

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
10:34 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE  
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS  
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL  
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB  
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN  
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE  
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.  
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH  
COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL  
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER  
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ  
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN  
  
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

BILLS 170195, 170196, and 170197

RESOLUTION 170213

- - -

1                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good  
2 morning. The hearing is called to order. This is  
3 a public hearing of the Committee of the Whole  
4 regarding bills number 170195, 170196, 170197 and  
5 Resolution number 170213.

6                   Mr. Stint, would you please read the  
7 titles of the bills and resolution.

8                   THE CLERK: Bill number 170195: An  
9 ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the six  
10 fiscal years 2018 to 2023 inclusive.

11                   Bill number 170196: An ordinance to  
12 adopt a fiscal 2018 capital budget.

13                   Bill number 170197: An ordinance  
14 adopting the operating budget for fiscal year 2018.

15                   Resolution number 170213: Resolution  
16 providing for the approval by the Council of the  
17 City of Philadelphia of a revised five-year  
18 financial plan for the City of Philadelphia  
19 covering fiscal years 2018 through 2022, and  
20 incorporating proposed changes with respect to  
21 fiscal year 2017, which is to be submitted by the  
22 mayor to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental  
23 Cooperation Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to  
24 the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,

1 authorized by an ordinance of this Council approved  
2 by the mayor on January 3, 1992. Bill number  
3 1563-A, by and between the City and the Authority.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Stint. Today we continue the public hearing of  
6 the Committee of the Whole to consider the bills  
7 read by the clerk that constitute proposed  
8 operating and spending measures for fiscal 2018, a  
9 Capital Program and a forward looking capital plan  
10 for fiscal 2018 through fiscal 2023.

11 Today we will hear testimony from the  
12 following departments: Water, Streets, Free  
13 Library, Parks and Recs.

14 Mr. Stint, the first person to testify  
15 is.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner McCarty.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good  
18 morning.

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Good morning,  
20 Council President Clarke and members of City  
21 Council. I am Debra McCarty, Philadelphia Water  
22 Department Commissioner. With me today is Melissa  
23 LaBuda, our Deputy Commissioner of finance, and  
24 Donna Schwartz, our Deputy Commissioner of

1 operations.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to  
3 present testimony on PWD's fiscal year 2018  
4 operating budget. I'd like to begin by  
5 highlighting several initiatives the Water  
6 Department has begun or continued over the past  
7 year. We have ramped up our lead safety  
8 programming for our customers in several ways,  
9 including offering more opportunities for customers  
10 to replace their lead service lines, improving our  
11 Website and expanding our customer outreach on lead  
12 safety and providing an incentive for customers  
13 with a lead service line to participate in our lead  
14 and comparable program. We take this issue  
15 seriously and plan to continue these efforts into  
16 fiscal 2018. We have been diligently with the  
17 Water Revenue Bureau, Office of Innovation and  
18 Technology, Council offices, advocates and other  
19 stakeholders over the past year-plus to launch the  
20 Tiered Assistance or TAP program which will allow  
21 tens of thousands of eligible customers to pay an  
22 affordable rate on their monthly water sewer and  
23 storm water bills. In 2016 the Department was  
24 awarded highest honors from the National

1 Association of Clean Water agencies and was also  
2 awarded the Excellence in Public Infrastructure  
3 award from Ten Thousand Friends of Pennsylvania,  
4 both of which we're quite proud of.

5 Over the next several years we plan to  
6 increase the miles of water mains replaced from 28,  
7 which is the current mileage, to 40 miles per year.  
8 And then miles of sewer replacement from six to  
9 eight to eight to 10 miles. That's improving our  
10 system reliability throughout the City. We're also  
11 working with the Water Revenue Bureau to physically  
12 merge our two call centers and customers will only  
13 need to know one phone number to call for any  
14 water-related issues, from billing questions to  
15 reporting open hydrants. This is a very exciting  
16 project that we anticipate will have a significant  
17 impact on customer service and one of my favorite  
18 projects actually.

19 We met our 2016 green acre targets as  
20 part of our Green City Clean Waters program for the  
21 Clean Water Act Storm Water Compliance this past  
22 June 2016. Through the end of 2016 we can report a  
23 27 percent DPE participation rate in our contracts  
24 and expect to meet a fiscal 2017 goal of 30

1 percent. Philadelphia residents made up 40 percent  
2 of the workforce and public works construction  
3 projects, over \$250,000 in fiscal '16 through the  
4 second quarter of fiscal '17. Of prime  
5 contractors, 21 percent of our professional  
6 services contracts, over 250,000 was a minority, a  
7 woman-owned business. We continue to support the  
8 PowerCorps and high school apprenticeship program  
9 through which we've hired 24 individuals to date  
10 as full-time employees of the Water Department. We  
11 are collaborating with several City agencies on the  
12 Clean Water Act and Flood Taskforces to improve the  
13 health of our rivers and streams and help mitigate  
14 long-term flood risks. We are in the process of  
15 procuring an updated meter reading technology which  
16 will enable us to react more quickly to prevent  
17 large bills due to leaks in customer's plumbing.  
18 The first rates received under the Independent  
19 Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board was a  
20 success providing fair rates in 120 day time frame  
21 allotted.

22 As you know, the water fund is an  
23 enterprise fund of the City funded by revenues  
24 generated through charges to our customers. The

1 Water Department operating budget is a component of  
2 that water fund and is what we are discussing  
3 today. We work very hard to implement operational  
4 efficiencies and to keep customer charges as low as  
5 possible. However, to meet our service goals and  
6 mandates, we are requesting an additional 18.6  
7 million dollars in our fiscal '18 budget over the  
8 current fiscal '17 projections. The increase is  
9 primarily attributable to employ transfers from  
10 other departments to the Water Department, as well  
11 as program expansion to meet our customer and  
12 regulatory requirements.

13 Finally, I'd like to publicly  
14 acknowledge the Department's dedicated workforce,  
15 without whom we could not provide the highest  
16 quality drinking water and wastewater services our  
17 customers have come to expect.

18 Thank you again for the time and I am  
19 happy to answer questions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
21 Commissioner. It's always a good move to give your  
22 staff props because at the end of the day they can  
23 make or break you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: That's right.

1 We are nothing without them.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I  
3 understand. A couple of questions. In your  
4 testimony at page three, your budget you show over  
5 a 165 budgeted but unfilled positions for FY17.  
6 Can you tell me the reason why we have such a large  
7 number of vacancies?

8 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We actually have  
9 been bringing that number down. We're working very  
10 hard. There are many challenges. There are a lot  
11 of folks that don't seem to believe that the City  
12 is a good employer and it's very hard to get the  
13 folks in the trades. It's one of the reasons  
14 PowerCorps is so important to us in our  
15 apprenticeship program. Getting people interested  
16 in working for the City and attracting them to the  
17 City. We have a desperate need for trades so  
18 that's probably one of our biggest needs and just  
19 attracting good talent is a challenge. Because  
20 we're competing with other folks that maybe pay a  
21 little more. They don't realize that we have got  
22 some really good benefits in the City. But it's  
23 something we continue to work on and try to drive  
24 that number down. But then there are also folks



1 retiring. So it's like, you know, you add 10, you  
2 lose 12 sometimes. But it's something we continue  
3 to work on.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. So  
5 when you request a rate increase, are you doing  
6 that based on the assumption of all of these  
7 vacancies in the Department?

8 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: No. We  
9 anticipate some vacancies when we are looking for  
10 rate increases. And we look at the cost of  
11 service. We look at really how much we expect and  
12 we look at previous trends to help us inform how  
13 we're -- you know, what we're going to do going  
14 forward when we look at a rate increase.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I mean, you  
16 know why I'm asking that question. As a customer  
17 I'm saying well, why am I having my rates increased  
18 to pay for vacancies.

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: No, you're not  
20 paying for the vacancies at all.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Why am I not  
22 paying for vacancies? Explain that to me. If  
23 you're requesting funding for a budget that  
24 reflects all of these unfilled positions but it's

1 still in the budget, if I'm getting an increase why  
2 am I not paying so Council can appropriate enough  
3 money to at some point fill those vacancies but  
4 those vacancies never get filled? Why would you  
5 say that we're not?

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, we don't  
7 fully fund the vacancies for one when we budget.  
8 Melissa --

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Good  
10 morning. Melissa LaBuda, Deputy Commissioner,  
11 Philadelphia Water Department.

12 Council President Clarke and members of  
13 City Council, we don't budget for a hundred percent  
14 of our vacancies. We budget for about 50 percent  
15 of our vacancies. We don't assume full staff  
16 funding.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Didn't  
18 budget for the 165?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: We  
20 budgeted for 50 percent of 165.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 50 percent  
22 of 165?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

1 Okay. Page 291 of your five-year plan highlights  
2 the lead loan program to the five-year  
3 interest-free loan covered a replacement of all  
4 lead pipes. How many homes do you anticipate may  
5 actually have lead line service?

6 COMMISSION MCCARTY: We estimate about  
7 40 to 50,000. We're working really hard to  
8 identify those and one of the things we're doing is  
9 when we go into a home for any reason we identify  
10 -- you know, we have our customer service reps or  
11 whomever check also if it's lead. We may not be  
12 there for that reason --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's being  
14 signaled to me. How do you identify that we have  
15 50,000?

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It's a  
17 guesstimate based on housing stock. It's our best  
18 estimate. Because these are private  
19 infrastructure. Those pipes are owned by the  
20 property owners and we have no idea of knowing, you  
21 know, necessarily when they were replaced. So, you  
22 know, a lot of property owners have replaced them  
23 with copper. But our best estimate is 40 to 50.  
24 And more recently -- you know, we have been saying

1 50 to 60,000 for years and, you know, I was pretty  
2 convinced kind of closer to 30 and asked our folks  
3 to really kind of drill down on that number and it  
4 still comes back about 40 to 50. But one of the  
5 things we're going to be doing when we're doing our  
6 AMI project when we have to get into every  
7 property, replace the black box, that AMR box with  
8 an AMI box on the meter is we'll get into all  
9 480,000 properties and part of that contract is  
10 requiring that the vendor identify if they've got a  
11 lead service line. So we'll have -- you know,  
12 we'll know where all of them are. Now we'll know  
13 where all of them are, that time and that day, but  
14 nothing says tomorrow that customer doesn't replace  
15 it. But we'll have a much better idea where they  
16 all are.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: What's the  
18 average cost of a line replacement?

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: About two to  
20 3,000. Now we have increased our budget to have  
21 help loans. We call it our lead loans. So it's a  
22 zero interest, five-year loan just like the help  
23 loan. If you have a lead service -- you don't have  
24 to have a defect. If you have a lead service, you

1 can contact us and we'll, you know, get it replaced  
2 with you through the loan, a zero-interest loan.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Five  
4 minutes of that 15 seconds left. This is an  
5 interesting one. So the Fire Department, they  
6 requested additional dollars to pay for the cost of  
7 water. So why are we -- why do we charge them for  
8 water service?

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, this is  
10 not new. We have been building a general fund  
11 basically since the Charter for the services that  
12 the water system provides for the Fire Department.  
13 So the capacity of our system, as large as it is to  
14 fight fires, we maintain the hydrants for the Fire  
15 Department, we provide support during fires. So  
16 all of that goes into supporting the Fire  
17 Department's efforts to fight fires. And the City  
18 Charter deemed that the rate payors should not bear  
19 that cost, but the general fund because it's a --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We end up  
21 paying it anyway with an inner Department transfer,  
22 right?

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I don't know if  
24 it's an inner fund or --

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It's an inner  
3 fund charge.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I don't  
5 know, seems like to me, a layperson, an unnecessary  
6 bureaucratic action. This is the Fire Department  
7 and ultimately we're going to end up funding it out  
8 of general fund dollars. Inner departmental  
9 transfer, then why are we even --

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We didn't make  
11 the rules up. It was a City Charter. The Charter  
12 --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm not  
14 blaming you. It just came to our attention.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: You know, the  
16 general fund -- I mean, the tax base pays for  
17 fighting fires, not the water, sewer and storm  
18 water customers. We comply.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But it's no  
20 reason why -- I mean you referenced Charter. Did  
21 you say it was a Charter requirement?

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes, it's called  
23 out in the Charter.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. All

1 right. Thank you. Chair recognizes Councilman  
2 Greenlee.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr.  
4 President. Good morning, everybody. Just had a  
5 question about the help program, loan program. I  
6 think you had indicated before last year that the  
7 hope was at least to expand the program.

8 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Include more  
10 people, have more money, that kind of good stuff.  
11 Has that been working out, and do you have any kind  
12 of numbers on how many more customers have  
13 benefitted from the program?

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, we did  
15 expand the program, as I mentioned, to the lead  
16 service lines.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: And we have been  
19 able to offer over a thousand customers to date as  
20 of March 31st in this fiscal year a help loan. And  
21 as of March 31st, 38 of those properties were for  
22 the lead loans.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But the program  
24 also goes to people who have violations of various

1 --

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes. Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Is that more --  
4 is that any more than you have done in other years  
5 or significantly more?

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, the cost  
7 has gone up for the repairs. But I think it's  
8 pretty much on par. You know, the addition is the  
9 lead loans though. That is new.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So that's been  
11 the reason for most of the additional ones that  
12 open with the lead program, right?

13 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I think so,  
14 yeah. And Donna just reminded me that the other  
15 part is that we have expanded it to include -- you  
16 don't have to live at the home. So if you have go  
17 a rental property up to four units, you can also  
18 get a help loan for a notice of defect or the lead  
19 service line as well. So that was part of our  
20 increase.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So that means  
22 more people.

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yeah. And we  
24 think that that's a fair thing for -- you know, not



1 the smaller properties, the landlords.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because you have  
3 people in there that won't have water otherwise.

4 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We hope not, but  
7 that's the goal, to have them have water.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sure. Sure. All  
9 right. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
11 Councilman.

12 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr.  
14 President, and welcome Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Let me start by  
17 staying I really appreciate the responsiveness of  
18 your Department. We have water main breaks in the  
19 past where you are accessible on the phone, day or  
20 night. I always anticipated you blocking my number  
21 some day.

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: No.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: And more  
24 importantly, when you have a water main break,

1 whether it's on Fox Street which was a major  
2 catastrophe for small businesses and an  
3 inconvenience for shoppers, you guys were right on  
4 the spot. You have made a significant investment  
5 in aging infrastructure up there to replace it so  
6 that it doesn't happen again. So whether you're  
7 talking about Main Street or River Road, putting in  
8 sewers where septic tanks are and you should hear  
9 the feedback you get from people who -- still want  
10 in this century septic tanks and having to  
11 negotiate that infrastructure repair where you're  
12 putting in five million dollars worth of work and  
13 they are mad about it. So I appreciate your staff  
14 and you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: With that, I want to  
17 give you photos, Mr. President, me and my dog  
18 Captain Jack go out every morning on patrol for  
19 potholes and problems. And we often find them. So  
20 I think this question is for you and the Streets  
21 Department. If you have ever seen these inlets  
22 that when trucks go over them they break and then  
23 we try to repair them and then they wind up --  
24 there was literally one constituent that kept

1 calling me back and I said well, somebody went out  
2 there. And they said no, it's not. I'm looking at  
3 it right now. And what we came to discover was it  
4 was three different times where the truck actually  
5 rolled over them. So is that your responsibility  
6 or Streets?

7 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It is our  
8 responsibility, yes, to maintain.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the question  
10 becomes there is a second type of inlet that is  
11 flush to the ground that is also -- Mr. President,  
12 look at that. This is the flush to the ground type  
13 that I'm going to give you. Can you explain to me  
14 the difference between decision making to put that  
15 flush to the ground versus the raised mouth inlets  
16 and why? And the reason I say that is because of  
17 the next photos I'm going to show you.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay. So we  
19 have, you know -- I like to -- three basic types of  
20 inlets, a little bit more. But basically there's  
21 the first photo that we call open mouth. So the  
22 water goes underneath, basically, the curb to get  
23 into the inlet, and then we have what are called  
24 the grated inlets which is the second photo that

1 you provided and then we have a combination. So  
2 open-mouth grate. Both have their pluses and  
3 minuses. A lot of times you'll place it based on  
4 utilities that are in the street. You can't always  
5 put the open mouth places or you can't always put  
6 the grate inlet in the street because there could  
7 be utilities in the way, so there are conflicts  
8 with utilities. As your photo shows, the grated  
9 one has challenges because leaves collect on it and  
10 then water just continues past it and doesn't get  
11 into the inlet. The challenges with -- there you  
12 go -- the open mouth are that if the street isn't  
13 properly graded or someone drives over it and it's  
14 crushed, water just travels right past it. When  
15 possible, we are installing what we call open mouth  
16 grates so you get the best of both possible worlds,  
17 the water can flow into the inlet and around any  
18 leaves that are blocking it. But leaves and trash,  
19 we do ask, you know, for the public to help us, you  
20 know, help keep their streets clean and sidewalks  
21 clean. That always makes a difference in keeping  
22 the inlets clear.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: By way of repairs,  
24 have you estimated your annual repair of the open

1 mouth inlet, those -- and who makes those concrete  
2 temporary, it seems like, repairs? And the  
3 question I'm asking is, at some point do you make a  
4 determination that this is not working, it  
5 continues to break and we need to try something  
6 else?

7 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We do. You know  
8 there are problem inlets. There's some where we  
9 just can't change it out. We have changed some  
10 throughout the City.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Change out to what?

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Open-mouth grate  
13 or just a grated inlet or we don't -- if we can, we  
14 might move it. But people should really stay off  
15 the curb when they're turning. I mean, I know that  
16 sounds maybe silly but that is one of the  
17 challenges. We try to beef it up so it doesn't  
18 fail when they drive over it.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Allegedly it's SEPTA  
20 buses often that are on that corner when they turn  
21 sharp that are doing it or big tractor trailers.  
22 It's not the regular --

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It's the tractor  
24 trailers I see a lot. Yeah, they're a challenge.

1                   COUNCILMAN JONES: So my question  
2 becomes, is there a cost analysis that says after  
3 the 15th repair or whatever, this is the  
4 demarkation point where we're going to consider a  
5 new rendition and what does it cost us to do these  
6 repairs versus make those changes?

7                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: The cost of  
8 repair varies. Off the top of my head, I'm not  
9 sure what it is. But, you know, our sewer  
10 maintenance unit are the crews that do go make the  
11 repairs. Our cleaning units are the ones that  
12 clean the inlets and report problems. But if  
13 there's a particular inlet of concern here -- I'm  
14 not sure what this address is, but we're happy to  
15 look at it and look at the history on it.

16                  COUNCILMAN JONES: It's 56th and Gainer  
17 on the northwest corner. But it's not just for  
18 that corner. I'd like you to take a look at an  
19 analysis of how much is this costing, which is the  
20 preferred option and at what point -- provide to  
21 the President, what point should we make the  
22 change. Because, again, if it's happening -- on a  
23 regular basis I get these complaints, and at some  
24 point they constitute a danger where a kid can

1 actually fall in or a small animal.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, we make  
3 the repairs -- especially if there's an opening,  
4 those are considered emergencies and we prioritize  
5 those repairs or at least making -- get somebody  
6 out to barricade it or whatever. But this is a  
7 challenge for us. We do work very hard to, you  
8 know, keep the inlets in as good repair as  
9 possible.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Commissioner, this  
11 is not your fault and I really realize that, but it  
12 is all of our concern. But whatever you can do and  
13 these smart individuals back here can come up with  
14 solutions, it would be appreciated.

15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
17 Councilman.

18 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council  
20 President and good morning.

21 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Good morning.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: A few questions I  
23 wanted to ask you. Can you give me an idea of the  
24 total revenues of the Water Department.

1                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Good  
2 morning. Melissa LaBuda, Deputy Commissioner of  
3 the Philadelphia Water Department and yes, of  
4 course I can. In fiscal year '16, total revenues  
5 were -- and this is based on our financial  
6 statement, 680 million dollars 535,00.

7                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Am I reading  
8 this correctly that in fiscal year '18, your  
9 proposed appropriations are 394 million?

10                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That's  
11 correct.

12                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And right now,  
13 give an idea what your collection rate is.

14                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Good  
15 morning. Of course. Our collection rates are  
16 approximately 95 percent.

