COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
10:24 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

BILLS: 170195, 170196, 170197
RESOLUTIONS: 170213

1   - - -

2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

3   We are going to start.

4   This is the Public Hearing of the

5   Committee of the Whole regarding Bills No.

6   170195, 170196, 170197 and Resolution No.

7   170213.

8   Mr. Stitt, please read the titles of the

9   resolutions and bills.

10   THE CLERK: Bill No. 170195: An

11   Ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the

12   six Fiscal Years 2018-2023 inclusive.

13   Bill No. 170196: An Ordinance to adopt

14   a Fiscal 2018 Capital Budget.

15   Bill No. 170197: An Ordinance adopting

16   the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

17   Resolution No. 170213: Resolution

18   providing for the approval by the Council of

19   the City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five

20   Year Financial Plan for the City of

21   Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2018

22   through 2022, and incorporating proposed

23   changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2017,

24   which is to be submitted by the Mayor to the

 1   Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation

 2   Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to the

 3   Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,

 4   authorized by an ordinance of this Council

 5   approved by the Mayor on January 3, 1992

 6   (Bill No. 1563-A), by and between the City

 7   and the Authority.

 8   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 9   Mr. Stitt.

10   Today we continue the Public Hearing of

11   the Committee of the Whole to consider the

12   bills read by the clerk that constitute

13   proposed operating and capital spending

14   measures for Fiscal 2018, a Capital Program,

15   and a forward looking capital plan for

16   Fiscal 2018 through Fiscal 2023. Today we

17   will hear testimony from the following

18   departments: The Controller's Office,

19   Aviation, Sheriff and City Commissioners.

20   Mr. Stitt, the first person to testify

21   is?

22   THE CLERK: Alan Butkovitz.

23   (Witness approaches Table.)

24   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

 1   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How are you?

 3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: President Clarke, City

 4   Council, I'm City Controller Alan Butkovitz.

 5   I'm here today to testify on the

 6   Controller's Fiscal Year 2018 Operating

 7   Budget. I'm joined by my First Deputy City

 8   Controller Bill Rubin, Pre-Audit Deputy John

 9   Thomas, Post-Audit Deputy Christy Brady as

10   well as our Administrative Services Director

11   Andrea Rose.

12   The Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2018

13   Operating Budget for the City Controller's

14   Office includes a general fund appropriation

15   of $9.2 million. I would like to once again

16   this year publicly thank all of our

17   employees who continue to provide

18   exceptional service to the citizens of

19   Philadelphia. They are to be commended and

20   congratulated for the work highlighted in my

21   testimony.

22   This year the Post-Audit Unit audited

23   all 42 City Department agencies as well as

24   issued performance and/or special reports

 1   that included the PICA Five Year Plan

 2   Report, the Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia

 3   Review of Marathon Reserves, Office of Human

 4   Resources Tuition Program. In addition,

 5   this unit completed the independent

 6   auditor's reports of the comprehensive

 7   annual financial reports and the schedule of

 8   financial assistance for both the City and

 9   School District of Philadelphia. These

10   reports provide recommendations to safeguard

11   assets, enhance financial management and

12   strengthen internal accounting controls.

13   I would also like to note that our

14   office was recently recognized by the

15   Association of Local Government Auditors

16   with the Distinguished Knighton Award for

17   the Post-Audit's performance audit of the

18   Philadelphia Fire Departments Brownouts and

19   Rotation Policies. This audit found the

20   policies implemented by the Nutter

21   Administration jeopardized public safety by

22   reducing the response rate for arriving on

23   scene at a fire emergency.

24   The National Institute for Occupational

 1   Safety and Health, NIOSH, released their

 2   findings Monday detailing the horrific

 3   details of the incident that surrounded the

 4   tragic death of Firefighter Joyce Craig.

 5   The NIOSH Report confirmed our findings.

 6   And thankfully, the rotation of Brownout

 7   policies were ended by the current

 8   Administration.

 9   The Pre-Audit Division reviewed more

10   than $257 million in Public Works contract

11   invoices over the last year. Through the

12   Pre-Audit's tech units efforts to monitor

13   invoices and to perform construction site

14   visits, we save taxpayers $1.3 million last

15   year by identifying contractors who were

16   billing too much for services and/or not

17   performing the services listed on the

18   invoice. Based on our experience with

19   contract compliance auditing, the Pre-Audit

20   staff participated in meetings with numerous

21   stakeholders regarding the current state of

22   diversity and inclusion in the construction

23   industry. Those stakeholders included but

24   were not limited to several City

 1   Councilmembers such as Councilwoman

 2   Blackwell, Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez,

 3   Councilwoman Cindy Bass and Councilman Derek

 4   Green along with their staffs,

 5   representatives of the Mayor Administration,

 6   including the OEO Advisory committees,

 7   representatives of the General Building

 8   Contractors Association and representatives

 9   of the National Association of Minority

10   Contractors.

11   The Fraud and Special Investigation

12   Division managed 104 cases last year, almost

13   doubling the number of cases over the

14   proceeding year. In addition to reports of

15   misconduct, time fraud, vehicle misuse and

16   residency investigations, they produced many

17   reports including the investigations into

18   the City's mail center, an assessment of

19   charter school managers, and a review of the

20   City's performance for responding to pothole

21   repairs. They also played a major role in

22   the follow-up investigation of the Mayor's

23   Fund for Philadelphia.

24   This investigation identified hundreds

1   of thousands of dollars in questionable

2   spending and resulted in the current

3   Administration implementing some of our

4   recommendations in order to improve

5   accountability and to ensure that the money

6   is used to fund programs that benefit all

7   Philadelphians.

8   The Policy Unit was busy this year with

9   our Retirement Security Initiative which

10   included our report last May, "Retirement

11   Security in Philadelphia: An Analysis of

12   Current Conditions and Paths to Better

13   Outcomes." It analyzed the state of

14   retirement security in Philadelphia, and its

15   impact on the fiscal and economic health of

16   the City. I look forward to working with

17   City Council, particularly Councilwoman

18   Cherelle Parker on this issue going forward.

19   We continue to work on our Anchor

20   Procurement Initiative. We have greatly

21   accelerated and deepened the work of this

22   initiative in partnership with the Commerce

23   Department and our numerous partners among

24   Philadelphia's eds-and-meds institutions.

1   We particularly thank Councilman Al

2   Taubenberger for his interest in and support

3   for the indoor agricultural project.

4   We continue to monitor tax revenues on a

5   realtime basis through our monthly economic

6   reports. In the very near future, we will

7   be including disaggregated wage tax data in

8   these reports, which will allow policymakers

9   to understand job flow in our City by

10   industry and geography.

11   Finally, on the issue of Criminal

12   Justice Reform, a report is under which will

13   analyze the multi-faceted costs of our cash

14   bail system. We are working with the Public

15   Defender's Association and others in this

16   report. And we thank Councilman Curtis

17   Jones and Kenyatta Johnson for their

18   leadership on this issue.

19   The Community Affairs Unit conducted,

20   financial wellness fairs in five different

21   Councilmanic districts with many more being

22   developed as we speak. I want to thank

23   Councilmembers Brian O'Neill, Bobby Henon,

24   Maria Quinones-Sanchez, Mark Squilla, Jannie

 1   Blackwell, Al Taubenberger and Blondell

 2   Reynolds Brown along with their staffs for

 3   their participation and commitment to

 4   improving the financial wellness for many

 5   residents of all ages.

 6   In addition to working with City, State

 7   and Federal Offices to provide community

 8   outreach, we conducted more than 50 senior

 9   fraud presentations over the last year. Our

10   staff partnered again this year with

11   Operation HOPE, a nonprofit that focuses on

12   financial empowerment to provide financial

13   education to elementary and middle school

14   students. We also completed the third year

15   of our Student Mentor Program by working

16   with students from the Philadelphia

17   Electrical and Technology School.

18   We continued to work with community

19   partners such as the Urban Affairs

20   Coalition, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve

21   and Councilman Allan Domb's Office to

22   establish a financial education course in

23   several schools. We have been coordinating

24   our efforts with the School District's

 1   Administration as well as principals at high

 2   schools and elementary schools. I would

 3   also like to recognize those who worked with

 4   our office on the Pension Board. This year,

 5   I introduced the Employee Pension Income

 6   Conversion Plan that could reduce the

 7   unfunded liability by as much as a billion

 8   dollars. It would allow City employees in

 9   the Legacy 67 Plan to convert to Plan 87 in

10   return for a one-time cash payment. We will

11   be continuing our work with this proposal

12   and anticipate having additional information

13   to present to City Council.

14   Along with conducting the annual audits

15   for the City and School District and the

16   many investigations that will arise

17   throughout the next fiscal year, we will

18   also be assuming the fiscal oversight role

19   for the Mayor's Rebuild Initiative. The

20   Pre-Audit Unit will be actively engaged in

21   monitoring the receipts and invoices before

22   the funding is expended. And the Post-Audit

23   Unit will be auditing the financial

24   reporting along with any performance-based

  1   reviews that might be required.

  2   I appreciate this opportunity to present

  3   my testimony. And I look forward to working

  4   with you in the coming year. My staff and I

  5   will be happy to answer any questions.

  6   Thank you.

  7   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

  8   Mr. Butkovitz. I just have a couple

  9   question.

 10   On your audits of the Mayor's Rebuild

 11   Initiative, there has been money spent that

 12   was not a part of any revenues generated

 13   from the Sugar Tax or any General Fund

 14   dollars, particularly money that was given

 15   by the William Penn Foundation and some

 16   nonprofits.

 17   Will your audits include those dollars

 18   being spent?

 19   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes.

 20   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can you give

 21   me a little more on that?

 22   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. We're --

 23   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: There was

 24   different phases. There was the RFP put out

1   to do an --

2   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Okay. Bill Rubin will

3   address that.

4   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: There you go.

5   MR. RUBIN: Mr. President, we are in the

6   process of putting that together now.

7   Christy Brady is working with the group over

8   there in the Rebuild Department. We are

9   putting together exactly what will be met.

10   William Penn has agreed to extend the

11   timelines that they have put in place for

12   certain pieces of that to be together. And

13   so, we're working with them to --

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So, that's

15   the early money to do the analysis on the --

16   MR. RUBIN: There was approximately --

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All the

18   facilities. And then there was additional

19   dollars. You know, we didn't get a lot of

20   the details because it happened prior to our

21   involvement, meaning City Council. There

22   was not a part of a public process,

23   essentially.

24   MR. RUBIN: There was approximately

1    $4.8 million that were asset aside from

2   William Penn to start and pay some of the

3   salaries and the start-up cost. And that

4   cost hasn't all been transferred over. They

5   set it up so they would give them some, and

6   then they would give them more as the

7   timelines were met. And we're in the

8   process of setting up a process to audit

9   those funds.

10   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And what will

11   your audit includes? Because -- will it

12   just be the fiscal side of it, or will it be

13   the process? Because the process was just

14   so much different than it traditionally is.

15   Normally when things come in, there is a

16   public RFP put out responses and a selection

17   process. And we don't -- we didn't -- we

18   weren't a part of that.

19   So, will they include all aspects of the

20   expenditures, the process and the fiscal

21   side of it?

22   MR. RUBIN: That's what's being agreed

23   to now between William Penn, the Rebuild

24   Group and our department.

  1   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Thank

  2   you. You talked about this in your

  3   testimony, the pension buyouts. I'm kind of

  4   interested in that.

  5   And is this somewhat different than what

  6   would be offered in the private sector? I

  7   know there is a number of buyouts in the

  8   private sector to help reduce long-term

  9   liabilities to Pensions and Retirement

 10   Savings Program.

 11   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, this is not on the

 12   retirement savings side. This is on the

 13   unfunded liability side. And we're not

 14   governed by --

 15   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Well, I say

 16   that in terms of making the pension fund

 17   solvent.

 18   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right. So, we are not

 19   covered by the restrictions of ERISA. We

 20   are just governed by state law. And the

 21   proposal that we've developed is that, as

 22   you know, $5 billion of the $6 billion

 23   unfunded liability is owed to employees who

 24   worked under the 67 Plan.

1   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Correct.

2   MR. BUTKOVITZ: So the proposal, and we

3   would we need to get buy-in from the unions

4   and the workers before we can even go to the

5   next step.

6   But the concept is that if you would be

7   willing to take the current benefits instead

8   of the higher benefits that were earned by

9   the people under the 67 Plan, the City would

10   offer you a lump sum cash payment of half of

11   the difference in value. And -- and the

12   Pension Board would be able to do a pre --

13   so first, we would need to determine if

14   enough City workers would be interested

15   because this cannot be forced down their

16   throat.

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Correct.

18   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Enough would be

19   interested to make this something that could

20   actually save money. And that's going to

21   require some kind of survey. And because

22   the City has a collective bargaining

23   agreement and we are not going to try to go

24   around the union leadership --

 1   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah. That

 2   was tried before, and it didn't work.

 3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. We need to work

 4   with the union leaders. And the union

 5   leaders, I guess, are concerned -- they're

 6   kind of in the middle of this problem

 7   because they don't want to -- they don't

 8   want to give up anything that their members

 9   have earned. On the same token, they don't

10   want to be seen as just giving anything

11   away. But I think they are intrigued by the

12   idea, as well.

13   If we can figure out how to gauge how

14   many City workers would be interested, then

15   it would have to be negotiated with every

16   single City employee. The Pension Board has

17   the ability to tell by employee how much

18   their total life expectancy is, how much

19   their total benefits would be, and what that

20   amount would be for City -- for each

21   employee.

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Right.

23   MR. BUTKOVITZ: And if we can get to

24   that step, then we would have to come to

 1   Council for enabling legislation. And then

 2   the proposal would be that agreements be

 3   sent to City workers. And if they signed,

 4   they -- they receive the money. The workers

 5   that did not agree to it would not be

 6   affected.

 7   Our concern would be that if nobody took

 8   it or only the people who had terminal

 9   cancer or serious conditions took it, it

10   wouldn't be a viable option because we would

11   get beat. But if as I've noted, lottery

12   winners are frequently enticed with the

13   option of getting a lump sum of cash today

14   as opposed to getting a payout over time.

15   And even in the retirement area, we know a

16   lot of people need lump sums at the time

17   their children go to college or at the time

18   that there's an illness in the family or

19   something. So, there's many reasons that a

20   City employee or a retiree may find it

21   attractive to get a lump sum of cash now as

22   opposed to waiting for it to be dribbled out

23   over time.

24   Really, the next stage that we are at is

 1   this idea of about how do we engage the

 2   level of interest --

 3   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah. Have

 4   you --

 5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: -- by people in 67.

 6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Have you

 7   determined in your analysis what percentage

 8   of those eligible individuals would have to

 9   be -- would have to buy-in to the program to

10   make it a feasible scenario?

11   MR. BUTKOVITZ: The actuaries haven't

12   been able to guess that number. But I would

13   think something in the one-third, you know,

14   a third, 50 percent would have to be

15   interested. Maybe the number would be a

16   little bit lower.

17   My -- my personal experience, I've run

18   into workers on the street who are like

19   where is this thing? I want to sign up

20   tomorrow. Can I get it? We just need to

21   work with the unions in a way to figure out.

22   And we may not be able to do it with direct

23   contact with the employees. We may have to

24   do a poll or some other form of measuring

 1   their interest.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. All

 3   right. Thank you.

 4   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

 5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning. Thank

 6   you, Council President.

 7   Good morning Controller and --

 8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

 9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: -- staff. Few

10   questions I wanted to ask you.

11   Obviously, the two biggest issues for

12   the City financially are the pension and the

13   fund balance as far as where we are. And my

14   question on the pension is, have you

15   reviewed the Administration's, I'm going to

16   call it, the road to 80 percent? The plan

17   over the next 13 years and the four legs of

18   that stool and given an opinion on that

19   plan?

20   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. I mean, that's

21   pretty much what we've been working with,

22   with the Pension Board for the last few

23   years. The real question is whether the --

24   the assumed rate of return really can be

 1   relied upon for that period of time. So,

 2   it's probably a slightly optimistic.

 3   But as I noted in response to President

 4   Clarke, the problem that we have with the

 5   Pension Fund is the legacy problem. So,

 6   this is a problem that will eventually work

 7   its way through the system as the older

 8   retirees die off.

 9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Right.

10   MR. BUTKOVITZ: The issue has been how

11   hard our City finance is going to be pressed

12   in the interim. And how much trouble are we

13   going to have dedicating enough money to

14   police and the recreation and so on while

15   we're paying annual payments that are about

16    $650 million a year now and are going to be

17   going up to the 8 or 900 million-dollar

18   range.

19   But some of the pension crisis has been

20   over hyped. There has never been a problem

21   about whether the Pension Fund is going to

22   be able to make good on its obligations or

23   whether its solvency is at stake. All of

24   that has been based on sensationalist and

1   rigged kind of assumptions, such as if the

2   City suddenly stopped making its

3      $650 million contribution every year for

4   five years, then the Pension Fund wouldn't

5   have any money.

6   No kidding.

7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Well, let me ask you a

8   question. There is four legs of the stool

9   as I understand it. One is the

10   contributions we make, the MMO.

11   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's about roughly,

13   from memory, 10 -- 10 billion over the next

14   12 or 13 years. The second leg of the stool

15   from memory is based on the returns of

16   whatever it is, 7.5 or 7.7.

17   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's about another

19   9 billion, okay? And the other two legs are

20   anywhere from about 1 and a half to

21     $2 billion in that range. So clearly, the

22   first two are the major tranches of whether

23   it's going to be successful or not.

24   So even if the rate wasn't 7.5 percent

 1   and the rate was 5 percent, okay, where

 2   does -- even for a fund that is 65 percent,

 3   have we done an analysis to show even if the

 4   rate is not 7.5 but it's 5, where we come

 5   out?

 6   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I mean, the actuary

 7   reports that are done for the Pension Board

 8   have considered those options.

 9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And if we have it at

10   5 percent, where do you think that

11   percentage would come out in 12 to 13 years?

12   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. I mean, that

13   requires a specific question and a computer

14   run.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: If you can just give

16   me the analysis, I am just curious to see --

17   and I agree with you. If the rate is

18   5 percent, if the rate is 6 percent, if the

19   rate is 7, maybe we can just share it with

20   this body so we can understand what the

21   impact is of that level of return.

22   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Okay.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: On the Fund Balance

24   right now, we have been told and we looked

 1   at charts and information of cities

 2   comparable across the country. And our fund

 3   balance is, like, the second or third worst

 4   of those cities in that category.

 5   In your opinion, is it important to have

 6   a Fund Balance between 6 and 8 percent,

 7   which is the recommended guideline?

 8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Sure, if it's possible.

 9   But there are so many pressures in

10   Philadelphia, so many unmet needs, so many

11   unrepaired potholes and rec centers and

12   everything, that it's very difficult to

13   achieve as a practical matter. Council is

14   always facing that dilemma of how do we put

15   money in the bank account while we tell

16   people that we are not going to be able to

17   fix the potholes for five years.

18   So, but I can -- this office has flagged

19   for the last two or three years this

20   impending problem around Fiscal Year 2019.

21   And if, God forbid, there is a recession in

22   the meantime or anything goes wrong, there

23   will be tremendous pressure on the Council

24   for tax increases that have not been

 1   anticipated in the plans.

 2   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But you know, to a

 3   degree, it's the concept of save before you

 4   spend which not everyone -- I know, not

 5   everyone does that in their own personal

 6   lives. But that is kind of the concept what

 7   we need to do in government in some ways.

 8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: But it's exactly -- it's

 9   exactly how we got into hot water in

10   pensions. Because as you know, during the

11   '80s and '90s, we made a ton of money in the

12   Pension Fund.

13   And what happens when you're -- before

14   Rendell left and he borrowed that billion

15   dollars to invest in the stock market, which

16   was lost within three years, we were at

17   76 percent funded. So, what happens when

18   you -- when you're rich? What happens is

19   that there's pressure to do cost-of-living

20   increases and to share the wealth.

21   And in fact, I remember being in the

22   middle of -- in Harrisburg, there was a lot

23   of feeling that we had a great run during

24   the '80s. And we need to share this, and it

1   will go on forever. If the economic times

2   are good just like they were before the

3   Depression -- when things are good, people

4   believe it will always, will always be rich.

5   And when things are bad, people will think

6   it will never get better again. So although

7   in an academic sense people can look at it

8   and say over 50 years, we know how it works.

9   The people that are living in the real world

10   are being engulfed by those emotions.

11   And there are always these competing

12   legitimate demands. The cost-of-living

13   increases needed to be given because people

14   who've been retired for 20, 30 years, people

15   who were getting 80-dollar a month pensions

16   couldn't live on that anymore. So, you put

17   on your green eye shades and you say, you

18   should have been able to tighten your belt

19   and be able to live with that. But the

20   people trying to buy food and pay their car

21   insurance, they can't wait for that.

22   So, you are dealing with these abstract

23   principles. And I would say Philadelphia is

24   in better shape -- look, Governor Christie

1   preached this stuff all the time. And he

2   turned out to be a hypocrite because he did

3   a year or two when he didn't put any money

4   in the Pension Fund. Philadelphia has never

5   done that. Philadelphia has a better record

6   in the State of Pennsylvania, in the State

7   of New Jersey. Every year we put money

8   away. And frankly, since at least the

9   Nutter Administration for all eight years,

10   they put in more money than the law

11   required.

12   So understanding -- and Rob Dubow

13   deserves a lot of credit for that because

14   it's almost the biblical thing. Like,

15   saving the wheat in the rich years so that

16   when the famine comes, you'll have it. I

17   think the City has been doing -- you know,

18   it's a question within the margins. We have

19   been putting in, like, an extra $20 million

20   a year. Something happens like the

21   expiration of the extra 1 percent sales tax,

22   and then there's an issue -- President

23   Clarke recommended that that be put into the

24   Pension Fund. And that had to -- was in

 1   competition with the needs of the School

 2   District.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me just ask one

 4   quick question. Is your office in favor of

 5   the Administration's plan or not?

 6   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes. Yes.

 7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. That's all I

 8   want to know. Thank you. Thank you very

 9   much.

10   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11   (Councilman Henon sitting in as Chair.)

12   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

13   Councilman. And you know, Controller was

14   good to hear you have a conversation -- have

15   those conversation about the Fund Balance.

16   Because there is different philosophies and,

17   you know, different ways that people view

18   the fund. And understanding that, yes, all

19   right, would it be best if it was 6 to

20   8 percent in -- in savings?

21   But the reality is, I mean, we are a

22   large municipality. One of the largest in

23   the country. We service, you know, 1.5

24   people on a daily basis, which is costly.

1   And one thing I have learned in my short

2   time here in Council is every good idea has

3   a cost to it.

4   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

5   COUNCILMAN HENON: So when we're out

6   here trying to, you know, make sure that our

7   workers in uniform and non-uniform, you

8   know, get the fairest contract that they,

9   you know deserve. You know, that we

10   continue to look at ways to be more

11   efficient, ways to be cost effective and get

12   our best value on our products. And some of

13   our products and a lot of our products are

14   services and public services, which I think,

15   you know, we need to, you know, continue to

16   stay on top of.

17   That's -- which is great about this, you

18   know, budget process.

19   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I appreciate that. And

20   we have recently talked to the credit rating

21   agencies. Because remember during the

22   Nutter Administration, they had something

23   like a $200 million plus surplus. Then

24   Mayor Kenney came in and negotiated the

1   contracts. And the surplus was sharply

2   reduced. And the rating agencies took a

3   slap at us about that. We got into really

4   the weeds, the detail with them and pointed

5   out that that $200 million surplus was a

6   phony all those years because it was really

7   money that was being reserved for union

8   contracts that wasn't being given to

9   workers.

10   Mayor Kenney honestly recognized the

11   need to pay the workers. The change between

12   what it looked like before and what now was

13   really not a change. And it was unfair to

14   take a slap at the City in the credit rating

15   for that. And that, in fact, the City has

16   been increasingly disciplined in its

17   approach to dealing -- so that these were

18   kinds of statistical anomalies because of

19   the way liabilities were being recognized

20   before and after.

21   And what has actually been, in my view,

22   a more disciplined City approach to

23   budgeting was being penalized because of the

24   way it looked on paper. And I think we've

1   made progress in getting them to see that.

2   COUNCILMAN HENON: Right. It's

3   different Administration's philosophy on

4   their --

5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

6   COUNCILMAN HENON: That turns, as a lot

7   of things, can turn political. And you

8   know, that really doesn't send a good

9   message when we, as a City and we as a

10   legislative body, you know, do hold -- you

11   know, the Administration accountable, do

12   hold the departments accountable --

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

14   COUNCILMAN HENON: -- in their actuaries

15   and their reporting, especially when it

16   comes to finances.

17   I wanted to touch on a little bit more

18   on what the Council President had started

19   the conversation with the -- with the

20   buyouts for the pension. And there is some

21   31,000 that are eligible that, you know,

22   that you've been talking about. And you had

23   mentioned about a survey.

24   Is that a survey that has taken place?

1   MR. BUTKOVITZ: No. Because we have got

2   to try to solve this problem that the Union

3   presidents will face. Because on the one

4   hand, we -- we don't want to try to go

5   behind their back. On the other hand, I

6   don't want to put them in an impossible

7   position where by approving our survey

8   language it looks like they've already

9   okay'd something that some of their members

10   fiercely believe that they should resist.

11   It's a conundrum.

12   They -- they -- the workers should only

13   be communicated with through the Union

14   leadership. And the Union leadership should

15   retain the power to form an opinion about

16   this proposal later on. But we need to get

17   their cooperation in the meantime so we can

18   even test whether it's a viable option.

19   That's what we're struggling with right now.

20   How do we -- how do we formulate language

21   for a survey that doesn't take away the

22   Union leadership's leverage to be able to

23   form an opinion later on how they feel about

24   it.

 1   COUNCILMAN HENON: And you don't

 2   necessarily -- certainly, don't want to do

 3   that. Has there been an actuarial report?

 4   Or is there -- is an actuary, are they

 5   taking a look at this model by bell

 6   weathering and taking samples --

 7   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah.

 8   COUNCILMAN HENON: -- of, you know,

 9   our -- our pension years, on our future

10   pension years?

11   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes. I think maybe what

12   we need is an underwriter more than an

13   actuary. Because if we can't do a survey of

14   our own employees, then we may have to look

15   at examples in private industry where

16   something like this has happened and see

17   percentage participation rate and so on. It

18   becomes a profitable plan.

19   But I don't think that we have seen any

20   other plans that look quite like this. In

21   the private sector, they are generally

22   100 percent buyouts. So the ques -- so, the

23   idea that this would be a part-payment

24   buyout changes a lot of things. And there's

1   not -- there's really no precedent for that.

2   But on the other hand, the stuff that we're

3   interested in is how many people that would

4   be opting in would have serious health

5   problems, and how many of them would have a

6   life expectancy that varied from what it

7   would be if things were left untouched.

8   And I -- we might be able to find

9   analogs for that in the private sector.

10   COUNCILMAN HENON: In predicting

11   people's intentions are almost, you know, a

12   non-factor. I mean, you can't factor in

13   that. I mean, we can only factor in what

14   the financial realities are of the pension,

15   the existent Pension Fund. And you know,

16   what would happen if, you know, people chose

17   to get out. Because, you know, you never

18   can predict people's intentions whether they

19   feel like they're going, you know, retire at

20   a certain age, you know, something may

21   trigger in their life --

22   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

23   COUNCILMAN HENON: -- at a certain time.

24   And say, hey, you know what, I was going to

1   stay until I'm 62. I am going to get out at

2   59. I'm going to rent an RV and going to

3   go -- go to the Grand Canyon. You know, so

4   you just never -- you can never quantify or

5   put a number into somebody's, you know,

6   future intentions because you don't know

7   what that is.

8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

9   COUNCILMAN HENON: Last for my line of

10   questions here in this round.

11   Is one of the findings that you know --

12   and I have been in contact with your office

13   or over the last past several years, what is

14   the Anchor Procurement Initiative which I

15   think is exciting. And the report promoted

16   a -- or recommended a two-way communication

17   between purchases and manufacturers of goods

18   in the City. The Office of Industry and

19   Manufacturing is currently working on a

20   database for manufacturers.

21   What sort of information should they

22   include in your opinion, or can we work on

23   finding what kind of information that would

24   be helpful to the institutions and order the

 1   work towards local procurement?

 2   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, what we are trying

 3   to do is develop an inventory from the

 4   institutions and the hospitals about the

 5   products that they purchase. And then we

 6   got to figure out what the components of

 7   those products are, and then match them with

 8   either current Philadelphia producers or

 9   companies that can be induced to do

10   production in Philadelphia.

11   So, whether it's a question of surgical

12   instruments or the kind of carts that are

13   used in hospitals or people say, like, the

14   little wheels in the carts, it may -- there

15   may be a tremendous market for somebody to

16   manufacture those wheels in Philadelphia if

17   the local hospitals will agree that they

18   will buy that from the local producer. So

19   when you think of the large number of

20   products that they use, then there is the

21   next step of breaking that down into all the

22   subparts of what that involves.

23   COUNCILMAN HENON: The goods could be

24   endless from paper products to, you know, to

 1   furniture.

 2   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes.

 3   COUNCILMAN HENON: Are there policies

 4   that we can put in place to further

 5   incentivize large scale purchases from the

 6   institution?

 7   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, we really haven't

 8   gotten to that --

 9   COUNCILMAN HENON: -- with the local

10   supplier?

11   MR. BUTKOVITZ: We haven't gotten to

12   that point yet. I think we are allowed to

13   do -- go to a certain extent in encouraging

14   local procurement. But we have to pay

15   attention to the Commerce Clause. We can't

16   shut people out from other states and areas

17   from bidding on our work because the Federal

18   Constitutional requirements. But we can

19   give -- we can give extra points to local

20   procurement.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: Certainly can.

22   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes.

23   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you.

24   Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

 1   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you -- thank

 2   you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr.

 3   Controller. And good morning to your staff.

 4   Thank you for what you do.

 5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

 6   COUNCILMAN JONES: Particularly, in the

 7   area of justice reform, we -- we are

 8   treading on new waters. We are trying to

 9   figure out a restorative justice model that

10   keeps the citizens safe, but doesn't

11   overburden -- I tell the people in

12   Harrisburg that there are two types of folk

13   when it comes to justice: Those who want to

14   save souls, and those who want to save

15   money. And in justice reform, you can

16   actually accomplish both. You actually can.

