by a department within the same

25   day that it was reported, obviously, a

1   particular department hasn't serviced it that

2   quickly with the exception of CLIP. They are

3   usually out there pretty quick. But they will

4   follow back with that person to make sure that

5   there are -- that it was corrected. Or if it

6   was a duplicate, we will inform them of that,

7   also.

8   We also provide a track number at the

9   beginning of the process. If they would like

10   to, they can follow up through the website or

11   call back for a status. They are encouraged to

12   do so.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: What I am saying is,

14   we should be more proactive. I am saying we

15   should be reaching out to people saying, just

16   want to make sure, you called the City last

17   week. Whatever the time frame you guys decide,

18   you called the City last week, want to make sure

19   your problem is taken care of.

20   And I come from this perspective.

21   Nobody knows -- nobody cares how much you know

22   until they know how much you care.

23   MR. MORSE: Agreed.

24   MS. CRUZ: And the other thing I just

25   want to add is that we implemented that promoter

 1   score, which is basically anybody that utilizes

 2   311 gets an opportunity to -- they get a survey.

 3   And it's a satisfactory survey.

 4   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm going to say, just

 5   look, I been around a long time. That personal

 6   phone call in today's day and age is invaluable.

 7   Invaluable if you can do it.

 8   MR. ABERNATHY: Councilman, I don't

 9   think anybody here will disagree. I think it

10   becomes a resource question. Right now, our

11   operators are tied up and our call times, quite

12   frankly, are higher than we would like to see

13   them. If we take them off the phone, we would

14   have other issues.

15   I think your point is well taken. I

16   think we all agree. But it does become a

17   resource question.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Get interns for

19   that, though.

20   Last question. Kensington and

21   Allegheny, down at Kensington and Lehigh --

22   first of all, I know that -- at this point, we

23   have no more encampments, which is great. So,

24   thank you for taking care of that. That was a

25   big issue.

 1   You know, I drive through that area

 2   every two weeks and drive through to see what's

 3   going on. And it breaks my heart to drive down

 4   Kensington Avenue from Allegheny to Lehigh and

 5   see how the businesses have been destroyed, to

 6   see how people are living there, to see what we

 7   have done to this neighborhood. And in many

 8   ways, I feel that we are responsible for it

 9   because we didn't take action quick enough.

10   And so, I have talked about this before.

11   I think, Tumar, I asked you this question

12   before. I would be in favor and I would be in

13   support of and help approve a funding of some

14   sort of a special services district -- just

15   think about the idea -- that goes into place in

16   that corridor that allows businesses to come

17   back in place, allows residents to live their

18   lifestyles, allows our children that are in that

19   neighborhood to feel safer.

20   And by the way, after -- maybe the City

21   has this, like, SWAT team special services

22   district that for two years were there. And

23   then if we bring it back, we say to those

24   businesses, okay, if you want it, you take it

25   over. And then we go to another neighborhood

1   and try to improve our neighborhoods with this

2   kind of a concept. It's worked very well in

3   neighborhoods that are put in these special

4   services district.

5   So, I just want to put that out there

6   for you to think about. You don't have to give

7   me an answer today. But I do think that

8   corridor -- and by the way, I would say this.

9   If we did an economic performance, I think

10   bringing back the businesses there from our

11   selfish reasons of real estate taxes and City

12   taxes and sales taxes and all the wage tax that

13   might occur from those business would pay for

14   this district many times.

15   MR. ABERNATHY: I don't disagree with

16   the concept. I think the underlying challenges

17   there are things that we have to address. And

18   frankly, I think Paul Levy could go run the

19   Center City District on Kensington Ave. If we

20   don't address the homelessness and opioid crisis

21   that is facing that community, we are not going

22   to be able to open businesses on Kensington

23   Avenue.

24   So, we are committed to that community.

25   I have been very clear about our office's

 1   commitment to solving the challenges in

 2   Kensington and Fairhill. Resilience was all

 3   about dedicating a SWAT team to, quite frankly,

 4   a community that I think you are right. The

 5   City does bear some blame for what's happening

 6   but I wouldn't say in our response to our opioid

 7   crisis. I would say for the last three decades,

 8   when we've ignored Kensington through multiple

 9   administrations.

10   So, I think you and I are fairly well

11   aligned on what we need to do for that

12   community.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I am just saying if

14   you need funding from us, I would be in favor of

15   it. I would support it as a joint effort which

16   we should think about.

17   MR. ALEXANDER: And, Councilman, I just

18   want to add, just to highlight. There is

19   existing work that is going on with Commerce

20   Department with folks like Shift Capital, Impact

21   CDC and others in that area. Just last night at

22   a community meeting, Joanna and her

23   organization, her folks' host, we were

24   introduced to a young lady that's brining --

25   opening a bakery on Kensington Avenue. It's a

 1   new business. She has one out in Darby. And

 2   she's opening that.

 3   I mean, there is that type of work doing

 4   on and that type of synergy. And that is what

 5   Brian said, all about the work that we are

 6   doing.

 7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's great.

 8   MR. ALEXANDER: The reason we are

 9   doing --

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I want to make sure

11   they are successful and they stay there, too.

12   MR. ALEXANDER: I already signed up to

13   be like a frequent customer.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right. Thank you

15   very much.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

17   Councilman.

18   Just lastly, and I was waiting to see if

19   she came. Because the Councilman Reynolds Brown

20   was tied up in another event. But she just

21   wanted to ask a question that deals with the

22   Office of Sustainability, which I think is on

23   its own. Does that come under -- I think Ms.

24   Epps is there?

25   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, to both.

1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Can she just come

2   up for a second. I will just relay the

3   Councilwoman's question. Has to do with the

4   Food Policy Advisory Council.

5   Councilwoman said, she held a hearing on

6   the prevalence of child hunger in our City. And

7   the people there reinforced the role of the Food

8   Policy Advisory Council, but that that is

9   apparently was funded through a grant that is

10   running out. And is there any plan for the

11   Office of Sustainability to take up that kind of

12   work with food policy?

13   MS. KNAPP: Thank you.

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And child hunger.

15   MS. KNAPP: Sure. Christine Knapp,

16   Director of the Office of Sustainability.

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes.

18   MS. KNAPP: So, the Food Policy Advisory

19   Council is a voluntary group appointed by the

20   Mayor. And the manager of that Food Policy

21   Advisory Council is a member of our staff.

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

23   MS. KNAPP: And she has been funded

24   through grant funded -- funding for about the

25   last five years. And some of those funders have

1   indicated to us that they would like to step

2   down the funding for salary. They might be

3   still interested in funding some of the

4   programmatic work, but they are less interested

5   in the salary at this point since it's been a

6   number of years.

7   So, we are going to work on a strategy

8   for how to fill that gap over the next couple of

9   years.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think the

11   Councilwoman may be interested, if we talk about

12   the budget, of getting some money in there for

13   that. Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you very

14   much.

15   MS. KNAPP: Thank you.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No further

17   questions. Thank you all very much.

18   Mr. Abernathy, I didn't say congratulations on

19   your new position. I don't know if that was --

20   today was the right day to say it.

21   MR. ABERNATHY: Thank you, sir.

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you all for

23   coming. And the Committee will stand in recess

24   until Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. At

25   which time, we will reconvene right here in Room

 1   400.

 2   Thank you.

 3   (At this time, the Committee stood in

 4   recess at 3:21 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

ANGELA M. KING, RPR,
Court Reporter, Notary Public

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