17                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: How much would you  
18 say you have in outstanding delinquency, total  
19 dollars?

20                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: So I'll  
21 define it as our accounts receivable as reported in  
22 our financial statements. So our accounts  
23 receivable total as of fiscal year '16 was  
24 \$152,588,000.



1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is that down from  
2 prior years?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I'm sorry?

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is that less than  
5 prior years? I remember hearing a number of 255.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I can't  
7 speak exactly what's in the 255. I'm speaking to  
8 the number that we report in our financial  
9 statements which reflects receivables that are less  
10 than one year old. That higher number you're  
11 citing may be the number that includes the total AR  
12 after it's been written off but still has a lien in  
13 place.

14 But the formal accounts receivable, as  
15 in the financial statements, is down approximately  
16 six million dollars since fiscal year '15.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: If somebody doesn't  
18 pay their water bill for a year, you write it off?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: The  
20 Revenue Department policy, yes, it is written off  
21 from a financial statement perspective.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: From a financial  
23 statement perspective, but it still stays on the  
24 records?

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We continue to  
3 try to collect.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So my question is --  
5 I understand. Going back 25 years even, okay, how  
6 much in total debt is owed to the Water Department?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA:  
8 Unfortunately I'm not able to answer that and I  
9 would have to seek some assistance from the Revenue  
10 Department. I apologize.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Maybe you can get me  
12 that answer.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Of course.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: The other question I  
15 have is -- I just want to make sure I understand --  
16 and the Council president asked his question, that  
17 166 of the not filled positions, you're only  
18 accounting for 83, I guess, right?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That's  
20 correct. We don't fully fund for all of our  
21 vacancies.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So I lowered your  
23 budget of 1986 by 83 and divided that by the total  
24 budget. I'm coming out with an average salary of

1 the Water Department of \$61,000. I just want to  
2 bring this up because when you add in the fringe  
3 benefit cost to the overhead cost it's going to  
4 come out to \$136,000 per position we hire. So I  
5 just want to make sure that you're aware that when  
6 you add all the other overhead, it's not a \$61,000  
7 job, it's \$136,000 job. When you're saying you  
8 were having a hard time hiring people, I mean the  
9 benefits here are pretty good compared to the  
10 outside world.

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. Right.  
12 We recognize that and we always take that into  
13 consideration.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And so having said  
15 that though, if you didn't need the 166 positions,  
16 for example, you would save 22 million, and if  
17 you're only accounting for half you would save 11  
18 million. So if you can figure out a way to operate  
19 the Water Department without those extra positions  
20 you would save a million dollars.

21 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: What I can tell  
22 you about that is we have a not of regulatory  
23 mandates that we need to meet and we have a lot of  
24 equipment that we need to maintain. And we believe

1 that we do need these positions or we wouldn't be  
2 asking them and seeking them to get them filled.  
3 It's kind of like Whack-a-Mole. You get one and  
4 then another one pops up. Trying to make sure we  
5 get as many vacancies as possible filled. But, you  
6 know, in that vein, we also are always looking for  
7 operational efficiencies and trying to identify  
8 ways we can save money while still meeting the  
9 demands of the regulatory requirements.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: My suggestion would  
11 be that I don't think our population is growing by  
12 maybe two, three percent, if we're lucky, our  
13 population, and I'm trying to figure out why with  
14 our -- the number of positions here is like eight  
15 percent that aren't filled and growing. Why do we  
16 have to expand the positions greater than our  
17 population increase?

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: While the  
19 population may not be increasing, our regulatory  
20 requirements are increasing. Our Green City Clean  
21 Waters program requires a lot of manpower to  
22 maintain that infrastructure and we are obligated  
23 to maintain that infrastructure throughout the  
24 City. In addition to some of the increases in our

1 budget are attributed to the call center merger.  
2 So we're bringing in -- more folks into the Water  
3 Department that were in the Water Revenue Bureau.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: As I said to other  
5 departments, there's an opportunity for technology  
6 in today's world to assist us in that extra work.  
7 My question, I guess, would be have we really  
8 exhausted other cities of what they're doing in the  
9 way of technology and what we can implement in  
10 Philadelphia?

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're always  
12 looking at new technology, whether it's technology  
13 to maintain our infrastructure with work order  
14 management systems such as City Works for our  
15 street assets or Maximum for our treatment plant  
16 assets. It's new ways of finding leaks in our  
17 water mains. We are proactively looking for the  
18 leak before they become water main breaks as  
19 Councilman Jones noted. Technology is something  
20 that's always evolving. But you also need to  
21 maintain that technology and we're in desperate  
22 need of instrumentation techs and electronic techs  
23 to maintain that technology. It doesn't come out  
24 -- there's cost associated with --

1                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you. I'll come  
2 back on the next round. Thank you.

3                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
4 Councilman. Councilman, real quick, your question  
5 to the Commissioner about the number of people in  
6 the City declining and the need for additional  
7 services. And the Commissioner referenced  
8 infrastructure, although there may be the 500,000  
9 less people than we used to have when the structure  
10 originated, still have to maintain it. We actually  
11 did an analysis, somebody did, Water or somebody, a  
12 couple years ago when we were pushing our  
13 aggressive housing strategy and we took several  
14 blocks where there were literally three people  
15 living on the block and the rest of the block was  
16 vacant, but yet the lines, both service and sewer  
17 had to be maintained. And somebody actually did an  
18 analysis. Said if you were to populate that entire  
19 block, how much money the Department would save  
20 because now you have service that's --  
21 infrastructure that's being maintained, but you  
22 have now service lines coming in from all of these  
23 new houses. It was significant, which -- I'm  
24 trying to find out what we did with that. But

1 that's why we're continuing to push -- you know,  
2 growing the tax base as opposed to making fewer  
3 people share the burden of having to pay taxes for  
4 the entire City when we have so much vacant. So as  
5 soon as we can get that vacancy reduction, the  
6 sooner we'll be able to reduce the burden on not  
7 only Water, but more importantly the taxpayers.  
8 Thank you, sir. I had to slip that one in. I know  
9 it's not my time yet.

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: But you're the  
11 president.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But actually  
13 I think that you were part of that conversation.  
14 It was like three years ago when we were pushing  
15 the 3,000 houses. Remember, Councilwoman? 3,000  
16 houses in two years. We didn't quite get there  
17 yet, but we're working on it.

18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
19 Quinones-Sanchez.

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank  
21 you. I'm going to start off with the good stuff,  
22 which is I'm really excited about the new and  
23 improved IRAP program which will now be TAP. My  
24 Council colleagues will remember that in this

1 Council we passed a bill that will take effect this  
2 year. And one of the things that I want to ask you  
3 is, you know, how are we going to make sure that  
4 our eyelet program, which is our affordability,  
5 only generated about, you know, 95 hundred  
6 applications and our approval rate was very low.  
7 The tax program is estimated to be able to help  
8 60,000 eligible families and I notice that you in  
9 your -- in your fiscal year '18 your goal is to  
10 enroll 30,000. What are you going to be doing to  
11 ensure that you can get to that 30,000 in light of  
12 the fact that in the past you only gotten 10,000  
13 applications?

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, one of the  
15 things is that -- you know, we both share the  
16 excitement about launching this program, because it  
17 not only helps customers that are in arrears, but  
18 you don't have to be in arrears and you're  
19 struggling to pay your water or sewer and storm  
20 water bill and you can be part of this program. So  
21 I can't wait for this to be launched. But that  
22 said, we are working diligently with various  
23 campaigns to make people aware of this program.  
24 We're going to be doing advertising on SEPTA buses.



1 We are pushing out through radio and various  
2 stations and television spots, as well as local  
3 newspapers. We're targeting both English and  
4 Spanish languages. And we're hoping that we get a  
5 lot of folks enrolled. We're also reaching out to  
6 Council staff and Councilpersons' offices to -- as  
7 well as neighborhood organizations to help us get  
8 folks enrolled and get the applications in.

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: How  
10 much are you going to invest for our outreach in  
11 your communication strategy around this? And as  
12 you get that, let me encourage you, one of the  
13 things we learned through Homestead and other  
14 issues is, you know, we really got to be really  
15 diligent. I had a housing summit last week with my  
16 housing providers and I'm going to strongly  
17 encourage you to reach out to our community  
18 development about how do we engrain some of this in  
19 our Better Philly and some of the other programs.  
20 But there has to be a budget for it, right? So  
21 it's something we need to figure out and I  
22 encourage all my Council colleagues to be part of  
23 the campaign.

24 One of the things that worries me is in

1 your public affairs hiring you have -- and this  
2 goes back to what Council Clarke was talking about,  
3 you have 17 positions filled and 84 budgeted. So  
4 now you're saying that only 50 percent. How are we  
5 going to bring in those public affairs folks to  
6 help us with some of this outreach if you're only  
7 budgeting for half of those?

8 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, I think  
9 you're talking about the increase with the call  
10 centers. So that falls under public affairs. So  
11 when we're doing the call center merger with Water  
12 Revenue folks coming over to the Water Department.  
13 So that's one call center.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So  
15 you're just moving people over?

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: The  
18 goal is to have how many people versus what you  
19 have now? What's your increase?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, it's an  
21 increase of 54 employees coming over from Water  
22 Revenue. And then -- I'm sorry. Water Revenue is  
23 also increasing staff by 22 folks to handle the  
24 Tiered Assistance Program application. So they're

1 bringing those folks on line.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Are  
3 these people all being transferred or is there  
4 going to be an open promotional job? Is this an  
5 opportunity -- so there are no open new jobs?

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I'm not aware of  
7 any vacancies. I think they're just all coming  
8 over.

9 And to answer your question about the  
10 advertising. Fiscal '17 is 75,000 and fiscal '18  
11 is 45,000 for the advertising.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: That's  
13 not going to be enough. I think we really need to  
14 look at that. That's not going to be enough.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're getting a  
16 lot for that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Well,  
18 I'd be happy to see the plan as to how you're going  
19 to break that down. Again, you know, I'm going  
20 from our previous experience of less than 10,000  
21 applications over the course of 30 years to 60,000  
22 that are eligible and your goal of 30,000. So,  
23 again, we all want to help you. I just think that  
24 if your budget is \$75,000 for advertising, what is

1 the whole campaign going to be, your whole  
2 communications campaign going to be?

3 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're working  
4 with the neighborhood energy centers, as well as I  
5 said Council staff and --

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I just  
7 want to make sure that our enrollment numbers --  
8 again, learning from Homestead Loop and other  
9 programs, it's a lot of work. We did door knocking  
10 and we just want to make sure that we can get to  
11 better numbers.

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: And I think our  
13 goal is actually higher than 30,000. I'm not sure  
14 where that number came from. Our goal is to get as  
15 many people that are eligible in the program this  
16 first year. It's a big lift. It's something that  
17 we are working on very hard though. And, you know,  
18 as you know, the applications will begin the  
19 beginning of July and we intend to comply with the  
20 ordinance that requires that by October 1st folks  
21 will be getting that rate. But hopefully they'll  
22 be able to avail themselves of that rate prior to  
23 October 1st. That's what we are working very, very  
24 hard to accomplish.

1                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I'm  
2 going to wait for my next round but for the record,  
3 the one area that we're still working on is the  
4 forgiveness. The Water Revenue folks have not  
5 incorporated a forgiveness component. I have  
6 talked to the Commissioner. I have talked to the  
7 Mayor and my next round I'll talk a little bit  
8 around the stabilization fund and why I think we  
9 don't need to wait two years. PECO and PGW does it  
10 and I hope I can get the support from my Council  
11 colleagues to look at that forgiveness component.

12                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Of course.

13                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Great place  
14 to call this out, Councilwoman. Thank you.

15                   Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds  
16 Brown.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank  
18 you, Mr. President.

19                   Good morning, Water Department  
20 leadership.

21                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Good morning.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I too am  
23 struck by the number of vacancies and so speak to  
24 me, if you would, regarding your high school

1 apprentice program. And with regard to PowerCorps,  
2 you state in your testimony that there were 50  
3 participants that were hired as full-time employees  
4 for this Department. Is that an increase from last  
5 year, is that a decrease from last year? Put that  
6 in perspective.

7 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, that's  
8 over the period of the program that we have been  
9 doing this.

10 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And the  
11 program is how old?

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Since 2006, if  
13 I'm not mistaken. Excuse me, 15. What am I  
14 saying? 2015.

15 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. So  
16 is that different from the high school apprentice  
17 program or is that one in the same?

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: PowerCorps is a  
19 separate program from the apprenticeship program,  
20 yes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: What's  
22 the difference?

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, the  
24 apprenticeship program, we work with high school

1 students and work to get them into you -- you know,  
2 they come to work for us about a day a week and  
3 then we get them into an apprenticeship program and  
4 then hopefully full-time employees.

5 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And the  
6 PowerCorps program, how do you identify those  
7 participants? Where do they come from if it's  
8 separate from the high school apprentice program?

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So PowerCorps  
10 provides a list to us of folks that are in the --  
11 you know, want to be hired and we work with them to  
12 get those -- you know, identify folks that seem to  
13 align with what the opportunities in the Water  
14 Department are.

15 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: So do you  
16 have -- with the high school -- what I'm getting to  
17 is, how do we increase the number of high school  
18 students early so that they can get in the pipeline  
19 for opportunity given the vacancies at the other  
20 end of the continuum? So what is the relationship  
21 with the Philadelphia School District? What high  
22 schools are participating? Councilwoman Blackwell  
23 always talks about CET. Councilwoman Sanchez has a  
24 high school in her District, vocational high

1 school. What do we need to do better to connect  
2 the young people to the apprentice opportunities?  
3 Is there not sufficient executive staff or  
4 supervising staff that can help make this real?  
5 What's the dilemma?

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We work with the  
7 School District. We're working with -- Randolph is  
8 one of the schools, if I'm not mistaken.

9 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Randolph?

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yep. And we  
11 work on internships with high school students, as  
12 well as college students to -- you know, in the  
13 summer internships to get folks to know that we  
14 exist.

15 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Sure.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're constantly  
17 pushing out, I think we use social media as well to  
18 push out that hey, we have opportunities here.  
19 Check us out.

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: There's  
21 no one on your team whose duty is strictly focused  
22 on --

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Oh, yeah.

24 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. So



1 I'm still not clear where the dilemma is with  
2 regards to identification and recruitment of young  
3 people who would welcome training that leads them  
4 to a real job.

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, you know,  
6 I'm not sure why folks don't want come work for us.  
7 We have tried many different things. For instance,  
8 recently this year we did an outreach for operator  
9 training. So we have treatment plant operators and  
10 typically we have done this from within so. Offer  
11 the opportunity to folks that are working for the  
12 Water Department to sign up and then we look at  
13 their performance reports and their usage of sick  
14 time and things like that and come up with a  
15 listing and they have to take like a real exam.  
16 But, you know, a certain number of folks go through  
17 this training program so they can become treatment  
18 plant operators. This year we expanded it and  
19 opened it up City wide and we were overwhelmed. We  
20 had had a couple workshops out in the communities  
21 and quite a number of folks signed up. We were  
22 really pleased with the response. It actually  
23 exceeded our capacity. And so about 60 folks are  
24 going through that program --

1 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: 16 or 60.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: 60 folks are  
3 going through that program right now. And when I  
4 last checked in with our staff, the people -- you  
5 know, sometimes people drop off, but all of the  
6 folks were still in the program, which is a good  
7 sign. We should be finishing up, I think, the end  
8 of May and we hope to get those folks to take the  
9 civil service exam and get on the list so we can  
10 hire them. And that's a title that we tend to have  
11 a lot of vacancies. It's a rotating shift  
12 position, so it's not necessarily as attractive to  
13 people. But it's a very good job. It's a nice  
14 salary. It can be a good career with the  
15 Department.

16 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And it at  
17 least gets them into the civil service with  
18 opportunity to rise.

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: That's right.

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay. I  
21 tend to pay a lot of attention to pay equity and  
22 the like and what departments look like at the  
23 executive level across the City government system.  
24 And in reviewing your grant, my notes tell me that

1 on page nine of your testimony there was one  
2 African American female in the executive staff  
3 position. Let me make sure I'm reading this  
4 properly. Right. One person of color of your  
5 seven executive staff positions. And we all know  
6 that the Water Department has struggled with trying  
7 to make sure that it looks like the City of  
8 Philadelphia. So help me understand why that  
9 exists and what is being done internally to address  
10 the opportunities to make sure the Water Department  
11 looks like the City of Philadelphia.

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. And it's  
13 something that's -- diversity is very important to  
14 me. It's a value that the Department has. And  
15 what I can tell you is that, you know, this is very  
16 literal in what we reported. But I have what I  
17 consider to be 13 people on my executive staff,  
18 seven of which have been appointed since I have  
19 been commissioner and, you know -- and so four are  
20 African American, two women and two men have been  
21 appointed under my watch. So it is something  
22 that's very important and it's something that, you  
23 know -- so I have expanded and we'll continue to  
24 work for filling vacancies and having our executive

1 staff look like the City of Philadelphia.

2 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I will  
3 say to you, I am encouraged to hear that. That is  
4 a huge change from what it was 10 years ago when I  
5 sat in this chair to ask that question. So you  
6 ought to be commended for "A", recognizing that  
7 it's the right thing to do and "B", exercising the  
8 leadership to make it happen. I thank you for  
9 that.

10 Did the bell ring? So we'll push the  
11 pause button and I'll get subsequent questions on  
12 the next round. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONS MCCARTY: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
15 Councilwoman.

16 Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
17 Blackwell.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very  
19 much. The Commissioner and I have come a long way  
20 since I fought her for a couple years, but we like  
21 her.

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you,  
23 Councilwoman.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: She's

1 president of Powelton Village Civic Association  
2 too. So just let me ask. I know there were two  
3 people you were waiting to hear from after all  
4 those years for our water break?

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. And my  
6 understanding that risk management is still working  
7 with a couple folks to get that resolved. Some of  
8 them -- they're waiting to get the customers to get  
9 back with them with the signed releases when I  
10 checked with Barry Scott actually the other day.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So it's not  
12 our fault, meaning the City's fault. That you're  
13 waiting for people to just --

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Sign the release  
15 and get it back to them so they can get them a  
16 check, yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. I hope  
18 out of this -- out of this experience, do we have a  
19 better system?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes, ma'am. We  
21 have instituted -- we have met a few times and  
22 instituted standard operating procedure for how we  
23 can address these sorts of breaks, do a much better  
24 job going forward. And risk management actually

1 has figured out a way where we can more easily get  
2 hotel rooms for customers that are displaced, such  
3 as they were at 52nd and Wyalusing, among other  
4 things. And working closely with Office of  
5 Emergency Management, Risk Management, Licenses and  
6 Inspections, Streets, all of our partners to make  
7 sure that our customers are -- you know, in  
8 something as disruptive as that, we minimize the  
9 pain and aggravation as much as possible.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's good.  
11 I was ready to end up with a case with Risk  
12 Management and they were the worst I've seen. I  
13 had to consider, was I willing to go that far  
14 because that was really, really -- those were rough  
15 times. People can't afford to suffer for things  
16 for which they -- Councilman Jones is laughing --  
17 for which -- and Blonde -- when it's not their  
18 fault. So that was really -- that's a tough time.  
19 So we have a system -- something I forgot -- in my  
20 threats I forgot what I wanted to ask you about  
21 that. I'll come back to it.

22 So tell me what this TAP program is and  
23 whether or not people -- oh, I know what I wanted  
24 to ask before we do that. We were trying to

1 introduce some legislation. You know, sometimes  
2 you try to do something that's helpful when floods  
3 and fires happen and people come out to see people  
4 and charge them or say they want to service them  
5 and we didn't get there. We're now talking to some  
6 other people contacted me because Lucian and I were  
7 in the MGM Grand fire -- Grand Hotel fire many  
8 years ago around 1980. So whenever we have these  
9 kinds of issues, people contact me. But I don't  
10 know where we are. People complain about these  
11 folks who -- and any accident you have all these  
12 trucks and all these people come up and find people  
13 and it happens when you have water and fire issues.  
14 But do you know where we are, what we can do or if  
15 we have done something to make that better?