17   So, the question becomes how do we

18   figure out how much doing good cost? And

19   that's where we rely on you. 24 percent or

20   so of our budget is policing courts and

21   prisons. If we really want to save money

22   like Councilman Domb is talking about and

23   like you have spoken about, this is the area

24   in which we have to kind of focus some of

1   our pen sharpening and -- and using our

2   common sense in our approach.

3   But what we have seen -- and Prisons

4   testified yesterday -- that we have seen

5   incremental change. We went from

6   approximately 9,000 inmates down to 6,500,

7   but we have not seen true savings yet. We

8   haven't hit critical mass where we can. And

9   so, that's one aspect.

10   The second which I'm -- we need your

11   help on is creating a accurate accounting

12   system that draws -- if we try to do social

13   services, where does that social worker or

14   probation officer come from and

15   appropriately debiting or crediting that

16   resource, that salary, that time to a model

17   that says here is what you've saved. Here

18   is what you spent. And here is how much

19   good you did.

20   Those things I don't think we've seen a

21   model for. But if we're going to -- and if

22   this Body is going to go in the direction of

23   day reporting centers or other things, we

24   actually have to have an accounting system

1   that takes into account everyone's rock/soup

2   contribution. And with that --

3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. It's a struggle

4   to really put together a model like that.

5   There is this concept in the -- in the

6   investment world of kind of selling social

7   credits. So, the idea is that if you had a

8   program for restorative justice that proved

9   that the utilization of the prisons would go

10 down by 5 percent or something, and if

11 that's $10 million, that you should be able

12 to sell bonds for that and pay for them out

13 of the lower expenditure or actually get the

14 private investor to take the risk.

15   They tried that in Massachusetts. But

16 nobody has really had the courage of their

17 convictions on it because they've been

18 amounts like $200,000. Nobody really

19 believes enough. And I guess the history of

20 government budgeting is it's always a moving

21 target. So, you think you are going to save

22 money between now and five years. By the

23 time you get to five years from now, that

24 money has been spent on something else. And

 1   the investors are like, do we really want to

 2   buy a bond like that on the basis that the

 3   money we saved on prison utilization is now

 4   not being used for a newly -- maybe there's

 5   a public health crisis or something else

 6   that pops up and the money is not there.

 7   The second is an initiative that I

 8   understand took place in the 24th Police

 9   District back in the early part of the

10   century where they targeted, I think it was,

11   the hundred kids who were most likely to be

12   perpetrators or victims of homicide. And

13   they would invest intensive social work and

14   other supportive services behind them. And

15   they had an expectation that, I think,

16   7 percent of them would either be

17   perpetrators or victims within five years.

18   And they got a figure that was much lower

19   than that. But that program was abandoned

20   because it was so expensive.

21   So I -- we can try to see if we can go

22   back and see if there's any records that

23   remain for that program.

24   COUNCILMAN JONES: So if we look at

 1   programs like Councilman Johnson's focus

 2   deterrent, not that he is the owner or

 3   creator of the program. But it is a model

 4   that has existed in his district. We know

 5   similar to what you said if a hundred kids

 6   are estimated to be high risk, and if indeed

 7   7 percent of them is the average that wind

 8   up going into the system and we get it down

 9   to 5 percent, there is a mathematical

10   equation that we can attribute to.

11   Councilman Domb questioned the Prison

12   Department yesterday trying to get his arms

13   around, head around some of those figures.

14   And it is difficult at best to quantify what

15   those savings and even costs are. So if you

16   can dedicate some time, staff time to

17   creating those models, I think we can get an

18   accurate sense. Because Members in this

19   Body want to do progressive things. But

20   what we want to do is monitor what good

21   costs.

22   And so, if a day reporting center -- we

23   know how much a homicide trial on average

24   costs. We know how much trials actually

 1   costs that are less time and duration. We

 2   have to create averages and models that say

 3   if Bill Greenlee -- (timer rings.)

 4   I want the Chairman's same time clock,

 5   young man. You walked away. And I saw what

 6   you did. No, I'm a stop.

 7   But if we can create those kinds of

 8   things, we can then measure what we do. And

 9   I always say in my own lingo, "if it ain't

10   measured, it ain't managed." And if we are

11   going to bring things to scale, we have to

12   know what the change is.

13   So if you can dedicate some time.

14   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right. And we already

15   have Tommy St. Hill, Jr. and Isaiah Thomas

16   in our office working on that issue.

17   COUNCILMAN JONES: Fine young man, fine

18   young -- in spite of Tommy's father. He's

19   a --

20   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, there was an issue

21   at one time. I think I got aggravated with

22   him and took "St." out of his name. It was

23   just Tom Hill and Tommy Usain Hill.

24   But since then, he's re-earned "St."

1   COUNCILMAN JONES: Proof positive if we

2   invest in young people, they can rise above

3   their circumstances.

4   (Laughter)

5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I think he's entitled to

6   rebuttal.

7   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, those are things

8   that I'm sure if we're talking about Focused

9   Deterrent, if we want to bring that to other

10   districts, other areas, we better measure

11   what we're talking about. Because every

12   time Councilman Johnson pushes that forward,

13   people start to, you know, talk about the

14   cost. But the cost of prevention, the

15   savings that comes with it hasn't been

16   measured in a real --

17   MR. BUTKOVITZ: That's a valuable idea.

18   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

19   Mr. Chairman.

20   COUNCILMAN HENON: Councilman, I

21   appreciate us sharing our equal time

22   distribution here in City Council.

23   COUNCILMAN JONES: He took a walk. I

24   watched him walk away.

 1   COUNCILMAN HENON: Chair recognizes

 2   Councilwoman Parker.

 3   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,

 4   Mr. Chairman. And good morning.

 5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

 6   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I want to say for

 7   one, Mr. Controller, thank you very much for

 8   the comments on the record relative to the

 9   fiscal stewardship of the Pension Fund,

10   particularly that we have -- Philadelphia

11   has faired much better than some folks have

12   given us credit for.

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

14   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Particularly as it

15   relates to making that MMO payment, going

16   above and beyond the call of duty,

17   adjustments so that, you know, slow but sure

18   exit from hedge fund investments. And I

19   just don't think Fran and Rob and, quite

20   frankly, the entire board gets the credit

21   that it deserves for the work that it has

22   done. So, I appreciate you putting that on

23   the record.

24   My comment is just relative to the

1   buyout or the cash buyout and/or, I want to

2   say it correctly, the Employee Pension

3   Income Conversion Plan.

4   I wanted to ask that if it's any sort of

5   actuarial data or any further research, that

6   we would also find out how many of those

7   employees who would potentially be eligible.

8   Particularly if we talking about the 5

9   billion of unfunded liability associated

10   with Plan 67 and the Legacy Call. I

11   appreciate you putting that on the record,

12   too.

13   But how many of them are homeowners in

14   the City of Philadelphia?

15   And the reason why that's extremely

16   important to me is that, obviously, we have

17   all see Pew's recent data. We know that

18   Philadelphia boasts a high level of

19   homeownership particularly in middle

20   neighborhoods, you know, like the 9th. You

21   know, they are targeted because it's even

22   much higher than the City. I can think of

23   two to three areas, you know, right off the

24   top of my head with the homeownership rate

 1   is like 73 to 75 percent. But these groups

 2   are targeted with the I'll buy your house

 3   for cash, you know, get the reverse

 4   mortgage. So with that in mind, I would be

 5   interested in knowing how many of -- how

 6   many folks who are receiving those benefits

 7   in the Legacy Plan 67 category are

 8   homeowners in the City of Philadelphia.

 9   Because their -- that assured income,

10   would it in any way, shape or form impact

11   their ability to maintain those properties,

12   particularly with neighborhood preservation

13   and access to disposable income being a

14   major driving force that is not allowing,

15   Councilman Jones, people to repair those

16   driveways, those retaining walls;

17   Councilwoman Blackwell, those steps.

18   So anything that we can do, if you get

19   that data controller, please share it --

20   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah.

21   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: -- with us. That

22   would be extremely helpful.

23   MR. BUTKOVITZ: That's an interesting

24   idea. I hadn't thought of that. But

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 1      that's -- yeah.  We will talk to our Policy

 2      Unit about that.

 3           COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:  Thanks a lot.

 4      Thank you.

 5           COUNCILMAN HENON:  Chair recognizes

 6      Councilman Green.

 7           COUNCILMAN GREEN:  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

 8           Mr. Controller, good morning.

 9           MR. BUTKOVITZ:  Good morning.

10           COUNCILMAN GREEN:  Thank you for your

11      testimony.  Some of the questions I want to

12      ask have already been asked by the

13      Councilmembers.  But I wanted to touch base

14      on the work you have been doing with the

15      Inner City Catholic Connections Program.

16           As you know, it's a program that since

17      2005 has held helped create over 12,000 jobs

18      and about $1.4 billion in capital.  Number

19      of cities around the country, notably

20      Boston, Chicago, Dallas, LA, Memphis,

21      Milwaukee, Tampa, DC and also here in

22      Philadelphia has been in operation for the

23      past three years.