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So we have --  
17 previously, you know, those guys that come in to  
18 come clean properties have just shown up as you  
19 said and they will -- still, when they hear the  
20 news they're going to do that. But we have put --  
21 gotten the requirements contracts with a lot of  
22 these vendors. So we're not just going to hand  
23 that job to you on the spot as we previously did.  
24 You have to have a contact with us for us to be

1 able to give you that work to do that. And we work  
2 -- our customer field service folks work very hard  
3 to make sure that the property owners recognize  
4 that it's better if you let us do it and have our  
5 vendor do it than just, you know, any old Jim and  
6 Jane that shows up to say they can do this. So we  
7 try to educate the property owners but also we, as  
8 I said, have folks on contract. So we think this  
9 is a better way to manage it.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.  
11 I'll be revisiting that. I've got a couple things  
12 hanging. But I don't, you know -- but I'll call  
13 you because I'm not sure what makes it better.

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay. Any time.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Tell me a  
16 little bit about this TAP program, what it is and  
17 how it works and who can qualify.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So this is our  
19 new affordable rates program that's being  
20 implemented.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The what  
22 program?

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Affordable rate.  
24 So come July 1st folks can begin to apply. We are



1 rolling out the advertising, you know, this fiscal  
2 year and then in the next fiscal year to let people  
3 know about it and working with neighborhood energy  
4 coordinating associations and things like that.  
5 But basically it's Tiered Assistance Program. So  
6 if you're zero to 50 percent of the federal poverty  
7 level, you'll get -- two percent of your income  
8 will -- no more than two percent of your income  
9 will be for your water, sewer and storm water bill.  
10 If you're 51 to 100 percent of the federal poverty  
11 level, no more than two-and-a-half percent of your  
12 income will be your water, sewer and storm water  
13 bill. If you're 101 to 150 percent of the FPL, no  
14 more than three percent of your income will be your  
15 water, sewer and storm water bill. And the minimum  
16 rate is \$12.00 a month. So this is something that  
17 you don't have to be in arrears. We know a lot of  
18 seniors struggle just to make their bill, get their  
19 bills paid and, you know, maybe forego medication  
20 to pay their bill and that's not a good thing.  
21 While we do have a senior citizen discount right  
22 now, this might be a better benefit for some of the  
23 seniors. So we're hoping folks will avail  
24 themselves of this program.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And you won't  
2 cut them off?

3 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Correct.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Thank  
5 you, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
7 Councilwoman. One quick question since we're on  
8 the second round. And actually Councilwoman Bass  
9 and to a degree Councilman Jones had some concerns  
10 about this. 22nd Street, 22nd and Lehigh, mini  
11 City Hall.

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Oh, okay.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So it's my  
14 understanding that there's a possibility or  
15 likelihood or may have already happened that the  
16 ability for that workforce to access water accounts  
17 and make agreements and all the other things  
18 associated with water bills, delinquent bills is  
19 being taken away. Do you know anything about that?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I'm not aware of  
21 that. We can look into that. That shouldn't be.  
22 We're not aware of that at all.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: One of the

1 things actually we are doing is this year we're  
2 going out and doing town hall meetings. We had our  
3 first one last night. Actually each councilmanic  
4 District and we'll be heading your way in the next  
5 -- you know, I'm not sure where we are with each  
6 Council, but -- and so we're taking Water Revenue  
7 folks as well as some of our customer service folks  
8 and just going out to the community to try to make  
9 sure that they know that we are accessible and here  
10 are the programs that are available to you, as well  
11 as hopefully we can resolve any problems that if  
12 they didn't want to go to one of the mini town  
13 halls, they don't want to come down to MSB. We're  
14 here. We can hopefully resolve any of your issues  
15 that --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT GREENLEE: So your  
17 initial response is that you don't know anything  
18 about that. Does that mean that that's not  
19 happening or does it mean that you personally don't  
20 know about it?

21 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We will look  
22 into it. I personally do not know about it, nor  
23 does Joanne Dahm, who I would think would know  
24 about if it were happening, and it would be

1 something I don't think we would want to see  
2 happen. We want as many folks to be able to get  
3 into the TAP program, among other things and to  
4 assist folks. We can look into that and get back  
5 to you for sure.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Please.

7 Because that facility has done a lot of great work  
8 out there. A lot of people, particularly seniors,  
9 really don't want to come downtown and might not be  
10 online and all the other things. They like the one  
11 on 22nd Street and going to that, quote, unquote,  
12 mini City Hall and having that ability to sit down  
13 and talk about their bills and make agreements, do  
14 the whole nine yards. So you'll check into that  
15 and get back to us?

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes, we will.  
17 Definitely.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Real quick.  
19 Storm water gardens/playgrounds. We recently did  
20 something up in Fishtown at a Dare school and it  
21 was groundbreaking. And going by there the other  
22 day and it's like two, three months later and pipes  
23 are in the ground, the whole nine yards, this thing  
24 is moving light speed. But I understand it was not

1 done in the traditional way where the money was  
2 appropriated from the City's capital fund. It went  
3 through a nonprofit of some sort. Anybody know  
4 anything about that?

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I'm not sure.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's pretty  
7 big. So the issue is, I'm trying to understand how  
8 it happened so quickly by virtue of having money --  
9 I don't know exactly how they did it and I don't  
10 ask questions when things are good. This process  
11 moved so quickly and it was not City capital  
12 dollars directly and we were told that we couldn't  
13 do that, which we got the Law Department opinion  
14 that we can, in fact, spend City capital dollars on  
15 projects. I don't know where that notion came  
16 about. Can you find out, you know, because I'd  
17 like to -- you know, there are a number of  
18 locations in this City and I know in my District  
19 where --

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So that was a --  
21 that was a grant project. So they got a SMIP  
22 grant, storm water management project. So they got  
23 a grant from the Water Department to do that.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Grant from

1 Water?

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes. Yes.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: My question  
4 is, how did it happen so quickly when -- as opposed  
5 to in the case of Northern Liberties is taking  
6 forever.

7 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: That's one of  
8 the reasons we like the grant program because  
9 private sector can actually get things done faster  
10 than us in many ways and the -- so the SMIP grant  
11 we think -- actually is one of the less expensive  
12 ways to get the green acres we need to get per the  
13 regulatory requirements. It's a pretty effective  
14 way to get stuff done and the maintenance is done  
15 by the property owner also, which is a benefit to  
16 us as well.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So you're  
18 saying a private sector in terms of work was much  
19 quicker than what? The government --

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: They can be,  
21 yes.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Did the  
23 Water Department do storm water gardens internally?

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We do public

1 infrastructure as well. That's all part of the  
2 program.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So what's  
4 the problem? I'm just trying to understand. I  
5 mean, I like our people. I'm a government guy,  
6 right. I don't understand why we can't do  
7 something as quickly as the private sector? I  
8 mean, before they were saying we couldn't spend  
9 City capital dollars on non-City-owned property.  
10 That's not the case per the Law Department's  
11 opinion three different occasions, including the  
12 current Law Department. So what is it that  
13 prohibits us from moving as quickly as private  
14 sector on infrastructure projects?

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I think that  
16 when it's on private property, you know -- you have  
17 to have agreements with the property owners and  
18 things like that. So there are easements and  
19 rights of way and that can take sometime to work  
20 out with the property owner.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The property  
22 owners? The School District.

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Working with the  
24 School District, we're doing projects on School

1 District property. But the School District likes  
2 to do projects apparently as Dare, which is a SMIP.  
3 It's a grant program. So it's -- a lot of times  
4 it's up to what the property owner wants to do, how  
5 they want to move the project forward, how it  
6 aligns --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah, but  
8 why would they hold us to a different standard than  
9 they hold a private company?

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I don't know  
11 that anybody is holding them to a different  
12 standard. It's a matter of working the various  
13 issues out. Some projects take longer than others.  
14 The simplest can be the hardest to get done in some  
15 ways as opposed to a bigger project I have seen  
16 over the years.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That answer  
18 is like --

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I'm sorry.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That answer  
21 is like just not just passing the test.

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So can you  
24 look into that? Because you know we're ready to do



1 some things. We have neighborhoods where there's  
2 no playgrounds and we like to do some play  
3 equipment in the yard of schools' properties and  
4 there's no prohibition from our end in terms of us  
5 -- and I'm just trying to understand from a  
6 procedural perspective why can it happen through a  
7 private company in the School District but it can't  
8 happen with the City of Philadelphia Water  
9 Department. Yeah, but I'm talking about the time  
10 frame.

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So if we're  
12 going to own the infrastructure, we have to have a  
13 right to be there and the School District has to be  
14 comfortable with how we're going to maintain it. I  
15 mean, school children need to be safe and -- so if  
16 it's within the School District -- so like a Dare  
17 with a SMIP grant and so they're in control of it  
18 and they own it. If we're going to do it, we're  
19 going to own it and so -- but it has to meet -- be  
20 acceptable to them. So working out those details  
21 can just take longer than any of us would like.  
22 But we are working with the School District and  
23 intend to continue to work with the School District  
24 on projects, green storm infrastructure projects.

1 And, you know, if you've got -- if you have got  
2 areas that you'd like us to work on, we're always  
3 happy to look into them.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I have a  
5 bunch of areas.

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Pardon?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'll talk to  
8 you offline on this but this is -- I just don't  
9 understand why it's taking so long. Okay.

10 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council  
12 President.

13 Commissioner, I wanted to touch base  
14 with you regarding some information in your  
15 testimony. I see you have information here  
16 regarding the lead service line replacements. And  
17 I want to just get a perspective on how many you  
18 anticipate doing this year? As you know, last year  
19 we had hearings on this issue, among others,  
20 regarding lead in water laterals, and most of the  
21 issue is primarily that the property owners who are  
22 responsible for the lateral from the connection  
23 from the City to the home, some of that people are  
24 not as aware of and I know of this program, and I

1 wanted to get a perspective of how many you  
2 anticipate doing this year and how we're getting  
3 the word out regarding this initiative.

4 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So as part of  
5 our capital work when we're replacing the water  
6 mains, we have done about a thousand lead service  
7 lines replaced and through the help loan program we  
8 have done 38 so far.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Now, what's the  
10 distinction between, you said, a thousand and then  
11 38 through the help loan?

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So the 38 is  
13 folks that they have a lead line and they say you  
14 know what, I just want to replace it. I don't have  
15 a defect, but I want to replace it. So that's  
16 something new that we have offered to property  
17 owners.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: What's the cost of  
19 that service?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It's based on --  
21 you know, it's just like our help loan, zero  
22 interest, five-year loan with a property lien as a  
23 collateral. But it's probably around \$2,000 on  
24 average.

1                   COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then with the  
2 help -- the 38 that went through help, that's  
3 basically through a help loan?

4                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. That's  
5 what I just quoted the price for, yes.

6                   COUNCILMAN GREEN: All right. And so  
7 -- also a question, I know from my experience with  
8 PGW as chair of the Gas Commission, we're trying to  
9 replace as much main as possible and we're in this  
10 constant battle of trying to replace main before we  
11 have a leak which could possibly become an  
12 explosion. And then from the water perspective,  
13 you're also trying to replace as much main as  
14 possible so you also have water leaks which also  
15 can cause flooding or sinkholes or other issues in  
16 the City.

17                   How much main do you anticipate  
18 replacing this year?

19                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, our  
20 average has been over the past few years, several  
21 years 22 miles. Last year we did 28 miles. Our  
22 plan is to increase funding over the next six years  
23 to get to 40 miles per year in six years.

24                   We also proactively are surveying about

1 a thousand miles of pipe a year to detect for  
2 leaks, because if we can pick up a leak and repair  
3 it before it becomes a break that's always better.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Also looking I saw  
5 different programs. I got a program from JEVS  
6 which is an apprentice training program. From my  
7 understanding, on the gas side there's a  
8 significant need for training for additional people  
9 to do main replacements, and might I say that both  
10 for the Philadelphia Water Department as well as  
11 other private entities like American Water, as well  
12 as Aqua America, they also have the same issue of  
13 trying to find people and provide training  
14 opportunities to get more people to do this type of  
15 work. Has there been any initiatives from your  
16 perspective that the Water Department is doing or  
17 other more entities are doing to try to train  
18 additional people to do this type of main  
19 replacement?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Actually the  
21 folks that work for us, we have a pretty good  
22 success rate filling those vacancies. With water  
23 operations repair helpers, which is a nice -- it's  
24 a fairly new title that we work with OHR to come

1 up. So we're getting some really good candidates.  
2 It's a step up from the semiskilled laborer. We're  
3 getting more qualified candidates that way. But  
4 our challenges in the trades are more electrical,  
5 mechanical, instrumentation -- electronic techs and  
6 instrumentation. Those are some of our challenges,  
7 not so much for the water main replacement.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So the water main  
9 replacement is not much the issue, it's more the  
10 electrical, mechanical skill trades?

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council  
13 President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
15 Councilman.

16 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council  
18 President. A few more questions I wanted to ask.  
19 I wanted to clarify the revenues of the Water  
20 Department are 680 million?

21 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Correct.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And you mentioned  
23 that 95 percent is the collection rate.

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes. Collection

1 factory, yes.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And you mentioned  
3 that the delinquencies are 152 million?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That's the  
5 accounts receivable, yes.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Accounts receivable.  
7 And the Revenue Department writes off everything  
8 after a year?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That is  
10 correct, from a financial statement perspective.  
11 It doesn't release the rates.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So if it's 95  
13 percent, five percent of 680 million is roughly 34  
14 million dollars. Where's the balance of 118  
15 million coming from?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: So we have  
17 very strong -- the Revenue Department has very  
18 strong collection practices, and I don't want to  
19 overstep here but they work quite hard at  
20 collecting balances that are due beyond the fiscal  
21 year. So when I speak of the 95 percent collection  
22 factor, it acknowledges that some of the revenues  
23 we receive in a fiscal year are likely from  
24 billings that happened in a prior fiscal year. And

1 it's because of their very strong collection  
2 procedures that we get to the 95 percent collection  
3 factor.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I did the math for  
5 the 12 months, we bill 680 and of the 680, 152 is  
6 not paid?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That --

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: If the Revenue  
9 Department is writing off anything past 12 months,  
10 that would be an accurate statement, right?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That would  
12 be correct.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So that means the  
14 collection rate is more like in the 70s on an  
15 annual basis.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Your math  
17 is absolutely correct, but we do acknowledge  
18 revenues from prior fiscal years.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Right. I understand.  
20 I just want to make sure I understand. The 95 is  
21 good but that's also accounting for the past stuff  
22 that's coming in that you're --

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Correct.  
24 And we count on that very much.



1                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: But really of the  
2 current, it's somewhere between 75 and 78, if I do  
3 the calculation?

4                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I believe  
5 that -- again, I have to be careful here, but I  
6 believe the Revenue Department when they look at  
7 the 12-month average, it's probably 89 percent.  
8 But, again, I would have to check with them.

9                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Except -- I'm  
10 trying to understand the simple math. 680 million  
11 gross. 152 million not paid of that 680. If it  
12 was seven, it's like -- it's got to be 25 percent  
13 or so.

14                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I agree  
15 with your simple math.

16                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: The other question I  
17 had yesterday I think it was -- Charlie Brennan was  
18 here from OIT and he talked about an RFP going out  
19 for electronic, I guess collecting and billing of  
20 our real estate taxes. I wanted to make sure that  
21 included water and sewer also.

22                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It does. I  
23 think that was posted yesterday, as a matter of  
24 fact.

1                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because I know the  
2 real estate billing is once a year typically with  
3 some followup, but water and sewer is every month.  
4 So water and sewer is where we save the most money  
5 on postage and labor. Okay.

6                   The other question I had has to do with  
7 Class 800 funds, when you combine both is 108  
8 million of Class 800 funds. Can you give me an  
9 idea of what that's all about?

10                  DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Sure. So  
11 within our class -- Melissa LaBuda, Deputy  
12 Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department.

13                  Councilman, what's in our Class 800  
14 transfer is our payment to the general fund for  
15 services that the general fund provides to us. In  
16 fiscal year '18 that's approximately 11 million  
17 dollars. We're also required to transfer money for  
18 renewal and replacement and what also runs through  
19 that transfer is 23 million dollars and that's  
20 based on a financial statement measurement. Then  
21 there's an additional component in that transfer  
22 which is additional funding for capital accounts  
23 out of revenues and that's approximately 37 million  
24 dollars.

1                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Can I ask you to give  
2 us the detail of the 108 million so we can see it  
3 broken down?

4                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I would be  
5 happy to do that.

6                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: The other question I  
7 had and I think Councilman Green talked about this,  
8 the lead service lines. Right now you're offering  
9 interest-free loans for customers?

10                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

11                  COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is there any  
12 income cap on that loan program?

13                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: No.

14                  COUNCILMAN DOMB: So if you make a  
15 million dollars a year, you get an interest-free  
16 loan from the Water Department?

17                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: If you've got  
18 the guts to put in for a help loan, yeah.

19                  COUNCILMAN DOMB: Do you think we  
20 should have an income cap on that?

21                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: The lead loan is  
22 a take off of the help loan and we view the help  
23 loan as something that helps folks handle in a  
24 manageable way an unexpected expense. It can be

1 fairly large, particularly for a lateral. We've  
2 looked at many -- you know, looking at income but  
3 we -- so far we have been successful in always  
4 being able to meet the needs in the fiscal year and  
5 it does not seem like the program is being abused.  
6 If we were to do an income check, that just adds  
7 cost to the program. So it's a balancing act. But  
8 so far I think that people are not getting a loan  
9 -- you know, your property is liened, so that can  
10 -- you know, that does keep some folks away.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: What is the term of  
12 that type of a loan? How much time do you have to  
13 pay?

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Five years.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So it's an  
16 interest-free, five-year loan?

17 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes. We have  
18 recently actually put that on the water bill.  
19 Started showing up on people's water bills. So  
20 they get one bill for it, not two separate bills.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you. I'll come  
22 back again on the next round.

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

1 Councilman.

2 Chair recognizes Councilwoman

3 Quinones-Sanchez.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank  
5 you. Let me ask about the request around the Class  
6 800 because we have three different funds, the rate  
7 stabilization fund, the water residual fund and the  
8 capital projects fund so when they submit that  
9 information we can see it. You know, and Council,  
10 we strongly believe that the Water Department is an  
11 important economic engine for the City and our  
12 infrastructure investment. When I look at your  
13 contracting experience as it relates to your  
14 general operating, your participation numbers look  
15 pretty good.

16 What is your contracting experience  
17 from the water fund, the part that we don't see  
18 from the general operating? Are the numbers  
19 comparable? Because it looks here if you look at  
20 your contracting experience, it looks like you're  
21 only doing 60 million dollars in work a year, but  
22 we all know -- what is -- how much money are you  
23 investing in infrastructure a year that we don't  
24 get to see as part of these budget documents?

1                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So you're asking  
2 what our capital budget is annually?

3                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Uh-huh.  
4 The reason I'm asking that is because I'd like to  
5 see what your participation rate is as it relates  
6 to that. I'd like to request what is the average  
7 size of those contracting experiences and their  
8 participation rates?

9                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Good  
10 morning, Councilwoman. Melissa LaBuda, Deputy  
11 Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department.

12                   The public works contracts as accorded  
13 to the portfolio, we spent 166 million. This is a  
14 public works contract for capital and our  
15 participation is 25 percent.

16                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: What is  
17 the average size of those?

18                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I  
19 unfortunately would have to get back to you with  
20 the average size.

21                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I want  
22 to look at that. What is the average size? How  
23 many people in your unit are also authorized to  
24 develop an RFP and grant those contracts? Like,

1 you know, who makes the decision when you're doing  
2 some of this work? I'd like to see that in terms  
3 of your team.

4 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, our  
5 capital work is all low bid.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So how  
7 many people within your Department are authorized  
8 to issue RFPs?

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, I mean, I  
10 guess ultimately it comes down to me approving that  
11 we issue an RFP.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I'm  
13 trying to get to your decision-making process when  
14 you RFP versus the internal work.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: When we do it  
16 internally versus contracting it out? We tend to  
17 look at is the expertise in-house or can we benefit  
18 from expertise outside of the Department. We  
19 augment our design change with consultants and a  
20 lot of times consultants bring national, if not  
21 international, experience that we don't necessarily  
22 have doing a lot of work in the City. So it's a  
23 balance. But we --

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I'd

1 like to look at that in terms of all the contracts.  
2 Want to look at, you know, in terms of your  
3 contracting as we have this rebuilding capital  
4 conversation is, you know, how many of your bidders  
5 get local preference, what's the participation rate  
6 there, you know, what's the average size of the  
7 grants, you know, are we looking at opportunities  
8 for debundling, those types of things. So that  
9 data would be helpful.