24           I want you to kind of give your
```

 1   perspectives on this program and some of the

 2   benefits of the program and how we, the

 3   City, could invest more in this program to

 4   have a greater return to grow more

 5   businesses in the City of Philadelphia to

 6   address poverty.

 7   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right. The Councilman

 8   is referring to a national program that is

 9   centered in a number of cities in which 100

10   or 150 entrepreneurs who have businesses

11   that are maybe generating 1 to 3 million

12   dollars in annual revenues may be perched on

13   the outskirts of maybe growing to very large

14   size. And the question is connecting them

15   with capital resources and with training so

16   that they're able to take advantage of it.

17   And they have had some very dramatic success

18   stories.

19   One construction company in Philadelphia

20   was a graduate of that program and is now in

21   the tens of millions of dollars in revenue.

22   They had an interesting story about somebody

23   who was a street vendor of hair gel products

24   that was bought out, I think, by something

1   like $900 million by a national company.

2   And they conduct -- they accept nominations,

3   recruitment from Chambers of Commerce,

4   perhaps Councilpeople and so on. And they

5   run this -- it's either a one or two-day

6   seminar.

7   They did it in Philadelphia last year.

8   And it was a little bit of an embarrassment

9   because Philadelphia doesn't have the same

10   kind of private philanthropic record that

11   these other cities have. What they need to

12   raise is 100/125,000 dollars to pay for the

13   overhead of this. And therefore, there's

14   been a different look in Philadelphia.

15   And the question is whether the Council

16   could appropriate that overhead. Because

17   even the -- we did have a lunch with some of

18   the major business leaders in town. And

19   people came to the lunch. And people did

20   make nominations of small businessmen they

21   thought would be beneficiaries, but they

22   were like contribute $10,000? You know.

23   There is a history in Philadelphia I guess

24   that people only contribute when there's a

1   big local name that ask. Why would they

2   contribute just to an idea? And this group

3   is, I guess, headquartered in Massachusetts.

4   So, it would really be helpful in the

5   grand scheme of things. It's a very

6   manageable figure. But the potential and

7   the criteria is that these be inner city

8   businesses. That they geographically be

9   within high poverty census areas. And that

10   people actually hit a relatively high bar

11   for eligibility into this. But this is an

12   admission to connections and to mentorship

13   with very high credit worthy or credit

14   agencies in New York.

15   So, we think it would be a real boost to

16   the entrepreneurial class in Philadelphia if

17   we can get the Council -- the Mayor and the

18   Council on board for something like a

19    $150,000 appropriation.

20   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah. The business

21   you referenced, I believe that's Perryman

22   Construction which, I believe, many people

23   in this room are familiar with. Angelo

24   Perryman is the president of that company.

1   And he is a graduate of this program.

2   I know you've done a lot of work. I

3   know Councilman Henon talked about the

4   Anchor Procurement Initiative.

5   How would this initiative help in

6   reference to your work regarding Anchor

7   Procurement?

8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, it helps us --

9   like one thing that's going to be happening

10   because of Dr. Hornstein's work on Anchor

11   Procurement is creation of a minority-owned

12   medical laundry in Philadelphia where

13   there's been no medical laundry for 20

14   years. And all their hospitals have signed

15   up and agreed they're going to send work

16   over there. So, what it will do is it will

17   create a bench of people here who are

18   capable of filling the needs of these local

19   hospitals and educational institutions.

20   And now have the -- one of the biggest

21   problems we have had in minority contracting

22   period has been that no matter how expert

23   they are doing the work, they can't get

24   their hands on the money and the capital.

1   And if we -- you know from your own past

2   experience, that's a major issue. So, if we

3   can unlock access to capital in New York,

4   that's going to fill one of the major

5   impediments to growth of minority business

6   in Philadelphia.

7   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Just one last

8   question. I know with the -- the ICC

9   Program in other cities they have worked

10   with their Chambers of Commerce. Are you

11   aware if there's been any outreach to the

12   Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

13   playing a role or helping to raise some

14   dollars for this program?

15   MR. BUTKOVITZ: There probably hasn't

16   been because we are kind of like the local

17   guides on that. And I think in the time

18   frame that we are involved in, we have a lot

19   more confidence in Council's interest in

20   this issue and ability to move things

21   forward than we would -- we have tried the

22   private sources. And we are in better shape

23   if we come to Council, I think.

24   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,

1   Mr. Chair.

2   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

3   Councilman.

4   Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

5   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much,

6   Mr. Chairman.

7   Good morning, Controller.

8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

9   COUNCILMAN OH: With the pending bills

10   like Senate Bill 10 and other bills which

11   have threatened to defund the City over the

12   Sanctuary City status, some estimates

13   according to articles I've written by the

14   sponsors is it be upwards of $368 million.

15   Have you in some sense calculated what

16   the City could or should do should these

17   bills pass? What would -- what would be the

18   action or what steps should we take as a

19   City to deal with potential defunding of the

20   City?

21   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, I think what the

22   City would do would be very vigorously fight

23   any such legislation in court. It's about

24     $340 million in federal money at risk. And

1   about $600 million in state money. The City

2   budgets $4.4 billion. There is no way the

3   City could make any kind of reasonable

4   contingency plan to replace a billion

5   dollars worth of lost revenue. But there is

6   a strong constitutional argument that the

7   Federal Government can't impose these kind

8   of extra duties in the state and local

9   governments.

10   There is strong opinions that that would

11   be defeated in court, so that -- and as was

12   clear in the recent Obamacare -- people may

13   be making all sorts of threats, but their

14   capacity to get that legislation through the

15   Congress is really very questionable.

16   So other than to say that it would be a

17   disaster if something like that happened,

18   you know, the take on an annual basis in the

19   Real Estate Tax is a billion dollars. So if

20   you lost a billion dollars, everybody's real

21   estate taxes would have to double. That's

22   an easy way of looking at it. The Police

23   Department is about $600 million. I think

24   it's the biggest department. So, I guess

1   you can close down the police department.

2   I mean, I don't know what to say other

3   than that. I mean, it would be absurd for

4   the City to absorb a billion dollar punitive

5   cut in -- in funds that are -- it would be

6   self defeating. What would be the point of

7   defunding the Police Department because

8   they're concerned that some aliens might

9   commit crimes? And so, you are not going to

10   have any police? Really? Does that make

11   any sense?

12   It doesn't.

13   COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah. I think you may

14   be referring to the -- possibly the decision

15   by Justice Anton Scalia in which the federal

16   -- the Supreme Court's delineated that their

17   state, local versus federal positions --

18   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

19   COUNCILMAN OH: And the Federal

20   Government cannot just assign to local

21   government duties held and done by federal

22   authorities. And yet, you know, these bills

23   to defund the City are moving forward. They

24   have past various levels of our state

1   legislature. They seem imminent, although

2   they may not be constitutional. And while

3   we should fight them in court, and I do

4   think we have very strong grounds to

5   prevail. You know, the problem that I look

6   at is there seems to be a political will

7   somewhere to -- to harm our City broadly.

8   And if that moves forward, we have, it

9   appears, no preparation for dealing with

10   this overwhelmingly bad catastrophic

11   situation.

12   Is there some kind of steps that we can

13   take or that you think we should take to

14   buffer that while we fight this?

15   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I think as Chris

16   Matthews noted, the Republicans in Congress

17   voted to repeal Obamacare about a hundred

18   times when they didn't have the power to do

19   it. And as soon as they did have the power

20   to do it, they didn't do it.

21   So, we are familiar with the legislative

22   tactic of putting bills in because you can

23   get a positive press release or a press hit

24   or popularity with a constituency group.

1   And it's very different then when you have

2   the responsibility in your hand that your

3   bill is going to go through and you are

4   going to be responsible for the damage.

5   It's a very sobering impact.

6   I don't think it would be helpful to put

7   together a Dooms Day scenario about how

8   we're going to try to deal with losing on

9   the Sanctuary City issues. I think that

10   would precipitate -- if something like that

11   God forbid happened, there would be a crisis

12   that would bring together federal, state and

13   city leaders pretty much like what happened

14   when Philadelphia was on the verge of

15   bankruptcy in the '90s or like what happened

16   during New York's near bankruptcy in '75.

17   And you can't rehearse for that. You can't

18   have a contingency plan for that because

19   people will be accepting of all sorts of

20   solutions that they would never consider

21   unless they were in the middle of the flood

22   or the disaster or -- or whatever.

23   So you know the amount of money that

24   needs to be replaced. You know what

1   everything costs. And I think if something

2   like that happened, there would be a lot of

3   scampering and crisis management. And you

4   know, in New York, they stopped the free

5   college tuition and they cut workers

6   salaries. What would be the point of

7   putting out a -- actually, you would be

8   giving aid and comfort to the people that

9   are against the City.

10   So, you want to put out a report saying

11   that the City workers would have to either

12   be cut in half or have to have their salary

13   cut in half? Then you would have people who

14   are anti-Philadelphia saying, well, what's

15   bad about that? Maybe that's why we should

16   do it.

17   I don't think it's useful to do a

18   contingency plan.

19   COUNCILMAN OH: I don't disagree with

20   you. I just wanted your opinion. I know my

21   time is up. I will make this statement that

22   it does not seem to fully penetrate our

23   public how damaging such a -- such a

24   defunding would -- how much damage it would

 1   do, number one.

 2   Number two, it is a bipartisan.

 3   Democrats support defunding Philadelphia.

 4   And so, while it will create a lot of damage

 5   for our City, surrounding county and

 6   ultimately our entire metropolitan region if

 7   not our state, the same people who will pass

 8   this bill to defund us will then scamper

 9   hurriedly to try to fix the damage, which

10   will just be even more expensive and

11   problematic once you have harmed the City in

12   that fashion.

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: What do you think would

14   happen if that actually hit and the City

15   announced to the suburbs that we're

16   disbanding the Philadelphia Police

17   Department? You don't think that there

18   would be a crisis in the suburbs about what

19   are we going to do about this? Are they

20   going to hire all the Philadelphia Police to

21   create a cordon around the City? Or are

22   they going to go to Harrisburg and say we

23   got to have an emergency package to make

24   sure that they are policing the streets of

 1   Philadelphia so they don't have to put all

 2   the attention in the streets of Lower Merion

 3   because of spilling over.

 4   That's why you really can't -- it's an

 5   artificial thing when it's theoretical. If

 6   something like -- you know, one time when

 7   the Philadelphia School District was

 8   bankrupt, we kind of floated the idea that

 9   if we didn't get fair funding, maybe we

10   would just close the Philadelphia schools

11   and petition to have the Philadelphia

12   students recruited into all the adjoining

13   School Districts, so that it would be a

14   state responsibility and the responsibility

15   of taxpayers in this area. And there just

16   wouldn't be a Philadelphia School District.

17   Everybody would be in the Lower Merion

18   School District. As soon as those words

19   would leave my mouth, people would say,

20   well -- well, then the problem will be over.

21   And problem would be over.

22   So, I think Rahm Emanuel said, you

23   should never waste a good crisis. Sometimes

24   when these crisis pop up and we haven't

1   thought them through, we need to be adept

2   enough to think them through a little faster

3   than they can. Mayor Street was one of the

4   best at this, right? When things looked bad

5   for the City or for school funding, he

6   always found a way that he came out of the

7   deal with Philadelphia further ahead than it

8   was before that problem.

9   So, I will give you a perfect example.

10   Bill Rubin worked on the Pension

11   Re-amortization Act in 2009. We had to get

12   the law changed in Harrisburg to give us the

13   breathing space when the stock market

14   collapsed so we wouldn't have to do

15   125 million tax increase. And the

16   Republicans and the legislature thought this

17   was the time they were going to go after the

18   Unions and scalp them. And included in with

19   the Unions was punitive stuff they did with

20   the police officers. They said they

21   couldn't retire now until 55 instead of 40.

22   And it didn't occur to them that they

23   all got police officers in their territory.

24   And the police have very strong unions. And

1   the same people that were pushing the

2   legislation when they came back into session

3   a day later, they pulled it off the table

4   because it was like, oh, my God, they are

5   after us now. We were after sanitation

6   workers. We didn't mean to go after police

7   officers. Those people vote in our area.

8   And people are -- they have popularity with

9   some of the groups that don't like City

10   workers but they like police. And they

11   simply hadn't thought it through.

12   So, I think that's the same thing that's

13   going on with this punitive legislation. It

14   may be an easy applause line. But if they

15   ever really try to do it, they find out the

16   hip bone is connected to the thigh bone is

17   connected to the knee bone. And there is

18   going to be a lot of shared pain.

19   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much.

20   Thank you, Chairman.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

22   Councilman.

23   The Chair will recognize Councilwoman

24   Blackwell.

1   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very

2   much. Good morning, everyone.

3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Good morning.

4   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I should be the

5   last, right, other than -- other than

6   Councilman Domb. And Councilman Domb has

7   too much money for us to interrupt.

8   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I second that motion.

9   (Laughter)

10   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: But we like

11   him. Let me say that in your statement, you

12   talked about the 1.3 million that you saved

13   from contractors who are not doing what they

14   are supposed to do.

15   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

16   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Now, do the

17   organizations you mentioned like Minority

18   Business Enterprise Council, who has a list

19   of who they are? And could we get them? Or

20   do we need to talk to those agencies to try

21   to get them, so we are aware of who these

22   people are when we do projects in our area.

23   MR. THOMAS: Good morning. I'm John

24   Thomas.

1   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Pull your mic

2   up, John.

3   MR. THOMAS: Good morning, John Thomas,

4   Pre-Audit Deputy Controller.

5   Councilwoman, can you -- are you asking

6   the list of the companies that we --

7   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That do wrong.

8   Is that private or can we know? You talk

9   about saving the City 1.3 million.

10   MR. THOMAS: We can provide the Council

11   with a list of those companies that --

12   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very

13   much. Thank you all.

14   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

16   Councilwoman.

17   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

19   Mr. Chairman.

20   Few more questions I wanted to ask,

21   especially since you seconded that

22   nomination.

23   Number one, I am trying to understand,

24   in your testimony you mentioned the

1   Controller's budget is 9.2 million. But

2   there is no detail of that budget.

3   Is that available?

4   MR. BUTKOVITZ: The details comes from

5   the Budget Office, but we can submit it.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Get us a copy

7   of that. Ballpark, maybe you can tell me

8   this question. I ask everybody the same

9   question.

10   Proposed Class 100 salary, any idea of

11   the salary for this year of the 9.2?

12   MS. ROSE: What was the question?

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: How much of our budget

14   is Class 100 for the coming year.

15   MS. ROSE: Good morning. I'm Andrea

16   Rose, Administrative Services Director of

17   the City Controller's Office. And for

18   Fiscal 18 for salaries Class 100 would be

19   8,426,765.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And then, does

21   that include the fringe benefits.

22   MS. ROSE: Yes.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And what percentage

24   of -- so your salaries and fringes all

1   included in that number?

2   MS. ROSE: Yes --

3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: No. No.

4   MS. ROSE: Okay. No.

5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: It does not include

6   fringe benefits.

7   MS. ROSE: No, I'm sorry.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Roughly, what's your

9   percentage on fringe benefits. You pay for

10   every dollar of salary, when you pay

11   somebody 50,000 a year, what is the

12   percentage of fringe benefits?

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I think the benefits are

14   included in the Finance Department's line

15   item, right.

16   MS. ROSE: We don't have the line item.

17   MR. BUTKOVITZ: We don't know what that

18   is. It's a cumulative figure. It's a huge

19   number under finance. It's like 8 or

20   900 million dollars. And it includes all

21   the benefits for all City employees in all

22   departments.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Your prob -- is the

24   same as the City in general, basically?

1   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. Yeah.

2   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So that would be

3   roughly, in this last budget, 87 percent.

4   This leads to my next question.

5   I am trying to understand -- I hear

6   different testimony of different

7   departments. Our fringe benefits, have you

8   ever done an analysis on why fringe benefits

9   for the City is 87 percent, the City

10   overhead is 37 percent as was presented to

11   us in the L&I bill, which means that for

12   every -- I am going to say this 50,000 times

13   til we get it right -- for every $50,000 of

14   salary, we pay another 62,000 in benefits

15   and overhead of the City, 112 grand. For

16   every 100,000 of salary, we pay another

17   124,000. We pay 224. In the private

18   sector, the numbers are 31 to 40 percent.

19   Can we do an audit and figure out how to

20   lower those numbers dramatically?

21   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. We can do an

22   analysis. Our feeling is we can probably do

23   it from available data. Probably doesn't

24   require an audit.

1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That would be great.

2   I would love to see that.

3   Here is the second question. I want to

4   follow up with Councilman Jones about the

5   Prison yesterday. We had them testifying.

6   I went home last night after being here

7   all day. And I was wracking my brain out as

8   to I can't understand how this is working.

9   I can't understand how we have 8200

10   prisoners and a budget with benefits of 310

11   to 320 million. We reduced the inventory.

12   We are going to reduce the inventory by

13   2400, 34 percent; and yet, our expenses are

14   going up.

15   The per cost was testified yesterday is

16   50,000 per prisoner. And if 2400, 2500

17   prisoners are being reduced, not saying we

18   are going to save 125 million. But I will

19   say this. If they came to us and said we

20   are arresting another 2500 people, they

21   definitely would be there saying we need

22   another 125 million to take care of them.

23   Why isn't there any kind of savings on

24   the other side? And can we audit that, and

 1   see what's going on.

 2   MR. BUTKOVITZ: My first impression

 3   would be there is similar dynamic in the

 4   schools. When you reduce the student

 5   population in the school, you have such an

 6   overwhelming number of fixed costs. You

 7   know, if you got to the point where you can

 8   close an entire prison, you know you would

 9   have a windfall.

10   If you reduce the prison population by

11   25 percent, you still have the heating bill.

12   You still have all the maintenance costs.

13   You still have ratios of correction officers

14   to prisoners. You still --

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Except you're going to

16   cut down on food. You can cut down on

17   healthcare. They said yesterday their

18   healthcare package was negotiated as a bulk

19   contract. Why can't we go back to the

20   supplier and say we are going to have 2500

21   less people of the 8200? It's not fair that

22   we keep paying for 82 when we have 2500

23   less.

24   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah. We will look

1   into. Okay.

2   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I mean, I understand

3   all that. And we have six prisons. And I

4   heard yesterday, I think it was Councilman

5   Jones who asked this question also of the

6   different levels of prisoners. And if there

7   are four different levels of prisoners and

8   our prison population is reducing by

9   34 percent, maybe we only need five prisons

10   and not six prisons. And maybe there's a

11   way to accommodate it and cut the overhead.

12   I just don't think we look at it as if

13   it's our money. And I think we look at

14   these things and say, okay, it's okay. And

15   they're coming in for more money as their

16   numbers are going down.

17   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Okay.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Like you to look into

19   that if you could.

20   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Okay.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Overall question for

22   you. How many employees roughly are in your

23   office?

24   MR. BUTKOVITZ: About 136.

 1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And if I were to ask

 2   you in the last year 2016 or Fiscal year or

 3   whatever, what would you say -- I know in

 4   your testimony you talked about 1.3 million

 5   you found in fraud, I think it was, right,

 6   in audits that were done?

 7   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Right.

 8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But overall, you have

 9   done a lot more reports that have shown a

10   lot more potential savings across the board.

11   Can you give me an idea and this body an

12   idea in general, A, how much money you

13   saved; and two, in the reports you've

14   generated, how much is the potential savings

15   if we would adopt them?

16   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, I know the

17   potential savings is up around $800 million.

18   And I know the largest figure there was

19     $25 million a year that we believe is

20   recoverable in Rescue Squad services if the

21   City does a good job of collecting from

22   third-party insurers because of the high

23   utilization rate of the Rescue Squads.

24   People were not collecting the right Social

 1   Security numbers. The data -- everybody who

 2   has a Rescue Squad ride either has insurance

 3   or medical assistance. So, the City should

 4   be fully reimbursed for those costs. So,

 5   the fact that there is somewhere between 25

 6   and 50 million dollars a year that is

 7   uncollected is just pure negligence.

 8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: When you do these

 9   reports, you give them to who?

10   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, they are sent to

11   the Mayor and to the Department and to all

12   the Councilmembers.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And so, what happens

14   after that?

15   MR. BUTKOVITZ: When we go back into the

16   department for the next audit, we do a

17   checklist to see what progress they have

18   made on our prior recommendations.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But who in the

20   Administration do you actually sit down to

21   say, look, here is report, here is the

22   savings, how do we implement it?

23   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, I mean, the Mayor

24   in his -- during the Nutter Administration,

1   there was tremendous resistance in that

2   Rescue Squad Report. We did that, I think,

3   in 2008. And we reported this $25 million

4   potential for savings. And the Mayor

5   begrudgingly put in a million dollar savings

6   in his budget.

7   And we actually went out and we brought

8   in private vendors who were accomplishing

9   much better reimbursement rates and much

10   lower costs. And we did a presentation.

11   And the representative that came in there

12   from the Mayor's Office was swept off his

13   feet. And he said that's great. How do we

14   get to do something like that?

15   And I said, your office needs to put out

16   an RFP and try to get a vendor who would do

17   that. Finally, in the seventh year, the

18   eighth year they said, you know what, we are

19   going to save -- we are going to make

20   $25 million a year out of this, which we

21   said five years earlier.

22   So, all I can say is that that is a

23   product of the balance of powers and the

24   push and shove between the personalities

1   between the Mayor, Controller and the

2   Councilmembers. Perhaps if you were here at

3   that time, they would have expedited -- they

4   did change the vendor who was managing

5   collections on that contract. The other --

6   the other savings are bits and pieces here

7   and there. And I would say that there seems

8   to be more receptivity in the last year or

9   two towards let's just look for good ideas

10   rather than be concerned about where did

11   they come from or who gets credit for it --

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Right.

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: -- if we didn't think of

14   it, we are not interested in it. But it's a

15   negotiating process. Obviously, for us to

16   be the auditor, we are prohibited from

17   having any management responsibility. The

18   best we can do is look at it, say here is a

19   problem. And use the leverage of media

20   attention and of the interest of Council to

21   try to convince the Administration that if

22   we repeatedly come back on a problem and

23   they ignored it, there is going to be

24   something to pay.

 1   I would say early indications have been

 2   positive on that.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Here is my point --

 4   last question. I'm over my time.

 5   If you came -- if we were in the private

 6   business world, you came to us in a business

 7   with the recommendations to save

 8    $800 million, people who did not implement

 9   those recommendations would have to have the

10   answers as to why they didn't implement

11   them. And I want to see the reasons why.

12   In other words, I would like to see the

13   panel of you and the people who are supposed

14   to be implement them, why they are not being

15   implemented.

16   Either they are not going to work or we

17   are not doing our job. But when you have

18    $800 million and we're dealing with

19   taxpayers money, I would like to know why

20   that's not being implemented.

21   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I agree with you. I've

22   often wondered why there isn't more impetus

23   to do that in Philadelphia. It seems to be

24   kind of the Philadelphia way. That if we

1   have always done it this way -- look, take

2   the Rescue Squads again. We have a lot of

3   expertise on that. A third to 40 percent of

4   the time they don't get there in time to

5   save somebody's life if they are having a

6   heart attack. And the reason is, the Fire

7   Department itself said maybe 90 percent of

8   the calls are not emergencies. They are

9   taxi service.

10   So anybody who is interested in the

11   operational efficiency of that process would

12   say, if we went back to shared ride where we

13   were paying for free taxis, we have to give

14   them a $40 or $6 taxi ride, that would be

15   better than an $1,100 ride in a Rescue Squad

16   where you are taking a vehicle out of

17   service that somebody might need because

18   they are in a life or death situation.

19   When I would ask the Fire Commissioner

20   at the time why aren't we doing that, the

21   answer was, number one, we always did it

22   this way. And secondly, that there would be

23   an exercise of discretion. And we did that

24   once in 1987. And somebody didn't get a

1   Rescue Squad and they died, so the City got

2   sued. So if we make it automatic that we

3   just dispatch Rescue Squads one after the

4   other, maybe we won't get sued. Maybe we

5   will get sued because the next guy in line

6   died.

7   But that seems to be an inbred cultural

8   attitude in Philadelphia government that the

9   CYA in response to things is if we do things

10   the way we always did them, we are not going

11   to get criticized or get into trouble.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I don't agree with

13   that. But hopefully will change.

14   Thank you for your testimony.

15   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

16   Councilman.

17   Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

18   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

19   Mr. Chairman. And I will be brief. We are

20   getting late in hour.

21   My good friend and colleague Councilman

22   Oh talked about -- not Dooms Day preparation

23   but fiscal forward thinking Plan Bs, I like

24   to call them. Where I might agree with him

1   is not so much in what happens if North

2   Korea does this, that or the other; but some

3   trends that we're seeing that irrespective

4   of party, Democrat or Republican are coming.

5   And one such area is CDBG funding.

6   We know that at the height of the

7   Chairmanship of Councilwoman Blackwell. I

8   think we were at $83 million this City got

9   every year to do affordable housing, to do

10   low income housing. Last year under a

11   democratic administration, we got

12   39 million. So that's -- you know, I went

13   to public school, but that's half, right?

14   Yeah.

15   And we can anticipate with the

16   appointment of Ben Carson that it isn't

17   going to get any better. And so, we are --

18   we need your help in establishing Plan Bs

19   for that in the way of Council President put

20   together a model for -- he identified 3,000

21   vacant or City-owned properties. Broke them

22   down by district. I think in my district we

23   had, like, 300. And then we started the

24   conversation of a -- I think it was called

1   receivership or some kind of process by

2   which a tax delinquent property would be put

3   in a responsible Realtor or developer or

4   CDCs hand, brought up to code, rented out.

5   And that if the owner went back to reclaim

6   it, they would have to pay the arrearages

7   and whatever documentable improvements put

8   in the property.

9   If we know the number of housing units

10   for affordable housing are going to go down,

11   if we know price points in neighborhoods are

12   going up and they're squeezing that market

13   out, we have to do something different.

14   Because help isn't coming, you know, over

15   the mountain to save us. So if we could

16   look at those kinds of things that would not

17   be a violation of the law or violation of

18   our -- I'm more than willing to break with

19   the Philly tradition to do something

20   different.

21   But what we always want to do is be

22   fiscally sound and responsible when we do

23   it.

24   MR. BUTKOVITZ: It's a valid point.

1   Okay.

2   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

4   Councilman.

5   Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

6   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you, Chairman.

7   This is a question you've answered already.

8   You were at a hearing. It's about

9   cigarettes and cigarette tax. I just want

10 to kind of lay out my concern, not for you.

11 You know the concern.

12   Our City had to fund the schools. The

13 State didn't give us the money. They gave

14 us the authority to tax ourselves more for

15 cigarettes, so we tied cigarettes to school

16 funding. Then recently, there's been some

17 proclamations by our City agency that they

18 are reducing the number of cigarette license

19 by like 1700. And it effects school

20 funding.

21   At the same time, then I'm told it

22 doesn't matter because there's a certain

23 percent -- amount of money that the school

24 is going to receive. In which case, I

1   wonder why do we even have a cigarette tax

2   then.

3   What is your opinion about all this? I

4   just see as very problematic.

5   MR. BUTKOVITZ: What's my opinion about

6   what part of it?

7   COUNCILMAN OH: If we, in fact, reduce

8   the or eliminate 1700 cigarette licenses,

9   and does it matter?

10   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I mean, I believe that

11   that maintenance of revenue deal in

12   Harrisburg is predicated on good faith on

13   our part. If we try to collect the

14   cigarette taxes and we run short on our --

15   on what our goal is, we are going to be held

16   harmless up to a certain amount. But that

17   doesn't give us license to revoke the base

18   on which that commitment was extracted in

19   Harrisburg.

20   The principal problem that I had with

21   the -- you know, I think if the City could

22   eliminate all cigarette licenses in the

23   City, that would be a positive. The main

24   concern I had, as I do with many city tax

1   policies, is its punitive effect on

2   particular people. I view taxes as

3   something that should hit each of us as our

4   dues for being a civilized society. And the

5   most objectionable part, I thought of that

6   regulation, is of the particular convenience

7   store owners for whom the value of their

8   store is based on the fact that they have

9   cigarette licenses would suddenly see that

10   yanked from them. And their values would go

11   from 4 to $450,000 a store to maybe $50,000

12   or maybe nothing. And that that's

13   unconstitutional, right?

14   You can't take away somebody's hard

15   earned wealth accumulation just because

16   retroactively you got a new policy choice.

17   And that ultimately, the City would be sued,

18   would be taken through the meat grinder and

19   would have to pay tens of millions of

20   dollars in damages for something they

21   thought they were getting for free. You're

22   talking about having some kind of

23   forward-looking risk assessment.

24   If you had 500 -- imagine you have 500

1   stores, and the City owes a half a million

2   dollars to each of those people. So, it's

3   like $250 million that we would have to pay

4   out in settlements. How would you like to

5   come to the Budget Hearing and have to make

6   up $250 million all of a sudden because

7   somebody did a policy decision that was

8   illegal?

9   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much,

10   Mr. Chairman.

11   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

12   Councilman.

13   Chair recognizes Councilman Oh -- or

14   Domb.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

16   Mr. Chairman. Couple more questions for

17   you.

18   The Philadelphia Parking Authority, is

19   the State right now doing an audit of the

20   Parking --

21   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Did they do that in

23   cooperation with you?

24   MR. BUTKOVITZ: No.

1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: They do it on their

2   own. Any idea when that audit might be

3   finished?

4   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I think it started in

5   August. So, they are seven months into it.

6   I kind of would have thought it would have

7   been completed by now. Certainly, Auditor

8   General was extremely enthusiastic and

9   optimistic that he was going to have

10   substantial findings. So, I am waiting with

11   baited breath. This would be one of the

12   great American masterpieces.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Can you maybe explain

14   to me, we have four parking garages in the

15   Philadelphia Parking Authority. Are those

16   owned by the City of Philadelphia?

17   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yes.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: They are.

19   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Yeah.

20   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I don't know if it was

21   your office or who it would be. Is there a

22   way to look into this concept of maybe we

23   don't need to own those four garages? Maybe

24   we should hire one of the best architects in

1   the City and design the highest and best

2   use, have it rezoned and sell it.

3   MR. BUTKOVITZ: Well, this is where

4   there needs to be some direct guidance from

5   the Council. We have been around this track

6   before. I know that there are private

7   operators in the City who believe that the

8   garages should be totally automated or

9   reduced.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm not even talking

11   about that. I'm talking about highest and

12   best use.

13   MR. BUTKOVITZ: But if the Council

14   passes a resolution and says we are on board

15   for that, we will do it. Auditing is not a

16   well understood function, but there needs to

17   be a scope of work. There needs to be an

18   agreement by the people that are asking for

19   the audit as to what are we trying to find.

20   If we can get nine people on Council to say

21   that's what they want, we will do it.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because in my opinion,

23   these four lots in today's market could be

24   worth 80 to 100 million dollars. On top of

1   that I am sure they will a abatement when

2   they build. But we'll get the land value

3   tax coming back. We don't get any taxes

4   right now coming back, do we?

5   We get real estate taxes. We get a big

6   chunk of money. It's probably will be run

7   more efficiently that way. This is one

8   piece. There is a lot of other areas in

9   that Parking Authority that need to be run

10   more efficient. I know a little bit about

11   it because I'm kind of in the parking

12   business, also.

13   But I'm not suggesting we keep these

14   four lots as parking lots. What I am

15   suggesting is we look at these. We have the

16   power to rezone. Rezone it in the benefit

17   of the City before we sell it. Don't let

18   the developer come in and rezone and make

19   the money on our back. Let us do the

20   rezoning ourselves and then sell it.

21   MR. BUTKOVITZ: But there is so many

22   parts to the whole parking problem. The

23   parking operators have in years past come

24   and shown the City where there is illegal

1   parking lots operating and how they can

2   recover revenues and have tried to make the

3   case that the Parking Tax in combination

4   with Use and Occupancy has completely

5   eliminated the profit margin in parking

6   lots.

7   So, the issue is whether a majority of

8   the policymakers can get on the same page in

9   terms of deciding how they want to solve

10   these problems. And we are more than happy

11   to be the instrument.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm on the page right

13   now to sell the four lots. I am happy to do

14   that.

15   MR. BUTKOVITZ: All you got to do is get

16   eight more Councilpeople.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Let me ask two

18   other questions or one other question

19   really. In your opinion, the top three ways

20   right now for the City of Philadelphia to

21   save money in the short term and long term,

22   what would you say are the three best ways

23   for us to save money?

24   MR. BUTKOVITZ: I really don't have a

1   glib response to that. I would have to

2   reflect on that and give you a response.

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's fine. Let us

4   know. Anyway, thank you very much for your

5   time.

6   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

8   Councilman. Is there any other members have

9   any questions for City Controller for Budget

10   Hearing.

11   (No further questions.)

12   COUNCILMAN HENON: Mr. Controller, I

13   want to thank you and your team for your

14   testimony in answering all the questions

15   that we had today.

16   Next we have our Budget Hearing for the

17   Division of Aviation. I would ask our CEO

18   of our Philadelphia Airport and the Members

19   of the Executive Staff please approach.

20   (Witnesses approach Table.)

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: Approach the

22   testimony table, and state your name for the

23   record when you are ready to begin. And you

24   may proceed with your testimony. And thank

1   you for joining us.

2   MS. CAMERON: Okay. So, it is still

3   morning at five minutes to noon, so good

4   morning, Members of City Council. My name

5   is Chellie Cameron. And I am the Chief

6   Executive Officer of the Philadelphia

7   International Airport. Seated with me this

8   morning are Tracy Borda, our Chief Financial

9   Officer and Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis our

10   Chief Administrative Officer.

11   I'm going to deliver my verbal

12   testimony. And as soon as that's finished,

13   I hope you'll indulge me by letting us show

14   you a 90-second film that we recently

15   developed as part of our economic impact

16   statement that features a lot of things

17   about the airport. Okay.

18   I am pleased to be before the Committee

19   today to present testimony on behalf of the

20   Division of Aviation's Fiscal Year 2018

21   Operating Budget. As mentioned during my

22   testimony last year, I have three goals

23   which continue to be our top priorities.

24   First, to improve customer service by

1   enhancing the passenger experience through a

2   robust customer engagement. Second, to

3   improve existing Airport facilities. And

4   third, to strengthen the Airport's regional

5   position as a world class hub by pursuing

6   infrastructure investment opportunities.

7   As you know, the Division is a

8   self-sustaining entity which operates with

9   without the use of local tax dollars or

10   general fund dollars. While the Division

11   does not require local funds to operate, it

12   is still one of the largest economic drivers

13   in the Philadelphia region. As you may have

14   seen, we announced last week that a regional

15   economic impact report was completed

16   highlighting our overall impact on the

17   region.

18   That report showed that in addition to

19   both PHL and Philadelphia Northeast Airport

20   generating an estimated $15.4 billion in

21   spending for the region, we also account for

22   about 96,000 local jobs and approximately

23   4.8 billion in earnings each year. The

24   majority of this impact is felt in

1   Philadelphia County where the Airports

2   generate around 7.7 billion in spending and

3   nearly 43,000 local jobs.

4   While overall operations at Philadelphia

5   International Airport have slightly

6   declined, our passenger count remains

7   steady. During Calendar Year 2016 alone,

8   over 30 million passengers made their way

9   through our terminals and proceeded to 124

10   different non-stop domestic overall

11   destinations including 33 different

12   international destinations. Developing new

13   air service is vital to the success of any

14   commercial airport. With new air service

15   comes the direct impact of additional

16   revenue for the Airport as well as new

17   choices for our passengers.

18   Indirectly, the impact of air service

19   development can be felt throughout the

20   region via increased tourism and through new

21   regional business development. For these

22   reasons among many others, we are always

23   searching for new partners. New parters

24   that are interested in making the ultimate

1   local investment by Airport standards of

2   establishing new air service at our Airport.

3   We were extremely fortunate this year to

4   have an outstanding new partner Icelandair

5   announce that they will begin a new non-stop

6   service route from Reykjavik to PHL. This

7   new route commences next month, and will

8   operate seasonably to start four times a

9   week. As CEO, I have also placed an

10   emphasis on serving our diverse passenger

11   base.

12   Additionally, I have made it my priority

13   to ensure that the diversity of our

14   workforce reflects that of our passengers

15   and our region. As of December 2016, the

16   Division of Aviation have 750 permanent

17   employees of which 72 percent were minority

18   and 31 percent were women. Our staff also

19   boasted 81 permanent and 24 temporary

20   bilingual or multi-lingual employees which

21   collectively speak 39 different languages to

22   aid our diverse passenger base.

23   In addition to working to maintain

24   workforce diversity, the Airport is actively

 1   engaged in setting and monitoring

 2   participation goals for the City's program

 3   for minority, women and disabled-own

 4   disadvantaged business enterprises as well

 5   as administering and monitoring two federal

 6   DBE programs. I am aware that this issue is

 7   of particular importance to many members of

 8   Council. And as CEO, it is of equal

 9   importance to me. Our Office of Business

10   Diversity focuses solely on these issues,

11   and continues to spearhead our efforts to

12   remain ahead of the curve with respect to

13   meeting our local and federal participation

14   goals.

15   In addition to being focused on

16   promoting diversity at the Airport, we also

17   strive to engage the surrounding community

18   in our work. First, in an effort to engage

19   local businesses, each fall the Airport

20   hosts an annual business opportunity forum

21   which individuals interested in doing

22   business at PHL have an opportunity to learn

23   about new contracting opportunities and can

24   spend time working with other local business

 1   leaders.

 2   Secondly, the Airport has been active in

 3   soliciting the surrounding community to

 4   consider PHL as a place of permanent

 5   employment. In addition to hosting over

 6   five dozen local interns each year, the

 7   Airport participated in 15 job fairs across

 8   the City including one that we ourselves

 9   hosted at Temple in order to meet directly

10   with job hunting Philadelphians. All of

11   this work cannot be accomplished without the

12   necessary resources for us to fulfill our

13   mission.

14   For Fiscal Year 2018, the Airport's

15   operating budget request totals

16   483.7 million. And it supports operations

17   and maintenance requirements at both

18   Philadelphia International and Northeast

19   Airports. This request is an increase of

20   almost 12 million over Fiscal Year 2017

21   levels primarily due to increases in fringe

22   benefits and pension obligations, additional

23   debt service payments, taxes associated with

24   upcoming land acquisitions, and goods and

 1   services related to technology.

 2   Our operating budget requests includes

 3   181.3 million for the Division of Aviation,

 4    $159.4 million for debt service,

 5    $26.9 million for utilities under Public

 6   Properties, and $116.1 million for

 7   appropriations directly related to the

 8   Police, Fire, Fleet Management, Technology,

 9   Sustainability, Law, Risk Management and

10   Finance Departments.

11   In summary, the Division of Aviation

12   continues to be engaged locally as a

13   positive and active member of the

14   Philadelphia regional economy nationally by

15   working to expand our passenger base and

16   improve customer service, and

17   internationally by developing new air

18   service and proudly connecting Philadelphia

19   with the world.

20   Before I finish this morning, I would

21   like to recognize the outstanding employees

22   behind me that are going through our STARS

23   and LEADS Programs. Folks if you can stand

24   up.

1   (People stand.)

2   (Applause)

3   MS. CAMERON: Thank you, and thank you

4   for joining us today.

5   These programs focus on professional

6   development for our administrative and entry

7   to mid-level staff to prepare them for

8   future leadership roles. Thank you again

9   for offering me the opportunity to testify

10   here today.

11   And again, if you will give us 90

12   seconds, we would like to show you a quick

13   video. And we'd be happy to answer

14   questions.

15   COUNCILMAN HENON: You got it.

16   (Video shown.)

17   - - -

18   (Video ends.)

19   MS. CAMERON: Thank you. PHL proud.

20   82,000 pairs of shoes a day. We are very

21   proud of what we do at the Airport. And

22   we'd be happy to answer any questions that

23   you have.

24   COUNCILMAN HENON: Great. Great. Good

1   job with the presentation, and thank you for

2   your testimony. I am going to yield my time

3   because Councilmember Blackwell has to be

4   dismissed.

5   Councilwoman Blackwell.

6   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very

7   much. Thank you. I have a ground breaking

8   that I was trying to make no later than

9   11:30, so we'll see. But thank you,

10   Mr. Chairman. I won't be long.

11   Let me first say thank you for adding

12   Lucien Blackwell to all those wonderful

13   beautiful people who have done so much for

14   our City. Thank you for adding him to that

15   wall. Let me also say thank you for all

16   that happened this past weekend with the

17   Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Sr. who

18   is Vice President of Liberia all the

19   courtesies extended to him to come here and

20   all the meetings we had on economy, finances

21   and education. It was all made possible,

22   all that you all did. We are very, very --

23   we are very grateful. We love working with

24   our folks and we thank you.

1   I have one question only. Sade, I know

2   that the Airport does a tremendous pulling

3   in local art as a showcase for the traveling

4   public. I was actually, you know, just down

5   there for the African-American Museum in

6   Philadelphia and the art exhibit in March.

7   Can you speak to what you are all doing

8   to preserve some of these exhibits?

9   MS. LEWIS: Thank you, Councilwoman.

10   I'm Folasade Olanipekum-Lewis.

11   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

12   MS. LEWIS: This past summer the

13   African-American of Art exhibition will be

14   digitized in its entirety, excuse me, this

15   coming summer. As you know this spring, we

16   debuted it at the Airport. And we were

17   happy to include Lucien Blackwell as one of

18   the --

19   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

20   MS. LEWIS: -- hundred African-American

21   luminaries in Philadelphia region.

22   This -- the exhibit, the digitized

23   exhibit will probably reside on the AAMP's

24   website. But we will have a link to our

1   website where folks can access this, as

2   well. We have about 350 exhibits that have

3   done to date. One of the things we are

4   doing is looking for a way to archive them

5   and make them available to citizens who are

6   interested in our arts at the Airport. And

7   many of them you can access at our website

8   through PHL.org.

9   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

10   Thank you very much for everything and

11   everything you do. And you know, the Vice

12   President had quite a delegation with him.

13   So, we know from being with them all

14   weekend. We, again, just thank you for all

15   the courtesies there as well as Lucien

16   Blackwell.

17   MS. CAMERON: Of course, Councilwoman.

18   Any time. Thank you.

19   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,

20   Mr. Chairman.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

22   Councilwoman. And fantastic job with

23   entertaining and making sure that our

24   foreign delegations are treated with

 1   Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection. So,

 2   thank you so much.

 3   Chellie, if I can or somebody from your

 4   team, on page 5 of the budget details

 5   proposed a decrease of $10 million in Class

 6   800 due to a decrease to the commercial

 7   paper transfer. Would you be able to

 8   explain the reason for the decrease?

 9   MS. BORDA: Hi. I'm Tracy Borda, the

10   CFO at the Airport. A couple of years ago

11   we set up the CP Programs about 2013. Prior

12   to us actually getting it set up through the

13   City Treasurer's Office and through the

14   Finance Department, we needed to fund some

15   capital projects that we wanted to start on

16   right away. So, we made a $10 million

17   transfer from our Operating Fund to the

18   Capital Budget -- to the Capital Fund to

19   allow for the beginning of those projects.

20   Since that time, we just left -- we left

21   our appropriations there in case anything

22   was needed. But the CP Program is up and

23   running well. And it was just time for us

24   to now reduce those appropriations because

1   we no longer needed those funds to be in the

2   Capital Funds. We are using them now

3   through the CP Program.

4   COUNCILMAN HENON: So -- and thank you

5   for that explanation. The question for us

6   is, do we not have $10 million in capital

7   improvements as a result of that transfer

8   from 2013?

9   MS. BORDA: Oh, no. What it allowed us

10   to do was to begin capital improvements

11   sooner. So, we started capital projects

12   even sooner. And then when the CP Program

13   was up and running and we knew how it was

14   working and well established and we had a

15   flow going, we eventually drew CP back and

16   put it back in the operating fund. It's a

17   net zero.

18   COUNCILMAN HENON: It's net zero?

19   MS. BORDA: Yes.

20   COUNCILMAN HENON: And we had ten.

21   MS. BORDA: Yes.

22   COUNCILMAN HENON: That appropriate

23   investment?

24   MS. BORDA: Yes.

1   COUNCILMAN HENON: In our capital

2   improvement?

3   MS. CAMERON: And if I might add, it's

4   really more of a cash flow timing issue than

5   anything else. The appropriations were in

6   place. It was more a matter of having the

7   commercial paper program available so we can

8   draw down the money and deposit it in our

9   accounts to be able to pay the bills. And

10   because the program took a little longer to

11   get started that first year than we

12   anticipated, we just took operating dollars

13   and temporarily -- ended up being a few

14   years -- but temporarily loaned those

15   dollars to the Capital Program so things

16   could keep moving.

17   COUNCILMAN HENON: Great. On page 7 of

18   the budget detail proposes, 900 budget

19   positions for FY18. However, only 772 of

20   the 900 positions budgeted in FY17 were

21   filled.

22   Is there a reason for such a gap for the

23   budgeted positions to be filled?

24   MS. CAMERON: There are a couple things

 1   that I'd like to speak to.

 2   The first is that it's very difficult to

 3   find employees that are able ultimately to

 4   pass the background checks required to work

 5   at the Airport. Because we are subject to

 6   the TSA, the Transportation Security

 7   Administration, and they require a ten-year

 8   criminal background check to be passed by

 9   all employees that work there, we start the

10   process and go through selecting employees.

11   Like for custodial, for example, we have

12   400 -- almost 400 custodial positions. We

13   have great difficulty filling those

14   positions because as we get people to come

15   through the process, you know, looks like

16   they have a good application. Once we get

17   through the final security background check

18   piece of it, we have a lot of folks that end

19   up dropping out. So, that's one of the

20   reasons that we struggle to staff up.

21   We just hired a new Chief Human

22   Resources Officer in November. I will ask

23   her to stand. She is behind me. Her name

24   is Rosalie Hornbuckle. She is the newest

1   member of our executive team. And she

2   brings a wealth of human resources expertise

3   with her. And has already started to

4   partner with the Office of Human Resources

5   to see if we can figure out a way to loosen

6   up that pipeline and get those positions

7   filled.

8   COUNCILMAN HENON: And that's -- go

9   ahead, Councilwoman.

10   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I'm

11   sorry. Point of information. What was in

12   that background check is a deciding factor

13   of one of the impediments?

14   MS. CAMERON: It's -- you can't have a

15   felony on your record.

16   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Okay.

17   Even -- so any felony?

18   MS. CAMERON: Any felony. And these are

19   not rules that we make up at the Airport.

20   This is what we are subject to because we

21   have to get -- use the Transportation

22   Security Administration for screening.

23   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank

24   you.

 1   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

 2   Councilwoman. I was going to suggest that

 3   if you would be able to set up some

 4   meetings, you know, offline with Rosalie,

 5   introduce her to Councilmembers. And really

 6   this way we have a better understanding if

 7   it's just the one issue. Because we can

 8   leverage different organizations,

 9   nonprofits, the CLS to, you know, to help

10   people with some of their background

11   cleanups with expungements and so forth so

12   we can better fulfill some of our

13   responsibilities as a City of Philadelphia.

14   Understanding that there are federal

15   guidelines and --

16   MS. CAMERON: Right.

17   COUNCILMAN HENON: That is what it is.

18   But I think we have focused a lot over the

19   last several years on really trying to

20   ensure people really getting the

21   opportunities to work instead of -- and

22   breaking through some of the barriers. If

23   it's not just solely the one issue, if there

24   are some other issues, I think that would be

 1   helpful for us as a body. Because we -- we,

 2   you know, constantly and consistently

 3   champion for people for work opportunities.

 4   MS. CAMERON: Yeah. We will be happy to

 5   set up those meetings. There are process

 6   issues that Rosalie can go into with all of

 7   you. And there are, you know, some issues

 8   associated with finding the right expertise

 9   in some other areas.

10   COUNCILMAN HENON: If --

11   MS. CAMERON: We will sit down with

12   anybody who is interested.

13   COUNCILMAN HENON: If you can inform

14   Councilmembers individually, and this way we

15   can, you know, really kind of vet through

16   the challenges that you might have and some

17   of our concerns that we have. And you know,

18   we also have callbacks here in City Council

19   if need be. But we look forward to that.

20   MS. CAMERON: Of course.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: My follow up question

22   I guess would be to Rosalie. Is that why

23   there is zero allocation for the allowance?

24   MS. BORDA: Yes. That is in part. We

1   have had difficulty become fully staffed.

2   We found that there was probably no need to

3   increase appropriations at this point. We

4   are still working -- Rosalie is consistently

5   work on getting positions filled. But we

6   are confident that we would not exceed

7   appropriations.

8   COUNCILMAN HENON: The 13 job fairs were

9   successful, right? They sound successful.

10   I know they were promoted. Were they

11   helpful getting towards our goals?

12   MS. CAMERON: They are. I'm going to

13   ask Sade to speak to it. But particularly

14   when it comes to trying to identify college

15   students for our specialty internship

16   programs like engineering, it's a great way

17   to attract those folks to the Airport. And

18   Sade, maybe you can --

19   MS. LEWIS: Thank you, Councilman. We

20   are actually getting ready to have our next

21   job fair on May 16 at the Liacouras Center.

22   This will be our fourth job fair under the

23   Airport. And we do have similar challenges.

24   In fact, last year a young lady came up to

1   the Council President, expressed concerns

2   about her try to seek employment because she

3   knew she was going to fail the background

4   check. And as Chellie pointed out, we are

5   trying to figure out ways how to overcome

6   that barrier to the best of our ability.

7   But I will say the job fairs are very,

8   very popular and very successful. Last

9   year, we had over 1600 interested job

10   seekers who attended. We had about 49

11   employers who were there. In the years that

12   we had the job fair, we had over 7,000

13   interested job seekers who have attended.

14   And so, we believe it's a very successful

15   outreach on the part of the Airport.

16   COUNCILMAN HENON: I'm glad to hear

17   publicly that, you know, you are focusing in

18   on trying to, you know, get to the

19   excellence that deserve when it comes to a

20   first class city and regional airport,

21   International Airport as we have. Consider,

22   I think, this Body as your partner in

23   achieving the goals if you can, you know,

24   walk us through all that. And we can move

1   forward.

2   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

3   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,

4   Mr. Chairman. And let me say welcome to

5   each of you.

6   I want to state for the record, although

7   Councilwoman Reynolds Brown and I are on

8   this side, you know, through some type of

9   communication I know Councilwoman Sanchez is

10   feeling the same. This is a very, very

11   unique view, right, because we are not

12   accustomed to this. You know, I joshed you

13   all last year about the power of the

14   estrogen at the table. But I don't want

15   anybody to take that lightly. We are

16   talking about the CEO, the CFO, the CAO and

17   now the Human --

18   MS. CAMERON: Chief Human Resources

19   Officer.

20   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Chief Human

21   Resources Officer are women.

22   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Rare.

23   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: That's just one

24   word to describe it. So, it's good to see.

 1   I want to just quickly piggyback on

 2   Councilwoman Blackwell's comments relative

 3   to art.

 4   So let me just let you know, it wasn't

 5   just sort of just a few folks. But I don't

 6   know if you saw the op ed that was written

 7   by the internationally renowned economist,

 8   former college president, news commentator

 9   and wonderful member of Delta Sigma Theta

10   Sorority Incorporated Julieanne Malveaux who

11   talked about that her travel through the

12   Airport, that she saw the exhibit. And it

13   was going to encourage her to reroute some

14   other travel through Philadelphia so she

15   could come back and see it again.

16   And so while it may be minor to some

17   people, those are those small very important

18   personalized custom amenities, right, that

19   sets Philadelphia apart from others. So

20   aside from the historical significance, so

21   thank you very much for that.

22   My first question is two prong. So, I

23   want you to tell me what percentage of the

24   new hires -- Chellie, I heard you give some

1   numbers. Tell me what percentage of the new

2   hires at the Airport are minorities?

3   That's the first part.

4   MS. CAMERON: Okay. So of the new hires

5   in calendar year 2016, 80 percent were

6   minorities.

7   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: 80 percent?

8   MS. CAMERON: 80 percent. We hired 82

9   people. 63 percent or 52 of them were

10   African-American; 20 percent or 16 were

11   White; 9 or 11 percent were Hispanic; three

12   or 4 percent of those new hires were Asian;

13   2 or 2 percent were other; and 18 or

14   22 percent were bilingual.

15   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay. All right.

16   I'm just a little taken aback. Those

17   numbers are extremely, extremely impressive.

18   Tell me now, if you will, relative to

19   the Concessions Program, give me a breakdown

20   in percentage of minority employees within

21   the Concessions Program who are management

22   level and non-management level, right?

23   Because we hear a lot of questions about

24   those concession opportunities.

1   Do we have any of that data?

2   MS. CAMERON: I think I have that --

3   yes, thank you. I knew I had it. I was

4   just struggling to put my fingers on the

5   page.

6   Okay. So during the first quarter of

7   2017, the breakdown of minority employees

8   within the Concessions was as follows: The

9   Airport has 1,670 non-management level

10   employees and 405 management level

11   employees. 80 percent of the non-management

12   level employees were minority. And

13   60 percent of management level employees

14   were minorities.

15   These numbers are pulled together by our

16   partner Market Place who is the master

17   concession operator and actually administers

18   the program for us. And we touch base with

19   them every quarter to follow through and

20   make sure the positions are, number one and

21   most importantly filled; but then, number

22   two, that they are filled diversely.

23   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Wow, okay. Thank

24   you. I wanted to get that data on the

1   record. So when we are asked the question

2   when we are in public about minority

3   participation, management and employment as

4   it relates to concessions, we can have an

5   answer to that question. So, thank you.

6   Now this next question is from two --

7   two nursing mothers who are staffers in the

8   9th Councilmanic District who have asked me,

9   you know, do we have convenient spaces for

10   mothers to nurse and pump at the Airport?

11   And I think they're called Minute Suites.

12   So, Minute Suites.

13   Do we have at least one in each

14   terminal?

15   MS. CAMERON: No, unfortunately. We

16   have one location. And they offer the first

17   30 minutes free to any nursing mother to

18   have a private room to be able to nurse or

19   pump. We have -- we are trying to identify

20   locations where we can introduce additional

21   ones. This -- we felt it was an issue that

22   needed to be addressed quickly. And so, we

23   partnered with Minute Suites.

24   We ideally like to have individually

1   identified nursing stations throughout the

2   terminal complex. But as you know, our

3   terminals are old. And we don't have a lot

4   of space. And so, try to find the space to

5   put those in is difficult sometimes.

6   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So because of the

7   power and the ingenuity associated with the

8   estrogen, you understand how important this

9   is. It's my hope that maybe the next time

10   we hear from you, maybe it will be a few

11   months from now, we get some sort of update

12   on the strategy and/or the plan to find a

13   way to make this more accessible.

14   That's my final question. But I always

15   have to say a special welcome back to

16   Maryanne, long time employee here in City

17   Council. We were staffers here together.

18   And to Sade, you know, just welcome back

19   home.

20   Thank you.

21   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

22   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

23   Councilwoman.

24   Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr.

2   Chairman. Good afternoon now.

3   On the same lines of customer

4   satisfaction, I know you talk about that in

5   your written testimony and you mentioned it

6   also when you spoke. Particularly

7   interested as somebody who went through this

8   in another airport, stranded passengers. We

9   talked about a little bit in the written.

10   Could you just for the record, briefly,

11   go over some of the amenities, if you will.

12   MS. LEWIS: Absolutely, Councilman.

13   Sade Olanipekun-Lewis. PHL provides cots,

14   pillows, blankets, vanity kits, water and

15   snacks to all of our overnighted stranded

16   passengers. We have three sleep area zones

17   for the stranded passengers. And in

18   addition, we have kid/sleep area for parents

19   with children who are stranded overnight.

20   When we staff up or bring online a

21   hospitality service overnight, we put -- we

22   have digital displays an inform passengers

23   that we now sort of set up overnight

24   facilities in different areas of the Airport

1   so that passengers can make their way to

2   avail themselves of the pillows, the cots,

3   the water and the amenities.

4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Great.

5   MS. LEWIS: One of the things we like to

6   point out is that the airlines have been

7   very proactive in canceling flights when

8   they know there is inclement weather. So we

9   do not have as many stranded passengers as

10   we have had in priors years where you see

11   maybe hundreds or so of passengers stuck at

12   an Airport. For 2016, we had 2600

13   passengers stranded over the entire year.

14   So, we gave 2600 pillows.

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. All right.

16   That's good. I wish at the airport I got

17   stranded in a couple years ago had that.

18   Just had two chairs we put up, and that was

19   about it.

20   Just one other thing. You mentioned --

21   because I see people when I'm at the Airport

22   particularly with service animals. What --

23   I saw the little area there with the fire

24   hydrant. Particularly with service animals,

 1   what kind of accommodations or services do

 2   you have?

 3   MS. CAMERON: So, we have had outdoor

 4   pet relief areas for years. But last year

 5   we installed seven in-terminal service

 6   animal relief areas. That was actually

 7   Maryanne Mahoney in the video with her

 8   puppy.

 9   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, was it?

10   MS. CAMERON: We used PHL employees to

11   star in the video. We've installed those

12   seven units. And they've been a huge hit

13   with passengers.

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I can imagine, yes

15   okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you for

16   everything you do.

17   MS. CAMERON: Sure.

18   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

19   Chairman.

20   MS. CAMERON: Thank you, Councilman.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

22   Councilman.

23   Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

24   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much,

1   Chairman.

2   Well, good afternoon. Good to see you.

3   And thank you for all your great work at the

4   Airport. I have some questions. We have

5   had these discussions, but I wanted to ask

6   you publicly just so we can get that out on

7   the record.

8   Our Airport, what does our future look

9   like? Are we going to be an International

10   Airport? Are we going to be a local feeder

11   Airport?

12   MS. CAMERON: I can say -- well, that --

13   your question really pertains to the

14   American Airlines/U.S. Airways merger that

15   we're a few years into now. And I'm very

16   happy to say we are remaining as a hub

17   airport within the American Airlines system,

18   first and foremost. And we are still their

19   TransAtlantic Gateway Airport for service to

20   Europe. Our service levels are very strong.

21   There have been some minor adjustments.

22   We have lost a couple of direct markets.

23   But for example, Brussels is no longer

24   served as a non-stop route from

1   Philadelphia. But American Airlines stopped

2   all service to Brussels after the terrorist

3   attacks last year. So, it wasn't just

4   Philadelphia that -- that lost one

5   particular route. They pulled out of that

6   market altogether.

7   And Tracy's reminding me to emphasize

8   that American Airlines is part of a

9   different airline alliance then U.S. Airways

10   was. We used to be a Star Alliance Airport.

11   We are now a One World Airport. And that

12   opens up a lot of additional opportunities

13   for partnerships with foreign flag carriers

14   to establish new service.

15   COUNCILMAN OH: Well, that's good news.

16   Thank you for that. And I know you are

17   working on trying to get us some direct

18   flights to Asia.

19   How is that looking?

20   MS. CAMERON: Well, I often describe it

21   as a dance. First, you have to learn the

22   dance steps, then you have to figure out who

23   your partner is, then you have to actually

24   get out on the floor and give it a go. And

1   it's a process.

2   We are actively engaged, though, with

3   numerous Asian carriers about potentially

4   starting service to PHL. I would note that

5   we are the largest city in the United States

6   without non-stop service to any Asian city.

7   And so please understand, it is at the top

8   of our list.

9   We have scheduled numerous trips in the

10   last year --

11   COUNCILMAN OH: I know you've been

12   working hard on it. And I really appreciate

13   it. I think it's so important for our city

14   just to, you know -- but I know you are

15   working hard on that. And I am really

16   appreciative of those efforts.

17   Could I ask you, are there any

18   dollars -- all this talk about

19   transportation infrastructure. Are there

20   any dollars that you are pursuing that we

21   could get?

22   MS. CAMERON: For additional

23   infrastructure?

24   COUNCILMAN OH: Yes.

 1   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely. We -- we are

 2   in discussions with the airlines right now

 3   about what really comes next in terms of

 4   infrastructure development at the Airport.

 5   And we talked a lot last year about how our

 6   Capacity Enhancement Program is still a

 7   great master plan. But the number one

 8   priority used to be a new runway. With the

 9   decline in flights, takeoffs and landings,

10   the new runway isn't the number one priority

11   any longer.

12   Our passenger levels during that same

13   period of time has stayed stable. And so,

14   we are focusing on what we need to do to our

15   terminals to make them operate better and

16   serve both the airlines and their customers

17   and our customers.

18   So, I don't have the details yet. I

19   think we are getting very close to having

20   something worked out. And we will

21   definitely contact you ahead of time if we

22   have an announcement of any size or

23   substance when it comes to infrastructure.

24   But at this point, I just don't have the

1   details ironed out yet.

2   COUNCILMAN OH: Finally, what is being

3   done -- what can be done about the quality

4   and the ease of the parking facilities which

5   I understand ultimately is driving some

6   high-end passengers to other airports?

7   MS. CAMERON: So, our parking operation

8   at the Airport is operated by the

9   Philadelphia Parking Authority. And we over

10   the past year or two have tried -- have been

11   attempting to work with them to establish

12   more customer-friendly programs.

13   In fact, this year they kicked off a

14   capital program to actually really do a much

15   needed facelift of the garages. And we are

16   looking to also establish some premium

17   parking kinds of amenities. So in other

18   words, maybe if we have customers who are

19   willing to pay a higher price or they are

20   associated with the Frequent Flyer Program

21   with one of the airlines, we can carve out

22   some spaces and offer those sorts of things.

23   They have been a huge success at other

24   Airports. And again, we need to partner

1   with the PPA. But we are trying to do that

2   to make sure that we can serve the

3   passengers as best we can.

4   COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Thank you very

5   much. Thank you Council President.

6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

7   Councilman. Excuse me.

8   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds

9   Brown.

10   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Good

11   afternoon. And let me echo Councilwoman

12   Cherelle Parker's observation. It is rare

13   and deeply encouraging. And it speaks to a

14   willingness to have leadership make sure

15   they have departments that looks like

16   Philadelphia. That should not go

17   unrecognized. So, thank you for the effort

18   to make it real.

19   With regards to the STARS and LEADS

20   Program that you mentioned in your

21   testimony, speak to -- give me a sense of

22   the participation numbers for minorities and

23   women in that program.

24   MS. LEWIS: Good afternoon,

 1   Councilwoman. Sade Olanipekun-Lewis.

 2   So, the STARS and LEADS Program began in

 3   2007. And we accepted 141 participants.

 4   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Pull the

 5   mic closer to you.

 6   MS. LEWIS: I'm sorry. We started this

 7   program in 2007. And since then, we have

 8   had 141 participants in the program.

 9   90 percent have been minorities, and

10   86 percent of these have been women. In our

11   current class, we have 12 participants, 11

12   are minorities and 8 are women.

13   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And that,

14   as I understand it, that is run through

15   the -- through your department?

16   MS. LEWIS: Run through the Division of

17   Aviation. Yes, ma'am.

18   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: That's

19   exceptional. Are there internship

20   opportunities for college students at the

21   Airports? Could you speak to that, how it

22   happens, what they are? Process.

23   MS. CAMERON: Yes, ma'am. I am going to

24   ask Rosalie to come up and address that

 1   program.

 2   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

 3   MS. HORNBUCKLE: Good morning, Rosalie

 4   Hornbuckle.

 5   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Good

 6   morning.

 7   MS. HORNBUCKLE: We have -- since I've

 8   come on board in starting in 2016, there was

 9   a really well-established internship program

10   with nine colleges throughout the region.

11   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Oh,

12   excellent.

13   MS. HORNBUCKLE: And we used that in

14   order to gain a lot of experience in

15   aviation for engineers and other project

16   management and things like that for the

17   Airport.

18   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: So, the

19   starting point or the starting place is

20   where? At the Airport or at the

21   institution?

22   MS. HORNBUCKLE: The starting place is

23   we partner with the institutions in order to

24   identify candidates that we then bring on

1   board and put -- place in various

2   departments in the organization.

3   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I see.

4   MS. HORNBUCKLE: We are looking for the

5   future to expand on that. How we are going

6   to do that is still under development. We

7   are working with the institutions in order

8   to partner more effectively.

9   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

10   MS. HORNBUCKLE: We have just added

11   partnership with Widener University, as

12   well.

13   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

14   MS. HORNBUCKLE: So that, this way we

15   can start to build on the program.

16   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Can you

17   send that list of institutions to the --

18   Mr. President?

19   MS. HORNBUCKLE: Yes. Definitely.

20   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. So,

21   you provided detail with regards to the

22   demographic makeup of your department.

23   What percentage of that -- of those

24   professionals are in positions of leadership

 1   and responsibility?

 2   MS. CAMERON: So we -- the executive

 3   staff of the Airport is ten people. And if

 4   you like, I can give you a breakdown of --

 5   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Please.

 6   MS. CAMERON: -- of those ten. Four or

 7   40 percent of the 10 are minorities; 6 or

 8   60 percent of the 10 are women -- or, I'm

 9   sorry, White; 4 or 40 percent are female;

10   and 6 or 60 percent are male.

11   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

12   Again very, very exceptional. Before the

13   bell rings, I do want to comment and commend

14   your leadership coupled with the

15   African-American History Museum and how

16   valiant effort to feature prominent

17   African-Americans there in one of the -- it

18   wasn't a runway. It was a -- one of the --

19   help me out. It wasn't a runway.

20   MS. CAMERON: Oh, the terminal.

21   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you

22   very much.

23   MS. CAMERON: The connector.

24   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Connector.

1   Is that still there?

2   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely. It will be

3   there through, I think, June or July.

4   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And have

5   discussions -- have you all had a chance to

6   revisit with Mr. Epps how we can make that

7   an annual experience?

8   MS. CAMERON: We have talked about

9   different ways that we can partner with the

10   African-American Museum to do something

11   different. That's part of our Rotating Art

12   Exhibit Program.

13   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

14   MS. CAMERON: We have permanent

15   locations and we have rotating locations.

16   And we just need to explore what they have

17   in their archives that we might be able to

18   curate and pull together so that it would be

19   an interesting exhibit for all of the

20   passengers that go through the Airport.

21   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: It's truly

22   a cultural experience. And it should be

23   celebrated as long as it can.

24   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely. And Sade is

1   reminding me, as well, you know from the

2   minute we saw the exhibit go up, I mean,

3   I've got to shout out Leah Douglas, our

4   Director of Image. She just did a fantastic

5   job researching these folks.

6   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Yes.

7   MS. CAMERON: Writing up their stories

8   and creating the exhibit. She -- from the

9   minute we saw it go up, we said we got to

10   keep this somehow. And so, we are

11   digitizing it. We are taking photos. We

12   are going to post the expanded stories of

13   each of the individuals that were honored as

14   part of the exhibit. And you should be able

15   to go to our website and the

16   African-American Museum's website to be able

17   to visit that through perpetuity.

18   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: It's

19   exceptional.

20   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

21   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And I am

22   sure that it enhances one's travel

23   experience.

24   MS. CAMERON: Thank you for coming to

 1   the unveiling event.

 2   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Oh, I

 3   loved it.

 4   MS. CAMERON: It was truly a -- it just

 5   touched your heart to see all of the --

 6   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: It was a

 7   "wow" moment I thought.

 8   MS. CAMERON: It really was. Thank you.

 9   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Last

10   question. With regards to the potential or

11   Trump's proposed federal budget, have you

12   thought about -- looked to the future and

13   how this might impact the work you are doing

14   there given the amount of money that's

15   allocated from the U.S. Department of

16   Transportation?

17   MS. CAMERON: So, we're monitoring the

18   situation right now. We don't know of any

19   direct impacts. But we are watching very

20   carefully. You know, Tracy can speak to the

21   grants that we receive every year that are

22   federal grants. But as of right now, we

23   just don't have any information.

24   I will point out, though, we are

1   partnering with the two Airport association

2   industry groups that we belong to. And they

3   are very closely involved in making sure

4   that those grants aren't lost.

5   We can -- maybe we can submit to you

6   after the hearing --

7   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: That

8   works.

9   MS. CAMERON: -- a list of current

10   grants that we get.

11   MS. BORDA: I would just add onto that.

12   Just so you know, overall about 1.7 billion

13   we have in approved capital projects, about

14   3 percent is federally funded. So, the good

15   news is we rely on other sources of funding.

16   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you

17   all very, very much.

18   Thank you, Mr. President.

19   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

20   Councilwoman.

21   Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

22   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

23   Mr. President.

24   Good morning, well, good afternoon.

1   It's a pleasure to see you all this day.

2   Thank you for all the work you have done at

3   the Airport. A lot of the -- some of the

4   earlier comments I was going to make have

5   already been addressed by other colleagues

6   in reference to your outreach and diversity

7   efforts.

8   One of the things I wanted to raise a

9   question is that I know the Airport is

10   actually going to the capital markets this

11   year with a lot of debt offerings from a

12   monetary standpoint. And one of the things

13   that I raised in the Capital Program is that

14   the Capital Program really doesn't break out

15   the M/W/BE spend in the Capital Program.

16   And I know you do a lot of work in that

17   regard.

18   Is that something that you would

19   encourage going forward so that not only the

20   Airport but for other enterprise funds or

21   other funds within the City of Philadelphia,

22   that we include that M/W/BE spend within the

23   Capital Program?

24   MS. BORDA: So what I would say is that

1   we do track the OEO quarterly reports that

2   are put out. We do track what is spent on

3   Public Works contracts as well as all types

4   of contracts, so we can provide those

5   numbers. We do know the amounts that go to

6   M/W/DBEs.

7   COUNCILMAN GREEN: For that to be