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: If I may, I can  
11 tell you we are looking for opportunities to  
12 debundle and, in fact, we have a fairly large  
13 contract that we are debundling this year to  
14 breaking it up into several contracts. And the  
15 first one that RFP went out and we got responses  
16 and have made a selection and are in the process of  
17 awarding and that happens to be a woman-owned firm,  
18 which I'm very happy to see.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: And  
20 that's what we want to look at. We want to look at  
21 what are best practices, what are you doing at the  
22 water that can help inform the other departments.

23 And I had asked this before of the  
24 previous commissioner under the previous



1 administration and I want to ask it of you. Why  
2 won't the Water Department do green roofs at all of  
3 our public facilities?

4 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, we can  
5 through grants do it if someone wants to get a SMIP  
6 grant to do a green roof. But we have to own the  
7 infrastructure and a roof tends to be integral to  
8 someone's home and that -- and maintaining that and  
9 getting access to the roof on private property --

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: No.  
11 No. I'm saying public facilities.

12 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: The  
14 previous administration debated this back and  
15 forth. We have a massive master facilities plan.  
16 We have -- we're in year five of a 25-year storm  
17 water kind of thing. Why can't we figure out how  
18 we do green roofs in all our public facilities?

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, I don't  
20 know the green roofs are always cost effective at  
21 facilities to start with and I actually am a green  
22 roof fan, believe it or not. I can tell you that  
23 our sewer maintenance yard in West Philly, we have  
24 to move out where we are. It's a very tight spot

1 and the new facility we are currently building does  
2 have a green roof. We're also using geothermal for  
3 heating and cooling. But, you know, just putting  
4 green roofs at various facilities isn't always  
5 necessarily as good as it might sound. But it is a  
6 huge challenge and we would have to own that  
7 infrastructure, that's a bond covenant.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Again,  
9 you're not giving me the how. We either make a  
10 policy decision with our Green 2035 Plan that we  
11 are going to look at adding efficiencies to our own  
12 facilities and that is an investment, even if it's  
13 a -- you create a criteria. This notion that we're  
14 not realigning our green infrastructure with our  
15 own facilities for me is hard to kind of accept.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: And we work with  
17 public property and Parks and Rec and figuring out  
18 --

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: No, I  
20 know. We're doing much better with that and I  
21 really appreciate your commitment to looking at  
22 parks and stuff and how we make those investments.  
23 We all love all that stuff. But as a public policy  
24 standard, you know, it's either we believe in it

1 and we're going to identify which buildings we can  
2 do it or not. And the fact that we haven't  
3 established a protocol of what that criteria might  
4 be to get us to the how was a challenge in the last  
5 eight years in the administration. And so I'm  
6 going to ask it again. I'm going to ask it every  
7 year. Because we're spending hundreds of thousands  
8 of dollars at fire houses and at police facilities  
9 and this investment, I think, has value. And how  
10 we justify it through our own written bureaucracy  
11 and regulation is a discussion that needs to be  
12 had.

13 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, and green  
14 roofs, again, they can be very expensive to install  
15 on existing facilities. When you're building anew  
16 you can, you know, make sure structurally it can  
17 manage that additional water on that roof. Water  
18 is about -- not about, it is 8.34 gallons per --  
19 8.34 pounds per gallon. So it can add up and you  
20 need to make sure that structurally that building  
21 can hold it. We've looked -- there's a building at  
22 one of our treatment facilities we looked at I  
23 thought would be a perfect location for a green  
24 roof. And when we looked at that building it's an

1 older building and structurally it could not manage  
2 that green roof. So there are challenges with  
3 putting green roofs, you know. And, again, I'm a  
4 big green roof fan. But it has to make sense. It  
5 has to be cost effective and green roofs are good  
6 because they -- you want to make sure that the  
7 infrastructure will support it.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I  
9 completely get it. My issue is we promote it, we  
10 incentivize it and we don't do it. And so we got  
11 to come to terms with that. Regardless of the cost  
12 prohibitive situations, these are rate payer,  
13 taxpayer infrastructure investments and either we  
14 believe in it or we don't. My time is up.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
16 Councilwoman.

17 Chair recognizes -- trying to like, you  
18 know -- this screen is a little more challenging  
19 than people realize. Chair recognizes Councilman  
20 O'Neill.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr.  
22 President. Commissioner, can you tell me how --  
23 and it's a broad question and a broad answer is  
24 fine, but I know you may want to get into the

1 details of it. I and I'm sure other Districts just  
2 are -- you know, we have a lot of seniors. Seniors  
3 tend to want to pay in person. They tend to  
4 scrutinize their bill. They tend to have a lot of  
5 questions. Not all of them live very close to the  
6 Municipal Services Building. And I know you're  
7 starting to do some pretty serious outreach that  
8 has never been done before. But just to -- as of  
9 today, what are your different ways or programs of  
10 dealing with outreach to seniors specifically?

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So in addition  
12 to our Affordable Rates Program, the Tiered  
13 Assistance Program, we're going to -- you know,  
14 making outreach to all of our low income customers,  
15 but seniors -- fixed incomes are certainly part of  
16 that. We also this year started doing town hall  
17 meetings in each councilmanic district and  
18 yesterday was our first. We bring folks from Water  
19 Revenue, our customer field services folks,  
20 representatives to deal with whatever the issues  
21 might be, whether it be billing, we can handle  
22 those issues on the spot, whether it's an  
23 infrastructure problem, whether it's a question,  
24 whatever the concerns will be, we will bring in the

1 resources in the community to help address that and  
2 answer any questions and make sure that folks  
3 recognize that we're their utility. You know,  
4 citizens, rate payers are our customers and we need  
5 to do right by them. But seniors are, you know,  
6 reaching out -- with the affordable rates we're  
7 doing advertising on radio, on SEPTA buses this  
8 year and next fiscal year, T.V., and I think I said  
9 radio but I'll say it again. And also through  
10 neighborhood energy coordinating associations.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you. That's  
12 all I have.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
14 Councilman.

15 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Council  
17 President. Hey Debra, how are you?

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Good morning,  
19 sir.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to first  
21 and foremost start off by commending you and your  
22 staff and -- where is Joanne Dahm? Is she around  
23 here anywhere?

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I'm sorry, what?

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is Joanne here?

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Oh, yes. She's  
3 sitting back there.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Want to  
5 acknowledge her as well for always being receptive  
6 and always responding to our constituent service  
7 related matters. So I want to first and foremost  
8 acknowledge that before I start my questioning.

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: One, I just want  
11 to get an idea of the process and where we're at  
12 regarding the meter replacement program for the  
13 City. It's an issue very dear to me because often  
14 times we get calls from constituents and sometimes  
15 their water bills may not match up to their meter  
16 readings.

17 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And it results in  
19 a discrepancy in their bill. There's a process  
20 where sometimes it does happen, the City will  
21 forgive a portion of the bill, but the residents  
22 still have to pay a portion of the bill. And so I  
23 just want to look at where we're at in that  
24 process, because obviously it impacts constituents'

1 pocketbooks and wallets as relates to them paying  
2 their water bill. And then also how we're going  
3 about monitoring -- and I think we did a good job  
4 this past winter -- the issue of water main breaks.  
5 I haven't seen too this past winter, which I think  
6 is a good thing. But what are we doing to stay on  
7 top of it to make sure our infrastructure is sound  
8 moving forward? That's it.

9                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay. So with  
10 our AMI, our meter replacement, we have issued a  
11 request for proposals and received four proposals  
12 and we're in the process of evaluating those  
13 proposals and going through -- have the vendors  
14 come in and make presentations and we're figuring  
15 out which ones makes the most sense for our rate  
16 payers. And we hope to be coming to City Council  
17 this fall with a 20-year contract request with the  
18 vendor we think will do the best job for our  
19 customers. So that's where we are with AMI.

20                   Monitoring water main breaks. Your  
21 observations are astute and correct, we have had  
22 less breaks this winter season than we have seen in  
23 past years. We're about on par actually with last  
24 years. So we're -- you know, it sounds like a lot,



1 but we're probably going to be around 700 breaks  
2 this year. But what we're doing is we are  
3 surveying the water mains to see if we can find  
4 leaks before they become breaks. We're using some  
5 new technology, ultrasound technology. We're  
6 testing that out, seeing how effective that is and  
7 detecting leaks. And, again, you know, if we can  
8 detect a leak before it becomes a break, that's  
9 less disruptive. We can repair it in an organized  
10 fashion, not flood basements, cause property  
11 damage, cause some disruption in the street while  
12 we're digging up, but it's always better to detect  
13 it beforehand, of course.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I have one other  
15 -- one question I want to get in there. So they're  
16 doing a lot of -- the Water Department has another  
17 fund that does work with a lot of Park and  
18 Recreation facilities. Like right now we're doing  
19 work at Lanier playground in South Philadelphia,  
20 Smith playground in South Philadelphia, as well as  
21 Girard Park. Can you provide to my office the  
22 amount of minority participation in terms of  
23 contracting, the work --

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: The SMIP grants?

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Okay. We can do  
3 that.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Those projects,  
5 the level of minority participation that's included  
6 in those projects. That's it. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
9 Councilman.

10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds  
11 Brown.

12 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank  
13 you. I wanted to follow up on questions raised by  
14 Councilman Green and Councilman Domb on the  
15 replacement of lead service and make sure I got my  
16 notes right here. So you said that the low-income  
17 gap and it's an interest-free, five-year loan.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Are there  
20 requirements for those who want to take advantage  
21 of this opportunity?

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, you have  
23 to be up to date on your water, sewer, storm water  
24 bill.

1 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Repeat  
2 that. You have to be what?

3 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: You have to be  
4 up to date. You have to be current or get into a  
5 payment agreement. We're not going to give a loan  
6 to someone who doesn't show a good payment history.  
7 But those usually we resolve, those matters.

8 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And then  
9 once you -- is the information then shared with  
10 other City departments once the pipes are replaced?  
11 PGW or others who have to dig? One of the  
12 criticisms I have learned early while here in  
13 Council is that departments do what they have to  
14 do, but there's no talking across the department  
15 lines. You end up digging in the street that was  
16 dug up last week. When really if we communicate,  
17 it minimizes the headache that citizens endure.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. Yeah.  
19 So one of the challenges, and I guess maybe I'm  
20 speaking a little for Streets who's after me, but  
21 the Streets Department will come and they'll like  
22 repave the street, it looks really nice and then  
23 somebody decides they want to replace their lead  
24 service line or they have a failure and so a

1 plumber comes out, digs up this nicely, newly paved  
2 street and now you have a new plumber's ditch.  
3 And, you know, we work very hard to make sure the  
4 plumbers backfill properly and restore the street.  
5 The Streets Department comes back and restores the  
6 street as best they can, but now you have a  
7 plumber's ditch on this nice, beautiful street that  
8 just got paved. But it's a continuing challenge.  
9 But we do coordinate the utilities. Streets  
10 Department is the -- you know, in charge of what we  
11 do when the plan works. So all of our capital  
12 work, PGW, Water Department, PECO, all of the  
13 planned work is coordinated through the Streets  
14 Department. So on our capital jobs like the gas  
15 company will or gas works will go before we do and  
16 then we'll come in and do the water mains and  
17 sewers. So it is coordinated through the Streets  
18 Department. We might say on fiscal '20 we're going  
19 to replace the water main and sewer in this block.  
20 The Streets Department will say well, wait a  
21 minute, PGW has got that for fiscal 2021. And so  
22 we'll have to work out when we'll do that and then  
23 we'll all be there at the same time. So it's one  
24 disruption. The street gets restored.

1                   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: The good  
2 news is that there's a level of communication  
3 across departments.

4                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: That's  
6 the good news. Okay then. So let me get  
7 clarification on one other matter. The goals and  
8 intentions to connect with high school interns,  
9 that process and protocol is really intact?

10                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

11                  COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: There are  
12 no challenges -- I misunderstood when I heard that  
13 there might be challenges in identifying young  
14 people that you can recruit to put in the training  
15 program, that they end up with a real job on the  
16 back end. You don't need help with that is what  
17 I'm hearing.

18                  COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I think we're  
19 good. Yeah, we're good. And we have got folks  
20 dedicated to getting that done and I'm really  
21 excited about just continuing to improve on that  
22 program.

23                  COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Inform  
24 Council members when you're having graduation

1 ceremonies like that that involve young people who  
2 have endured the internship process and moving to  
3 the next stage. Thank you.

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very  
7 much. I have two questions and one is everybody  
8 knows that at 58th and Chester we had big flooding.  
9 And rumor has it that we got big issues, the area  
10 may cave in. My staff reminded me that we had a  
11 store that had to close at 58th and Woodland, a  
12 block away. And that another block further we have  
13 -- we seem to have big problems in that area. I  
14 wanted to know where we are and what we're doing  
15 about it.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: You're talking  
17 about the water main break yesterday at 58th and  
18 Chester. So I'm not aware of any properties being  
19 flooded during that break. It took us a little bit  
20 of time, the trolley tracks were a challenge to --  
21 it's a 16-inch main that broke, so it's a lot of  
22 water. But we're identifying -- last night we  
23 replaced, I think it was seven feet -- no, three  
24 feet of pipe. So we're still making the repairs to

1 that pipe. We identified -- I think it was a  
2 three-foot blowout last night when we were able to  
3 get down to the main. So we're working with PECO  
4 and PGW and SEPTA to, you know, get the -- get to  
5 the main, secure the utilities and then they'll  
6 take care of the infrastructure and we'll be able  
7 to restore the street. I'm not aware of that -- if  
8 you want to share with us the business that had to  
9 close. We're not aware of that and we're happy to  
10 follow up. If your office wants to contact us,  
11 we're happy to follow up with that business because  
12 I'm not sure why a business would have to close.  
13 Nobody lost water. There was some low pressure,  
14 but that was restored once we got it shut.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. I will  
16 do that. I will get the specific details.

17 Now one more question about this TAP  
18 program. People who are already off, can they  
19 apply?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. All  
22 right. Thank you. Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
24 Councilwoman.

1                   The Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

2                   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Chair. A quick question regarding some of the  
4 professional service providers that you listed in  
5 your budget detail on pages 28 and 29. Primarily I  
6 see that you're using Acacia Financial Group, as  
7 well as Estrada and Nosa and PFM for FA services  
8 which I'm sure are related to your revenue notes.  
9 What's your process in reference to bring FAs? Do  
10 you do an RFP process on a regular basis, as well  
11 as other professionals that you use for either  
12 disclosure counsel or other type of legal services  
13 for offerings that the Water Department does?

14                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Good  
15 afternoon, Councilman. As you probably are aware,  
16 those contracts are housed by the City treasurer.  
17 And the City Treasurer's office did go through a  
18 robust RFP process for all of those services, to  
19 select disclosure counsel, bond counsel, as well as  
20 our financial advisors.

21                   COUNCILMAN GREEN: So unlike other  
22 professional services contracts that go through the  
23 City, so my understanding is that the Treasurer's  
24 Office controls that process, whereas Water is not



1 involved?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That's not  
3 correct. The Treasurer's Office is very  
4 collaborative and does work very closely with the  
5 PW GM, the City departments on formulating the  
6 scope of services of the RFP and were part of the  
7 selection processes.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So ultimately who  
9 makes the selection?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: It was a  
11 joint selection process.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Gotcha. And then  
13 also moving forward, looking at page 59 of your  
14 budget detail. I notice that the amount of  
15 services -- I'm assuming these are for electrical  
16 services for the Water Department. I'm looking at,  
17 for example, Direct Energy, LLC going from about 11  
18 million dollars from actual obligation to FY 2016  
19 to proposed to about 20 million, and then PECO is  
20 actually going from three million in FY16, actual  
21 obligation, to about four million. What's the  
22 cause of fluctuations in amounts?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: You're  
24 correct, you're speaking to our -- the PECO and as

1 well as the Direct Energy Business, LLC --- fiscal  
2 '18 budget obligations reflect the fact that the  
3 City doesn't hedge through its energy office a  
4 hundred percent of those energy costs and we do  
5 have excess capacity in both those lines to account  
6 for the unhedged portion of those programs.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Can you say  
8 that once again? I'm sorry.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Sure. The  
10 energy office sustainability does enter into  
11 various hedges to hedge the City's energy costs.  
12 But I don't believe a hundred percent of those  
13 costs are hedged in the forward market. And so we  
14 do have excess capacity in those lines to account  
15 for any cost that may not --

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: You're  
19 welcome.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Chair.

22 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
23 Councilman.

24 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

1                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. Good afternoon.

3                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Good afternoon.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: How are you? I had  
5 some questions specifically about the water service  
6 that's provided -- well, the constituents that are  
7 provided at the location at the 22nd office, 22nd  
8 and Somerset. And as you know, it's a very -- it's  
9 a very busy office. There are a lot of municipal  
10 services that are accessed at that office. And we  
11 want to make sure that we're able to properly  
12 handle the cases as they come in, that folks get  
13 the full service that they don't have to come all  
14 the way downtown to Municipal Services or to, you  
15 know, the different City offices to be able to  
16 access service. So it is, you know, somewhat  
17 troubling to me that, as I understand it, the Water  
18 -- the access to be able to help people and log in  
19 for water services for the constituent services and  
20 management at that office has been denied. Are you  
21 familiar with that?

22                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I talked to  
23 President Clarke earlier and so it's something I  
24 was not aware of this, and we're committed to

1 looking into that and finding out what is up with  
2 that. Commissioner Breslin can come up and address  
3 that.

4 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Thank you. Good  
5 afternoon. Frank Breslin, Revenue Commissioner.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good afternoon.

7 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: So the question  
8 is about services. We do have staff fully  
9 operational at the North Philly office. We have, I  
10 understand, two cashiers there. I think four  
11 representatives too that deal with water issues,  
12 Water Revenue issues, and two that deal with tax  
13 issues. And starting this year, we assigned a  
14 revenue collection manager to that location.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And has there been  
16 any reduction of service?

17 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Not to my  
18 knowledge.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Reduction of  
20 staffing?

21 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: No. Actually we  
22 increased staffing by assigning a revenue  
23 collection manager to that location. Prior, we  
24 didn't have a manager there and we felt that a

1 manager would help the operation. That's the model  
2 that we have at the Northeast Philly municipal site  
3 and that's been very successful. So we replicated  
4 that at the North Philly office.

5 MS. BASS: So there's been a manager  
6 added that could provide additional assistance?

7 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Has that manager  
9 also been working with the existing staff, the  
10 existing manager of that office.

11 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: As far as you know,  
13 the transition has been smooth and there hasn't  
14 been any issue and --

15 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: I have not heard  
16 of any problems at that office. I have heard  
17 everything is working. The way we're structured is  
18 there's the additional manager who reports up to a  
19 director of Tax Payer Services who's assigned at --  
20 who is assigned at Municipal Services Building. So  
21 she handles -- Charlene Daniels handles the  
22 taxpayer services at MSB and is also responsible  
23 for taxpayer services at both satellite offices.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm going to

1 follow-up and if we have additional questions we'll  
2 get back to you.

3 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
6 Councilwoman.

7 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chairman. A few other minor questions. In your  
10 schedule 200, I'm just curious under professional  
11 services -- this may have been asked already, but  
12 in 2016 the professional services were 15 million  
13 700,000? And in 2018 they're going to 21,399, like  
14 almost a 40, 50 percent increase. What's the  
15 reason for that increase?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: So some of  
17 the increase, as we mentioned earlier, was related  
18 to the additional appropriation to cover energy and  
19 electricity costs. There's also additional  
20 capacity for repair and maintenance at our  
21 wastewater plants, growth in the lead service line  
22 program, increases in equipment rentals, increases  
23 in costs associated with the consent order and  
24 agreement as well.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Seems like a big  
2 increase though. Two years, almost 50 percent.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: The other question  
5 --I'm sure you have an answer for this one, is also  
6 in one of your budgets for PAID.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It says in '15 it was  
9 11 million and this year it's going to be 15  
10 million. What is that all about?