8   included in the Capital Program, would that

9   be a burden on you to provide that in the

10   Capital Program?

11   MS. BORDA: I think in the Capital

12   Program, we are budgeting and looking ahead.

13   At that time, I don't know that it's known

14   what exactly that percentage is going to be

15   because it's just a plan at that time. You

16   know, we are looking at various

17   opportunities whether they are restroom

18   renovations or, you know, extending a runway

19   on the airfield. There is all different

20   types of projects that we are doing.

21   But we definitely track -- as we let

22   contracts, we track. We obviously put each

23   contract opportunity. We put a goal on that

24   contracting opportunity. And then we track

1   against that opportunity -- against that

2   goal that's been set.

3   COUNCILMAN GREEN: But still considering

4   that you probably have an understanding what

5   the goal are even though they are forward

6   looking, that information could be provided

7   in the Capital Program, at least the goal

8   perspective that you have.

9   MS. BORDA: Oh, yes. Yes, we can.

10   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Couple other things.

11   I know the Airports had a very busy January

12   because of some of the new climate in DC.

13   And so, I guess my question is in some of

14   that new climate issues are in litigation as

15   we speak. And not sure how that will be

16   resolved.

17   From the Airport's perspective, have you

18   put together any type of contingency plan in

19   reference to how that litigation may turn

20   out?

21   MS. CAMERON: Not specifically provided

22   to the -- as it pertains to the litigation.

23   But based on the demonstrations that did

24   happen at the Airport in January, we have

1   taken a fresh look at how we handle events

2   of that nature. And so, we feel that we

3   have a very strong plan in place if we need

4   to go through something like that again.

5   But again, no specific plans surrounding the

6   litigation at this point.

7   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Recently, many of us

8   have viewed the United video of Dr. Dao who

9   was removed from United Airline's flight.

10   Have you heard any of the information from

11   any of the carriers at our airport in

12   reference to changes, policy changes they

13   may be making in reference to passengers,

14   overcrowded flights?

15   I know they in that situation, they used

16   local police. I'm curious, have you heard

17   anything from our airlines at Philadelphia

18   International Airport?

19   MS. CAMERON: Well, United which, by the

20   way, only carry about 3 to 4 percent of the

21   total passengers at PHL has completely

22   revamped their -- their program in how they

23   are going to do things. They will no longer

24   forcibly remove passengers from flights we

1   are happy to report. We also have heard and

2   you probably saw in the news that Delta

3   Airlines has upped the amount of money that

4   they will offer to folks when a flight is

5   overbooked. I think it's somewhere just shy

6   of $10,000.

7   So you know, first, I thought that was a

8   little high. And then I talked to a couple

9   of folks in the industry. And they said

10   that when you're talking about a flight that

11   maybe a 16-hour flight to Asia, for example,

12   that only runs three or four days a week, a

13   dollar amount at that level may be

14   appropriate. So, we're very pleased that

15   Delta has done that.

16   And American, we haven't had any formal

17   conversations with them. But their program

18   seem to be working well at Philadelphia and

19   other Airports. I also want to make one

20   other comment. When that happened with the

21   United passenger, we very quickly contacted

22   our Philadelphia Police to review with them

23   their procedures and how they would react if

24   they were requested to do something like

1   that with the airlines. And we feel very

2   confident that the police get it. That they

3   know, you know, what is appropriate to do,

4   what is not. And they actually have

5   procedures in place so that they know what

6   to do in that sort of a situation. So, I

7   feel better than what happened in Chicago in

8   Philadelphia.

9   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Councilman Oh talked

10   about direct flights to Asia. I know you've

11   been working on that regard quite a bit.

12   Considering now that Philadelphia is the

13   nation's first and only World Heritage City,

14   how have we used that unique designation to

15   try to promote more direct flights to

16   different jurisdictions around the world

17   where we are trying to increase or expand

18   visits to City of Philadelphia?

19   MS. CAMERON: So, we are working with

20   the World Heritage City Association, the

21   group that is part of Global Philadelphia

22   that is putting together those programs. We

23   are a member of the board and a member of

24   the working committees, so that we are able

1   to leverage fully that new status.

2   I will tell you that as the person that

3   goes to a lot of those air service

4   development meetings, particularly in Asia,

5   when we mention the fact that we are the

6   first city in the United States to have

7   received that designation, their faces light

8   up. They start asking a lot of questions.

9   And so, we have been getting a lot of

10   mileage out of it so far. Because they feel

11   that there are a lot of folks on their end,

12   so that Asia end, who if they knew more

13   about us as a World Heritage City, would

14   want to come and visit. And so, that helps

15   to make the business case to establish that

16   non-stop service.

17   So, it's come in handy. We are still

18   looking for additional ways that we can

19   leverage it. Some Airports have actually

20   developed individual materials that they use

21   as part of their service development

22   meetings. And I just -- I think it's a

23   wonderful thing for the City, and it's

24   helping us already.

 1   COUNCILMAN GREEN: One final question

 2   because my time is up. I have had some

 3   conversations over the past year about how

 4   we do a better job of business attraction to

 5   the City of Philadelphia. We do a lot from

 6   a tourism perspective through Visit

 7   Philadelphia and the Convention Business

 8   Bureau.

 9   But from a business perspective, it

10   seems like, you know, we have Select Greater

11   Philadelphia, we got the Commerce

12   Department, Chamber of Commerce. And so, my

13   understanding is that in the coming weeks

14   there is going to be a business attraction

15   meeting where both on the business side and

16   on the tourism side will be coming together

17   to let people know what they do from a

18   business attraction perspective.

19   Considering, you know, we got the Office of

20   Immigrant Affairs. They just had their

21   first annual Immigrant Business Week, what

22   kind of steps are we taking to try to help

23   brand the City as a business friendly city

24   that you see that the Airport can play a

1   role in?

2   MS. CAMERON: So the first meeting of

3   that group hasn't taken place. I think it

4   happens in another week and a half. We are

5   a member of the group. So, I don't have a

6   lot of information right now. But I would

7   note that one of the most important things

8   that businesses evaluate when they try to

9   decide where to locate is the connectivity

10   of the region. And we feel that it is

11   absolutely imperative that we continue to

12   work on making sure that Philadelphia is as

13   connected as possible with as many non-stop

14   destinations as possible so that that can

15   just be one more thing that we can add to

16   the portfolio to show why Philadelphia is a

17   great place to come and do business.

18   One last thing. As you know under this

19   Administration, we are part of the Commerce

20   Department which is the -- where we are

21   supposed to be in accordance with the City

22   Charter. And it's been a fantastic

23   relationship for us to be able to work with

24   Mr. Epps on looking at things more

1   wholistically and how the Airport fits into

2   that bigger picture.

3   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

4   President. I have some more questions in

5   the next round.

6   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

7   Councilman.

8   Chair recognizes Councilwoman

9   Quinones-Sanchez.

10   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank

11   you. Good afternoon, ladies. I must echo

12   how pleased we are to have such a highly

13   qualified grouping of women leading our

14   Airport.

15   Couple of things. I want to thank the

16   Airport for their role in really helping us.

17   I know we talked earlier around the public

18   demonstrations, around the executive order

19   of the President and allowing us on many

20   different occasions to use the Airport's

21   facilities for people to exercise their

22   constitutional rights.

23   I wanted to ask a little bit around --

24   you know, we spent the last four or five

1   years aggressively working to increase the

2   quality of jobs at the Airport by the

3   multi-national subcontractors there. And I

4   know last week I was at the Airport. I

5   joined the Mayor at the Airport as the Union

6   voted for their contract.

7   What, if anything, is the Airport doing

8   to encourage these multi-national companies

9   to do right and really help us uplift, I

10   think, Councilwoman Blondell and all of us

11   who have gone to the Airport at three, four

12   o'clock in the morning have been incredibly

13   encouraged by the large number of people of

14   color, men, others catching multiple buses

15   to go there. And the fact that through some

16   of our actions here in Council we have been

17   able to better their quality of life.

18   What, if anything, will you be doing in

19   the next few months as the hard part is

20   about to -- we're about to confront the

21   hardest part, which is actually getting a

22   fair contract?

23   MS. CAMERON: Contract negotiation.

24   That's right. It's -- it's a very awkward

1   space for us to be in because those

2   contractors don't work for us, the Airport,

3   directly. And so, we really can't be

4   involved in those negotiations.

5   What we do is we continue to have a

6   dialogue with the airlines and other

7   companies that employ those subcontractors

8   and just try to touch base, make sure that

9   they know we are interested in a peaceable

10   and fair outcome and that sort of thing.

11   But it's very awkward for us because again,

12   they are not our subcontractors. If they

13   were, it would be a very different

14   situation.

15   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I think,

16   you know, as we talk how do you go -- how do

17   you grow businesses and services, you know,

18   I hate to see around the whole entire

19   eastern border us being beholden to these

20   companies. I mean, these multi-national

21   companies. And I just -- one of the things

22   that I see, it's a wonderful opportunity for

23   us to figure out how we grow some of those

24   businesses on a local basis. So that these

1   companies that are being run not in the

2   United States don't think they can come into

3   the United States and exploit workers. I

4   just see it as a potential future business

5   opportunity and really encourage the

6   Airport. We have learned over the fight

7   over the last four or five years and as they

8   further merge is like, what can we be doing

9   to incentivize people to set up businesses

10   to do that kind of operation where we could

11   control who some of those vendors are and

12   their opportunities locally.

13   Just, you know, moving forward. When we

14   took on that battle, you didn't really --

15   you know the numbers. When you start

16   meeting some of the workers, some of the

17   brave workers, some who lost their job and

18   not able to return, it's sort of like -- I

19   feel like we should be doing better. And I

20   don't know what that answer is. But I do

21   think long term, you know, global -- as we

22   become a more global Airport, that we think

23   about that.

24   The other thing is, while I'm very

1   encouraged by the hiring and stuff, the

2   Latino participation and workforce there is

3   still extremely low. And so, I'll be

4   looking for you to kind of give me a plan

5   and an ask about what I can be doing to help

6   better support the increase of Latino

7   employees, particularly because you have

8   such huge openings.

9   I was kind of disappointed to see the

10   numbers so low. It's a such a great place

11   for people to have the opportunities.

12   MS. CAMERON: We would be happy to meet

13   with you. I think maybe if Rosalie came and

14   sat down with you, you can talk through some

15   of the challenges. One of which is

16   transportation. The Airport, it's a longer

17   way to get to work from where a lot of folks

18   live. And so, that becomes, you know, just

19   part of the bigger picture. But we would

20   love to sit down and talk to you about that.

21   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Yeah. I

22   have a niece who works there. And she

23   catches multiple transportation modes to get

24   there. And some of the workers we have been

1   working with. And so figuring out -- even

2   from an infrastructure perspective, how can

3   we better get workers there.

4   MS. CAMERON: Workers at the Airport do

5   receive a SEPTA subsidy to help make it more

6   affordable for them to ride public

7   transportation. But --

8   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: What is

9   that subsidy?

10   MS. CAMERON: I don't know off the top

11   of my head. About 30 percent.

12   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thirty

13   percent.

14   MS. CAMERON: About 30 percent. But I

15   do think it would be a great conversation

16   for you to have with Rosalie about the

17   bigger picture.

18   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: And we

19   should -- another conversation with SEPTA we

20   should have about, you know, one of the

21   things we learn again, public education

22   getting SEPTA to provide free transportation

23   to high school students is hugely important

24   in getting kids to go to better higher

1   quality seats as we call them now. It's

2   another conversation to have with them about

3   what other ways they could support workers

4   at the Airport.

5   Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

6   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

7   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

8   Councilwoman.

9   Chair recognizes Councilman

10   Taubenberger.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you,

12   Council President. I want to, Ms. Cameron,

13   say thank you as from my vantage point from

14   this desk and from other places on all the

15   fine work that you and your team are doing.

16   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

17   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I think it's

18   very, you know, helpful, helpful to the

19   City. I was recently -- it was this

20   morning, Temple University discussing World

21   Heritage sites and how they can be marketed

22   better. And I think it's something that we

23   really must do and can do. It's a resource

24   we have. And we cannot let that go to

 1   waste.

 2   MS. CAMERON: You went to the Temple

 3   event.

 4   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yes.

 5   MS. CAMERON: We had representation

 6   there, as well.

 7   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I thought you

 8   did. And it was very good.

 9   I also want to -- (timer goes off). I

10   get a little more time than that. (Laughter)

11   I'm new around here, but I know I get a

12   little more time than that.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It was an

14   error in flight control. Sorry.

15   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I also want to

16   congratulate you again on Icelandic

17   Airlines, getting them to come to

18   Philadelphia. I think that's fantastic. Is

19   that -- is that a daily flight during the

20   summer or is that a once-a-week flight?

21   MS. CAMERON: No. It's four times a

22   week to start. What they said they would do

23   is evaluate the reception in this region,

24   how the ticket sales go. And they are

 1   interested in potentially expanding it to

 2   daily and also offering it year round. But

 3   they want to test the market. So if it's on

 4   your bucket list, I would encourage anybody

 5   and everybody to buy a ticket and go visit

 6   Iceland this summer.

 7   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: As well. And

 8   I do have some relations in Germany. Going

 9   to tell them to come here by Icelandic

10   Airlines.

11   Are there any further initiatives with

12   other airlines in Europe or Asia?

13   MS. CAMERON: So, we have put together a

14   strategy. As I mentioned, we are the

15   largest city in the United States without

16   non-stop service to Asia. Clearly, that is

17   at the top of our list. And we are meeting

18   with those carriers. We had an interesting

19   development. I say we. It's really more

20   American Airlines over the past few weeks.

21   They purchased a $200 million share in

22   China Southern Airlines. And American

23   Airlines was the one large legacy carrier

24   that didn't have a Chinese connection.

1   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Okay.

2   MS. CAMERON: And having that connection

3   is part of One World, the One World

4   Alliance. If this part ownership share

5   leads to that, it will be significant for

6   the Airport.

7   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: That's

8   fantastic. What was the percentage? I did

9   read this in the Wall Street Journal. That

10   was actually my next question.

11   MS. CAMERON: That's right. It's a

12   small percentage. I can't remember the

13   percentage, but it was about $200 million.

14   It's very small. The airline is worth

15   billions. But I think it's significant

16   because, again, it's ownership share. And

17   it shows -- it's a gesture that shows that

18   their -- American is willing to put some

19   skin in the game.

20   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: If they are

21   very interested, I mean, and without

22   question they are our biggest airline in

23   Philadelphia.

24   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely.

 1   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: What is the

 2   percentage of gates they have?

 3   MS. CAMERON: Gates, I don't know off

 4   the top of my head.

 5   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Approximately.

 6   MS. CAMERON: It's over 70 percent of

 7   the passengers.

 8   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: That's a fair

 9   amount.

10   MS. CAMERON: It is.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: So, we are

12   sort of married to them. And I think the

13   opportunity for them to have a relationship,

14   even if it's a small amount with China

15   Southern Airlines is certainly a start.

16   MS. CAMERON: That's right.

17   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And a gateway

18   to Asia.

19   MS. CAMERON: And, Councilman, I guess I

20   would note the other One World partners in

21   Asia include Japan Airlines, which would be

22   a great partnership for us to establish with

23   service to Tokyo, Cafe Pacific, with

24   potentially service to Hong Kong and again

1   really China. We try to look for One World

2   partners because it -- as you say, it

3   balances the barbel. We have the

4   connections here in Philadelphia to be able

5   to fill the planes. You have to be able to

6   make the business case and show they are

7   going to be able to fill them on the other

8   end. And if there's a One World

9   partnership, that is a lot easier to make

10   happen.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: That's great.

12   Council president, thank you very much.

13   And, Ms. Cameron, thank you very much.

14   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

15   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

16   Councilman.

17   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council

19   President.

20   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Welcome.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good afternoon.

22   MS. CAMERON: Good afternoon.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I have a few quick

24   questions. It's in your testimony that the

1   Aviation Fund is self supporting using

2   aircraft landing fees, terminal building

3   rent, concession revenue and other facility

4   charges to fund annual expenses.

5   MS. CAMERON: That's right.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Just so I understand,

7   does this mean that Philadelphia Airport and

8   Philadelphia Northeast Airport are revenue

9   neutral and function without any cost to the

10   City?

11   MS. CAMERON: That is correct.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's good, by the

13   way.

14   The other question I have is on your

15   testimony, I am just trying to understand it

16   on page 4 under the budget. I am trying to

17   understand in Fiscal Year 16, the actual

18   obligation totals compared to Fiscal Year 17

19   the estimated obligations, why there is such

20   a huge difference. I mean, in Fiscal Year

21   16, the total actual obligations are

22   363 million. And in Fiscal Year 17, they

23   are 471 million.

24   MS. BORDA: So if you recall last year

1   we -- what's that? I'm Tracy Borda, CFO of

2   the Airport.

3   Last year I know when we spoke before

4   your City Council, we did talk about

5   increasing Class 100. So, that was sort of

6   one of our bigger jumps that we had done.

7   We had also increased our Class 200 which is

8   professional services and other contracts to

9   do -- to get ready for capital development

10   as well as other sort of one-time services

11   we needed. Which one time lasts a couple

12   years, but it's still one-time purchases.

13   This year you will see in the actual

14   addition of Aviation budget itself, we

15   actually have a decrease in our

16   appropriative requests. We are decreasing

17   appropriations by about $14 million. And

18   then we have an increase in what we call

19   almost below the lines, what's impacting us

20   from other departments. One of those

21   impacts is, as you were discussing earlier,

22   is fringe benefits and pensions that has

23   increased over the years.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Go back to the chart

1   in the middle of the page --

2   MS. BORDA: Yes.

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: -- of the testimony.

4   Just so I understand the numbers, it says

5   Fiscal Year 16 original appropriations in

6   the middle.

7   MS. BORDA: Yes.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: At the bottom number

9   is 183 million. And we actual obligations

10   were 133 million. It's 50 million less.

11   Why is that?

12   MS. BORDA: We appropriated more than we

13   needed that year. We do come in with

14   increased appropriations just in case

15   there's some sort of initiative that the

16   Airports or the airlines would like to take

17   on in a given year. We don't always

18   necessarily act on --

19   MS. CAMERON: And if I could jump in, we

20   talked earlier about the difficulty we have

21   had in filling positions. And so, you will

22   see that, you know, one of the gaps there is

23   about $4.5 million that we underspent in

24   terms of our employee compensation because

1   we couldn't fill positions. We generally

2   speaking, put some additional money in the

3   appropriation for purchases of services for

4   the reasons that Tracy talked about. But

5   also, unfortunately, we have been subject to

6   a number of unfunded mandates from this

7   Federal Government increasingly since 9/11

8   for security and other things that we have

9   to do at the Airport. And this gives us the

10   flexibility to be able to address those

11   issues if they come up during the fiscal

12   year.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I don't think that's

14   the issue for me. I mean, your employee

15   compensation was off only 4 million. I am

16   talking about 50 million. When you look at

17   purchase of services, you projected

18   96 million. You spent 75. Why was that

19   21 million less?

20   MS. CAMERON: And that was generally --

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's not a bad

22   thing. I just want to understand why it was

23   less.

24   MS. CAMERON: Again, some of it was

1   because of those, we put money in there to

2   fund unfunded mandates if they come down.

3   It's mostly purchase of services where we

4   would have to do that.

5   We also that line reflects contractual

6   services as does for snow removal purposes.

7   We do a lot of it in house. But we do a

8   bunch of it by contract. And if you don't

9   have a big snow year, those numbers can come

10   in lower, same with materials and supplies

11   in those areas. We have to budget for, you

12   know, what we think is going to happen. But

13   when it doesn't materialize, we clearly come

14   in under budget.

15   MS. BORDA: And if I could add onto

16   that, as well. The other decrease down

17   below is UC and Class 800, payment to other

18   funds. That's our debt service. So, we

19   were originally thinking that we might want

20   to do a bond deal last year. We did not

21   need to do a bond deal. So that -- that

22   also came in, as you see, much lower than we

23   anticipated.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's a $6 million

1   Delta.

2   MS. BORDA: No. No. It's larger. It's

3   7.5 point. We budgeted 24.6. It came in

4   7.5.

5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Payment to other

6   funds.

7   MS. BORDA: That's a chunk of it.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: At the bottom in Class

9   700 you have debt service. What is the debt

10   service below?

11   MS. BORDA: Hold on one second.

12   MS. CAMERON: Well, we have budgeted, I

13   think Tracy, I think payment to other funds;

14   is that right?

15   MS. BORDA: I'm sorry. The payment to

16   other funds was -- part of that was -- I

17   don't know if you heard earlier. I was

18   saying we had originally appropriated a

19   couple of years ago before we set up the

20   commercial paper program. We did a transfer

21   of operating funds to the capital funds.

22   That's the capital fund. We had put in over

23   $10 million of operating money to start to

24   pay for capital projects before the

 1   commercial paper program was fully

 2   established and in place.

 3   Now that would -- that was a one-year

 4   effect. Since that time and this year, you

 5   see we actually lowered our appropriation

 6   request for that line item. If you go all

 7   the way across, you will see now that we are

 8   actually -- I'm sorry.

 9   MS. CAMERON: Fiscal Year 18.

10   MS. BORDA: Yeah. Fiscal Year 18 we are

11   actually appropriating $10 million decrease

12   so we do no longer need to appropriate for

13   those operating funds to be in that fund.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And just when you look

15   at this information, doesn't look right

16   because it looks like you asked original

17   appropriation of 183, 133 at the bottom

18   number, is 440 versus 363. And then as you

19   go out, these things escalate up

20   dramatically.

21   MS. BORDA: I think we just -- goes back

22   to us allowing for appropriation should the

23   Airport or the airlines, you know, decide to

24   take on other initiatives. Or, as Chellie

1   had stated, there should come -- unfunded

2   mandates come our way. And they do come

3   occasionally. We have to be prepared to do

4   that without necessarily -- we need to be

5   able to act quickly at times on those.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I will come

7   back again. Thank you very much. Thank

8   you.

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

10   Councilman.

11   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gym.

12   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much

13   Council President. Good afternoon.

14   First, I just wanted to thank yourself,

15   Ms. Cameron, and the entire Airport team for

16   all the work you did to really welcome the

17   publics, especially when it -- there were a

18   lot of action happening at the Airports in

19   January and other times. I think it was

20   very overwhelming. And I think in very

21   difficult circumstances, the Airport just

22   really proved that it's not just a place of

23   commerce but also of community. And you

24   created an incredibly open and welcoming

1   space.

2   I think it was, again, you know, very

3   unexpected. And in a lot of cases, you were

4   called upon to work way beyond what you

5   thought it was. But it really had a massive

6   impact, I think, on the entire city. And

7   certainly, had lasting impact in terms of

8   how people viewed that. So, thank you.

9   MS. CAMERON: Councilwoman Gym, we were

10   actually very proud to be able to provide a

11   facility for people to express their

12   opinions. And our team responded well.

13   Thank you for recognizing that. But I also

14   want to talk about the police force that was

15   there to help and make sure that things

16   stayed peaceful. They were out of this

17   world fantastic, as well.

18   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I agree with you

19   entirely. I thought that the police force

20   was really -- you know, overall it was a

21   really empowering and powerful statement of

22   community and inclusivity. And the Airport

23   being the backdrop for it was just, you

24   know, very, very moving. And I know that --

 1   again, this is not your milieu of sorts.

 2   But you were enormously embracing of it all.

 3   MS. CAMERON: Six to 7,000 people coming

 4   in, in an afternoon to march down your

 5   roadways is a bit of a surprise. But we

 6   focused, I think, on keeping the Airport

 7   operational. And we were able to do that by

 8   using our roadway system in a little bit of

 9   a different way. And that freed up the

10   space for people to demonstrate safely. But

11   also, I think, very effectively.

12   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Well, thank you

13   again. And really thank you to your whole

14   team and certainly to our Police Department.

15   One of the questions I had was just

16   unpacking a little bit. I saw that about

17    $30 million of parking revenue comes into

18   the Airport. I'm not sure if I'm reading it

19   right. But it looks like it's about 7

20   percent of your overall revenue or 6, 7

21   percent of your overall revenue.

22   How much of the $30 million comes from

23   the Parking Authority.

24   MS. CAMERON: Well, all of it. A number

1   of -- a few decades ago, it's been a long

2   time. An agreement was stuck with the

3   Philadelphia Parking Authority giving them

4   the right to develop and operate parking

5   facilities at the Airport. So what happens

6   during the year, and it's in accordance with

7   the agreement, they collect the revenues.

8   They operate the facility, collect the

9   revenues, subtract out their expenses. And

10   what remains at the end of the year is what

11   we call net remaining revenue. And that is

12   a payment to the Airport.

13   There are some strict rules that we're

14   subject to by the FAA, meaning that when we

15   accept grant money from the FAA for our

16   airfield, we agree that we are not going to

17   divert revenue from the Airport system

18   outside of that. And so, the PPA really is

19   obligated to give us everything that is left

20   over once they subtract their expenses to

21   the airport system.

22   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And are you aware of

23   what percentage the 30 million comprises of

24   the Parking Authority's Aviation revenue

1   that they bring in?

2   MS. CAMERON: Of the total that they

3   collect in a year? I don't have that off

4   the top of my head. I don't know if any of

5   my staff has it behind me. But we can

6   definitely get you that answer very quickly

7   after the hearing.

8   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I think that would be

9   helpful. I think that I recall from last

10   year, that it's about 30 percent.

11   MS. CAMERON: I think that's right. But

12   I just -- I want to take a look at those

13   numbers.

14   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So that, 70 percent

15   of the revenue remains with the Parking

16   Authority and 30 percent of the revenue --

17   MS. CAMERON: Correct.

18   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: -- goes to the

19   Airport. So, the total revenue collected is

20   about $100 million.

21   MS. CAMERON: I think that's about

22   right. But again, I would like to check the

23   numbers. Remember --

24   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I think it's roughly

1   in that.

2   MS. CAMERON: I just also want to note

3   that it's not just operating expenses that

4   come off the top. It's also debt service.

5   So, they have outstanding debt service for

6   some of the parking structures that they've

7   built. And that annual debt service comes

8   out of that 100 million a year, as well.

9   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: It would help to know

10   how that breaks down. I might be able to

11   check it against what we have asked before.

12   I know I pay a lot of attention to the

13   on-street revenues, red light cameras, live

14   stop and other types of things.

15   MS. CAMERON: Okay.

16   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: But sometimes the

17   Parking Authority's Aviation budget is not

18   particularly one that I've had a real deep

19   dive in, but would like to be able to

20   understand it better.

21   And then the 30 million, how has that

22   changed over the last five years?

23   MS. CAMERON: It's gone up a little bit

24   but remained relatively stable. The PPA

 1   sold debt a number of years ago and didn't

 2   have a level debt service schedule. So, it

 3   wasn't paid back in equal amounts every

 4   year. It kind of spiked and then took a

 5   decrease. So, some of the minor increases

 6   and decreases is due to that.

 7   The PPA, though, at our urging also

 8   embarked upon an advertising campaign in the

 9   Economy Lot. And it's been very successful.

10   Revenues in Economy have gone up. And we

11   think that that's contributed to the overall

12   bottom line, as well. We do compete with

13   off-Airport parking companies. And so,

14   making sure that we're filling our lots

15   first and telling people about how

16   convenient they are compared to going

17   further off Airport has really resonated

18   with our passengers.

19   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And how important is

20   expanded parking to the Airport at this

21   time?

22   MS. CAMERON: We are in the process of

23   starting a parking study. It's time to take

24   a look at that so we can take a look at

1   supply and demand and see if it might be

2   time to develop additional parking.

3   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And one last quick

4   question is just, the School District of

5   Philadelphia has started meeting on a

6   regular basis with the Parking Authority to

7   assess changes in revenues, needs,

8   projections that the District has.

9   Obviously, with the School District of

10   Philadelphia in particular, the Parking

11   Authority revenues have fluctuated wildly

12   and have, in fact, decreased dramatically.

13   But I wonder if you have those kinds of

14   regular meetings with the Parking Authority,

15   or is it just kind of a handoff of revenues?

16   MS. CAMERON: We meet with them very

17   regularly. The manager at the Airport we

18   see weekly. And then we have established

19   quarterly meetings with now Clarina but with

20   the executive team Downtown to talk through

21   Airport issues. So, we are in close contact

22   with them.

23   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Great. Thank you

24   very much.

1   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely.

2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

3   Councilwoman.

4   Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

5   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,

6   Mr. President.

7   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're

8   welcome, sir.

9   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And I'D like to

10   say, too, that I really appreciate the

11   leadership from the Airport and Sade,

12   Chellie and --

13   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

14   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: -- Tracy, I'm

15   sorry. Probably known the longest. But

16   understanding that, you know, what you have

17   to deal with. And knowing that all the --

18   especially American Airlines being one of

19   the biggest there and talking to all the

20   users of the Airport and how they really are

21   able to work well with your team is a credit

22   to you and the team and the effort you have

23   put forth. It always wasn't that way. And

24   so, I think that it's great that we are

 1   going in that direction and your leadership

 2   has shown. It's much appreciated.

 3   But during these times that we have and

 4   uncertainties, how do we ensure the

 5   passengers and the employees' safety at the

 6   Airport? And then you know, as a traveling

 7   public, what can we do to help also.

 8   MS. CAMERON: So, safety and security is

 9   always top of mind for us always. With

10   hundreds of daily flights and, again, 82,000

11   pairs of shoes, people coming through the

12   Airport, we want to make sure that

13   everything stays safe.

14   We have partnered very closely with the

15   TSA, the Transportation Security

16   Administration, to do what we can to not

17   just enhance customer service but also

18   security.

19   So for example, last summer we had five

20   K-9 teams that patrolled the Airport. And I

21   tell ya, I'll take a dog any day over

22   additional Airport screening. Those animals

23   are so highly trained and are -- their

24   senses are able to detect things that --

 1   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And friendly.

 2   MS. CAMERON: Don't pet them. Would not

 3   encourage that. But we are going from five

 4   dog teams to nine this year, and that's a

 5   direct result of working with the TSA.

 6   One of the other things that we were

 7   able to do over the past few years was on

 8   the Departures Roadways, where the ticket

 9   counters are, we are able to put in

10   stainless steel bollards along the sidewalks

11   to prevent a vehicle from driving into the

12   building. We are now taking that work into

13   the Arrivals Roadway and will be installing

14   bollards there, as well, to enhance safety

15   and security.

16   So, lots of different things that we are

17   doing.

18   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: It's better to be

19   proactive then reactive after something

20   happens.

21   MS. CAMERON: Absolutely.

22   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's much

23   appreciated, too. Is there anything the

24   public can do also to help?

1   MS. CAMERON: Yeah. So, we have

2   deployed over all of our monitors, and it

3   flashes up periodically. If you see

4   something, say something. You have probably

5   heard that phrase often when it comes to

6   even railway, SEPTA transportation. But at

7   the Airport it's particularly significant.

8   If you see someone that abandons a bag,

9   say something. If somebody looks to be

10   acting unusual, say something. We have

11   Philadelphia Police Force. We have Federal

12   TSA agents. We have 20,000 employees that

13   work at the Airport. And so, really keeping

14   an eye open is absolutely critical.

15   We have also focused on talking to the

16   employee base about the kinds of things to

17   look for that have in the past, at least,

18   been indicators of problems. And so, I

19   think it's through training, I think it's

20   through just not ever letting it go and then

21   again making sure that we are ready to

22   respond whenever something does happen.

23   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And I think it's

24   important to be able to work together as a

1   team. Really makes a difference. I like

2   when you said earlier about the small

3   investment of $200 million that American has

4   made. I mean, it is small considering. But

5   I think it's big for us in the City of

6   Philadelphia knowing how important it is to

7   have that air travel from Asia and other

8   places. Iceland seems to be very

9   successful. And you know, maybe Africa in

10   the future and other places to see how we

11   could, you know, make Philadelphia the real

12   true global city that it is.

13   I really appreciate and respect all your

14   efforts for your whole team. And thank your

15   for everything you have done.

16   MS. CAMERON: And thank you for

17   recognizing the team. It truly is a team

18   effort. And we have got a great one at the

19   Airport, so thank you.

20   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

21   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

22   Councilman.

23   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

24   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

 1   Mr. President.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Welcome.

 3   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good afternoon.

 4   MS. CAMERON: Good afternoon.

 5   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I just want to

 6   really join the chorus and say thank you so

 7   much for all that you do with the Airport.

 8   You know, we have had this conversation

 9   before. And recognizing that the Airport

10   does so much with so little. And so,

11   knowing that we are wedged in between some

12   pretty busy Airports. You have got New

13   York. You have got Newark -- well, in New

14   York you have JFK and La Guardia. And then

15   you have Newark and Boston further north.

16   And then to the south Baltimore. You have

17   DC.

18   And so, there's a lot of travel, a lot

19   of planes, you know, a lot of movement in

20   this region. And we do so much. And when

21   you look at what we do versus what other

22   cities do, we have -- I liken it to an

23   example of the stamp on an envelope. Most

24   airports in the region really do have the

1   full complement of an envelope to be able to

2   operate, to move to -- you know, move planes

3   and people and runways and all of those

4   sorts of things. And we have the

5   stamp-on-the-envelope sort of size. We are

6   able to run a very competitive operation

7   with what we have.

8   So, I just really wanted to acknowledge

9   that and to thank you. And whenever I go to

10   the Airport, the operation has been very,

11   very smooth. And you know, I just -- I'm

12   truly just amazed at how we are able to

13   coordinate so many different things at

14   Philadelphia International Airport and put

15   on a good face. You know, the Airport is

16   really the first sort of line of defense.

17   It's the first impression that everyone sees

18   when they come into the City, what kind of

19   city is Philadelphia.

20   You know, I have heard this. I have

21   heard that. You know, somebody said this or

22   somebody said that. But the Airport really

23   does set the stage, so to speak. So I just,

24   again, wanted to say thank you so much for

1   all that you do here in the City.

2   MS. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you for

3   acknowledging the small amount of land that

4   we have and how much we actually do. Before

5   I came to Philadelphia, it's almost six

6   years ago, I worked at the Washington, DC

7   Airports. And Washington Dulles

8   International Airport has 13,000 acres. We

9   have 2,400.

10   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's huge.