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: That's our grant  
12 program. We've increased that from 10 to 15  
13 million since the SMIP and GARP program for storm  
14 water on private property.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: What is Raftelis  
16 Financial Consultants? What do they do?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: So  
18 Raftelis Financial Consultants is a consulting firm  
19 that provides services related to bond feasibility  
20 studies which are required in our general bond  
21 ordinance. Every time we borrow money or seek  
22 authorization we have to complete an engineering  
23 report and a financial analysis. They're also the  
24 point firm on the Tiered Assistance Program or the

1 IRAP program. So they're part of the design and  
2 implementation related to the TAP program. And  
3 they also do work related to cost of service, which  
4 is another financial requirement.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Their contract from  
6 two years ago in '16 from 541,000 to we're  
7 projecting 2.1 million?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: That is  
9 absolutely correct, Councilman. And a lot of that  
10 has to do with the work focused on getting the TAP  
11 program ready to go live for July 1st.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. A question of  
13 follow up from Councilman, I guess, Johnson asked  
14 this question but I wanted to make sure I  
15 understood. The updated metering infrastructure.  
16 Do we have a total cost of that expense for  
17 updating the metering? Do we have the total cost?

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're looking at  
19 60 to 90 million dollars now.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Do you know when it's  
21 going to start and when it will be completed by?

22 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Our goal is to  
23 -- this coming fall to come to City Council and get  
24 approval to enter into a 20-year contract with a



1 firm and to begin installation in January of 2018.

2 It should be a two-year installation program.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Two years. Okay.

4 And how are we going to fund that 60 to 90 million  
5 dollars?

6 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Out of capital.  
7 In our capital budget.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: In your capital  
9 budget?

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes, sir. Over  
11 a two-year -- the bulk of it is over the two years.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Two weeks ago the  
13 Water Department issued a new bond, I believe?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes,  
15 that's correct, Councilman.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And can you tell me  
17 how that money will be spent?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Sure. So  
19 we -- the bond proceeds will be spent for renewal  
20 and replacement of our infrastructure. There's  
21 also some very significant projects in the works  
22 right now, and I just want to pull that list up so  
23 I can speak intelligently of the top projects that  
24 we're working on. So some of those proceeds will

1 be on a 10-million-gallon clear water basin at the  
2 Baxter Treatment Plant. There's a  
3 30-million-gallon storage a tank at East Park. Our  
4 Commissioner spoke about the AMI. We have a  
5 preliminary treatment program at the Northeast  
6 Water Pollution Control Plant. We also have water  
7 main replacements every year of approximately 46  
8 million dollars. Sewer main replacements of  
9 approximately 35 million dollars. Dredging broad  
10 water basins. Construction of a sewer maintenance  
11 yard.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: How much of the total  
13 amount of dollars of that new bond?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: We  
15 deposited 300 million into a construction fund.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: 300 million?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Any idea what the  
19 interest rate?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Sure. The  
21 all-in borrowing cost, which includes a financing  
22 fee, is 4.23 percent.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Any idea what the  
24 amortization on that?

1                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Of course.  
2 We amortize -- the average life was approximately  
3 22 years. The final maturity was 35 years. But we  
4 did have some shorter maturities in fiscal year '19  
5 and fiscal year '20. And it was shaped around our  
6 existing debt service so as not to create any  
7 spikes.

8                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So if I looked at the  
9 Water Department today compared to 10 years ago,  
10 what was the debt of the Water Department 10 years  
11 to compare to today?

12                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I  
13 unfortunately don't know that statistic off the top  
14 of my head. But as you can imagine, with a growing  
15 capital program we likely have more debt today than  
16 we did 10 years ago. But I'm happy to pull that  
17 information for.

18                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We have always  
19 pretty heavily well leveraged I will say.

20                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you very much  
21 for your testimony. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23                   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
24 Councilman.

1 Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Commissioner,  
3 yesterday we had Commissioner Greenwald-Collins,  
4 Bridget, and we talked about the fact that all of  
5 our energy bills are paid by public property even  
6 though they really don't have anything to do with  
7 the operations. And one of the things that was  
8 discussed somewhat prematurely for today, because  
9 it's Water and then Streets and other departments,  
10 is that when storm water costs shot through the  
11 roof all of a sudden a few years ago, they were  
12 focused on large companies, and with heavy paving  
13 and roof coverage and hard top, hard surface, but  
14 there were also Pennypack Woods, it's now in  
15 Councilman Henon's district, and your team just did  
16 a newer part of it as deputy then. Joanne Dahm  
17 lead the charge. But everyone was all hands on  
18 deck helping these people. Many of them are  
19 seniors on fixed incomes and there's thousand units  
20 cooperative housing and they just got caught in the  
21 switches. But all was well once everyone sat down  
22 and sharpened their pencils and tried to figure out  
23 what they could and what we could do to help them  
24 do what they had to do.

1                   But one of things that was talked about  
2 it, and I just use this as an example because it's  
3 no longer my district and we're pretty strict about  
4 this kind of stuff, was there were some discussions  
5 about a City street that went through the heavily  
6 greened area, you know, land of Pennypack Woods and  
7 that there may be a chance not just there but in  
8 other situations throughout the City, and I'm  
9 really talking about the other situations, for  
10 instance a mall like Franklin -- Philadelphia Mills  
11 or something else that can find ways to mitigate  
12 either by creating soft pore surface or being able  
13 to work with us to try to figure out, you know,  
14 rain barrels and other things. But the one that --  
15 the item that struck me the most and has stuck with  
16 me is there was an opportunity that was discussed  
17 by the Water Department with the representatives  
18 from Pennypack Woods that down the road, the City  
19 for its streets and its buildings and everything  
20 still pays storm water. So we're not exempt from  
21 storm water charges. So we were getting charged  
22 just like the big shopping centers, the big  
23 industrial complexes, and that we would be looking  
24 to mitigate as well. And one of the ways of

1 mitigating might be, and just thrown out as a might  
2 happen, was that the water on Pennypack Street that  
3 runs right through -- north and south through  
4 Pennypack Woods, could possibly be diverted onto  
5 their land to help us save our Streets Department  
6 money for storm water. And never really heard a  
7 discussion about that. I'd like to -- because,  
8 again, it's close to my heart even though far from  
9 my District now. But it is an option for maybe a  
10 lot of opportunities where the Streets Department  
11 could be doing something, and in a case like  
12 Philadelphia Mills, it's very real because at some  
13 point we may be -- it's not your end of things but  
14 we may be taking those streets and dedicating them  
15 through that mall as City streets. They were all  
16 built to City spec. There's City water underneath  
17 them. And in that case, the burden shifts from the  
18 current owner of those streets to the City, but  
19 still these partnerships can occur whether it's  
20 going from us to a private or nonprofit or  
21 backwards.

22                   Could you enlighten us a little bit on  
23 that? And, again, I can't thank you enough.  
24 Councilman Johnson, I with we all feel the same

1 way. The Water Department, it's usually a terrible  
2 situation we call you in. And you're usually on  
3 the site on the weekend yourself with a cell phone.  
4 So, you know, you guys do tremendous work and we  
5 have a lot of criticism because nothing is ever  
6 fast enough for the person on the other end of our  
7 phone. But all in all, the Water Department has  
8 become much, much more service oriented over the  
9 years and you should take some credit for that  
10 because of your role when you were you deputy.

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you for  
12 that.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Customer service  
15 is very important for us and we always can improve  
16 and we're working to improve. So it's been about  
17 --

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: And I really want  
19 to think of all City departments. That happened to  
20 be one example that hit me because we have plenty  
21 of departments that have storm water issues,  
22 parking lots and --

23 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. You  
24 know, we're trying to work with private entities,

1 as well as, you know, departments. We do have  
2 situations where we bring street runoff onto  
3 properties and maybe a Parks & Rec site. And so  
4 when they're doing something we look for  
5 opportunities to combine project because then it's  
6 more cost effective for all of us and we are doing  
7 that.

8           We are doing some pore streets  
9 throughout the City. Our first pore street was in  
10 South Philadelphia right by the Italian Market.  
11 But we have done others throughout the City as  
12 well. So we continue to look for opportunities to  
13 take the runoff from the street and get it, you  
14 know, out of our pipes -- anything we can keep from  
15 getting into our pipes is always going to be  
16 better, in a separately stored area in your  
17 District or in a combined sewer area.

18           COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: This question  
19 might be better directed at Managing Director's  
20 office or Finance Office, Finance Director's  
21 office. But when the Department -- I don't want to  
22 single out Streets, I don't want to single out Recs  
23 or Park or anybody else, they're all in the same  
24 situation. It doesn't cost them anything to have a



1 higher storm water bill. Public Property gets the  
2 bill and it gets paid. Who coordinates trying to  
3 do the mitigation as if it were Pennypack Woods or  
4 Philadelphia Mills or any one of the other hundreds  
5 of users, customers that have these higher storm  
6 water bills that could be mitigated? Is there  
7 anybody in the City that says we're interested --  
8 even though the Department doesn't have a  
9 responsibility there and Property just gets the  
10 bill, they're not involved with operations. Is  
11 there anybody that says hey, is there any way we  
12 can lower this storm water bill for this department  
13 or that department? Is anybody driving that train?  
14 We have the office of -- the Mayor's Office of  
15 Energy Sustainability, in addition to the ones that  
16 I mentioned. Councilwoman Sanchez was mentioning  
17 trying to combine one policy with operations and  
18 what we actually do. So there's some loose ends  
19 out there when we get to things like who pays the  
20 bill and who's responsible for the operation and  
21 who makes sure that the bill is as low as possible.  
22 So do you have anything to say about that?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: We do. We  
24 have some good news, Councilman. We haven't even

1 given the update to our finance director, his  
2 staff. But over the past, I'd say, 12 months the  
3 Water Department has taken a significant effort to  
4 analyze and review all of the City's storm water  
5 accounts and try to formulate a list of those  
6 accounts that would be subject to receiving a  
7 credit. We are not done with this yet. We hope to  
8 have the memo to our finance director prior to the  
9 fiscal yearend so we can begin affecting those  
10 credits as soon as possible.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I don't know if  
12 there's a way of incentivizing those departments,  
13 but I would think it would be a great idea if they  
14 could figure out how to do that, because whether  
15 it's with a carrot or a stick, it doesn't matter.  
16 The incentive is still the incentive. Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
18 Councilman. And just to expand on the councilman's  
19 insights and experience, he uses a perfect example  
20 with, you know, with a co-op, a neighborhood that  
21 he used to represent that I do. And, you know,  
22 although certain projects may change and the  
23 package may change and the leverages may change, I  
24 think the overall policy of leveraging different

1 resources and incentives with Parks and Rec, the  
2 energy consumption for Parks and Rec through  
3 conservation, the savings goes directly back into  
4 the rec center for however they do that. But it is  
5 an incentive program. And I think, you know, to  
6 the councilman's credit, the idea that  
7 incentivizing departments, that kind of brings the  
8 intergovernmental coordination together a lot more,  
9 you know, for the benefit. And it brings me to  
10 when I see Joanne Dahm sitting on the side over  
11 there. We have dealt with manufacturers and we  
12 have dealt with -- you know, when we went to the  
13 new storm water formula, I mean it was a shock,  
14 right? There's a class of businesses that are just  
15 -- just had a tremendous amount of increase due to  
16 the footprint or the footprint was -- they had a  
17 large building, they had large lots, you know, for  
18 parking or trucking. You know, the roofs of the  
19 manufacturers were, you know, just big, right? So  
20 there wasn't much to capture on their footprint any  
21 kind of mitigation. Hence, you know, the creation  
22 of the SMIP program which I think is successful.  
23 I'm going to -- you know, after Councilwoman  
24 Sanchez is finished, I want to come back and

1 revisit the conversation quickly here today about  
2 the SMIP program. You know, where we started,  
3 where we are now, who participates and, you know,  
4 how that kind of works. But, you know, we're  
5 working and I think the Water Department should be  
6 a major driver in a lot of these diversion and  
7 incentive programs because -- you know, I'll use an  
8 example with Councilwoman Sanchez and myself, we  
9 kind of share the perimeter of a playground,  
10 Wissinoming Playground. It's a neighborhood I grew  
11 up. I represent two of the sides of the  
12 playground, not the playground itself proper. But  
13 we're leveraging, you know, the storm water as a  
14 major factor of a capital build out of the  
15 playground, along with other agencies. But we have  
16 agencies, buildings, businesses in the private  
17 sector that don't have the kind of -- they don't  
18 have the footprint for the mitigation. They don't  
19 have -- I mean, doing green roofs, I think that's  
20 great. It's expensive. Sometimes you may not get  
21 your return on your investment for 25 years. All  
22 right. So it's not practical. So people aren't  
23 going to do it. But they're faced with the reality  
24 of a storm water runoff increase in like drastic

1 measures, right? Two, 300, four, 500 percent and  
2 in some cases even higher. Discussion has been  
3 taking place, I think, for the last couple years  
4 about a possible cap and trade for tax credits  
5 within the same watershed. So you have, for  
6 example, Pennypack that the councilman had  
7 mentioned. You get the street. So the City can,  
8 you know, use -- will allow Pennypack as its co-op  
9 to get credited for our storm water runoff for them  
10 capturing it. You have some businesses like  
11 Cardone who has a shared water system with the  
12 City, you know, the City allowing --

13 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: A great  
14 partnership.

15 COUNCILMAN HENON: Exactly. Exactly.  
16 So, you know, we should figure out a way moving  
17 forward if you're close to some sort of cap and  
18 trade, you know, with these tax credits in the same  
19 watershed where they can help the City departments,  
20 you know, whether it's a rec center, it's an urban  
21 garden, it's a nonprofit, you know, that private  
22 entity to get credit towards their storm water  
23 while enhancing and taking care of some of the  
24 City's responsibilities and growing our City, you

1 know, contributing to the 2035 greener plan.

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Like with  
3 developers we do have a fee in lieu program.  
4 Unfortunately not a lot of folks are taking  
5 advantage of that so we're looking at how can we  
6 improve that. We're also looking at actively  
7 looking at what we can do to maybe aggregate some  
8 projects or do like what you call -- what you call  
9 banking and getting folks to take advantage of  
10 that. So if it's -- you're building a development,  
11 it doesn't make sense maybe to do some there but  
12 you can do it in the same watershed or sewer shed.  
13 We're trying to figure out what makes sense and how  
14 we incentivize folks to do that and better green  
15 our City.

16 COUNCILMAN HENON: It is something that  
17 we're looking at.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We're actively  
19 pursuing it.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: I am extremely  
21 interested in any way possible to help be a part of  
22 that and promote it to some of the local businesses  
23 just because of my role with manufacturing and some  
24 of the industries that are in my District, it's a

1 challenge. It's a challenge for them and, you  
2 know, I know other members have experienced the  
3 same thing and I'm sure, you know, Councilwoman and  
4 some of her corridors, American Street, you know,  
5 have similar situations where, you know, they want  
6 to be responsive, all right, to the change and how  
7 we retain our storm water runoff safely, but do it  
8 by giving back to the local community.

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yeah.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: Chair recognizes  
11 Councilwoman Sanchez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank  
13 you. I just want to correct for the record because  
14 it was said a couple of times as Councilman Domb  
15 was speaking, while you take the debt after one  
16 year from your county, the debt is carried for 15  
17 years and, in fact, we don't do forgiveness. We  
18 write it off after 15 years. So that's part of our  
19 conversation around the CAP program and forgiveness  
20 for folks. I don't want people to leave here with  
21 the perception that after a year we don't bill them  
22 and that's not built in.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I  
24 apologize if I misspoke. You're absolutely

1 correct, Councilwoman.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: If that  
3 were the case, I wouldn't be arguing --

4 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So to be clear,  
5 the arrears stay on the property for 15 years and  
6 the 15th year they get written off. That's  
7 correct. But for accounting purposes, it's written  
8 off after a year.

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Right.  
10 Because we use that receivable to borrow. That's  
11 part of our asset base of borrowing. I think it's  
12 important for folks, and at some point we can do  
13 this throughout the year, for folks to be updated  
14 on our storm water management plan. Because I  
15 think as we look to build incentives the program is  
16 built on, you still got to collect a certain amount  
17 of money. And so as we incentivize certain groups,  
18 everyone still pays for it eventually because of  
19 the way the plan is spelled. Not a conversation  
20 for today, but I think at some point people -- we  
21 need to refresh that course because I do think that  
22 we have to provide additional incentive, but the  
23 way the plan is built out, we still have to collect  
24 a certain amount of numbers.



1                   Back in March of 2015, I had asked then  
2 commissioner to provide us with a lot of data  
3 regarding delinquent accounts. One of the things  
4 that I have appreciated working with the Water  
5 Department, when I first got elected 20 percent of  
6 the water that was in my District were at around 11  
7 and, you know, I take a lot of stock in the fact  
8 that we have worked really hard at bringing that  
9 debt down. So I'm going to update that list and  
10 send it over because I think in folks, in  
11 particular District council folks, we want to look  
12 at what our debt is, what are the age of accounts,  
13 the amounts. We roll out TAP. We're working with  
14 folks. I want to go back to the help program and  
15 we appreciate the expansion. Who monitors the work  
16 that's being done to ensure that we are minimizing  
17 how much work needs to be done? You mentioned that  
18 the average loan is \$10,000 and that seems quite  
19 high.

20                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I don't recall  
21 saying 10,000.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Yes, I  
23 thought somebody asked you and you said --

24                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: No, I'm sorry, I

1 think if I recall correctly the question today was  
2 how much is the average for the lead service line  
3 and I said 2,000. If I said 10,000, I apologize.  
4 I meant to say 2,000. In my head I said 2,000. So  
5 if 10,000 came out, I'm sorry. Yeah, that's a lot.  
6 No. No. No. No. That's about the price, give or  
7 take.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So the  
9 average help loan is about 2,000 when someone has a  
10 service problem?

11 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: For the water  
12 service. That's about the average price for the  
13 water service replacement, yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Okay.  
15 It's 2,000. That makes me feel a whole lot better.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Me too.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Who  
18 monitors that? Who are the contractors? Who  
19 monitors that?

20 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So the program  
21 -- we have approximately 20 to 25 plumbers that  
22 agree to the cost that we have outlined on -- it's  
23 a different way of contracting. So, you know, my  
24 direct contract -- but this is -- we list all of

1 the different things that you might need on a loan  
2 and we say how much we'll pay for that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: But you  
4 precertified how many --

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Well, no. So --  
6 and then we'll publish that and plumbers say yes, I  
7 agree to those terms, I agree to those costs.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So  
9 there's a list of active plumbers?

10 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yes. And so  
11 they have to get a contract with the City just like  
12 you would if -- it's a low bid contract. And we  
13 just rotate through the plumbers. When someone  
14 contacts us and says I want to get a help loan, we  
15 send an inspector out and the inspector looks at  
16 what the problem is, gives an estimate based on  
17 that cost and tells the property owner this is what  
18 the loan will be for. Sometimes there are changes  
19 in the field that have to be made so there might be  
20 a change order. But as a rule this is what the  
21 cost is going to be. And we'll assign a plumber if  
22 you want to move forward and sign the paperwork.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Is that  
24 a diverse list? That's a great incentive for a

1 small plumber. How many people do you have on that  
2 list?

3 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: About 25 -- 20  
4 to 25 -- 25 right now.

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Can you  
6 forward that list? I'd like to see like, again,  
7 local based, minority. I think that's --

8 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I think they're  
9 all -- I don't want to misspeak. I think all of  
10 them are local and we're always looking for  
11 opportunities to --

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What's our  
13 payment on cycle for them? Are they getting paid  
14 in 30, 60, 90 days? Because one of the challenges  
15 is always payment.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Exactly. I'm  
17 always trying to improve that. You know, one of  
18 the challenges of payment though is getting the  
19 accurate bill from the plumber. So there's that  
20 push and pull, but we work very hard to make sure  
21 they do get paid in a timely basis.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So  
23 what's the average?

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I couldn't quote

1 that. I would have to get that to you.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I would  
3 like to look -- so that's been one of the issues,  
4 you know, we have talked about that before around  
5 the participation in numbers. If you could forward  
6 to the chair what is the average payment schedule  
7 for your primes and your subs, that would be  
8 helpful. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Done,  
10 Council? Are you good?

11 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council  
13 President. One last question. It's an easy one.  
14 I'm pretty sure you're doing this. You're putting  
15 the DC forms in the bills when you send them out?  
16 They're income tax forms look like -- from the  
17 Revenue Department? Looks like this. Are they  
18 going out in the bills on a regular basis?

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I think it's --  
20 Joanne? The bill stuffers, do we know how  
21 frequently does that go out in the bill stuffer?  
22 Does it go out once a year? It's once a year.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Can we do it more  
24 frequently? Does it cost money to do it?

1                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: It costs money  
2 to do it and it has to be scheduled with other bill  
3 stuffers. I think this month my bill had two bill  
4 stuffers. But we can look into doing it. I'm not  
5 even sure -- that one we work with Revenue on. We  
6 work with different departments for different bill  
7 stuffers.

8                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: And especially we go  
9 to electronic billing. It's easy. It won't cost  
10 any more. It's just putting a message on the bill.

11                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Right. A  
12 message in the bill can be a challenge because we  
13 recall the real estate available on the bill. But,  
14 yes, we do look at that opportunity.

15                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Whatever you can do  
16 to make sure we get the word out on a consistent  
17 basis, because the more times we inform people the  
18 more people apply.

19                   COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yep. Yep. And  
20 we have those signs, I can tell you, all over our  
21 offices as well. We have posted them on the  
22 entrance to the ladies room. I don't know about  
23 the mens room.

24                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: This is a method to

1 help those people --

2 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: That's right.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: -- who can't pay  
4 their water bills to pay the bills?

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yep.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you very much  
7 for your testimony today. Thank you, Mr.  
8 President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
10 Councilman.

11 Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

12 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr.  
13 President.

14 Commissioner, just to have a little  
15 clarity. So I missed the very beginning or the  
16 start of this hearing. So Councilwoman Sanchez  
17 just asked about the price of lead replacement. Is  
18 that the lateral that we're talking about?

19 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: The lead service  
20 line. So for water, not the drainage. Not the  
21 sewer.

22 COUNCILMAN HENON: Because that's a  
23 little bit --

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Oh, yeah. Yes.

1 Yes. Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: I just wanted to get  
3 clarity. And the \$10,000, I would -- you know,  
4 because there's been conversation back and forth  
5 with lead and, you know, a whole -- I think  
6 intermingling conversations. The SMIP program, is  
7 the minimum SMIP grant \$10,000? Maybe that's what  
8 you were thinking?

9 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: I don't know. I  
10 don't think --

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: I'm not  
12 aware of a minimum.

13 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yeah, I'm not  
14 aware of a minimum.

15 COUNCILMAN HENON: Speaking of the SMIP  
16 program. I'm a big fan of it. I'm a huge  
17 proponent of making sure it's funded and that it  
18 grows, because I think it also helps, you know,  
19 change the behavior in our storm water -- in  
20 development here in the City of Philadelphia.

21 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: We  
22 wholeheartedly agree.

23 COUNCILMAN HENON: And we had offline  
24 conversations about, you know, where we started,



1 where we are now and the amount of participants  
2 which I think we'll follow up on and I won't ask  
3 that today. But can you just, you know, briefly so  
4 we can end your hearing and you can go do -- you  
5 can go be Commissioner, like how many participants  
6 have -- you know, have you seen an increase in the  
7 SMIP program from its inception to this year, and  
8 what kind of outreach have we been doing as to the  
9 Water Department? Are we targeting, you know,  
10 those who have seen a drastic increase in  
11 percentage of their storm water and, you know,  
12 reaching out to them saying hey, look, just want to  
13 be a reminder we do have this SMIP -- you know,  
14 SMIP program that's available if you actually, you  
15 know, fill out the paperwork and comply with its  
16 eligibilities?

17 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: So we have --  
18 I'm happy to say that we have increased the budget  
19 for our SMIP GARP program from 10 million to 15  
20 million dollars. And we're looking to maybe  
21 increase it as we go forward because it is a very  
22 good, cost effective way to get green storm water  
23 infrastructure. To date we have issued about 66  
24 grants, SMIP grants, and -- so it gets us, you

1 know, a lot of green acres at a cost effective  
2 price. The outreach, you know, we're always trying  
3 to get the word out through many avenues. Joanne  
4 Dahm's team is very good at getting the word out  
5 about all sorts of programs that are available,  
6 this being one of them. And we're open to  
7 suggestions if you have any ideas of what else we  
8 can do for sure.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: How about the  
10 manufacturing industry, has there been -- has there  
11 been or can there be a little more kind of, you  
12 know, priority focus on reaching out to them and  
13 seeing if they would participate a little bit more  
14 into the program? Not even a little bit more.  
15 Just encouraging them to participate.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: And, you know,  
17 one of the things we're trying to do is on American  
18 Street, which is a Street Department program or  
19 project, we're looking to see if we can't create  
20 some incentives for some of those businesses to  
21 connect to the green storm water infrastructure.

22 COUNCILMAN HENON: You know, and I had  
23 made mention of American Street, you know,  
24 regarding Councilwoman Sanchez. I mean, there's a

1 perfect opportunity as a pilot, right? Take a look  
2 -- you have a corridor, you have a street. I think  
3 it's a lot more contained -- it's contained, right?  
4 So you have a little more control of incentivizing  
5 there and you have a lot more flexibility of making  
6 something happen. I am, you know, interested in  
7 getting some of the feedback on the participants in  
8 the SMIP program out of those who have applied  
9 already and received grants, those who have  
10 applied, moving forward what percentage of them or  
11 how many of them are manufacturing the light  
12 industry because that really does kind of  
13 benchmarks -- I mean, the overall is the capture of  
14 storm water, change of behavior. But it also kind  
15 of benchmarks where we are as a City when it comes  
16 to a certain sector of business.

17 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Yep. And we  
18 want to, you know, keep them here.

19 COUNCILMAN HENON: You bet. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
21 Councilman. That concludes the questions for  
22 today. I want to thank you all very much for your  
23 testimony.

24 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY: Thank you.

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LABUDA: Thank you  
2 so very much.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next up will  
4 be Streets.

5 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
6 President Clarke and members of City Council. I'm  
7 Carlton Williams, Commissioner of the Streets  
8 Department. Joining me today is Richard Montanez,  
9 Deputy Commissioner for transportation of the  
10 Streets Department, and Keith Warren, Deputy  
11 Commissioner of Sanitation, Chris Newman, Deputy  
12 Commissioner for Administration.

13 I am pleased to provide testimony on  
14 Streets fiscal year 2018 operating budget. Streets  
15 Department is excited to advance our ambitious  
16 agenda this upcoming fiscal year as we move forward  
17 with multiple strategic initiatives and  
18 successfully manage recent significant challenges.  
19 To achieve our objectives we are requesting a  
20 general fund appropriation of \$137,107,424 and an  
21 all appropriation funding of 213.9 million for  
22 fiscal year 2018.

23 I would like to take a moment to  
24 briefly summarize the basis for this request under

1 the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Keith Warren,  
2 our largest division, Sanitation, is taking a key  
3 leadership role in the City's zero waste initiative  
4 with the goal of diverting all waste from  
5 conventional landfills and incinerators. This  
6 objective will be achieved through close  
7 coordination with the zero waste and litter cabinet  
8 and a systematic assessment of alternative methods  
9 and waste processing technologies that promise  
10 long-term operational, economic and environmental  
11 sustainability. As this initiative progresses,  
12 Streets will continue to provide the exemplary  
13 curbside trash and collection services residents  
14 have come to expect. This past year alone, Streets  
15 collected 241,832 tons of curbside trash for the  
16 two quarters of this fiscal year and has maintained  
17 the City's curbside recycling rate and recycling  
18 tonnage at significantly higher levels despite  
19 considerable challenges in the composition of the  
20 recycling stream. We have also reached a milestone  
21 completing our 10th annual Philly Spring Clean Up  
22 earlier this April and continue the trend  
23 record-setting levels of community and volunteer  
24 participation each year. Sanitation's Philadelphia

1 More Beautiful Committee is expanding its outreach  
2 through partnership with community and business  
3 organizations and we are looking to continue to  
4 increase the number of convenience centers to  
5 facilitate resident disposal of materials.

6 Our transportation division continues  
7 to embark on two critical important strategic  
8 initiatives: Vision Zero and significantly  
9 expanded roadway and resurfacing to 131 miles  
10 annually. Deputy Commissioner Montanez is  
11 directing the efforts, taking a strategic approach  
12 to the City's overall safe and complete streets  
13 transportation network, including significant  
14 infrastructure improvements and multi-mobile and  
15 comprehensive focus on traffic safety. Through  
16 close collaboration and oversight by the Office of  
17 Transportation and Infrastructure Systems, we are  
18 aligning our transportation activities towards  
19 Vision Zero objectives, including multi-mobile  
20 focused transportation public works programs, more  
21 strategic right-of-way management approaches,  
22 continued integration of traffic signals to our  
23 centralized traffic operations center, increased  
24 LED street lighting and significantly improved

1 street conditions. In addition, our plans to  
2 expand roadway surfacing to 131 annual miles will  
3 not only enhance the condition of the quality of  
4 our streets, but will also avoid much more costly  
5 full-scale reconstruction which will become  
6 necessary if we do not achieve a state of good  
7 repair over the next several years.

8 I would also like to take this  
9 opportunity to thank all of our Streets employees,  
10 as well as our partner City departments, including  
11 Parks and Recreation, Water, CLIP and Fleet  
12 Management on successfully providing snow and ice  
13 removal services this winter season, particularly  
14 the most significant winter event during mid-March  
15 which a total of six inches fell and extremely icy  
16 conditions as a result of falling temperatures.  
17 The Streets Department and its employees continue  
18 to vigorously pursue our mission of clean, green  
19 and safe streets despite significant challenges in  
20 recent years, including an aging transportation  
21 infrastructure and vehicle fleet and a volatile  
22 recycling market. We have done a remarkable job  
23 fulfilling our mission and now employees to achieve  
24 success on a multiple priority objective I have

1 outlined in this testimony. The budget proposed  
2 here allows the Streets Department to begin to  
3 address these strategic priorities, while also  
4 continuing to provide our core services. We  
5 therefore request your favorable consideration of  
6 this budget request and we thank you for the  
7 opportunity to testify before you today. The  
8 deputy staff and I are happy to answer any  
9 questions that you may have.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you  
11 very much, Commissioner. Good afternoon. A couple  
12 of questions and then I got to run out. I'm late  
13 for a meeting. You state in your five-year plan,  
14 page 281, that the total weight of trash collection  
15 is decreasing. Can you tell me what's going on  
16 there?

17 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. A couple  
18 of things. In terms of global economic issues,  
19 we're seeing a reduced amount of tonnage that we're  
20 collecting curbside. A number of things. We call  
21 it the evolving ten where recycling materials that  
22 we're collecting is also decreasing simultaneously.  
23 Manufacturers and industry is using less -- much  
24 more smarter packaging and material to generate,



1 and therefore as a result we're seeing less waste  
2 that we're collecting at the curbside. All other  
3 percentages remain the same, we're seeing less  
4 tonnage both in recycling and rubbish collection  
5 services. So we're happy to see that as well.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: What do you  
7 mean by that, when you say your percentages remain  
8 the same?

9 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: So if tonnage  
10 reduces for trash and recycling reduces at the same  
11 time, the percentage of the reduction remains the  
12 same. So we have a diversion rate currently of  
13 about 20 percent.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 20 percent  
15 reflects the recycling material?

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Correct. Yes.  
19 So we're still --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Everything  
21 is going down, recycling. Interesting. You think  
22 it has to do with packaging?

23 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: A lot of it has  
24 to do -- lightweight material packaging that we're

1 actually collecting curbside as well. We like to  
2 take credit for some of the initiatives that we  
3 have initiated. We have also started multifamily  
4 recycling initiatives that requires landlords to  
5 participate and increase recycling. We have seen a  
6 market in that area which landlords don't recycle  
7 as much as residential houses do because there's no  
8 ownership. So we began to address those issues by  
9 reaching out, doing education and outreach to  
10 increase those numbers as well.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Let me ask  
12 you this question. This may not -- to some degree  
13 may have something to do with your Department.  
14 Earlier conversations about condominium trash  
15 collection. What level are you guys involved in  
16 those conversations about if and how we can  
17 potentially address that?

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Over the last  
19 couple of years I think condominium trash  
20 collection has been an issue in terms of what we  
21 collect and what we offer residential collections.  
22 We have viewed this as we offer this service.  
23 Condominiums are individual property owners and we  
24 provide this -- we offer, I don't say provide, we

1 offer the same service that we collect -- we offer  
2 residents, which is once a week trash collection.  
3 As you know, Council President, that is not  
4 feasible for many of our larger condominium  
5 locations, especially in Center City where they  
6 have over 300 units and therefore they require a  
7 private collection service to be able to satisfy  
8 their collection needs. So I think that's where  
9 we've been at issue.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So what's  
11 the status?

12 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I don't know  
13 what the current --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I know I  
15 shouldn't have brought this question up.

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: The current  
17 status from our Department is if we are able to  
18 provide the service of once a week we sign them on  
19 to the program and we have collected about 70  
20 locations. Keith? Yeah, 70 locations that we can  
21 provide that once a week collection service.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And any  
23 other conversations related to the issue,  
24 particularly the larger having to deal with what,

1 some sort of credit or --

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I haven't been  
3 privy to those conversations.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Not your  
5 shop, right?

6 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Not right now.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's good  
8 for you. Very challenging decision that has to be  
9 made or maybe not have to be made at some point in  
10 time.

11 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.  
13 Illegal dumping. It's real problematic in a lot of  
14 sections and the question remains what are we going  
15 to do about it and is there a reasonable approach?  
16 We had the police officers -- Police Department in  
17 here. There was some conversations about that.  
18 Obviously you can't have a cop going around and,  
19 you know, trying to fine people. We did pass -- I  
20 think we just introduced -- I don't know if we  
21 passed that bill yet, requiring on refuse as a  
22 result of development where there had to be a  
23 disposal plan -- actually, I think we held the bill  
24 to make a couple of changes because I know that

1 this is a problem for you all. You are -- I guess  
2 on the larger lots to some degree you're  
3 responsible, your department versus L&I, am I  
4 correct?

5 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. Well, we  
6 work with L&I and CLIP on those issues, but illegal  
7 dumping usually falls under our jurisdiction, yes.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Who imposes  
9 the lien?

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: If there was a  
11 lien that was imposed it would be Licenses and  
12 Inspections because our Department doesn't have the  
13 authority to impose liens.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You don't do  
15 liens?

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Right.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How is that  
18 lien imposed?

19 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: It's usually  
20 imposed through a notice of violation where the  
21 property owner is given the violation notice to  
22 either move and comply within a certain period of  
23 time and if not, it's then taken to court. The  
24 court then imposes a fine and could be significant.

1 If the fine is not paid over a period of time, that  
2 lien is then placed on the property owner.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But the lien  
4 itself -- because if you all remove the debris,  
5 there's a cost associated with that for workforce  
6 and equipment and all that and I guess dumping.

7 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: CLIP also  
8 enforces notices or violations so when they dump on  
9 a lot, for example, CLIP will issue an NOV, have  
10 the material removed and the cost of remediation is  
11 then assessed to the property owner. The property  
12 owner again has not paid or complied, they're taken  
13 to court and then a lien is then placed on the  
14 property for the amount.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The only one  
16 that can impose the lien is L&I?

17 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. And CLIP  
18 is kind of affiliated --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm just  
20 trying to find out how it gets reported to the cost  
21 of the lien. It's unfortunate the property owners  
22 get these because they're not really responsible to  
23 a large degree to the short dumping, but somebody  
24 has to pay the freight.

1 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: That's correct.

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: I think the  
3 Commissioner has tried to clarify NOVs versus  
4 Streets Department gives out CVNs. So NOVs have a  
5 little more -- they're weighted a little more and  
6 they have a lot more, I think, authority, you know,  
7 to -- well, they're the only thing that can  
8 actually be liened when it comes to the violation  
9 notices. So the Department, they'll send it over  
10 to -- when it goes to court, the Law Department  
11 will actually put the -- you know, ask for the lien  
12 to be put on, but it will be half of L&I as an  
13 issuance and failed for compliance with the NOV.  
14 So I think it all starts with the issuance of a  
15 Notice of Violation, NOV, and then the process  
16 moves towards, you know, the actual liens. I mean,  
17 is that correct?

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: That is  
19 correct. Yes, Council.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm just  
21 trying to figure out who gets the bill. So we  
22 reclaim -- because a lot of these properties are  
23 over in -- the reference earlier, the Temple  
24 University area. When these properties get sold

1 and they're snatching them up and at the closing,  
2 do we get or revenue -- our cost of the violation  
3 notices or the removal of the debris, do we get  
4 that revenue at the closing?

5 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Understood.

6 Yes --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We did in  
8 the early phases, we did attach liens on the demos  
9 and some of the clearances of lots.

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Right.  
11 Absolutely. The councilman is right that the Law  
12 Department actually is the entity, is responsible  
13 for actually taking them to court and collecting  
14 the liens. The initial processes are through CLIP  
15 or L&I.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.  
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr.  
19 President. Good afternoon, everybody. First just  
20 want to mention that my office, and me in  
21 particular because it was in my area, have had some  
22 interaction with your right-of-way unit because of  
23 developers sometimes illegally blocking sidewalks,  
24 that kind of thing. And I just want to give props



1 to Pat O'Donnell and that unit that has been very  
2 helpful. I don't know if Pat is around, but tell  
3 him that I said nice things about it just in case.

4 COMMISSION WILLIAMS: I will. I will  
5 forward it to him.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because he has  
7 been very helpful because we've had a lot of  
8 construction in the area, sometimes the  
9 construction folks don't do what they're supposed  
10 to do in terms of keeping sidewalks clean or  
11 whatever.

12 The other issue I just wanted to bring  
13 up, it's something I brought up at other hearings,  
14 is the issue of resurfacing, particularly the time  
15 frame sometimes that it seems to take. I have seen  
16 where it seems to me at least and to other people  
17 an inordinate amount of time for the whole job to  
18 be completely. I know you have to mill and then  
19 they cut around the sewer, the manholes, right, and  
20 then they resurface them. Did I basically describe  
21 that right?

22 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. Pretty  
23 much.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I noticed we did

1 some research in some other cities. Like for  
2 Boston they said the whole process takes three  
3 days. Chicago claims, claims, okay, it takes one  
4 to two weeks. I know it's -- I know in my area  
5 there's been times where it's been well over a  
6 month before the whole thing is completed,  
7 particularly when it's milled. You know, cars  
8 drive over it, little pebbles pop up and people  
9 complaining their cars get chipped and all that  
10 good stuff. So has that been looked at? Is there  
11 any possible way to -- like, for example, when a  
12 street is milled, why can't whoever is next to do  
13 the -- around the manholes like come in right away?  
14 Sometimes it just sits there for a while, a week or  
15 two. And then after the manhole is cut around it's  
16 maybe some few weeks before the surfacing is done.  
17 That's what I have seen.

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. Thank you  
19 for your comment, Councilman. We certainly are  
20 working to improve that proces, and I'll let Deputy  
21 Commissioner Montanez talk briefly about what we're  
22 doing and what steps we're taking to try to improve  
23 it.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Good

1 afternoon, Councilman. Richard Montanez, Deputy  
2 Commissioner for Streets Department. What we're  
3 doing -- previously we depended on the utilities to  
4 actually do the manhole adjustments so we had to  
5 wait for them. We're currently negotiating with  
6 them so they can be part of one major contract. As  
7 soon as the contractor finishes milling, the same  
8 contractor will be responsible for manhole  
9 adjustment. So therefore all the onus would be on  
10 the single contractor to turn that street back to  
11 the Streets Department for us to resurface it. Our  
12 goal is to try to get it done within 10 days.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: 10 days. All  
14 right. That sounds good. All right. That's  
15 ongoing -- like for this season is it reasonable --

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: For this  
17 season we have Water Department, we have PECO and  
18 we got Bell currently under contract. We're  
19 currently working with PGW to jump in the same  
20 contract.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So you're saying  
22 once the street is milled -- and I know weather  
23 comes into this and all. Once the street is  
24 milled, you see it be totally resurfaced in around

1 10 days?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Within  
3 10 days is our goal.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. That  
5 sounds good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
7 Councilman.