11   MS. CAMERON: And we do, you know,

12   millions more passengers through our

13   facility than they do there. So, thank you

14   for acknowledging that as a challenge.

15   MS. BORDA: I would just add to working

16   with our airline partners, we have done a

17   huge investment. And we are actually in the

18   middle of doing a huge investment on our

19   airfield, which in some ways before the

20   terminals, they're passenger's first

21   experience especially if there is delays

22   taking off or landing. And so, can sort of

23   leave you cranky.

24   But we are doing about a $200 million

1   investment on taxiway work and a runway

2   extension. Another 40 million in the

3   renovated deicing facility. And all that is

4   going to lead to such operational efficiency

5   on our airfield, which will also really give

6   the passengers a better experience at PHL.

7   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, that sounds

8   great. The one criticism I would have,

9   which isn't really a criticism, maybe more

10   of a suggestion is a better word. And I had

11   mentioned this to Mark when he was in

12   leadership at the Airport. But I really

13   don't think that the Airport sells its story

14   enough. I don't think that we talk about

15   all of the good things that we do day in and

16   day out.

17   And I just, as you just mentioned about

18   Washington Dulles having about 13,000 acres

19   and we operate on a fraction of that and we

20   operate very, very well. As Philadelphia

21   becomes more and more of a destination, you

22   know, let's tell our story. And let's sell

23   it locally here so that people feel good

24   about the City of Philadelphia and flying in

1   and out. It's another source of pride.

2   I would just encourage that.

3   MS. CAMERON: So, one, we did announce a

4   new regional economic impact study that was

5   completed. And we had a press event last

6   Monday. We delivered copies of these to all

7   of your offices. And what's inside is

8   really -- it's lot of pictures. A lot of

9   numbers, too. But it tells the PHL story

10   about the regional economic impact.

11   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I have it.

12   MS. CAMERON: And so, I feel like a

13   Price Is Right model or something showing

14   off a refrigerator. We think that this is

15   the start to telling our story better

16   regionally. And we are going to take this

17   on the road and actually go out to Chambers

18   of Commerce and organizations throughout our

19   eleven county NSA to talk about this story

20   and talk about how important they are to us

21   in providing passengers and business, but

22   also the impact that we have that's very

23   real on their economies.

24   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you. One last

1   thing, I just thought of. I was watching a

2   program Inside Story a few weeks ago. And

3   someone made a complaint about something

4   that they saw at the Airport. And you know,

5   it really bothered me because I know how

6   hard you all work.

7   And so, I would just say that for the

8   employees out there, listen you've got I

9   don't know how many employees and folks who

10   are working at the Airport on a daily basis.

11   By I know that the vast majority of the

12   Airport employees are hard working, good

13   folks ready to pitch in, help folks out when

14   they see someone in distress, really out

15   there making a difference.

16   So I just, you know, applaud. Kudos to

17   you.

18   MS. CAMERON: Thank you.

19   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

20   Councilwoman.

21   Real quick because I missed part of the

22   early question. Expansion, was that brought

23   up at all?

24   MS. CAMERON: A little bit. A little

 1   bit.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is that dead

 3   new runway, all of that? Is that over?

 4   MS. CAMERON: Let me do a brief recap of

 5   where we are. So, the Capacity Enhancement

 6   Program, which I think is what you're

 7   talking about, the expansion of the Airport,

 8   really --

 9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm actually

10   more focused on the runway.

11   MS. CAMERON: The runway itself is not

12   moving forward today. It's part of a bigger

13   master plan. We think it will be needed at

14   some point, but it's not needed today.

15   Overall, takeoffs and landings at the

16   Airport are down by more than 20 percent

17   over the last ten years, 24 to 26 percent.

18   And what that's done is it's reduced the

19   delays that we have experienced at our

20   Airport.

21   With fewer delays, the cost/benefit

22   analysis for paying for a new runway just

23   doesn't hold together. Yeah, Tracy talked

24   about the reason for it. The airlines have

1   increasingly used larger aircraft, so they

2   need fewer of them. And they've been

3   putting more people in each of those

4   aircrafts. So our passenger levels are

5   about the same, but the operations are down.

6   So what that means for the future of the

7   Expansion Program, is we really need to

8   pivot and focus more on terminal

9   modernization and other programs in the

10   terminals.

11   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So, the

12   airlines were accurate in their position

13   that the didn't need a new runway,

14   particularly because they had to pay for it?

15   MS. CAMERON: Right.

16   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But the City

17   of Philadelphia and the Aviation people kept

18   saying we needed this runway. And we were

19   here and we were hearing about all these

20   jobs that would be created as a result of

21   the runway expansion and the acquisition of

22   additional land. We went through that whole

23   process. But at the end of the day, the

24   airlines were right?

1   MS. CAMERON: I think there are a lot of

2   different things. I mean, they changed

3   their business model. And we don't see that

4   coming.

5   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: They didn't

6   change it overnight.

7   MS. CAMERON: No, they didn't. They

8   didn't.

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: They don't

10   just make decisions when to buy larger

11   planes and all the other things associated.

12   MS. CAMERON: For us to put together a

13   large plan, it takes years of modeling and

14   looking at data. And when we started

15   looking at the data, we are one of the most

16   delayed Airports in the country. And if we

17   would have continued on a growth trajectory

18   in terms of takeoffs and landings again, not

19   the passengers but takeoffs and landings, we

20   would have very much needed that runway.

21   So things changed. And I think that we

22   need to be responsible airport operators,

23   and do what makes the most sense at the time

24   in terms of investing in infrastructure. We

1   have got to do it. But I think we need to

2   be very mindful of how we make those

3   decisions.

4   MS. BORDA: And I was just going to add

5   that as part of that, the CP, though, the

6   airlines were very supportive of certain

7   airfield aspects, which I was just

8   mentioning which was about a $200 million

9   project to extend one of the runways and

10   also build lots of and renovate lots of

11   taxiway work to allow us for more efficient

12   queuing of aircraft and more efficient, I

13   guess I'm not saying departure, but getting

14   off of the runways quicker, taxing.

15   So it's been -- that's been a good

16   thing. They are also now investing in a new

17   deicing facility. So, that will also help

18   move aircraft more efficiently. They have

19   been supportive of -- very supportive of

20   certain pieces.

21   MS. CAMERON: That's correct.

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. I'm

23   just -- I mean, we had a long, drown-out

24   conversation.

1   MS. CAMERON: I know.

2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And then, by

3   the way, none of you were in the position

4   that you are currently in, pushing and

5   driving the decision.

6   You really not coming back, huh?

7   (Indicating to Ms. Lewis.)

8   (Laughter)

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm sorry. I

10   digress.

11   All right. I mean, it was quite an

12   impressive presentation at the time. And

13   but -- it was even -- the issue was flights

14   and the FAA wouldn't allow additional

15   flights because of the airways and all that,

16   so okay. I'm fine. I just -- it was quite

17   a push. Caused us to take a significant

18   vote at the time with the belief in terms of

19   additional revenue, belief that there was

20   going to be an expansion of runways. But

21   you all were not a part of that process. I

22   can't -- I won't further the point.

23   Thank you. Chair recognizes Councilman

24   Green.

1   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

2   President.

3   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're

4   welcome.

5   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Final set of

6   questions I had earlier regarding trying to

7   increase your core business by direct

8   flights to other markets and other

9   jurisdictions. What are some of the other

10   new initiatives you are trying to do or

11   explore to increase revenue at the Airport?

12   Considering that costs are always going up,

13   are there any other new initiatives that you

14   are looking at to kind of maximize revenue

15   at PHL?

16   MS. CAMERON: Yes. So, our revenue

17   comes in, in really two different ways.

18   It's airline revenue, what they pay in terms

19   of landing fees and rents. But it's also

20   that non-airline revenue that we were

21   talking to Councilwoman Gym about when it --

22   the parking, the rental cars, the

23   concessions. And in terms of increasing

24   Airport revenues, we've really focused on

1   the non-airline revenue sources to try to

2   pull some things together.

3   One initiative that's a customer-service

4   enhancement as well as a revenue enhancement

5   is that we have recently negotiated a lease

6   with American Express to build a new

7   Centurion Lounge at the Airport. That's

8   going to bring in somewhere in the

9   neighborhood -- it's over $800,000 a year in

10   terms of rent. And we are one of only two

11   Airports that were lucky enough to have

12   American Express choose them to put in a new

13   lounge. It's us and Hong Kong this year.

14   They felt that our passenger base was able

15   to support that.

16   Tracy, if you want to go ahead and --

17   COUNCILMAN GREEN: To jump in real

18   quick, based on the retooled capacity

19   expansion projects, that would help these

20   type of projects that you are talking about

21   for the non-traditional Airport revenue.

22   MS. CAMERON: It should. And Tracy, I

23   think, can talk a little bit about Lyft and

24   Uber which has been another revenue source

1   that we have established.

2   MS. BORDA: So, you're aware of all that

3   we as a City went through last year with the

4   Transportation Network Companies. We call

5   them TNCs because we love acronyms,

6   especially at the Airport.

7   So, they are a new source of revenue for

8   us. I mean, they were there operating, you

9   know, we can all open up our apps and see

10   that they were there operating within our

11   facilities. And we weren't collecting

12   revenue at one point. But finally, through

13   the State Legislature, we were able to come

14   to an agreement and have them pay both a

15   dropoff and a pickup fee at the Airport.

16   So, that has been a tremendous source of

17   revenue of 300-plus thousand dollars a month

18   coming in.

19   COUNCILMAN GREEN: A month?

20   MS. BORDA: Yes. A month.

21   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Oh, good. One other

22   point I want to follow up on. I know the

23   Airport has really been a leading champion

24   in reference to providing services and

1   providing opportunities for people to have

2   physical learning differences like autism.

3   And I know from my own personal experience,

4   that my family would be able to initially

5   even see if my son would be able to fly

6   based on some of the work that the Airport

7   has done over the years.

8   What are you -- what other steps are you

9   taking to kind of ease some of the

10   challenges that people with special needs,

11   either learning or physical differences,

12   have in air flight?

13   MS. BORDA: I would just say, yes. We

14   have our autism program. And in fact, last

15   week Chellie hosted an event with Delta

16   where we just did another group similar to

17   what you child went through. About ten

18   autistic individuals go through the whole

19   process of, you know, what it's like to go

20   through a -- to get your ticket, go through

21   a security checkpoint, get on a flight, have

22   it like taxi around and make some of the

23   noise and feelings that you would get from

24   being on a flight.

1   So that -- those are great experiences

2   that allow autistic individuals to be able

3   to take a trip. That was a great event that

4   just happened. We continue to do one-offs

5   where we do more one-on-ones. We aren't

6   necessarily able to get them onto a flight.

7   But we will try to accommodate anybody who

8   has a request to come through for that

9   experience if it's one-on-one. We can walk

10   them through ticketing and the -- the

11   security checkpoint.

12   In addition, we have now posted to our

13   website something called Social Stories

14   which allows, especially parents with

15   autistic children, to look -- you know, get

16   pictures of what the children are going to

17   encounter at the Airport so they can

18   download them ahead of time and sort of walk

19   through them, almost like a bedtime story.

20   This is what you are going to be

21   experiencing.

22   I know any time we do a capital project,

23   we take on -- we look at any ADA

24   requirements that are out there that we can

 1   incorporate into future plans such as visual

 2   paging monitors, things like that.

 3   I don't know if Chellie or anybody else

 4   wants to add anything else.

 5   MS. CAMERON: I guess just the one thing

 6   I want to note, we talked earlier about the

 7   SARAs, the Service Animal Relief Areas. And

 8   having those post security is very

 9   significant. Because if you think about

10   someone with a disability, yes, we had

11   outdoor animal relief areas. But they had

12   to exit the secure area and come through

13   security again. And that can be a real

14   burden. Having those relief areas within

15   the Airport has made a dig difference we

16   think.

17   COUNCILMAN GREEN: And just to follow up

18   on the work that you are doing regarding

19   autism, have you either reached or have

20   there been any connection with the

21   Philadelphia Autism Project to make sure

22   that that program or initiative is listed on

23   their website? So that way, I know we have

24   been trying to use the Philadelphia Autism

1   Project website as a repository of all

2   information to reach in regarding autism so

3   that if you are a parent, caregiver, a

4   self-advocate and you need different

5   information or resources, you can go to the

6   Philadelphia Autism Project website, the

7   one-stop shop.

8   I think one of the challenges that

9   caregivers, parents or others who have a

10   child or they, themselves, live in autism

11   spectrum is trying to get as many different

12   services that replicate that others have in

13   the City. And so, maybe having that

14   information on their website would help more

15   people to, one, know about the program and

16   give an opportunity for more families and

17   those who are living with autism spectrum

18   the opportunity to experience flying.

19   When you were describing pictures,

20   that's part of what's called the PECs System

21   where you are providing information from a

22   visual perspective to people on the autism

23   spectrum what to expect that can help with

24   some of the anxiety issues they may have

1   when hey are trying something for the first

2   time.

3   MS. BORDA: I don't know if we

4   specifically partner with those, but I will

5   look into that with my staff who handles the

6   autism projects that we do. So, I will make

7   sure.

8   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah. We have our

9   upcoming conference on May 12, which will be

10   at CBH. So definitely, if you can have your

11   staff connect either with office so we can

12   connect you with the Philadelphia Autism

13   Project.

14   MS. CAMERON: That would be great.

15   Thank you.

16   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

17   President.

18   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

19   Councilman.

20   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council

22   President. Good afternoon again. A few

23   more questions I just wanted to ask.

24   This year, according to your testimony,

1   there are -- you are adding 143 new

2   employees, I believe, from last year. Last

3   year in your testimony you had 757 total.

4   This year it's going to be 900.

5   MS. BORDA: That's a -- that's a goal we

6   established last year that we are trying to

7   fill, so.

8   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 143 new people?

9   MS. CAMERON: Yes. As we spoke earlier,

10   we have had some challenges in filling

11   positions.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is that needed?

13   Because that's like a 18 percent more than

14   this year.

15   MS. CAMERON: So, I will give you one

16   example that -- that is -- give you a

17   number. But one that is particularly acute

18   for us is our custodial staff.

19   We struggle right now to staff the

20   midnight shift. And that is where they do

21   the very deep cleanings of the terminal, and

22   the bathrooms where they get into every nook

23   and cranny and buff the floors and that sort

24   of thing. We have really had to cut back on

1   that deep cleaning schedule. And it's

2   something that we feel is starting to show.

3   We have the work for the custodial staff.

4   How many are we understaffed right now,

5   Rosalie?

6   MS. HORNBUCKLE: We are currently

7   understaffed by about 34, 35 --

8   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Ma'am, hold

9   on. Ma'am, can you state your name for the

10   record.

11   MS. HORNBUCKLE: I'm sorry. Rosalie

12   Hornbuckle.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And then

14   respond.

15   MS. HORNBUCKLE: We are currently

16   understaffed by about 34 percent in

17   custodial, representing about 30 to 40

18   employees. And in addition to that, we

19   increased the number of custodial staff by

20   25. So, that's what we're currently.

21   MS. CAMERON: A number of them are

22   custodial. You know, some of the other

23   challenges that we have had in terms of

24   staffing have been HVAC mechanics. We have

1   a number of different systems over the 3

2   million square feet of terminal space. And

3   finding folks who are able to navigate those

4   HVAC systems has been challenging.

5   Electricians is another critical need for

6   us.

7   You know, on the HVAC mechanics, we

8   aren't -- we have to call people in on the

9   overnight shift again to provide services

10   because we are having trouble staffing those

11   positions.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Do you think it's

13   realistic you are going to be able to hire

14   143 people?

15   MS. CAMERON: I don't know. I hope so.

16   And we are going into it with a very

17   optimistic attitude that we are going to

18   give it our best try. We feel that we

19   really need to if we are going to able to

20   take care of the facility the way it should

21   be taken care of.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Those new hires, none

23   of that money comes from the City of

24   Philadelphia?

1   MS. CAMERON: No. It's all funded

2   through the Aviation Enterprise Fund. It

3   comes through those terminal rents and

4   landing fees and non-airline revenue

5   sources.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: The other question I

7   have is on your average salary, it says

8   46,000 full-time staff. And it says

9   executive is 167. And the median salary is

10   160. What are the fringe and benefit

11   percentages of those dollars?

12   MS. BORDA: According to the budget,

13   it's about -- for all employees, it's

14   roughly 79 percent. And our budget we have,

15   I want to say -- I can tell you in a second.

16   We are budgeting not just for Division of

17   Aviation, but for the other departments for

18   which we pay for staff at the Airport, which

19   would include Police, Fire, Fleet, Law

20   Department, things like that.

21   We have about $140 million budgeted.

22   Within that, 62 million is for fringe and

23   pension. And so, that's almost 79 percent

24   on average.

1   COUNCILMAN DOMB: 80 percent average.

2   So, would it be accurate for me to look at

3   Class 100 employee compensation? What you

4   are proposing this year, it's going to be

5   roughly 50 million. That 40 million is

6   going to be fringe and benefits.

7   MS. BORDA: Yes. Just probably north of

8   it, but yes. Yes.

9   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So that what you are

10   really talking about is when you are looking

11   at a salary of 160, that salary is really

12   closer to 300.

13   MS. BORDA: Well, you know what would

14   happen, it's on average. So what would

15   happen is if a person who is making, say

16    $40,000 a year versus a person making

17    $160,000 a year, we have about the same

18   amount of benefits. So, the percentage for

19   the $40,000 worker is much higher. Could be

20   above 100 percent. Whereas, the percentage

21   for the $160,000 worker is lower. But on

22   average, you're right. It goes to about 80

23   percent.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So, that would mean if

1   your average salary person is 46, those you

2   have to look at as really 100?

3   MS. BORDA: Yes. And when we look to

4   hire people, we do it all in. We look at

5   the whole cost.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is your pension

7   part of the City's or not part of the City's

8   pension plan.

9   MS. BORDA: It's part of the City's

10   pension plan, but it's funded through the

11   Airline rates and charges and the other

12   non-airline revenues we collect.

13   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And going down to the

14   debt service in the lower category of your

15   testimony, I was just curious why the debt

16   service Class 700 went from 16 actual of

17   117 million to a proposed two years later of

18   159 million, which is a 42 million or close

19   to a 40 percent increase in debt service.

20   MS. BORDA: I'm sorry. Can you -- I

21   heard the 159. I didn't hear the first

22   part.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Class 700 on the

24   bottom chart --

1   MS. BORDA: Yes.

2   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Debt service in actual

3   '16 is 117 million. In Fiscal Year 18, the

4   proposed is 159 million.

5   MS. BORDA: So, part of that is we have

6   come before City Council to do new fundings

7   this year, which are $125 million direct

8   loan. So, there is payments with regard to

9   that. We also will be doing new money

10   financing. We'll be doing about combination

11   of refundings and new money financings of

12   about $700 million next year.

13   MS. CAMERON: And so, that's the debt

14   service for that new debt.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Are you adding

16   700 million of new debt? Is that what

17   you're saying?

18   MS. BORDA: It's about 450 million of

19   new debt. And it's about 250 million of

20   refunding. So actually, some of it will go

21   down slightly.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But the refunding

23   would be a wash.

24   MS. BORDA: Yes. Yes. 450 of new plus

1   125 million of direct loan. So, you're up

2   about 600.

3   MS. CAMERON: And remember, when we have

4   commercial paper outstanding, which we use

5   as a cash flow mechanism until we take it

6   out with 30-year bonds or long term debt, we

7   only pay interest on that commercial paper

8   while it's outstanding. And then once we

9   take that out into long term bonds, we have

10   to start paying principal and interest. And

11   that's where some of the increase comes

12   from.

13   MS. BORDA: And what I would just add

14   onto that real quickly is that while we come

15   before City Council, before we can go out to

16   the market to sell bonds, we also work out a

17   funding plan with the airlines. When they

18   approve a set of amount of capital projects,

19   we have over a billion dollars, they have

20   approved over a billion dollars worth of

21   debt to be assumed by us for us to build

22   things.

23   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I am just trying to do

24   the math really quickly. Last question.

1   If you are assuming there is another 4

2   to 500 million of real debt, and you're

3   assuming interest rate, basic interest rate

4   of, let's say, 4 percent without principal

5   reduction, that's 20 million. I am trying

6   to understand why it's 42.

7   MS. BORDA: We can get the break down

8   for you.

9   MS. CAMERON: It's also the commercial

10   paper, again. You know, when -- let us do a

11   chart. And we will feed that to you. It's

12   all right there.

13   MS. BORDA: Yes.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you.

15   Thank you very much.

16   Thank you, Council President.

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

18   Councilman.

19   Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

20   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,

21   Mr. President.

22   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're

23   welcome.

24   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And mentioning your

1   work with the airlines and all, my -- my

2   issue is, obviously, there is a salary that

3   is paid by, I guess, you guys get dictated

4   salary. Is that done by Council or who

5   decides how much the leadership gets paid in

6   the Airport?

7   MS. CAMERON: It -- it goes through the

8   Office of the Mayor just like any other

9   exempt position salary.

10   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I'm not putting you

11   on the hot seat. My fearful is that since

12   you are doing such a great job and people

13   are really liking you, that other people may

14   want to come in and get you to leave. I

15   don't think we want that to happen.

16   MS. CAMERON: I get calls every week.

17   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: We want to make

18   sure that comparatively speaking to other

19   Airports throughout the City of

20   Philadelphia, when people see good

21   leadership, they sort of want to attract

22   them. And I just want to make sure we're

23   working with who we need to work to ensure

24   that that doesn't happen.

1   And also, knowing with your leadership

2   and your government relations person

3   Maryanne, who we forgot to mention last

4   time, is that you do -- what I like about it

5   is you keep Council informed of things that

6   are going on. And even sometimes if it

7   feels like short notice on things, stuff

8   that you guys have been working on for a

9   long period of time. But knowing that the

10   Airport is continuing to grow, even though

11   it's less flights like you said, takeoffs

12   and departures, the number of passengers has

13   been pretty level, maybe declining a little

14   bit.

15   Is that similar to other Airports

16   throughout the nation? Or are we seeing

17   something different?

18   MS. CAMERON: Our passenger traffic is a

19   little bit different. We tend to have less

20   steep increases as well as less steep

21   declines. We tend to remain relatively

22   stable. It's really a mirror of the local

23   economic and what's happening within it.

24   It's also a decision on the part of the

1   airlines on how much connecting traffic they

2   want to flow through your facility.

3   So right now, our connecting traffic is

4   38 percent. So, those are folks that merely

5   get off of one airplane, walk through the

6   Airport, we hope buy something to eat, and

7   then get on another plane and go to their

8   ultimate destination. You know, those folks

9   are valuable to us in terms of generating

10   non-airline revenue and passenger facility

11   charges.

12   We have lower percentage of connecting

13   traffic than a lot of the other American

14   Airlines hubs. It's a good and bad thing.

15   I think it's good for us because it means

16   that when we're stable, connecting traffic

17   can be rerouted through any Airport at any

18   time. And it's very vulnerable. Whereas

19   the folks who are coming, starting and

20   stopping their journeys in Philadelphia,

21   that's your core traffic. So, we are a

22   little bit more stable. Again, kind of, you

23   know, reflecting the lesser declines and the

24   lesser increases over time, but.

1   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: We see that a lot

2   through the economy, whether it's housing

3   booms --

4   MS. CAMERON: Right.

5   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: -- or whether it's

6   business booms. And Philadelphia for some

7   reason is, I guess, maybe being the

8   conservative city economically, sometimes is

9   not see those great big increases. And then

10   when something goes bad, we don't have that

11   major decline. And I think that's good for

12   the Airport.

13   I was just wondering. Because I think

14   it was Pew or somebody that just did a study

15   and shows there was decrease number of

16   takeoff and arrivals and even a little bit

17   less passengers.

18   MS. CAMERON: That's right.

19   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I didn't know if

20   that was the trend throughout because the

21   economy is actually going up, right?

22   MS. CAMERON: Yeah.

23   MS. BORDA: I was going to say some of

24   the trends that are happening on a

1   nationwide basis are you have connecting

2   passengers. You actually have commuter

3   service that's declining due to nationwide

4   shortage of pilots. So, that's going to

5   impact Philadelphia as well as other

6   Airports. Our connecting traffic that

7   Chellie just mentioned, so it's impacted

8   when you see a softness in the European

9   market which is happening right now.

10   We have a strong dollar. You know a

11   weaker euro. We have had terrorist attacks

12   happening over there. Those are all factors

13   that will impact not only Philadelphia, and

14   maybe Philadelphia a little bit more because

15   we are a European gateway with something

16   like the Europe marker. But it will impact

17   sort of the, you know, large hub Airports

18   around this country.

19   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay. Thank you

20   very much.

21   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

22   councilman.

23   Chair recognizes Councilman

24   Taubenberger.

1   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you,

2   Council President. And this is a follow up

3   to a question that you had asked about the

4   runways. And I understand the logic for not

5   having. Very clear. Very well thought out.

6   But I also as former president of the

7   Northeast Philadelphia of Chamber was asked

8   to testify in favor of those runways. And I

9   know what I did learn, it takes actually

10   many years before a runway can be built.

11   But now that that project is not going

12   forward, do we lose all that time that we

13   spent in developing that?

14   I mean, do we -- if for some reason

15   things change and all the sudden they need

16   runways, we can't have enough. Can we re --

17   can we bring this all back?

18   MS. CAMERON: So, the studying that was

19   done, a lot of the modeling about how --

20   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: The

21   environmental impact, blizzards and --

22   MS. CAMERON: That's not wasted work.

23   It would need to be updated if we were to

24   all the sudden decide that we wanted to move

1   forward quickly. But it wouldn't take near

2   the time that it did to assemble the

3   original data set to come to that

4   conclusion.

5   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: What would you

6   think that time would be if things were to

7   change? I know they are not. But if they

8   were to say we need more runways and we need

9   them pretty quickly, how can this be back

10   online?

11   MS. CAMERON: You know, again, to

12   construct a new runway is still going to

13   take the same amount of time as it did

14   before. We still have all of the things to

15   move out of the way that we did in the past.

16   In terms of getting an updated -- and by the

17   way, our record of decision still stands.

18   So as of today, if they said we wanted a new

19   runway, we could go.

20   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Okay.

21   MS. CAMERON: We probably have to do

22   some --

23   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: That

24   essentially is my question.

1   MS. CAMERON: We probably have to do

2   some minor updates. But you know, I don't

3   think it would take an extraordinary amount

4   of time for us to be ready to start to move

5   forward. And we are still taking steps to

6   hopefully allow that to happen quicker when

7   the need is there.

8   For example, in accordance with our

9   master plan, we are purchasing land that

10   would be needed to --

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: If we were to.

12   MS. CAMERON: -- do some of the enabling

13   projects with the new runway.

14   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you

15   very, very much.

16   Council President, thank you.

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

18   Councilman. Chair recognizes Councilman

19   Green.

20   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you Council

21   President. Councilman Domb kind of

22   triggered my memory in reference to some of

23   the debt offerings.

24   So, I know we have a CP Program. Is it

1   the plan to take out the CP Program totally?

2   And you anticipate using either CP funds

3   going forward for some of the retool CP

4   Program, or just traditional debt offerings?

5   MS. BORDA: So at this time, we have a

6    $350 million CP Program. With this next

7   offering, we are taking out 250 million of

8   that. Probably within another year or so,

9   we will probably take out the remainder. We

10   would let this CP Program sunset and begin a

11   new CP Program.

12   I'm working with Rasheia Johnson in the

13   City Treasurer's Office and Christian

14   Dunbar. We probably plan to take this

15   summer to come around and sort of do

16   sessions with you guys when it's a little

17   quieter. Talk about what the plans are for

18   CP Program in the future.

19   COUNCILMAN GREEN: So, you'll let the

20   current one expire and start a new program

21   to give flexibility based on the needs like

22   you did last time?

23   MS. BORDA: Exactly. That's exactly

24   right.

1   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

2   Thank you, Council President.

3   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

4   Councilman. I want to thank you very much

5   for your testimony. And probably won't call

6   you back.

7   MS. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very

8   much.

9   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

10   Thank you again. Good testimony. Keep up

11   the good work.

12   We are going to take a 10 minute break.

13   And next up will be the Sheriffs Department.

14   - - -

15   (Break Taken)

16   - - -

17   (Witnesses approach Table.)

18   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We are going

19   to start now. Thank you. Next up we have

20   the Sheriffs Department.

21   Sheriff, please proceed.

22   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,

23   Mr. President and Members of Council. I'm

24   Sheriff Jewell Williams of the City and

1   County of Philadelphia. Certainly, we get

2   the opportunity every year to come before

3   this body.

4   This year I will tell you, we are not

5   asking for an increase. I will tell you

6   that we have continued to improve the

7   collection of the City Delinquent Tax fees.

8   We now hold a -- we have been holding over

9   72 sheriff sales this year. We have handled

10   over 27,000 delinquent properties.

11   This year before I took -- this year

12   before I took office, the City was getting

13   about $27 million. Since I've been in

14   office, we have now collected over $60

15   million in delinquent tax monies. We have

16   shortened time of the -- the time of sheriff

17   sales properties when they're sold. We are

18   now going from 120 days to less than 20 days

19   to have all the process completed.

20   In the past there was no effort to find

21   people who was owed money. With our DART

22   Unit of last year, we located 140 people and

23   we returned $2.1 million to them. Over the

24   last year -- over the last six years,

1   rather, we have returned over $10 million to

2   the public. And that is money that is owed

3   to the public. And we feel very good about

4   that because that's mainly a second chance

5   for some people.

6   As you know, our major responsibility is

7   courtroom security. We transferred 100,000

8   prisoners last year. Thankfully, we have

9   not lost a prisoner. Two years ago we were

10   asked to take over the Warrant Unit, which

11   the Warrant Unit members of that unit in the

12   FJD did not have training, did not have

13   certificates of Civil Rules of Procedure.

14   We are now completed training for at least

15   half of those members. And now they are

16   deputy sheriff officers.

17   We have arrested over 220 fugitives, and

18   we enforced over 800 protections from abuse

19   orders. And we continue to do live

20   protections from abuse arrests. And that is

21   when you come to the Criminal Justice

22   Center, particularly if there's a family

23   with children, we make sure that that family

24   gets a ride back to their home to remove

1   that person, male or female, who is a part

2   of the protection from abuse order. And

3   that is thanks to Councilman Greenlee, who

4   gave us those numbers of the lack of

5   enforcement. And we continue to make that

6   happen.

7   We have reduced the witness intimidation

8   by getting involved with the courts and Cell

9   Phone Program. And that is taking cell

10   phones from the public and putting them

11   inside a bag that covers it, and it snaps

12   it, and it closes it so that witnesses are

13   not being intimidated when they go to court.

14   We -- over. Okay.

15   So we've -- over 3500 people daily are

16   inside the courthouse and back and forth.

17   During the course of that day, I can tell

18   you that we've collected over 25 cell phones

19   to go inside those bags. So, we are keeping

20   the intimidation of witnesses down. We are

21   keeping the fights and the arguments and the

22   disagreements that is in and around the

23   courthouse and the subways and the parking

24   lots.

1   One of our biggest challenges -- and we

2   found a way to secure City Hall. We are now

3   working to secure City Hall, which is one of

4   the number two, we believe, unsafe

5   courthouses in the country. And that is why

6   the Sheriffs Office is working very

7   diligently to hire 35 new deputies. We have

8   right now, we are up to 20 -- about 20

9   people. We paid for about 20 deputies thus

10   far, so they can start securing and

11   patrolling City Hall.

12   This budget before you will meet our

13   increase of our demands, but we request

14   support from Council with not asking for no

15   increase of funds from Council.

16   Thank you.

17   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

18   Sheriff. Sheriff, first, I want to thank

19   you for the program that was enacted with

20   the gun locks and the partnership that's

21   been formed among a number of individuals.

22   It's been quite successful. As you know,

23   when we go out, I was like pretty amazed

24   when we kicked it off last summer.

 1   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Yes.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So, we went

 3   to a couple of locations. Actually, I think

 4   Councilman Jones, we went out in your area,

 5   and I know Councilwoman Sanchez and a couple

 6   other areas. I was -- I have -- I was

 7   heightened by the fact that so many people

 8   were actually coming to get the gun locks.

 9   But I also was somewhat concerned because

10   it's a whole lot of people with guns out

11   here.

12   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Yes.

13   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Particularly,

14   was -- I shouldn't be surprised, but there

15   were a lot of elderly individuals who had

16   come to the tables to get the gun locks.

17   And essentially, they were talking about

18   their grandchildren coming to their

19   households to spend the night, and they

20   wanted to make sure it was safe and secure.

21   So, I want to thank you so much for your

22   aggressive work on that. And look forward

23   to continuing in that process. And I guess

24   we bring it on a Daily News now as a part of

 1   that initiative.

 2   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, Mr. President,

 3   we have given out over 3500 gun locks and

 4   continue to give them out. And thanks with

 5   the partnership with Philadelphia Daily News

 6   and the Philadelphia Inquirer, the program

 7   if you have a gun, get a lock. And we take

 8   the phone calls.

 9   We -- sometimes if a person is unable to

10   come and get a lock, we will deliver them

11   while our guys are out serving warrants.

12   So, it's a partnership. And thank you

13   Mr. President for your participation and

14   Council. Because if you save one life,

15   you've saved -- you have saved a family.

16   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's right.

17   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: And that's what we

18   believe in.

19   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I also want

20   to thank you for helping us with security

21   through our Council session. We have had

22   some interesting times in this chamber. And

23   while our guys are good jobs, our Sergeant

24   of Arms have done a great and capable job.

1   But at the end of the day, they're not

2   licensed to carry any type of weapons. So,

3   some people don't respect certain authority

4   unless it's, you know, have those badges and

5   those other things that ensure people that

6   it will be a safe environment.

7   Recently, we had to ask your guys to

8   take some action and quietly removing a

9   number of individuals who were determined

10   that we were not going to be allowed to have

11   a session. So, I really say I really

12   appreciate your opportunity. And that leads

13   me to one of the questions in your

14   testimony. And you referenced it about

15   additional security for City Hall.

16   We in City Hall kind of take it for

17   granted that everything is going to be okay.

18   But in today's times, I mean, you just never

19   know. I mean, there are -- I can recall the

20   last time we in the government, we took it

21   kind of serious. I think it was a

22   Councilperson in Baltimore was shot. And

23   all of the sudden there was this push to

24   come up with a security plan, but nothing

 1   ever happened. And while we appreciate

 2   people down at the front door, you know,

 3   getting your name. And I think they maybe

 4   even take your picture, at the end of the

 5   day, there is no check on those individuals.

 6   Can you kind of tell me what -- what

 7   actually happened with that plan? I mean,

 8   it was a conversation. And I know it was a

 9   lot of analysis done with the current last

10   Administration, I think.

11   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, right now our

12   Chief Deputy and our Chief Inspector Lam and