8 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. Good afternoon. I have a couple quick  
11 questions for you. Ballpark, how many miles of  
12 streets currently are overdue to be paved?

13 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Overdue to be  
14 paved? Currently we're on course to pave about 75  
15 miles this year at the end of this fiscal year.  
16 And I'll let, again, Deputy Commissioner Montanez  
17 clarify where we are in terms of overdue.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me ask another  
19 question before we answer that. I was told there's  
20 2,500 miles of streets in the City, is that  
21 correct?

22 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: That's correct,  
23 yes.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Go ahead. I'm

1 sorry.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Thank  
3 you, Councilman. Richard Montanez, Deputy  
4 Commissioner. I would get back to you on how many  
5 streets actually are in poor condition. We do keep  
6 a record for -- like the Commissioner said, our  
7 goal is to get 131 miles done per year. But I  
8 would have to get back to you to give you that  
9 answer.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: If you could get  
11 back. I heard a rumor, just so you know where I'm  
12 coming from, that 1,100 miles of streets needs to  
13 be paved and that concerns me because like 41, 42  
14 percent of our streets need to be repaved. So  
15 that's why I want to know what the exact number is.

16 And the other question I had, a  
17 previous streets commissioner stated that we should  
18 be paving 130 miles a year to maintain our streets  
19 in good repair. I realize we have limited  
20 resources. Do you agree with that 130 number?

21 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, that's our  
22 target number requests for the -- over the next  
23 seven years of using capital money to reach that  
24 goal. We believe that's the number and the target

1 that we need to be at for it to maintain the  
2 streets in a state of good repair.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Have we ever done an  
4 analysis -- I don't know what your measurement  
5 numbers, is it per mile maybe of what it cost us in  
6 labor, fringe benefits, overhead, equipment,  
7 everything, what it costs per mile to pave versus  
8 what it would cost us per mile to contract out?

9 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Councilman, a  
10 couple of years ago there was an analysis done to  
11 determine whether or not it's cheaper to actually  
12 outsource or perform in-house paving and we were  
13 very competitive, in fact slightly cheaper than  
14 many contractors when it came down to that.  
15 Obviously those are outdated numbers and certainly  
16 we would like an opportunity to look at realtime  
17 numbers. But certainly back then we were very  
18 competitive and I think this was about two or three  
19 years ago. Deputy Commissioner Montanez has those  
20 numbers and I'm sure he will be happy to share  
21 those with you at this time.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Two  
23 years ago when we compared, we were \$14.35 per yard  
24 for City work versus \$14.46 per yard for the

1 contractor work.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Did you take into  
3 account the fringe benefits of the City that have  
4 climbed now to 87 percent?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: When we  
6 did the analysis a couple years ago, we did take  
7 into account overhead fringe benefits cap and  
8 everything into our cost.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Can I ask you to do a  
10 quick back-of-the-envelope analysis today just to  
11 see where we are to determine what's the best  
12 option for us?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Sure.  
14 We would be happy to update our numbers.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you. The other  
16 question is, how is the implementation -- I know  
17 Mayor Kenny had an executive order on, I guess,  
18 Vision Zero. How has that impacted your operations  
19 and are there any challenges that you see from that  
20 executive order?

21 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: One of the  
22 things that we were very happy to receive was the  
23 additional funding and resources for paving which  
24 is supportive of Vision Zero and many of our

1 transportation multi-module initiatives so that we  
2 were able to get additional crew to be able to try  
3 to reach that goal which is largely a part of our  
4 Vision Zero initiative. There are others that  
5 we're working on as well. There is a plan that is  
6 expected to be released and certainly we're looking  
7 forward to working with Otis to help implement  
8 those plans and our partners. But resources is  
9 what's key and we're happy to be able to get  
10 additional resources.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I know the Mayor  
12 committed to install 30 miles of new bike lanes.  
13 Are we living up to that commitment?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So when  
15 it comes to bike lanes, we try to take advantage of  
16 every opportunity, including resurface whenever we  
17 can. As you know, we've reached the low-hanging  
18 fruits. We went and got them. Currently the City  
19 has over 400 miles of bike lanes. We're looking to  
20 improve our network and connect the network, so  
21 whenever we're resurfacing, we do take a look  
22 whether we can take advantage and install  
23 additional bike lines.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Last question.



1 Simple one. I'm told Henry Avenue and Lincoln  
2 Drive are slated for complete rebuild at some  
3 point. And my overall question is that PennDOT  
4 study cars operating over the speed limits on those  
5 and other roads, and they found on Henry Avenue 50  
6 percent travel five to 14 miles over 35 miles per  
7 hour, Kelly Drive is 55 percent over 15 to 24  
8 miles, and Lincoln Drive similar numbers. Are  
9 there any devices that we can install that inform  
10 people -- sometimes you go on the road, you see  
11 it's flashing you're at 70 miles an hour, you  
12 should be at 45 miles an hour?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes,  
14 Councilman. As you know, the City of Philadelphia  
15 piloted with PennDOT some of those feedback signs  
16 currently on Roosevelt Boulevard. We do have a  
17 Lincoln Drive capital investment project out there  
18 which we are going to try to improve the asphalt,  
19 put in high-friction asphalt in. Also put other  
20 traffic calming measures, such as signage, line  
21 striping, feedback signs wherever possible. We are  
22 partnering up with PennDOT on Henry Avenue to do  
23 similar treatments there. Henry Avenue is actually  
24 being bid out and managed by PennDOT. It's two

1 projects. One is north of Wissahickon Creek, the  
2 other one is south of Wissahickon Creek. And for  
3 Kelly Drive we did implement the first speed on red  
4 signals. So if you're speeding 10 miles above the  
5 speed limit, it actually triggers red lights for  
6 you.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you very  
8 much for your testimony today. Thank you.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Thank  
10 you, Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman.

13 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
14 Councilman.

15 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chairman. Good afternoon.

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
19 Councilwoman.

20 COUNCILMAN BASS: What was that if  
21 you're coming down Kelly Drive, it what? What was  
22 it you just said?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So when  
24 you come down at Kelly Drive at Fountain, if you're

1 going 10 miles above the speed limit the lights  
2 actually trigger red.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Not that it would  
4 apply to me but, you know, for others who are  
5 listening and watching. Oh, good to know. Very  
6 good to know.

7 I had a couple of questions. No truck  
8 parking. And first of all, I want to thank you all  
9 for being here today. No truck parking has been an  
10 issue in just not just the Eighth District, but I  
11 know in many other districts there have been a  
12 number of no truck parking ordinances that have  
13 been introduced. I know Councilman Squilla and  
14 also I think Councilman Parker and numerous other  
15 District Council members have introduced a  
16 significant number of no truck parking ordinances  
17 in the last six months, year, whatever, and there  
18 does not appear to be a strategic approach by the  
19 Streets Department in terms of how do we address  
20 this issue -- I was watching the news, I think it  
21 was either last weekend or maybe even the weekend  
22 before, and there was an accident on a Saturday  
23 night on Roosevelt Boulevard with a truck that was  
24 parked on the Boulevard. It was parked, quote,

1 unquote, air quotes, legally. But it probably in  
2 my estimation was not a good place for that tractor  
3 trailer to be. You know, two people were killed in  
4 that accident and the driver, again, was parked  
5 legally. He was, you know, at a local hotel, I  
6 guess, as an overnight. But that's not a truck  
7 stop. Roosevelt Boulevard is not a truck stop.  
8 Ogontz Avenue, lower Ogontz near Lindley Avenue in  
9 my District is not a truck stop, but it looks like  
10 a truck stop. If you went there right now you  
11 would see six to eight tractor trailers parked at  
12 that location at this very moment. I can pretty  
13 much guarantee it. We have worked with the Police  
14 Department. We have some signs, you know, put up  
15 that say no truck parking on certain hours, but it  
16 seems as if they just ignore it. And so my  
17 question is, how are we going to strategically  
18 approach what is becoming more and more of an  
19 issue?

20 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I'll make a  
21 comment and then turn it to Deputy Commissioner  
22 Montanez. Certainly what happened on the Boulevard  
23 was a tragedy of mammoth proportions and we  
24 certainly feel for the families who lost their

1 lives. I'll let Deputy Commissioner Montanez talk  
2 briefly about our plans and where we are in terms  
3 of truck enforcement and truck parking signs.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Good  
5 afternoon, Councilwoman. Rich Montanez, Deputy  
6 Commissioner. So we are currently working with  
7 Otis and DVRPC. There's actually a truck task  
8 force that's created. As you may or may not know,  
9 a lot of the problems happen when New Jersey,  
10 especially South Jersey, close all their parking  
11 lots to trucks.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I did not know  
13 that. So what happened?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: A lot of  
15 truckers used to park their trucks -- their rigs  
16 over in New Jersey and then come back to  
17 Philadelphia. That's how they would travel. All  
18 those parking lots, if you want to call them, have  
19 currently been closed in Southern Jersey, so  
20 therefore it's creating a problem in the City. One  
21 of the things we're looking at and we're leading a  
22 study and that's how we got the trucking industry,  
23 how do we address this issue and how do we direct  
24 them. What we found out is that most of these

1 truckers get paid a certain stipend to park their  
2 trucks overnight in certain areas. So if they  
3 don't use that stipend, that's just money that  
4 they're keeping in their pocket.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Oh, I see.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Once we  
7 have our preliminary study done, we do want to come  
8 through Council and discourse preliminary study and  
9 see what the action should be.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So they essentially  
11 get, you know, funding to be able to compensate  
12 them to park their truck somewhere legally?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: That is  
14 what the trucking industry is telling us.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So if they park it  
16 on the street, they can pocket that extra couple  
17 dollars.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Some of  
19 them get somewhere around \$100 to \$150 per day.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So they can hold on  
21 to that \$100, \$150 if they don't pay to park?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Correct.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. All right.  
24 So how are we attempting to remedy that here in the

1 City with the truck task force?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So we're  
3 looking to go see where -- with the help of PIDC,  
4 Philadelphia Regional Port Authority and all that,  
5 we can create areas for truckers to park. We have  
6 a large port. We realize the truckers are going to  
7 be here. Our revenues depend on our ports, so  
8 therefore, how do we best assist that part of the  
9 City.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. All right.  
11 So we're actively working on it. When do we think  
12 we'll see some remedy? When will we have some  
13 relief in our neighborhoods that we won't have all  
14 of these --

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: We  
16 should have preliminary findings in six months and  
17 then we're welcome to come and talk to all of you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So within  
19 the next six months. Before the year is over we'll  
20 hear back from you.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good. Another  
23 question regarding streets and the coordination of  
24 utility services. So when we have a street being

1 dug up, you know, there's, you know, water that  
2 needs to be addressed, there's electricity -- you  
3 know, electrical lines, all sorts of stuff  
4 underground. How do we coordinate between agencies  
5 to make sure that that's -- every thing is  
6 happening while the street is open? Because one of  
7 the things that I'll constantly come across is that  
8 we'll go in and we'll fix one thing, and then  
9 someone else will come along a month or two later  
10 and do something different, you know. And then  
11 there's a third -- you know, so first maybe we just  
12 may repave a street and then we may go open it up  
13 because oh, well, we forgot we need to do -- PECO  
14 needed to do something with the electrical lines  
15 underground. And then we come back again because  
16 maybe PGW wants to address some issues underground  
17 with the piping. So how do we coordinate that and  
18 how can we better coordinate those issues?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So the  
20 Streets Department has bi-monthly meetings with all  
21 the utilities where we discuss capital investment  
22 project, including what the Streets Department is  
23 resurfacing. So we would try to coordinate the  
24 utilities as best we can. If the Water Department



1 is coming in next year into an area but PGW is not  
2 coming in for two years later, we try to coordinate  
3 their capital projects so that everybody is in  
4 there at the same time. We do one rebuild of the  
5 street at the single time and try not to do  
6 multiple. Unfortunately sometimes that doesn't  
7 quite work and there are emergencies. So that's  
8 where it comes in. But most of the time we try to  
9 coordinate everything. We do realize this is a  
10 drain on our resources.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: If it's an  
12 emergency and just by the -- you know, by the word  
13 emergency you understand that, you know,  
14 coordination is not really possible. So if there's  
15 an emergency, that's where you will see that the  
16 coordination doesn't exist?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Correct.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: But otherwise --

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ:  
20 Otherwise we try to coordinate all our capital  
21 investment projects, including we give them a look  
22 ahead of what the Streets Department is trying to  
23 accomplish by resurfacing in the next three years.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All right. Very

1 good.

2                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Councilwoman,  
3 if I can add also, we use a technology called GEFIS  
4 to be able to kind of highlight what projects are  
5 upcoming so there's a computerized system that  
6 allows us to show when paving schedule is going to  
7 take place, when a PGW, a PECO project is expected  
8 to take place so that we can coordinate that so the  
9 street is not repaved and followed up and dug up  
10 and opened up for other services. So again, as  
11 Deputy Commissioner Montanez said earlier, unless  
12 it's an emergency, the system helps us coordinate  
13 those activities among multiple agencies so that  
14 the street can be finished at one time.

15                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good. Speed  
16 bumps. Constantly, constantly -- you know, we  
17 drive way too fast in the City of Philadelphia.  
18 You know, it's a motor raceway. How do we get more  
19 speed bumps, more traffic calming? We introduced a  
20 bill that was passed in this Council, I think it  
21 was in 2014, which added about -- maybe roughly say  
22 three-and-a-half million dollars to street calming  
23 efforts, speed bumps, you know, pedestrian safety,  
24 sidewalks, that kind of thing. Can you give us

1 some idea of where we are with the constant  
2 requests for speed bumps and the fact that we  
3 probably won't be able to fulfill all of those  
4 requests, but how do we give people a measure of  
5 safety on their block in their neighborhood where  
6 people are just driving through like they're on the  
7 expressway, like they're on, you know, the  
8 Boulevard or someplace on a -- a small residential  
9 one-way street? How do we address that?

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Speed cushions  
11 have been an effective tool to reduce and slow down  
12 traffic. In fact, over the last month or so we  
13 were in the process of installing 50 new locations  
14 throughout the City of Philadelphia in areas where  
15 there's high pedestrian traffic and we have had  
16 issues where there were concerns. We have worked  
17 with many of the Council members' offices to  
18 identify where those areas are located. So we want  
19 to continue to work with Vision Zero and Otis to  
20 make sure that we're putting them in locations  
21 where they're needed immediately as a priority, and  
22 then continue again as a part of the larger term  
23 plan for transportation to make sure that that's a  
24 part of our process. Deputy Commissioner Montanez

1 also is working closely on it as well and he can  
2 tell you what our long-term plans are in terms of  
3 speed cushions.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So our  
5 current plan is, we have been deploying what we  
6 call removable speed cushions. They're actually  
7 recycling rubber. So our goal is to deploy as many  
8 of these as we can, and like the Commissioner said,  
9 we have 50 locations we're trying to get to within  
10 this year, purchase more and then continue the  
11 program that way. Then eventually once the  
12 community gets used to them, change them to regular  
13 asphalt speed cushions. Something that will last  
14 us longer. The rubber speed cushions are set to  
15 last five years out there on the street before we  
16 will have to recycle them again.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All right. Very  
18 good. Very good. Because, again -- well, it's  
19 good to know that you're putting in, you said,  
20 about 50.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: About 50  
22 locations this year.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: This year. Okay.  
24 Do you have a list of where those locations will

1 be, of what those locations are?

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can you provide  
4 that to the Chair?

5 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That will be great.  
7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
9 Councilwoman. We'll get right back to you.

10 Commissioner, just to follow-up with  
11 what the Councilwoman started to talk about on a  
12 few things here. But, one, you should tell  
13 everybody, you know, your budget coming in here  
14 today is 138 million, but your overall budget with  
15 state and city and other grants are in excess of  
16 200 million dollars, is that correct?

17 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

18 COUNCILMAN HENON: So we're doing a lot  
19 of things. I know your responsiveness as much as  
20 you possibly can, all right, with the resources we  
21 do have but there's a lot going on and I have a lot  
22 going on with -- you know, with I-95. Just happen  
23 to be the Direct with I-95. Working with your  
24 chief engineer and, you know, they're doing an

1    incredible job with the amount of, I think, the  
2    magnitude of the projects that are going on, I mean  
3    thankfully.  It's been unattended to for many, many  
4    years so I appreciate that and being responsive to  
5    the Councilwoman's question regarding street paving  
6    and coordination with other departments.  It  
7    seems -- you know, I have had a few issues, but it  
8    seems like the Streets Department coordinates with  
9    other utilities in the City, right?  So who again  
10  -- because I missed the answer to the Councilwoman,  
11  like who coordinates the interdepartmental  
12  coordination?  Is it the Streets Department?

13                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:  Yes, it falls  
14  under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner  
15  Montanez.

16                   COUNCILMAN HENON:  Okay.  So Deputy  
17  Commissioner you coordinate with -- and that does  
18  include PGW?

19                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ:  Yes.

20                   COUNCILMAN HENON:  That's great.  So we  
21  have each other, you know, coordinating with the  
22  departments, with each other, Water Department,  
23  PGW, Streets Department and any other emergency  
24  type of, you know, situation.  How about PennDOT?

1 Okay. So PennDOT -- I mean, correct me if I'm  
2 wrong, PennDOT doesn't coordinate with us when  
3 they're going -- they're scheduled. We coordinate  
4 with them, but they never coordinate with us. So I  
5 have had two incidents in my District where you're  
6 doing your job, Deputy, thank you for that, all  
7 right, but PennDOT never told us that they were  
8 going to come back in and undo what we just paved.  
9 So I'm sure this isn't the first time you're  
10 hearing that. But is that a consistent issue and  
11 concern for you or have we rectified that?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Related  
13 to the I-95 reconstruction?

14 COUNCILMAN HENON: It is in and around.  
15 All right. But there was one that was nowhere  
16 near. All right. I have Frankford Avenue. That  
17 wasn't near 95. Frankford Avenue, Streets  
18 Department did its work. I think you coordinate  
19 with other utilities. PGW and we were doing some  
20 work and then PennDOT, I don't know what they were  
21 doing, but they tore it back up.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ:  
23 Frankford Avenue is actually resurfaced -- it's a  
24 state highway, so it was resurfaced by PennDOT. A

1 month after PennDOT finished, PGW came in and said  
2 that they had an emergency repair which was several  
3 blocks long. PGW was then forced to mill and  
4 resurface the entire road curb to curb per PennDOT  
5 rules and regulations. So we do try to coordinate  
6 as best as possible. We don't get PennDOT's  
7 repaving list until the beginning of the year. So  
8 we just recently received PennDOT's repaving list  
9 for this year. And we try to coordinate that with  
10 the utilities as well.

11 COUNCILMAN HENON: I mean, you're in a  
12 tough position with PennDOT because they fund a lot  
13 of our roads that go through our City and they are  
14 considered highways. But I hope they recognize,  
15 all right, the position that they put you in, you  
16 know, with the citizens here and especially  
17 taxpayer money. I mean, we're just resurfacing it.  
18 It's a lot of money. All right. So that's what I  
19 wanted to add on that.

20 Staffing. All right. You're going to  
21 be staffing up -- in which departments -- part of  
22 the Streets Department are you trying to fill and  
23 are you having any issues with staffing up or full  
24 staffing levels?



1                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: In both  
2 divisions we staff up seasonally to accommodate the  
3 issues that -- service increases that we get during  
4 the spring. Especially with Sanitation, we staff  
5 up because tonnage usually increases in April, May  
6 and June when everyone is outside cutting grass and  
7 ultimately doing spring cleaning, and we start to  
8 see an uptake in the amount of tonnage that comes  
9 up and so we staff up accordingly. That is  
10 contingent upon us to have equipment so they can be  
11 on the street meeting our service level agreement.  
12 Same thing with potholes, we don't fill in during  
13 the winter months due to temperature conditions,  
14 but once the spring breaks, we see an increase  
15 after the winter season, after holes are discovered  
16 and ultimately acted on we staff up in this areas  
17 as well.

18                   COUNCILMAN HENON: A few years ago --  
19 I'm going to move to vehicles. A few years ago we  
20 were leasing 35 vehicles. How many are we leasing?