13   Taylor, we have been working with John

14   Kevney who is a former Captain in the

15   Sheriffs Office. We have done the surveys.

16   We have done the analysis.

17   And as I said in the beginning, we now

18   have ten Sheriff Deputy Officers who are

19   going through training May 1. We just

20   secured additional funds so we can pay for

21   the 20 deputies. And we would envision some

22   time in September we would have

23   three-quarters of a complement of deputies

24   who will be here to secure the building.

1   So, the surveys that they had in the past,

2   we utilize them. And the ideas we coming up

3   with Public Property to secure this

4   building, that's our goal. And all the

5   plans and the ideas they had in the past, we

6   finally got the opportunity to pull all that

7   together and come up with a grant plan.

8   It's moving and working, although you

9   don't hear about it because it's some

10   security issues that we don't want to

11   disclose. But the process is moving.

12   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

13   So I guess, and I actually had the occasion

14   to talk to a number of the judges.

15   Particularly, it was a leadership about

16   concerns about this building, a building

17   where we actually have courtrooms where

18   judges do preside. And I do believe that

19   under the law if, in fact, there are

20   courtrooms, there are certain limitations.

21   I actually had a conversation with one of

22   the solicitors today about the ability to

23   carry guns in publicly owned buildings. I

24   think there is actually something moving

1   through the legal system that municipalities

2   cannot prohibit individuals from carrying

3   weapons in the publicly owned buildings.

4   I don't know how that's going to work

5   out. At the end of the day, there is some

6   concerns by some of the judges in the

7   courtrooms. And while it may be civil

8   cases, sometimes civil cases can get pretty

9   heated.

10   Would you suggest -- I hate to put you

11   on the spot here -- that there be some sort

12   of a security measure similar to what we

13   have for our Council sessions at the end of

14   each hallway during Council hearings, we

15   have security measures and metal detectors.

16   But the simple reality is if somebody wanted

17   to do something to somebody, they just catch

18   them at the office or catch them in the

19   hallway on the way to the Chambers.

20   Would you suggest that we enhance the

21   security measures on the first floor at the

22   points of entrance for the public?

23   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Certainly. We

24   require if you are in a courtroom that you

 1   surrender your gun to a lock box. In the

 2   lock box, we send them over to the Criminal

 3   Justice Center until we are able to build

 4   out gun safety lock box here in the

 5   building.

 6   Our concern is while there is a

 7   proceeding going on, that you don't carry

 8   weapon inside the courtroom. And if we see

 9   or hear about someone with a gun, if they

10   have a gun permit, we recommend them to come

11   over to the Justice Center to surrender

12   their gun until they finish their business

13   here.

14   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Right.

15   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: As far as the

16   security, a part of the security plan is to

17   lock down the building in a sense where

18   people would have to go through metal

19   detectors and x-ray machines so that we can

20   look for weapons as well as explosives. And

21   for that reason, we have K-9 dogs who patrol

22   this building.

23   Also, we have the Bike Unit who patrols

24   in and around this building, particularly as

1   the end of the day because you have a lot of

2   civil cases. And those cases don't finish

3   out until four-thirty, five a clock. So, we

4   have the bike patrol in and around City

5   Hall.

6   To fully answer your question, it is my

7   recommendation that wherever you can put a

8   metal detector or x-ray machine, that you

9   have it for the safety of the public and as

10   well as Council and -- and the people who

11   come in and out the building.

12   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Similar to

13   the Capitol.

14   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Very similar, yes.

15   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

16   Thank you, Sheriff.

17   Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council

19   President. And good afternoon.

20   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I just want to commend

22   you and the department. I love to hear no

23   new monies needed. I want to ask you a few

24   questions, though.

1   I know last year I think it was that you

2   had some issues with getting fees raised

3   over some, I think, legislation issues or

4   justification of the fees. I was wondering

5   where that stood at this point?

6   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: I will yield to our

7   Finance Director, Mr. Ben Hilliard.

8   MR. HILLIARD: That's been resolved.

9   The last Council last fiscal year Council

10   approved interest and fees that we collect

11   on behalf of the City. These are fees that

12   had not been increased for 20 years. 1997

13   was the last time. Prior to our

14   implementing the phase, which would have

15   been in October. We had heard that there

16   was some concerns from the Law Department.

17   Took a while to resolve. And there are

18   members of Council and your office very much

19   included, who assisted in resolving those

20   issues.

21   They are resolved. And we will begin to

22   increase the fees on the first of May, two

23   weeks. And that will give us the revenues

24   or the City the revenue to pay for the 35

1   additional deputies that will be protecting

2   this building.

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's great. By the

4   way, that is a wake up call to every

5   department who has fees that are 5, 10 or

6   15, or 20 years old or 30 years old that we

7   need to look at them and update them to

8   today's levels. That's great.

9   Other question, pretty simple. We have

10   currently people buying delinquent

11   properties. Is there any mechanism -- we

12   have some cases where the people buying the

13   delinquent properties are currently

14   delinquent on their own taxes. Is there any

15   way to prevent that?

16   So prevent someone who is currently

17   delinquent from purchasing another

18   delinquent property.

19   MR. HILLIARD: Joe Vignola, who is the

20   Under Sheriff, that is within his purview.

21   MR. VIGNOLA: Joseph Vignola,

22   V-i-g-n-o-l-a. Councilman, every individual

23   when they're a successful bidder at the

24   Sheriff Sale is given notice in order to

1   complete the closing of that sale, in other

2   words we call play bounce on that sale, has

3   to bring to the Sheriff's Office when

4   they're bringing their balance on sale, a

5   tax compliance certificate from the Revenue

6   Department.

7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: That's on every

8   transaction that occurs?

9   MR. VIGNOLA: On every one.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay.

11   MR. VIGNOLA: The exception would be,

12   again, a property in a mortgage sale is sold

13   back to the bank.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay.

15   MR. VIGNOLA: But if it's a third-party

16   sale, all tax sales are third-party sales

17   and even mortgage sales are third-party

18   sales, the successful bidder has to provide

19   at the time they're paying the balance on

20   sale, a tax compliance certificate issued

21   only by the Revenue Department.

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Again, I want

23   to compliment you on financing internally

24   your expansion. Thank you.

 1   Thank you, Council President.

 2   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

 3   Councilman.

 4   Chair recognizes, Councilman Jones.

 5   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

 6   Mr. President. First of all, Joe Vignola

 7   was looking at that seat saying you're in

 8   his seat. He used to be the Councilman

 9   here. Oh, Taubenberger. Okay. He was

10   was -- oh, I'm in his office? Oh, God. I'm

11   trying to keep it clean for you.

12   I want to thank you and your staff

13   for -- you know, I've been here for a number

14   of budget sessions now. Each year you

15   identify a problem and you work on the

16   solution, and then you implement it. You

17   can't ask for better evolution in a

18   department than that.

19   I remember fiscal controls was an issue

20   and people not getting their money back.

21   And now you turned that into a good point

22   within the operation of the Sheriffs

23   Department. So, I'm thankful for that.

24   Particularly, I remember also when the

1   Justice Center was built, all of the

2   problems where defendants and people accused

3   of crimes were scared to death. They were

4   scared to death to ride the same elevators,

5   leave the same time, people taking pictures

6   of them, putting them on Facebook calling

7   them snitches when they were witnesses. All

8   of the things you looked at the problem and

9   figured solutions to.

10   I am appreciative of that being involved

11   in the whole public safety. Collections,

12   better; distribution of money, better;

13   Sheriff Sales, collections and distribution

14   of disposal of properties better. I'm

15   impressed.

16   Some of the things, though, that you've

17   mentioned to me as ideas to enhance service

18   and to save the City money, I think it might

19   be time for you to explore. You were

20   talking about at one point when we had a

21   problem with bouncers not knowing the rules

22   of engagement, not being able to conduct

23   themselves accordingly, being trained by the

24   Sheriffs Department. And I wanted to know

1   if those things are still on your radar to

2   do.

3   You had talked about -- I actually

4   listened to you. Talked about in big events

5   dealing with traffic control and other

6   things to augment what the City of

7   Philadelphia does in a cost effective

8   manner. And one in particular that I really

9   would like you to put high on your priority

10   list is witness protection.

11   Unfortunately, all of us wind up in a

12   situation where one of our constituents is a

13   victim of a crime and sometimes a witness of

14   a crime. And at times, particularly in

15   areas of -- in our districts, the proximity

16   to the perpetrator and the victim is so

17   close that getting them to court and other

18   things like that is a problem. People are

19   afraid.

20   Is there a role for the Sheriffs

21   Department in that regard, not just in the

22   courtroom, but getting people to and from?

23   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, thank you for

24   the questions. The answer on the bouncers

1   issue is that we have a lot of people who --

2   who have Act 235 and they carry weapons.

3   And they have a lot of folks call themselves

4   agents or security officers at night clubs.

5   And if they don't have the proper training,

6   it could be a very traumatic incidence could

7   happen.

8   And therefore, we are asking if we were

9   able to -- the Philadelphia Sheriffs Office

10   that we would train folks on use of deadly

11   force. We would train them -- and a fee.

12   Obviously, would be a fee for the training.

13   And the fee would come to the City of

14   Philadelphia and to the Sheriffs Office.

15   And it's really important that you train

16   security officers, particularly if they

17   carrying guns because they could be mistaken

18   by police officers or sheriffs while we are

19   out serving warrants because of the lack of

20   training that they have in carrying guns.

21   So we proposed that idea. We have

22   people in Harrisburg working on the

23   legislation to see if we can get -- become

24   state law. And we brought this before

1   Council. The other issue in witness

2   protection, our office is prepared to pick

3   up witnesses and take them to and from the

4   courthouse. If we are ordered by the

5   Courts, we would do it anyway. But it would

6   be great for us to implement a program that

7   could assist in witness protection.

8   COUNCILMAN JONES: So, it's within your

9   purview to do now?

10   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Yes. Yes.

11   COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

12   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Whenever we're

13   ordered by the Courts, then it's, my phrase

14   I use, "you call, we haul." If the court

15   orders it, we will do it.

16   COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.

17   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Now to the traffic.

18   If there is a dedicated traffic lane on 95

19   or the Expressway to move buses from the

20   County Jail to the Courthouse it could save

21   a lot of time, over time for me. It could

22   save a lot of time for the courts because

23   that means that we don't have to wait on 95

24   for an hour, hour and a half coming from the

1   County Jails to the local Courthouse.

2   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

3   Mr. President.

4   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

5   Councilman.

6   Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

7   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

8   Mr. President.

9   Sheriff, thank you. And you know, to

10   echo what Councilman Jones said, had pointed

11   out, you know the progress and reforms that

12   you've set in place is quite remarkable in a

13   short period of time when it comes to the

14   finances. So, good job to you and your

15   staff for, one, acknowledging, recognizing

16   and creating a plan of attack and actually

17   making it happen. That restores a lot of

18   our confidence in what you do every day.

19   So, that's why you're the boss.

20   Council President and I always have this

21   conversation about the traffic on 95, so I

22   certainly understand that. You know, we

23   will talk offline and my districts is up in

24   the Northeast. I track it almost every

1   single day. It's something that, you know,

2   maybe we can work on together if it's not a

3   state highway issue. You know, we might be

4   preemptive. But I do recognize that as a

5   problem.

6   I have a couple questions, if I could.

7   Ask Mr. Vignola to come back up to the

8   table. Councilman, how are you?

9   MR. VIGNOLA: Very good, Councilman.

10   How are you?

11   COUNCILMAN HENON: I'm doing wonderful.

12   Thank you. So, Sheriff Sales. Just a

13   couple technical questions that, you know, I

14   think comes up every -- every budget process

15   in the hearing.

16   How many do we do on an average a month?

17   And what are your goals? And are we meeting

18   our goals for Sheriff Sales?

19   MR. VIGNOLA: We do mortgage sales and

20   tax sales. The tax sales are broken down

21   into three different names, but they are

22   basically delinquent -- the delinquent tax

23   sales. Those delinquent tax sales now have

24   increased to four times a month.

1   It is the City's goal as the plaintiff

2   and tax sales to bring 200 new properties

3   per sale per month, so that's 800. In

4   addition to that, we've been averaging a

5   little under 400 mortgage sales a month.

6   These are new properties.

7   In any -- in any given sale, about

8   30 percent of the properties listed for sale

9   during that sale are sold. Now, what does

10   that mean? That doesn't mean 30 percent of

11   the 200 new. Because in addition to that,

12   there is probably 2 to 300 on the list. We

13   are listing every sale 500 properties. So

14   when a tax sale, we are selling maybe a 150

15   properties at a time. And on a mortgage

16   sale, most of them go back to the bank, you

17   know, a similar amount.

18   COUNCILMAN HENON: So, we had a goal of

19   600, all right, a couple years ago.

20   Trying --

21   MR. VIGNOLA: That is correct. And we

22   met that goal. And the City added another

23   sale.

24   COUNCILMAN HENON: And we added another

1   sale. We net two and now we have three?

2   MR. VIGNOLA: Four. Four tax sales.

3   COUNCILMAN HENON: Four tax sales.

4   MR. VIGNOLA: And we're talking new

5   properties, Councilman.

6   COUNCILMAN HENON: New properties in

7   addition to the 150?

8   MR. VIGNOLA: In addition to what's been

9   carried over.

10   COUNCILMAN HENON: And have -- so 30 are

11   listed as 30 percent are being sold above

12   and beyond of the new or old, did you say?

13   MR. VIGNOLA: Of -- of all the

14   properties listed for sale of that given

15   day --

16   COUNCILMAN HENON: Combination of

17   mortgage or taxes.

18   MR. VIGNOLA: Of that day, because there

19   is discrete sale. If we have 500 properties

20   listed for sale, about 150 on the tax sale

21   will go.

22   COUNCILMAN HENON: Great. Great.

23   We -- are you having any issues with --

24   okay. Let me ask it this way.

1   Are you at capacity for any amount of

2   properties that you take to mortgage or tax

3   or mortgage Sheriff Sales?

4   MR. VIGNOLA: No, we are not. But

5   the -- but the lawyers and the court system

6   may be.

7   COUNCILMAN HENON: That's what I'm

8   getting to. So you know, we have had this

9   conversation before. And you're very

10   detailed when it comes to explaining, at

11   least offline, like, you know, what the

12   process is and how many sales were -- we are

13   just waiting. So Sheriffs Department is

14   just waiting for the Law Department to move

15   on it or Revenue to get to the Law or Law

16   move to the courts; is that correct.

17   MR. VIGNOLA: That is correct.

18   COUNCILMAN HENON: And it may -- you may

19   not have similar details or not, but where

20   is the backlog? Where is the jam? Where do

21   we need the movement? Is it over in Law or

22   is it in Revenue getting to Law? Is it -- I

23   mean the court has three days a week set

24   aside for Sheriff Sales; is that correct?

1   MR. VIGNOLA: Yes. Where the City is

2   the plaintiff to collect, to ask for

3   judgments.

4   COUNCILMAN HENON: Right. In the

5   private side is one of those things where

6   they can do more.

7   MR. VIGNOLA: Correct. As the Sheriff

8   said, you know, if you order, we will haul

9   them. If you bring the Ritz to us, we have

10   the capacity to list the property -- you

11   know, property for sale.

12   The situation that we're confronted with

13   is this there is a whole slew of steps that

14   the Law Department has to go through to get

15   it ready for the petition to get the

16   judgment.

17   COUNCILMAN HENON: Right.

18   MR. VIGNOLA: And then the Court only

19   has so many capacity to hear so many cases

20   during -- during the day. And if it wasn't

21   for the fact that a lot of the judgments,

22   the P&Rs, Petition and Rules are in default,

23   we would have a lot less if they're

24   litigated.

1   COUNCILMAN HENON: To your knowledge,

2 are the Court -- is the Court, when they

3 have their listings, are they filled?

4   MR. VIGNOLA: Yes.

5   COUNCILMAN HENON: They are. The Courts

6 are filled.

7   MR. VIGNOLA: Yes.

8   COUNCILMAN HENON: Maybe there's -- they

9 could actually add another day if --

10   MR. VIGNOLA: Again, that --

11   COUNCILMAN HENON: I don't know what

12 their capacity is. But it would be helpful

13 to move things along if they had --

14   MR. VIGNOLA: That discussion has to be

15 had between the City Administration and the

16 Court Administration.

17   COUNCILMAN HENON: There is no question.

18   MR. VIGNOLA: To schedule that. The

19 only thing that I could say on behalf of

20 Sheriff Williams is we have the capacity,

21 you know, to go from 200 new properties a

22 day to 300 new properties a day.

23   COUNCILMAN HENON: I know the answers

24 before I ask the questions, so I just wanted

1   to -- I just wanted to publicly do a process

2   of elimination, so we all know where we are.

3   MR. VIGNOLA: Here is the other side.

4   If you are looking for it as a raiser of tax

5   revenues -- the more you have, the more

6   supply you have, the less demand, the lower

7   the price is. But the upside is that if we

8   get a property sold at Sheriff sale, we are

9   talking about tax sales, right, that

10   property which has not been paying taxes now

11   has a new owner which will pay taxes on it.

12   We may not collect the full arrearages.

13   We may not collect 60 cents on the dollar.

14   We only collect 10 cents on the dollar. But

15   going forward with the new owner, we are

16   going to collect a hundred cents on the

17   dollar.

18   COUNCILMAN HENON: And the problem that

19   we have and have had for years, and I know

20   we've done a good job moving as we increased

21   our amount of sales per month, we have a

22   surplus of, you know, with the combination

23   of all our departments in the thousands.

24   And that hasn't changed. I think the

1   combination with the restructuring with some

2   of our housing and with Land Bank and some

3   of the new processes that we have, I think

4   now is the time. You know, I just want to

5   point out that we might be able to move some

6   of these surplus properties that are either

7   tax or mortgage with the people protections

8   that we have to keep people in the houses.

9   We don't really want to kick -- have people

10   removed from, you know, their occupied house

11   either.

12   MR. VIGNOLA: That's another point I was

13   going to make. That's a problem. Sometimes

14   your penny wise and pound foolish. Yes. We

15   sell the property at tax sale. The property

16   is occupied, but the person is not paying

17   taxes. Now all of a sudden it's a new

18   owner, they get evicted. Then our social

19   service cost go up on the other side because

20   now we have a homeless situation.

21   COUNCILMAN HENON: The great part about

22   what you do, what the courts do, what some

23   of our departments in this legislative body

24   is they really listen and understand

1   people's situations. And not having them be

2   being put out in the street is important.

3   How do we not do that first, and then

4   we, you know, retract from there.

5   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Yeah. But every

6   time -- Councilman, every time that a

7   property is posted, there is a brochure that

8   we put with -- on that posting. And no

9   place else in the country where they do

10   this. This -- this brochure that we put

11   with that posting, it tells you how you can

12   get help. It tells you what social programs

13   that's available, Community Legal Services,

14   Corporation of Aging. It tells where the

15   public where they can go and get help.

16   Because we understand the issue of people

17   being put out homes and homelessness.

18   So, our part of our program is to inform

19   the public where they can get help.

20   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, sir.

21   (Councilman Greenlee sitting in as Chair.)

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

23   Councilman.

24   Just quickly, Sheriff, I didn't want to

1   interrupt your conversation with Councilman

2   Jones. But on the issue of bouncers there

3   is a law which I sponsored a few years ago

4   that all bouncers are supposed to be trained

5   and, you know, be certified as being

6   trained. The problem -- we have had a lot

7   of problems with that on getting the

8   training done, the bouncers understanding

9   that, all that kind of thing.

10   If the Sheriffs Office can be one of

11   those groups that can certify, I think it

12   could help a lot.

13   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Because see the --

14   Act 235 only gives them the training -- the

15   training to receive a certification to carry

16   that weapon from home to work. But what you

17   find is that you have bouncers and people

18   who work at these clubs. And they're out to

19   two, three, four in the morning. They need

20   additional training --

21   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Absolutely.

22   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: -- on the use of

23   deadly force. They need to have some social

24   skills training.

1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, yeah.

2   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Because you know if

3   they are tapping the juice and carrying that

4   weapon, that's a problem. And A part of

5   that we will provide some kind of monitoring

6   where we would actually survey the community

7   where you have a high amount of bouncers and

8   make sure that folks are in compliance.

9   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yeah. That was

10   great. When we first put it in, there was

11   literal guys being thrown out windows and

12   that kind of stuff. If we can that down,

13   that would be good idea.

14   Thank you, sir.

15   Councilman Green.

16   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Chairman

17   Greenlee. Good afternoon, Sheriff Williams.

18   Pleasure to hear your testimony and the fine

19   work that your officers do in your

20   department in keeping our City buildings

21   safe as well as transportation provided for

22   people who are in the correctional system.

23   Wanted to touch base on a recent

24   initiative that you have regarding cell

1   phones. And I know Councilman Jones talked

2   about it. And from my experience as a

3   former Assistant District Attorney, I know

4   that was always a challenge and concern

5   regarding intimidation.

6   Beyond just the issue regarding cell

7   phone, are there other ideas and suggestions

8   you have from a safety perspective that we

9   can try to use and implement that could be a

10   recommendation to First Judicial District or

11   other people in law enforcement to try to

12   cut down on some of the intimidation factors

13   and other things that happen in our Court

14   system?

15   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, thank you for

16   bringing this up. Because we find that

17   there's a lot of incidence that go -- that

18   happens after people leave the Courthouse.

19   And again, that's why we have the -- the

20   bike patrol who actually escorts people to

21   parking lots and to public transportation.

22   We have been working with SEPTA police.

23   And we have a dedicated radio where we

24   communicate with SEPTA in the event that

 1   there is a large crowd leaving the

 2   Courthouse. We will let them know what

 3   route they are in, what route they are

 4   traveling and make sure they get in the

 5   subway or bus system and get out of Center

 6   City in and around the Courthouse, which

 7   provides, you know, public safety.

 8   Some of the ideas and suggestions we

 9   have along with the monarch that is to have

10   people who are will actually riding in the

11   elevators and walk the hallways or the fire

12   towers and the Courthouses where we have

13   high PR cases where -- where the public and

14   where it may just be a lot -- you know, two

15   families from certain areas. And we will

16   communicate with the District where they --

17   where they live and where they coming from

18   to let them know that court is over with.

19   It was a decision that people may not agree

20   with after the jury comes out with a

21   decision.

22   So, we get that opportunity to work hand

23   in hand. And I would agree, we need to

24   advance that and do more. Because

1   intimidation is a major factor. I mean,

2   people don't want to come to court, and they

3   don't want to be a witness. And if they

4   intimidated, that really makes people don't

5   want to get involved. That's some of the

6   goals that we try to make the Courthouse

7   safe and the surrounding areas of the

8   Courthouse.

9   Not only do we do Criminal Justice

10   Center, we do 1501 which is the Juvenile

11   Courthouse. And then we have Traffic Court.

12   And then we do the Weiner Building where you

13   have incidents where people are just filing

14   for claims to collect money. So you know,

15   we -- the Sheriff Office we do a lot. With

16   our unit and the protection from abuse

17   orders, we try to stay on top of. And

18   that's an issue that is -- that we need more

19   help with.

20   We need more manpower and more women

21   power to make sure that the public,

22   particularly people who need to have that

23   protection from abuse order served. That is

24   a big factor when you're dealing with

 1   domestic abuse.

 2   COUNCILMAN GREEN: And you mentioned the

 3   work you are doing in reference to trying to

 4   keep the exterior of CJC safe?

 5   Do you also do that at Family Court?

 6   Because from my experience, it's those

 7   family interactions, he said/she said

 8   divorce proceedings, custody proceedings

 9   also can tend to lead to altercations and

10   fights among family members, sometimes

11   outside Family Court.

12   Do you do the same thing at CJC that you

13   try at Family Court, as well?

14   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Yes. We have a

15   dedicated Bike Unit who is detailed to the

16   Juvenile Courthouse. And around the

17   Juvenile Courthouse is DHS. So, there is

18   child custody and child separation. That is

19   the next alleyway away. And we have to put

20   people outside there to make sure when that

21   exchange is done, it's done without having

22   an incident.

23   So, we do the same at 1501 Arch. We

24   just haven't started the phone retrieval

 1   yet.

 2   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you. Also, you

 3   have done a lot of leadership in reference

 4   to gun locks. I have now been seeing new

 5   advertisements regarding gun initiatives and

 6   trying to educate, I guess, gun owners to be

 7   careful with their guns. I have seen ads

 8   where you have young children about to grab

 9   a gun. And educate gun owners how to keep

10   their firearms safe and away from juveniles.

11   In addition to the Gun Lock Initiative

12   that you have implemented, are there other

13   ideas you have in regard to gun safety that

14   can be used considering that one of the

15   issues we have in the City, especially

16   listening to the testimony just the other

17   day in the Police Department is reference to

18   depth of guns, the availability of guns in

19   the City of Philadelphia which is much

20   different than a lot of other cities

21   throughout the country.

22   And so, your initiative regarding gun

23   locks is one way. I'm curious if you have

24   any other ideas in reference to promoting

 1   gun safety.

 2   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Well, starting the

 3   Gun Lock Program, and certainly we're glad

 4   to have the Philadelphia Daily News and

 5   Inquirer as a vehicle to get information

 6   out. Gun safety education. And that's why

 7   whenever we're out doing seminars and after

 8   church services we do seminars and we

 9   send -- we have information out with

10   brochures. I think the most important

11   process is to educate the public on how

12   dangerous guns are. I think if you make it

13   a part of community safety where people

14   should get involved and letting the family

15   know when there's guns at the home and if

16   they are going to spend the night out, you

17   know, over someone's house, that's a part of

18   the conversation when you leave a phone

19   number to say we are going to step out for a

20   couple hours.

21   You need to say, well, we have guns in

22   the home. They are locked up. They are

23   secured. Or you don't want the kids in the

24   bedroom or whatever. I think information is

1   so key to saving a life. I thought when

2   the -- when we set down with the Daily News

3   and the Inquirer, and they agreed to help

4   promote this gun -- this gun safety program,

5   I thought that was a step in the right

6   direction of having a communication in a

7   business partner because it saved lives.

8   If you can save one life, you've done an

9   amazing thing. Communications,

10   conversations and at some point we can hope

11   to get business people to be a part of

12   sponsoring radio commercials to remind

13   people if you have a gun, get a lock.

14   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,

15   Mr. Chair.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

17   Councilman.

18   Councilman Domb.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

20   Mr. Chairman.

21   I have one other question I wanted to

22   ask. And that is when it comes to the

23   wages -- and I know these increased fees are

24   going to cover the new hiring costs, are you

1   also aware of what the fringe benefit

2   percentage is for every dollar of wage?

3   MR. HILLIARD: About 42 percent.

4   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is that including

5   health and pension?

6   MR. HILLIARD: Yes. That's all in.

7   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Forty-two.

8   MR. HILLIARD: Yeah. That is the City

9   standard.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. So, that the

11   fees that you're raising also cover those

12   fringe benefits?

13   MR. HILLIARD: Well, the fees will go

14   toward the cost of the salary and the

15   benefits. I would like to say there is

16   going to be one-for-one match. But we don't

17   know until we collect all the fees and see

18   how we do at the end of the year.

19   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Will come

20   pretty close.

21   MR. HILLIARD: The goal is to subsidize

22   both the salary and the benefits for the 35

23   deputies.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. So just to

1   recap from -- for the record, the

2   Administration says the fringe benefits cost

3   is 87 percent, and the overhead at the City

4   is another 37 percent on every dollar we pay

5   in wage. The Police Department said the

6   fringe benefits were 40 percent. The Fire

7   Department said their fringe benefits were

8   49 percent. The Pension Board or Pension --

9   Prison Department, rather said 40 or 42

10   percent.

11   You're saying yours is how much?

12   MR. HILLIARD: We have been using 42.

13   We got that number from the Budget Office.

14   COUNCILMAN DOMB: You got that from the

15   Budget Office.

16   MR. HILLIARD: Yeah.

17   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Why is your 42 and the

18   rest of City employee is 87?

19   MR. HILLIARD: I guess good question is

20   why isn't it 40? I don't know.

21   COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right. Thank you.

22   MR. HILLIARD: Be interesting if we all

23   got together on the number.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: It would be nice to

 1   have one number that's the same.

 2   MR. HILLIARD: Yeah.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you very

 4   much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

 5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank

 6   you for all you do. Thank you for all the

 7   work you're doing.

 8   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: Thank you for having

 9   us.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sure.

11   SHERIFF WILLIAMS: We will see you next

12   year.

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We will be here.

14   Our final department of the day is --

15   are the City Commissioners.

16   (Witnesses approach Table.)

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If I can just ask,

18   as people are leaving, please leave quietly.

19   We appreciate that.

20   Please identify yourself and proceed.

21   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good afternoon.

22   Good afternoon, Councilman Greenlee.

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Excuse me a

24   second.

1   Please leave quietly please. Thank you.

2   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good afternoon,

3   Councilman Greenlee and other Members of

4   City Council, my former boss Bobby Henon,

5   good afternoon. I am City Commissioner Lisa

6   Deeley. Joining me today is City

7   Commissioner Vice Chair Al Schmidt, Voter

8   Registration Administrator Gregory Irving,

9   and from the Budget Office Valerie Crawford

10   Keith.

11   Chairman Anthony Clark unfortunately is

12   dealing with a medical issue and is unable

13   to join us. We are please to provide

14   testimony on the Office of City Commissioner

15   Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget.

16   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: The proposed

17   Fiscal Year 2018 General Fund Budget totals

18    $9,911,000, a decrease of 768,000 over

19   Fiscal Year 2017 estimated obligation

20   levels. The decreases is due to reduction

21   in Classes 200 and 300 which were

22   temporarily increased in Fiscal Year 2017 to

23   cover the additional costs of the 2016

24   Presidential Election and the March 21, 2017

1   Special Election. The proposed budget in

2   brief includes 5,872,000 in Class 100, a

3       $79,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2017.

4   This funding will cover the cost of

5   full-time personnel services expenditures.

6   3,497,000 in Class 200, a decrease of

7   600,000 from Fiscal Year 2017. This funding

8   will cover professional services contracts,

9   election payroll and related contracts.

10   442,000 in Class 300, a $298,000

11   decrease from Fiscal Year 2017. The funding

12   will cover election materials, printing

13   contracts and office supplies.

14   And $100,000 in Class 400, a $51,000

15   increase over FY17. The funding will cover

16   computers, peripherals, furniture and

17   equipment.

18   Our Fiscal Year 2016 employee

19   demographics are -- 2017 employee

20   demographics a 64 male, 36 female; 53 White,

21   41 African-American, 4 Hispanic, 1 Asian and

22   1 other. The demographics of recent hires

23   are 7 African-American, 5 White, 1 Asian who

24   is also multi-lingual, 8 of the new hires

1   are female, 5 are male.

2   Our department's OEO goal for M/W/DBE

3   contracts is 30 percent. Our Department's

4   current level is 32 percent. 2016 was a

5   busy year for our department.

6   The 728,577 voters who cast ballots in

7   the 2016 General Election constituted the

8   second highest number of voters in a single

9   election since 1984. Department staff

10   processed approximately 500,000 voter

11   registration applications last year alone.

12   This annual voter registration total exceeds

13   any prior year for which the office has

14   records. We are grateful to our employees

15   for their hard work under very difficult

16   circumstances.

17   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We took additional

18   steps in 2016 to mitigate confusion on

19   election day in anticipation of the hundreds

20   of thousands of infrequent voters who would

21   come to the polls that day. We partnered

22   with Comcast to air free public service

23   announcement prior to the Presidential

24   Election reminding voters to ensure the

1   correct poling place. We hoped to air

2   similar PSAs before future elections. We

3   would like to thank the Members of City

4   Council for providing us with resources to

5   mail election day reminder which included

6   polling place information to every voter in

7   the city.

8   We would also like to thank Councilwoman

9   Parker for helping us work with utility

10   companies to provide notices and billing

11   statements. There are a number of

12   initiatives, which we will be embarking on

13   in Fiscal Year 2018. They are included in

14   the testimony which we provided to you.

15   We would like to draw your attention to

16   our request for $209,880 in Class 200 to

17   increase election board stipends and to

18   increase the fee for renting polling place

19   locations. It is becoming increasingly

20   difficult to find individuals to work on

21   election boards and to find handicapped

22   accessible locations to use as polling

23   places when ones are needed.

24   This additional funding will allow us to

1   increase the stipends to election board

2   workers and bilingual interpreters by $10,

3   and increase the polling place rental fees

4   by $20. Election board workers have not had

5   an increase to their base stipend since

6   1999. Polling place rental fees have

7   increased only $20 in the last 30 years.

8   We appreciate this opportunity to

9   present our testimony. And are happy to

10   answer any questions at this time.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you very

12   much Commissioners. I know Councilman Henon

13   has an important meeting he has to get to.

14   So, let's hear from him first.

15   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

16   Mr. Chairman, for the courtesy.

17   Commissioners, thank you for your

18   testimony. In your testimony you raised a

19   fascinating turnout number here being the

20   second highest since 1984, which I was not

21   aware of. You know, my question to the both

22   of you Commissioners is that, you know,

23   after observing and being a part of the 2016

24   general election, all this hype about

1   election inconsistencies and potential fraud

2   and national focus, I thought it went really

3   smooth from my perspective. And it was one

4   of the smoother elections, I think, and

5   prepared elections that I can recall in many

6   years. So, that's from my perspective.

7   Can you elaborate a little bit on some

8   of the precautions and some of the

9   techniques that you've, you know, you had

10   prepared for this election day in

11   anticipation?

12   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: One item -- and

13   City Council gets credit for this -- is an

14   appropriation allowing us to mail postcards

15   to every registered voter in the City not

16   only reminding them of election day and the

17   time, but also their polling place location.

18   That is not only an important reminder that

19   helps, I think, with turnout; but more

20   importantly, it helps every voter know where

21   it is that they're to show up on election

22   day.

23   It keeps the lines moving more -- more

24   smoothly. And has, I think, reduced

 1   turbulence on election day in the morning in

 2   particular.

 3   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We also had a

 4   really robust and aggressive outreach

 5   program in place. We were at civic

 6   meetings, town watch meetings, churches. We

 7   were throughout the City at every

 8   opportunity and every event we can possibly

 9   get to prior to election.

10   COUNCILMAN HENON: Kudos for the

11   engagement for outreach and encouraging

12   people, one, not only for voter registration

13   but voter education. I mean, I've

14   participated in some of those mock elections

15   where, you know, the kids and students of

16   City of Philadelphia were able to understand

17   what an election is. And how, you know, for

18   those who are either going to be 18 in time

19   for that -- for the general election got a

20   chance to see what an election is about.

21   And not to be a little nervous, all right,

22   because it's your first election. So, I've

23   never seen that before. That was great.

24   Which leads me to my last question. We

 1   are modernizing our election process. And

 2   it seems -- not that it seems -- we are, you

 3   know, we have things posted online more.

 4   You have the ability to look up and search

 5   at polling places. And you certainly can't

 6   go paperless. But you have cut down on a

 7   lot of the paper that we have typically

 8   provided in the past years through

 9   technology and programs and modernization.

10   Can you quantify savings on a lot of

11   that? Or could you in the future, after we

12   get another year under our belt coming back

13   here next year, really kind of -- let us

14   know how much we are saving in the process,

15   you know, through technology.

16   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well, first, let

17   me say thank you and thank the other

18   Councilpeople who helped us and participated

19   in Voter Registration Day at the schools.

20   And we are looking forward to doing that

21   again this September.

22   With regard to our efforts to continue

23   to build on our transparency, I will let

24   Commissioner Schmidt talk about that since

```
 1    he actually started that ball rolling.
 2         COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT:  Well, we need
 3    more time too quantify the cost savings.  As
 4    a result, the benefit of increased
 5    transparency is immediate so that someone
 6    can get access to -- anyone can get access
 7    to election related information at any time
 8    for any reason.  Any previous election
 9    results, anything like that, as well as the
10    ability to put in your address, look up your
11    polling place, receive directions on how to
12    walk there, drive there or ride your bike
13    there.  And this is all relatively new.
14         COUNCILMAN HENON:  It's amazing that
15    public information like that was so
16    covenant.  And now look at this, public
17    information is readily available for
18    everybody to see and take a look at.  All
19    just to be a part of the process engagement
20    and, you know, the intent to increase, you
21    know, potential voter turnout.  I think it's
22    all part of -- you know, I think what you're
23    striving to do here at least from how I see
24    it.
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1   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Indeed. We are

2   looking to do more along those lines.

3   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

4   Councilman. And I certainly want to second

5   Councilman Henon's point about the outreach

6   and all that you did prior to this past

7   election. I think it all helped in getting

8   a good turnout. We would like to have that

9   turnout all the time. We know it probably

10   isn't realistic.

11   I'd also be remiss if I didn't just

12   say -- probably interact with all three

13   offices a lot. You've all -- all staff has

14   been very helpful. I see Carla Moss back

15   there. Also have to give her a special

16   shout out.

17   But so you know, the information you

18   have, the help you provide is always very

19   much appreciated certainly by me, and I

20   think everybody that interacts with you.

21   Just one straight budget question. I

22   see the Class 200 budget has proposed a

23   decrease by 600,000. Is there a cause, a

24   reason for this reduction?

1   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: The increase, if

2   I'm not mistaken, the increase was related

3   to additional costs for --

4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

5   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: -- the

6   Presidential Election. There are some costs

7   this that are fixed regardless of turnout.

8   This coming DA controller primary turnout is

9   usually around 10 percent as opposed to 66

10   or 68 percent in the Presidential Election.

11   The hauling of voting machines is a fixed

12   cost. All sorts of other costs such as

13   processing 500,000 voter registration

14   applications. Fluctuates from year to year.

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So, it would be

16   reasonable to think as we -- as time goes on

17   and you start thinking about 2020, that

18   those costs will probably --

19   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Go back up.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: -- go up again.

21   Sure. Sure. You mentioned machines. Have

22   they been, as they are getting a little

23   older, how is the maintenance of them? Are

24   things still going pretty well?

1   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: You know, it's a

2   curious -- a curious thing. Because we

3   have -- our machines are now 14 or 15 years

4   old. They are largely mechanical in nature.

5   The cost of maintaining those machines has

6   really increased over the last few years,

7   especially at the end of our software and

8   maintenance contract.

9   At the same time in this election, I

10   think we were very grateful to have the

11   machines that we have. They are fairly

12   primitive. All the talk about hacking into

13   elections, you couldn't hack into that --

14   our voting machines any more than a bottle

15   of water in front of you. They are

16   standalone. They are not connected to

17   anything other than a power source in the

18   wall.

19   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We were fortunate

20   to have them this past election.

21   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: As somebody who

22   has been around a little bit, they sure as

23   heck beat those old Jamison and Shoup.

24   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes.

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Especially getting

 2   those results at the end of the night.

 3   Thank you.

 4   Councilman Taubenberger.

 5   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you very

 6   much, Mr. Chairman.

 7   Commissioner Deeley, Commissioner

 8   Schmidt, thank you so much for being here.

 9   Thank you for what you're doing, and

10   particularly your outreach to young voters.

11   And I had an opportunity to be with

12   Commissioner Deeley a couple times over the

13   2016 to get people engaged. And you know,

14   being a son of immigrants and knowing where

15   my parents came from and the time they came

16   from, having the right to vote was so

17   important to them and to many other

18   immigrants as well.

19   I also notice in the budget, and I'm

20   very, very supportive of this. In fact, in

21   some way maybe it should be a little more,

22   the payment for poll workers. If we did --

23   if we put that on an hourly basis, what do

24   you think that comes down to?

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Bad.

 2   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Very bad.

 3   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well, does it

 4   meet our minimum wage that we aspire to?

 5   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: So, there is no

 6   doubt that for what is an effect a 14-hour

 7   day, that we don't pay our election board

 8   workers nearly enough. It's getting harder

 9   and harder to recruit people even for the

10   majority party to serve on the boards.

11   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I would agree.

12   In fact, if anything, we have to maybe

13   promote that more. This is a way you can

14   involve -- I will also have to say many

15   people, even though we think we are doing a

16   pretty good job in letting everyone know

17   what we are doing, they may not really know.

18   Because with committee people doing less

19   door-to-door work and that contact that

20   built our fabric of democracy, particularly

21   in big cities, some reason doesn't exist the

22   way it used to. There are people that truly

23   may not know that they can run. So, we may

24   want to take a look at what we can do

 1   recruitment.

 2   The more people that are engaged in

 3   democracy, the stronger we are as a city, as

 4   a nation, as a state.

 5   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We are happy to,

 6   you know, partner with all of you to work on

 7   ways that we can get more people involved in

 8   that process. And you know, myself with the

 9   strong outreach background, I think, you

10   know, if you would when you go out to your

11   senior groups as well as when I go out and

12   Commissioner Schmidt goes out, if we just

13   keep letting them know that we are in need

14   of people -- they are our front lines.

15   We cannot get an election off the ground

16   without them. You know, proof positive this

17   the last election, they are vital to this

18   whole operation.

19   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Oh,

20   absolutely.

21   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: And we need to do

22   all that we can especially now to get more

23   people involved. You know, that's why we

24   look to increase their pay. It's

1   unfortunate, you know, everything comes with

2   a price tag. But we can't really pay them

3   enough for what they do.

4   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And sometimes

5   just for a closing note is, sometimes voters

6   actually think they're representatives of

7   the City. They actually come and give them

8   all the ills of the world and actually

9   sometimes treat them pretty poorly.

10   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: They take a pretty

11   good beating.

12   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And I think we

13   should applaud them. And without

14   volunteerism of that nature. Yes, they get

15   paid. But they are somewhat really

16   volunteers as well. They are volunteers

17   with a stipend.

18   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I don't think that

19   anybody that's working on an election board

20   is in it for the money. I am so -- we are

21   grateful to them for their civic

22   responsibility and for all they do.

23   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Commissioner,

24   that is well said. They are not in it for

1   the money. They are in it to help their

2   neighborhood and move the process.

3   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I just want to

4   mention quickly in the last couple of years,

5   one thing we have done within the confines

6   of our budget to increase pay or

7   compensation a little bit and also encourage

8   more of them to take training is to -- we

9   have these gradual increases to the amount

10   of the stipend that they receive if the

11   election board workers have taken training

12   class. We increased by $5 and then another

13    $5.

14   We are doing everything we can within

15   the limits of our budget to both compensate

16   them better and encourage them to take

17   training.

18   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Commissioner

19   Schmidt, thank you. Commissioner Deeley,

20   thank you.

21   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you.

22   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Mr. Chairman,

23   thank you.

24   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

1   Councilman. I could just add, I know the

2   problem with election boards, a lot of

3   election board members are elderly. And

4   slowly they, you know, just can't do it

5   anymore. So, I think we have to realize

6   that we have to promote younger people to do

7   it, too. And that's more difficult with the

8   pay situation and all.

9   Councilman Domb.

10   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

11   Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Commissioner

12   Deeley, Commissioner Schmidt. Thank you for

13   you work. I have a few questions mostly

14   financial I wanted to ask you.

15   The two new positions you are looking

16   for, are they the Delta between the Fiscal

17   18 appropriations and the estimated

18   obligation at 78,000? Is that what those

19   positions -- is that what the increase?

20   What are those positions going to pay and

21   what are they for?

22   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I believe they

23   are unfilled positions.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: You want to add two

1   more positions. What are those positions

2   for?

3   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: May I check with

4   our Budget Officer quickly?

5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. While we're

6   doing that, I want to have another question

7   because I want to manage this time as

8   quickly as possible.

9   Do you have an idea from your department

10   what the fringe benefit cost is?

11   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: We don't. We

12   would have to rely on -- as a City

13   Department, we have to rely on either OHR or

14   finance to --

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: The City's typical is

16   87 percent.

17   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Yes.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: I want you to know

19   these numbers so when you are hiring people,

20   it's not just the 50,000 you are paying

21   them.

22   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: It's a fraction

23   of it.

24   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Yeah. It's 87 percent

1   in fringe. It's 37 percent in City

2   overhead. So when you hire somebody for

3   50,000, thing of it in terms of 112,000.

4   When you hire somebody for 100,000, think of

5   in terms of 224,000. So I think -- I'm

6   trying to educate. As long as you

7   understand the ramification of those extra

8   costs and determine that those positions are

9   required, that's great. But understand,

10   it's not 50,000. It's 112,000. It's very,

11   very important.

12   So, you can just let me know about those

13   two positions. The other questions I had

14   are in the area of overtime. If I have this

15   correctly, in Fiscal Year 2017, the overtime

16   appropriation was 346. But we are at

17   768,000, like, 222 percent above.

18   Is there any reason why it spiked so

19   much?

20   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well, indeed it

21   was because of the --

22   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Presidential?

23   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Presidential

24   Election. As we said, we had processed over

1   500,000 voter registration applications. So

2   you know, by contrast, I think this time we

3   processed a little over 6,000 for this

4   election.

5   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. So going

6   forward, we shouldn't see that.

7   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We won't see that.

8   But we will see it in the next Presidential

9   cycle. We always spike up, and then we fall

10   down. And then we kind of even ground for

11   the Governor's race.

12   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: As we close in on

13   the Presidential Election and become

14   inundated with voter registration forms, we

15   will receive on the voter registration

16   deadline 40,000 registrations in a single

17   day that are being held back. And we have a

18   very narrow window in which to -- in which

19   to process all of those.

20   So in the weeks leading up to the

21   election, our employees are working from

22   eight in the morning until eight at night.

23   And they are doing it seven days a week. No

24   one is allowed to take off for roughly six

 1   months of the year without some

 2   extraordinary reason for doing so.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: By the way, just get

 4   focused on the 9.9 million is what your

 5   Fiscal Year 18 looks like, it's really

 6   15 million when you add in the fringe. I

 7   just want you to keep that in mind.

 8   What are duties of the employees during

 9   non-peak election season? What do they do

10   during the rest of the year?

11   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: So we -- in a

12   Presidential Election year, you would think

13   that every election is very similar to every

14   other. I remember when first being

15   interested in this, someone saying you're

16   going to be very bored. It's like a

17   groundhog day situation. That it's the same

18   every year. And it's not by any stretch of

19   the imagination. And the other is

20   frequently a question, like, what are you

21   doing during the non-peak times.

22   During non-peak times, it allows us to

23   frequently catch up on things from the

24   previous year. So right now, all those

1   500,000 voter registration, those are

2   registration forms that came in. They all

3   have to be filed. They have to be filed

4   alphabetically so we can retrieve them at

5   any time if there's a question about them or

6   if it's an error or something like that.

7   A lot of this work is still on paper.

8   Even the movement to being able to register

9   online, which the Pennsylvania Department of

10   State has done, which I think we applaud

11   even though it's been bumpy with the rollout

12   this last year on their end. During these

13   non-peak times, it gives us the opportunity

14   to do things like that.

15   COUNCILMAN DOMB: A hundred people

16   roughly in the department?

17   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Yes.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And they were all

19   pretty much doing something along those

20   lines?

21   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Because our

22   department is a very small one, every one --

23   you may have people in a data unit. You may

24   have people in a records and correspondence

1   unit. People in a polling place

2   investigations unit that are going out year

3   round locating polling places that are

4   wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant and

5   things like that.

6   When things get busy for us, we shift --

7   frequently have to shift everybody over to

8   do one thing. So when the registrations

9   come in, we have our polling place

10   inspectors doing voter registration

11   applications.

12   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Administrator.

13   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: We have our

14   administrator, our City Hall staff.

15   Everyone. It's all hands-on deck doing

16   whatever we need to do in order to get the

17   election done.

18   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me ask you another

19   question. Our population has changed over

20   the years. Do we -- I don't know if it's

21   every year or every other year, look at

22   polling place divisions we have in

23   Philadelphia and think about consolidating

24   or moving them around with if we have to?

1   Is that looked at?

2   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: You know, we

3   have. And some of it has occurred as a

4   byproduct of the City Commissioners

5   agreement with the Americans -- lawsuit

6   related to the Americans With Disabilities

7   Act some time ago. The Commissioners moved

8   roughly 100 polling places each election, so

9   around 200 a year.

10   Because we are an older City and we have

11   very few facilities that are fully

12   compliant, we have moved more and more

13   polling places, more and more divisions into

14   fewer polling places and more of those

15   polling places being public facilities that

16   we also don't have to pay for. The

17   disadvantage to that is polling places end

18   up moving further and further away from

19   where people live.

20   So in South Philly, you may now need to

21   walk eight blocks to your polling place.

22   And it's something that I think Philadelphia

23   really values is the accessibility that you

24   only have to walk a block or two. So while

1   it is indeed better for ADA compliance, at

2   the same time, the downside of it is it

3   makes it harder for elderly voters, I think.

4   We hear a lot of complaints about that when

5   polling place are moved further away. It's

6   been a cost savings, that's for sure.

7   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It is a cost

8   savings. But it also creates confusion.

9   And that is another problem that we have on

10   election day. People will walk into a

11   school. And even though we do have

12   Commissioner Clark's polling place sign for

13   the division, people really -- they don't

14   know where to go. And some people just get

15   fed up and they walk out or they are hostile

16   to the elections board staff.

17   You know so, we have to comply with the

18   ADA, so we moved them. We don't -- we need

19   to -- we have a hard time finding private

20   space for them because we don't pay them

21   enough. So, there is all these different

22   problems that we face every election. And

23   they are always different challenges. You

24   know, on a spring day in May, people don't

1   mind walking to their polling place maybe

2   six blocks. But in a November election when

3   it could be, you know, pretty --

4   considerably cold or even inclement, people

5   are not going to walk eight blocks.

6   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Pollock School

7   right now in the Northeast, just an example

8   of Commissioner Deeley mentioned, has, I

9   believe, nine divisions located inside of --

10   it's a cafeteria or gymnasium or something

11   like. During a presidential election year,

12   that puts an incredible strain on the people

13   who work there and voters who show up who

14   don't know their -- their division. Most

15   normal people don't know their division.

16   It's one reason why we came to City

17   Council. And City Council was kind enough

18   to fund sending those postcards. Because

19   those postcards are saying you are

20   registered to vote, it's saying where to

21   vote and saying your ward and division.

22   People will show up on election day carrying

23   those cards. And I think it's just been an

24   incredible -- incredible help to the voter

1   and to election administration as

2   Presidential Election year.

3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you. I

4   will come back on the next round. Thank

5   you, Mr. Chairman.

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,

7   Councilman. I am glad you mentioned about

8   the fact, particularly with seniors. I

9   won't get myself in trouble by saying we

10   certainly want the accessibility.

11   But sometimes I think for the

12   possibility of helping one person, we could

13   be inconveniencing 50, 60, 70. You know,

14   and we have to pay attention to the law. I

15   know that has been as a ward leader one of

16   the frustrations of -- you know, we have

17   lost some polling places. And have -- now

18   people have to walk three, four more blocks

19   which is a big deal if it's a weather issue.

20   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It could be a big

21   deal. Some of these polling places like

22   Pollock as Commissioner mentioned --

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's an

24   incredible place by the way. I don't know

1   how anybody figures out where to go.

2   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: You need like a --

3   they need traffic cop, like direction. They

4   need a kiosk for directions.

5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yeah. We have one

6   division that has three -- one polling place

7   that now have three and that's going to be

8   difficult. To do eight or nine, I don't

9   know.

10   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I was at a polling

11   place in the 40th Ward this past primary.

12   And I think it had 11 polling places. It

13   was a lot.

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Wow. But it's

15   more difficult to find places.

16   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah. It's very

17   hard. And paying them $90 is not.

18   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Pay is certainly

19   part of the issue. There is no doubt about

20   that. Yeah.

21   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: May we answer

22   Councilman Domb's --

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No. Go ahead.

24   (Laughter) I'm teasing. Go ahead.

1   MS. KEITH: This is Valerie Crawford

2   Keith who is our Budget Officer. She may.

3   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please identify

4   yourself and proceed.

5   MS. KEITH: Valerie Crawford Keith,

6   Budget Officer, City Commissioner's Office.

7   In the Operations Division, we have a

8   request for one additional employee. That's

9   a trades helper $34,420. That's the

10   person's salary. And then the

11   Administration is in a reduction of an

12   employee, one principal assistant, 42,500.

13   So, we are not asking for an additional

14   person. It's increase and decrease. We are

15   not asking for additional person.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Like a wash.

17   MS. KEITH: It's a wash.

18   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

19   Councilman Green.

20   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you Chairman

21   Greenlee. Just have a few questions

22   following up on some of the questions that

23   have already been asked.

24   How many voting machine does the City

1   own, and how many are deployed each election

2   day?

3   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I think --

4   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Roughly.

5   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: -- we have

6   roughly -- we have roughly 3700 voting

7   machines. They're not all in the field on

8   election day. We hold some back and have

9   them ready to go in the event that machines

10   shut down and can't be restarted.

11   COUNCILMAN GREEN: So roughly, how many

12   are deployed then? If you have 3700, but

13   not all in operation on election day.

14   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: All but, I

15   believe, a couple hundred that we hold back.

16   COUNCILMAN GREEN: So, like 3300?

17   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Yeah. I would

18   say that's right. Each polling place has

19   minimum of two, some have three or four

20   depending on the size of the division.

21   COUNCILMAN GREEN: I know the machines

22   are old and there have been greater and

23   greater challenge to get spare or

24   replacement parts for machines. But how

1   often do machines actually fail on election

2   day?

3   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: We test every

4   machine before it leaves our warehouse.

5   That means -- and this process is open to

6   the public, too, by the way, which we

7   announce in public meetings that members of

8   the public or campaigns or candidates can

9   come to our warehouse and test any machine.

10   All of our trades helpers at the

11   warehouse test every button on every machine

12   to make sure every light goes on. There is

13   no way to do that other than manually. And

14   this is part of the lead up and testing

15   process before they go out.

16   They go out on the back of moving

17   trucks, and get delivered throughout the

18   City. So sometimes on election day, once

19   they start up again, there are issues. And

20   we have techs in the field to either fix

21   them or replace them.

22   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Commissioner Deeley,

23   I know we have had some brief conversations

24   regarding new voting machines. I think from

1   my recollection, you informed me that the

2   first step in new voting technology for the

3   City is the electronic voting books or poll

4   books. Sorry. Poll books. And then

5   possibly voting machines following that, and

6   then there is voting machines working group

7   that's intended, I believe, for Fiscal 2018.

8   I am curious to know what is the

9   timeline for the operations? Any

10   suggestions that have come out from that or

11   any suggestion you may have from your own

12   experience both in your role as City

13   Commissioner and previous experiences?

14   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I would say that

15   we would -- preferably, we would like to see

16   them rolled out probably in '21.

17   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: In fall of '21.

18   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah. In the fall

19   of '21 because there is a lot of work that

20   leads up to that. Right now we can only

21   purchase poll books and/or machines that are

22   approved by the State. And the State only

23   has so many systems that are approved. And

24   it's just my personal opinion that this is

 1   not something that we should look to be

 2   first on. We should wait until the kinks

 3   are worked out and the processes are put in

 4   place before we go and make the largest

 5   investment in the State in new voting

 6   technology.

 7   That being said, we should also look to

 8   update our poll books before we get new

 9   machines. Because there's no point in

10   having a new machine and you still have

11   people coming up to a table paging through

12   poll books when -- that's actually putting

13   the cart before the horse. So if we update

14   the poll books first, then we have to train

15   all the personnel for the -- and the voters

16   to be, you know -- to used to and accustomed

17   to dealing with these electronic poll books.

18   And then, we can go into the machine

19   purchase side of it.

20   The electronic poll books will alleviate

21   a lot of work for us on the back end and the

22   front end. Because we won't have -- for

23   example, in the Presidential Election, we

24   had an issue with the -- we had supplemental

1   poll sheets. We usually always have a

2   supplemental sheet, but we had a lot in the

3   Presidential because our employees are faced

4   with 40,000 applications on the deadline of

5   voter registration. And they have such a

6   short window of time to get it done. And

7   during that time, the poll books have to be

8   printed.

9   So, it's a race against the clock that

10   there is not even -- it's not even a matter

11   of we can't possibly get any more work out

12   of our employees. They are working their

13   fingers to the bone. And we have every

14   terminal occupied.

15   So if we go to electronic poll books,

16   just for one example with a different set

17   would make, is that information would just

18   be uploaded. And every poll book that needs

19   to go out. And that would eliminate that

20   whole rapid process of getting the poll

21   books done and having to get the

22   supplementals out and so on and so forth.

23   So, the electronic poll books I think

24   will see a great change and streamline the

1   election day process. And if the State goes

2   forward with same-day registration, that

3   would also be helpful with the electronic

4   poll books. And it would eliminate pretty

5   much the need for the provisional ballot, as

6   well.

7   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Has the Commonwealth

8   taken any leadership in that regard? Sounds

9   like, you know, we're somewhat following

10   what they're doing.

11   Have they either taken the initiative to

12   try to initiate the pilot or other concept?

13   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No. Because every

14   county in the state does not have to have

15   the same voting system. So, unfortunately

16   no.

17   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I

18   have one more question, but I will wait

19   until my turn.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yeah. Let me just

21   jump in one thing. You mentioned

22   provisional ballots.

23   Any rough idea how many are count, are

24   legitimate, can I say? Like the person

1   really is -- should have voted, like, there

2   was a mistake or something like that?

3   Have you ever looked at that? Because I

4   know in some divisions, somebody come in,

5   they've never been registered but they

6   insist that they are. They fill out the

7   provisional ballot, but you know.

8   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Councilman, we

9   can look to kind of get a breakdown for you.

10   When provisional ballots are cast, and you

11   may know this, they are frequently from

12   voters who either aren't registered to vote

13   or showed up at wrong polling place on

14   election day. That's why these postcards

15   are helpful because people are more likely

16   to show up at the right place.

17   For showing up at the wrong polling

18   place, what we have to do for every

19   single -- every single provisional ballot is

20   reviewed. And if it's cast by a registered

21   voter is counted. If you show up and vote

22   in the wrong division and that division is

23   in a different Congressional, State Senate,

24   State Rep or Councilmanic District --

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That vote doesn't

 2   count?

 3   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: That's

 4   specific -- we have to do a partial vote for

 5   every one of those ballots and review which

 6   offices the votes count for and don't count

 7   for.

 8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And that probably

 9   happens a lot. People more than maybe not

10   being registered to vote, they just have

11   moved around and think they are still

12   registered here.

13   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Or they see a

14   polling place that's near their house and

15   they assume that's where they go to vote.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No, I see that.

17   Because right across the street from where

18   we vote is a whole another ward. And people

19   don't understand why they can't walk across

20   the street but have to walk, you know.

21   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: So with the

22   electronic poll book, ideally people come

23   in, they would give their name. The whole

24   City would be downloaded on that poll book.

1   That poll worker would be able to tell them

2   where they should go.

3   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Got you.

4   Thank you.

5   Councilman Domb.

6   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

7   Mr. Chairman. Just a couple more quick

8   questions.

9   Have we compared our costs which really

10   have to look as 15 million per capita

11   compared to other cities of our size and how

12   we're doing in relationship to are we

13   higher, lower, in the middle? Do we have

14   any idea?

15   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I have read a

16   couple of different -- I read a couple of

17   different studies over time that have done

18   very clumsy comparisons. Those reviews or

19   that analysis I have seen does it as a very

20   basic level. They take our budget. They

21   take number of voters and they divide the

22   one by the other.

23   I know that may seem like a

24   straightforward way of doing it, but it

1   fails to take a whole number of things into

2   consideration. One of those things is that

3   we do value having polling places close to

4   home. So our number of divisions per voter

5   is far higher than, say, Allegheny County.

6   Or you may -- or other counties where there

7   are fewer divisions, and you are more likely

8   have to drive there.

9   They also don't take into account, for

10   example -- I'm sorry to mention this again,

11   but 500,000 registrations being processed,

12   which is probably more than the rest of the

13   Commonwealth combined. Also, the Courts

14   rely on our office for statewide petition,

15   contest and things like that because we have

16   the capacity to do that.

17   We have enough terminals so that with a

18   very narrow window of time to conclude those

19   petition review, we are able to put 30

20   terminals at use or 35 terminals at use to

21   move through that quickly even if it

22   involves a petition challenge for governor

23   or lieutenant governor or state, US Senate

24   or something like that.

1   The rest of the Commonwealth relies on

2   us. We are not reimbursed for costs like

3   that when the Court orders us to do it.

4   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Are you saying there

5   is 500,000 new registrations every year?

6   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: No. In the last

7   Presidential Election year, we had 500,000

8   registrations. Now that is not 500,000 new

9   registrations. That includes new

10   registrations, change of address, change of

11   party, change of name and frequently

12   duplicate registrations. People are

13   worried. They want to vote in the

14   Presidential Election. They want to make

15   sure -- even though they just voted in the

16   last general, they want to make sure they

17   vote in this. They will register again and

18   again and again.

19   We are required by law to process every

20   registration, even if it's a duplicate

21   registration. To look it up and update the

22   file so that there is also updated activity

23   on that file. So the person, say they don't

24   vote in that election or the next one, they

 1   don't end up getting removed for being

 2   inactive.

 3   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I don't know if

 4   you can answer this question. But I saw

 5   recently in the paper there was some

 6   litigation filed against the Department.

 7   Any idea what the status of that litigation

 8   is?

 9   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I don't. We

10   would defer to the City Solicitor's Office

11   for that.

12   COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right. Thank you.

13   Thank you very much.

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

15   Councilman Taubenberger.

16   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yes. Just a

17   quick question. And really, I don't need a

18   precise date. But we had talked earlier

19   about the voting machines. Years ago we had

20   the Shoup and Jamestown. I kind of remember

21   them being used. And Jamestown were really

22   problematic machines. And to be very blunt

23   about it, I like the machines we have now,

24   but I know they won't last forever.

1   Are there some feeling on your -- in

2   your offices now when we might need new

3   voting machines even if it's years from now?

4   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: We track -- we

5   track voting machines failures on election

6   day as best we can. How many require

7   technicians to go out. How many require

8   being replaced. It's a difficult thing to

9   judge because you can't wait until you have

10   a catastrophic failure to replace them. You

11   have to do it beforehand. However, we want

12   to get as much as we can out of the voting

13   machines that we currently have.

14   That being said, since the warranty --

15   the software and voting machines parts

16   warranty has expired, our costs have

17   increased really significantly. No one

18   manufactures these machines anymore.

19   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Really?

20   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: No. And it's

21   been a while. So, our vendors have to

22   acquire these same voting machines

23   decommissioned from other counties and

24   states around the country to use the parts.

1   We are cannibalizing machines that are no

2   longer in use from other counties and

3   states.

4   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Wow.

5   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: That's the cheap

6   way. The expensive way is we have to get

7   the parts manufactured just for us.

8   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yeah. I think

9   you are doing the right thing. Just to

10   refresh my memory, how old are those

11   machines now.

12   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I believe they

13   are 14 years old. But that -- we may have

14   acquired them 14 years ago, but they were

15   around earlier than that.

16   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Oh, yeah, no,

17   I understand. But they are no longer made

18   so really --

19   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: No.

20   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Wow. That is

21   an interesting thing. Thank you for --

22   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: The company that

23   makes them doesn't even exist.

24   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Doesn't exist

1   anymore.

2   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Wow. Thank

3   you for what you're doing and stretching the

4   dollar. These are the things the taxpayers

5   ought to need. These are the things you are

6   doing to save dollars. That being said, I

7   guess at some point, we do have to buy new

8   ones.

9   The amount of service that you have to

10   give machines, you said the costs has gone

11   up. But is -- is that becoming problematic?

12   They are breaking down more readily now?

13   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: It becomes

14   problematic whenever you have -- the

15   problems that we frequently see are ones

16   that are not electronic in nature, but

17   mechanical in nature. Like when you do a

18   write in vote in the upper right-hand

19   corner, there is a spool of paper. And it

20   has to -- roll of paper. It has to advance.

21   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Right.

22   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: That can cause a

23   jam and things like that. They are really

24   part electronic and part mechanical in

1   nature. We see -- we see issues with that.

2   Nobody would ever want to replace our voting

3   machines because it cost taxpayer dollars.

4   And we have to train all the election board

5   workers. It's just a question of at some

6   point -- at some point we have to.

7   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yeah. Yeah.

8   Right.

9   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Not want to.

10   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Keep doing

11   what you're doing and stretch it as long as

12   you can.

13   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you.

14   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Mr. Chairman,

15   thank you very much.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you

17   Councilman. I remember when you went to

18   those new machines. Some of the election

19   board was freaking out. They thought they

20   would never be able to figure out how to do

21   this. Now it's kind of old hat I guess.

22   Councilman Green.

23   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

24   Mr. Chairman. I just have one last

1   question. It was somewhat triggered by last

2   question in reference to voter registration

3   forms.

4   Generally there have been a challenge in

5   reference to number of voter registration

6   forms submitted before the general election

7   registration deadline, but processed in time

8   period that it may not be included in the

9   primary poll books.

10   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: If -- if the voter

11   registration form is processed and the

12   poll -- the information is already been sent

13   to the vendor for the poll books, that is

14   what we use the supplemental poll sheets

15   for. And those supplemental poll sheets are

16   sent out in time for the election.

17   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. It's a

18   supplemental -- that's what you were talking

19   about earlier. That it's the supplemental

20   poll sheets, that's what are sent out to --

21   for the poll books, the supplementals.

22   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Supplementals.

23   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you much,

24   Mr. Chair.

 1   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Thank you,

 2   Councilman.

 3   With no other questions, thank you all

 4   very much. Thank you for what you do.

 5   Despite what some people say, your office is

 6   very needed. I will just put that in there.

 7   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you very

 8   much, Councilman.

 9   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank you, sir.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That completes

11   today. I'm supposed to say something here.

12   This Committee will stand in recess

13   until Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

14   when we will reconvene here in Room 400,

15   City Hall. Thank you.

16 (Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:32 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

        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

        (The foregoing certification of
this transcript does not apply to any
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unless under the direct control and/or
supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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