21                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Right now we  
22 are currently not leasing any. We're working --  
23 thankfully we were able to use capital funds to  
24 start a replacement schedule that we hope to get

1 our fleet back on course within the next several  
2 years. Last year alone we purchased 35 new  
3 compactors, which helped out in terms of our  
4 on-time collection rate. We're still not where we  
5 want to be at, but we're working closely towards  
6 it.

7 COUNCILMAN HENON: 35 is a big  
8 investment, but a necessary investment because we  
9 were leasing 35.

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes. That's  
11 correct.

12 COUNCILMAN HENON: And then, you know,  
13 when you lease and you're trying to catch up on all  
14 that, then you have the overtime. So it's all kind  
15 of connected.

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: Connected together.

18 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

19 COUNCILMAN HENON: So are they local?  
20 Where are we getting our vehicles? Are they local?

21 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I would ask  
22 Deputy Commissioner Warren to comment on where we  
23 get the vehicles. We work closely with fleet  
24 management.

1                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN: Final  
2 assembly is done locally but the trucks are made in  
3 several different parts. So the hoppers come from  
4 one place and the chassis comes from somewhere  
5 else. And the snow fighting equipment comes from a  
6 different place which is local.

7                   COUNCILMAN HENON: I'll catch you  
8 offline on that so I can better understand our  
9 local purchasing and supplier network.

10                   Are the vehicles or trucks, are they  
11 different sizes or are they the same size, are they  
12 smaller size, are they -- do they have the same  
13 type of, I mean, tonnage? Can they hold or is it  
14 more compact?

15                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: We do a variety  
16 of vehicles because of the City's very dense  
17 population and diverse neighborhoods. I guess the  
18 common vehicle that we use is a 20-yard,  
19 high-density compactor that can hold anywhere from  
20 13 tons in two runs, in two loads. That's our  
21 average load that we collect with crews on each  
22 day. We also use small trucks which is 12 yarders  
23 which holds smaller tonnage, around six or seven  
24 tons. That's so that we can get small streets,

1 especially in areas like South Philadelphia and  
2 North Philadelphia. So we do have a variety truck  
3 sizes. The smaller trucks are more challenging to  
4 purchase because at present only one manufacturer  
5 makes them, so therefore they're at a rare  
6 commodity. We try to plan in advance to try to get  
7 as many of them to add to our fleet as possible  
8 because it's challenging to be able to get them in  
9 a timely manner.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: No doubt. You noted  
11 that the length of repairs, years of repairs for  
12 the vehicles through staffing -- I mean, I know we  
13 have temporary staffing for the obvious reasons and  
14 necessary. Don't get me wrong. Is there a goal to  
15 try to, you know, cut down the eight years to four  
16 years for repairing some of these vehicles or is  
17 that going to happen, you know, just through  
18 attrition of, you know, putting the older vehicles  
19 and purchasing new ones?

20 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Our goal is to  
21 try to put our fleet on a seven-year replacement  
22 schedule. Currently the age of our infrastructure  
23 is about 10 years, and so it's going to take us a  
24 couple years for to us get to the point where the

1 entire fleet is on that seven-year replacement  
2 schedule. This ultimately helps fleet reduce  
3 maintenance costs, it helps keep the vehicles on  
4 the street instead of in the shop. So we're hoping  
5 to work towards that with the increase in capital  
6 funding to allow us to continue purchasing those  
7 vehicles. We also have now an initiative,  
8 Councilman, that I want to highlight. We're  
9 working with both finance and the Philadelphia Gas  
10 Works to use CMAQ funds, which is Congestion and  
11 Mitigation Air Quality funds to use CNG trucks next  
12 year. There's a station that is in the process of  
13 being built at Venango and Wheatsheaf at the PGW  
14 location and the Streets Department will get 25 new  
15 CNG vehicles, so that's going to expedite our  
16 replacement schedule.

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: That's good to hear.  
18 I mean, you're actually, you know, one, you're  
19 being a lot more sensitive to the environment and,  
20 two, you'll get more mileage out of it, three,  
21 you're creating jobs because it's going to be a CNG  
22 station that's going to be used more frequent and I  
23 think new business with PGW and I think that we're  
24 talking about that for a while. Is that 25 new

1 vehicles in addition to the 35?

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: That's 25 new  
3 vehicles in addition to the 35. That's correct.

4 COUNCILMAN HENON: That's great. So  
5 you will be getting replacement down to seven in  
6 your plan. So good job.

7 Last, LED lighting conservation on our  
8 energy. Our street lights now, are they all  
9 replaced with LEDs on our traffic signals? Are you  
10 systematically trying to, you know, get to a  
11 certain -- I guess a certain level of replacement  
12 for energy conservation?

13 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I'm turning  
14 this over to Deputy Commissioner Montanez. He can  
15 give you an update of where we are with LED  
16 lighting.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So all  
18 our traffic signals are currently LED. We did that  
19 with a DOE grant several years ago. We're  
20 currently now working on changing all our street  
21 lights LEDs, there are over 105,000 in the system  
22 and we're moving very slowly on that. We're doing  
23 several thousand per year.

24 COUNCILMAN HENON: Are they switching

1 out the lamps and the heads or are they going to be  
2 -- is LED the way to go as opposed to solar?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Well,  
4 LED and solar -- LED is actually the light source.  
5 Whether you go solar or not, the Streets Department  
6 partnered up with Schuylkill River Development  
7 Corporation at the Schuylkill Trail and there are  
8 solar lights that are there on the boardwalk, but  
9 they're also -- although the sun powers the  
10 batteries, the light source is still an LED. So  
11 LED lighting is the way we're going to go.

12 COUNCILMAN HENON: Maybe I should have  
13 stated it as a question. Have you thought of  
14 switching from LED -- or, you know, was there a  
15 decision made going to LED solely and/or any  
16 consideration for the solar lighting? But you  
17 answered it. We're going to LED.

18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
19 Blackwell.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very  
21 much. We have been waiting since '01 and you all  
22 are going to tell us soon we can get permits to do  
23 the Lucian Blackwell Community Center, right?

24 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, indeed,

1 Councilwoman. We are certainly working diligently  
2 in making sure that we get those permits for that  
3 project. Absolutely.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.  
5 I'm starting to get old. Thank you.

6 Number two. I went to my office and  
7 got a call from a reporter who said -- who's coming  
8 to this hearing who said they're doing an article  
9 on crime in the City and they had decided that they  
10 were going to do me the honor of picking my  
11 district around 57th and Walnut. They say that  
12 statistics show that we have a lot of crime. Will  
13 you look into that? They're going to try to see me  
14 later and ask me about it and I didn't know -- I  
15 told them honestly I didn't know that 57th and  
16 Walnut was a big crime place. I just assumed it  
17 was like any other area. It's a good neighborhood,  
18 a great one, Cobbs Creek and we love it. So would  
19 you look into that?

20 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, in terms  
21 of what the Streets Department is assisting with in  
22 those areas? I will certainly do that, yes.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for all



1 that you do and, you know, I'm glad we -- no matter  
2 where you are, we'll find you.

3 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am.  
4 Thank you, Councilwoman. I appreciate it.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And we look  
6 forward to you and your department. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
8 much.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
10 Councilwoman. The Chair is going to recognize  
11 Councilwoman Bass and then it will be Councilman Oh  
12 and then we got to recess for a break. We have a  
13 stenographer and others that need to take a short  
14 break and then we can go on to the Library. So the  
15 Council chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chair. I'll take that as a hurry up.

18 COUNCILMAN HENON: Yes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So let me  
20 hurry up. So a couple of quick questions for you.  
21 We introduced a resolution recently calling for a  
22 hearing -- that the Streets Department undertake a  
23 hearing around traffic safety, particularly around  
24 schools, universities, and daycares for planning

1 purposes, because to my understanding now there's  
2 nothing that really exists. So if I want to put a  
3 new charter school or public school, any school  
4 anywhere, daycare center or anything, whether it's  
5 on a commercial corridor or whether it's on a very  
6 busy street or whether it's on a very sleepy  
7 street, there is no traffic study that is currently  
8 in place, is that correct?

9 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: That is  
10 correct.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is that something  
12 that the Streets Department would feel would be a  
13 priority and something important that we can do in  
14 terms of recognizing that there are, you know,  
15 maybe better areas for placement for such  
16 facilities?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yeah.  
18 Usually the Streets Department is brought in after  
19 the schools open up, especially charter schools,  
20 and then all the parents say that the -- all the  
21 problems fall on the Streets Department because  
22 school flashers are not placed, signage is not  
23 placed. But usually we don't know the school opens  
24 up after --

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: After the fact.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Nine  
3 months after they have been open.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We have a school,  
5 perfect example, in my District. I won't name  
6 which one it is, but it's a charter school, a  
7 beautiful school, you know, doing a great job but  
8 one of the problems is that they are on a very busy  
9 street. You cannot cross directly -- from the  
10 sidewalk where the school is located, you cannot  
11 cross directly to the other side of the street  
12 because the traffic flow is so heavy and so fast,  
13 and so you have to walk probably about 20 yards to  
14 the nearest corner to be able to cross. And so  
15 getting, you know, those little feet to walk that  
16 extra -- you know, they see it as extra steps to  
17 get to where they're going to is problematic and  
18 it's something that probably could have been  
19 addressed from the very beginning if we had, you  
20 know, something in place that would have required  
21 it. So bringing in the school was a good idea, but  
22 not looking at the traffic patterns and making it  
23 an afterthought is problematic, very much  
24 problematic. So we look forward to working with

1 you all to address that.

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Councilwoman,  
3 also if I can add, I wanted to ask an Otis  
4 representative to talk about this, a transportation  
5 action plan that is currently being developed to  
6 take those things into consideration, along with  
7 Vision Zero. So I think those two will be  
8 certainly helpful as we look towards providing more  
9 safer transportation systems, especially around  
10 schools and areas where we have a high risk  
11 vulnerability for people to have accidents and  
12 crashes. But I'll make sure that we kind of update  
13 you and brief you on the plans for that  
14 transportation action plan and also what Otis is  
15 working on as well.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That will be great.  
17 I would love to get more information on that and  
18 that would fit neatly into the hearing that we're  
19 going to be having around traffic safety, around  
20 our schools, daycares and universities so that we  
21 can get some more thought before we just, you know,  
22 plopp something down without giving a forethought to  
23 what the traffic impact will be.

24 Also, I did want to mention and,

1 Commissioner, I want to thank you for your help  
2 with our Eighth District sanitation task force  
3 which we announced back in December and, you know,  
4 I noted the administration came out with a similar  
5 task force shortly thereafter. So I feel like  
6 we're working in synch and we're all on the same  
7 page recognizing that trash and sanitation is a  
8 huge problem. But one of the things that I think  
9 we have to recognize is that it's not a problem  
10 necessarily in every part of the District -- in  
11 every part of the City. In some areas, as an  
12 example in my District in Chestnut Hill, trash and  
13 litter, it's picked up but if it wasn't picked up  
14 it would be an issue. But I don't have dumping in  
15 Chestnut Hill, unless you tell me otherwise. You  
16 know. In parts of Mt. Airy, you know, I don't have  
17 dumping. But then there are other very wide swaths  
18 of real estate where there's a lot of dumping and  
19 it's continuous. And one of the things that I just  
20 recently found out is, I found out when we met with  
21 our Eighth District sanitation task force is that  
22 dumping in some cases is a function of not having  
23 adequate trash storage. And so you always think  
24 okay, well, my trash can fills up, I'll put it in a

1 bag and take it out into the yard or to, you know,  
2 wherever I store my trash at until trash day. But  
3 some folks they don't have the luxury of storage  
4 space for trash. And so then it becomes this trash  
5 can is full and I have to get rid of this trash and  
6 where am I going to take it to and how do I just  
7 get it out of my house. And so I'd like for you to  
8 talk a little bit about that and what we're doing  
9 to address this huge dumping problem that we have  
10 in the City of Philadelphia.

11 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.  
12 Councilwoman, thank you for your comments. First,  
13 you're correct, in certain areas of the City it's  
14 more prevalent than others and especially in lower  
15 Germantown. We did enjoy and learned a lot from  
16 the Eighth District task force meeting that we  
17 attended. One of the things that I think that  
18 Deputy Commissioner Warren will speak to is our  
19 ability to try to provide alternative services  
20 within our current budget to be able to assist  
21 people to get rid of items, especially larger bulky  
22 items, things they don't want to keep and don't  
23 have the space to store in their households  
24 especially. We're seeing a widespread problem with

1 people dumping in our rec centers, in our park area  
2 locations on non-trash days, and this is a major  
3 problem that we want to try to assist with through  
4 education and outreach and also additional  
5 services. Deputy Commissioner Warren can talk to  
6 you a little bit about what we're doing as a result  
7 of that task force meeting to assist residents in  
8 your neighborhood and not only in your District,  
9 Citywide. So I'll let him talk briefly about it,  
10 as well.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN: Good  
12 afternoon, Councilwoman. Deputy Commissioner Keith  
13 Warren, Sanitation Division. As a result of the  
14 meeting with your task force, which is closely  
15 mirrored after the administration's waste and  
16 litter program, we did take into consideration some  
17 of the recommendations made and we have instituted  
18 a program to extend our drop-off areas, make them  
19 open early and stay later past the normal business  
20 hours so that people can have more accessibility to  
21 get rid of the things in the house over the summer  
22 months as a pilot program. If it works well we  
23 plan to continue it. And also as a result of that  
24 meeting, we have implemented the revolving drop-off

1 center, for lack of a better term, through summer  
2 months where we will be going to known problem  
3 dumping spots in your District and all six  
4 sanitation districts in the summer one Saturday a  
5 month, and we'll be advertising that very hard so  
6 people can bring their trash out to those spots  
7 where dumping normally occurs to hopefully curtail  
8 the dumping.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can we get  
10 two-day-a-week pick up? Is that possible?

11 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: You caught me  
12 off guard on that one. Unfortunately right now we  
13 don't have the capabilities to offer that,  
14 Councilwoman. Certainly that's a staffing and  
15 resource issue. We're trying to get our single-day  
16 weekly up to par.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Well, we  
18 look forward to working with you with our task  
19 force and trying to figure out how we can be  
20 proactively supportive of the Streets Department so  
21 that we can help you do what it is that you do.  
22 You know, because I think that the trash problem --  
23 you know, it's a real problem.

24 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.



1                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We lose people. I  
2 think that we should put more money into the  
3 Streets Department to try to raise your budget  
4 there. But I think we do lose people because we  
5 have a reputation of being a dirty City. No one  
6 wants to live around dirt and filth.

7                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Agree with you.

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you so  
9 much.

10                  COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
11 Councilwoman. If I can -- you know, before I call  
12 the remaining members that have questioning, please  
13 keep time in consideration for the line of  
14 questioning and we can also recess and come back  
15 for a second round or third or fourth round if we  
16 need be.

17                  Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

18                  COUNCILMAN OH: I'll try to make this  
19 as quick as I can. What I want to know is, you  
20 know, as transportation within the City becomes  
21 more diversified and complicated, same old streets,  
22 yet -- you know, we just talked about CNG vehicles,  
23 CNG location, some people like CNG. You know,  
24 we're doing the fleet. PECO is installing their

1 own EV charging stations only for their EV fleet.  
2 Are we working with them that we're trying to do EV  
3 throughout the City? We've got bicycle lanes,  
4 scooters, all that. And at the same time as we  
5 have all this going on, we have -- as far as I know  
6 and I'm asking you, we have a shortage of available  
7 parking spaces in certain sections of our City like  
8 Center City, certain parts of South Philly and  
9 other locations. In part I understand, because of  
10 our high parking tax and so they're building hotels  
11 that have no parking with them and theoretically  
12 they'll take an Uber or they'll use public  
13 transportation. I just don't know that that is the  
14 case. Do we have a kind of an overview  
15 understanding of how we're going to deal with our  
16 streets and letting people know where to go to  
17 fuel, charge, whatever they do with whatever  
18 vehicle they choose to have, repair, all these  
19 complexities?

20 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Councilman,  
21 I'll make a general statement and then let Deputy  
22 Commissioner Montanez speak to you specifically --

23 COUNCILMAN OH: You don't have to go  
24 too specific. I'm getting pressure to just speed

1 along from the front and the back.

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Again, I think  
3 a transportation action plan that Otis is working  
4 to address will highlight what's best for the City  
5 in a coordinated and strategic approach. So I'm  
6 certainly looking forward to working with that and  
7 certainly hope that we will work together on the  
8 initiation of that plan.

9 Deputy Commissioner Montanez, if you  
10 want to comment on specifically the multiple use  
11 vehicles real quickly, we can move on from that.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yeah.  
13 Along with the transportation action plan, we're  
14 also working on the Smart City Roadmap. So that  
15 should give a lot of people an idea of what we're  
16 planning to do. Unfortunately the Streets  
17 Department does not control the building code so we  
18 can't assist there. We only control the streets  
19 and there's only limited parking on the streets.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. If you could  
21 provide the Chair at some point in time -- I'm very  
22 kind of curious and concerned about parking  
23 structures, facilities because we're building  
24 hotels and large office buildings and they don't

1 build any parking with it. We are removing or  
2 parking garages are coming down. They're not being  
3 replaced. I'm not sure what's the capacity for  
4 this realistically. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: You're welcome.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you, Chairman.

7 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
8 Councilman. And Chair recognizes Councilman  
9 Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman. Also too, I know there was a parking  
12 study done in Center City, let me just add that.  
13 And there was a study shown from the number of  
14 parking spots available, and even with the  
15 reduction of some of the parking lots, what the  
16 vacancy rates were in these parking that I guess we  
17 could somehow get a copy of that. That was done --  
18 I'm sorry, do you know --

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Planning  
20 Commission.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Planning  
22 Commission did that, right? And that was done two  
23 years ago.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes.

1                   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So maybe we'll get  
2 a copy of that to see. First of all, thank you  
3 guys for being here and I think the Streets  
4 Department is one of the best departments in the  
5 City of Philadelphia --

6                   COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
7 Councilman.

8                   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That we probably  
9 irritate on and on and on. I mean, I send personal  
10 e-mails to you guys. And, Keith, thank you for  
11 your readiness and willingness to respond to our  
12 sanitation efforts and understanding that when  
13 people see trash or something is not right, the  
14 response and the quick action is much appreciated  
15 because they appreciate us knowing that we care  
16 about that issue and so it's so important. So  
17 thank you. And, Commissioner, the same goes with  
18 you. To be able to have access to the Streets  
19 Department and knowing that they will respond and  
20 even just get an answer. Sometimes it's just an  
21 answer. It's not an actual response. Whether it's  
22 an answer that we want to hear or the community  
23 wants to hear, it's still an answer and I think  
24 that's important.

1 Rich, this question is going to be for  
2 you. As we grow through the City and as we look in  
3 the smart cities how we're going to use our streets  
4 not only for parking which is always an issue,  
5 we'll be talking about that until we're dead and  
6 after we're dead. But as far as using the streets  
7 with different modes of transportation, pedestrian  
8 use, looking at speed cushions and/or raised  
9 crosswalks, are we going to work with Planning on a  
10 map of what we believe would be the best area --  
11 all this costs money and I understand that. But  
12 are we looking at doing a total plan of the City or  
13 maybe building out the Center City south and north  
14 how that would work and then possibly what that  
15 type of infrastructure cost would be?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes, we  
17 are. That's actually headed by the Managing  
18 Director's office, specifically Otis. We are doing  
19 a transportation master plan for the City to see  
20 what this will look like and what it will cost.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Is there a  
22 timeline when -- do we know that --

23 MR. ZACCAGNI: Mike Zaccagni, Chief of  
24 Staff, Otis. I think a big piece of this is going

1 to be tied up in the action plan that we're just  
2 starting to get going, but also in the Vision Zero  
3 action plan that we're also having moving forward.  
4 That's already on the Website. We're looking for  
5 comments back on that. We reached out. I know  
6 people have met with all the Council staff on that  
7 plan. So I think a lot of this from the  
8 integration of what we're going to look like in the  
9 future is really something that we're looking at.  
10 And as to the action plan, I don't know the exact  
11 timeline on that. That's really something that  
12 we're going to have to really reassess how this  
13 works. Now a lot of things are going to be driven  
14 by the data, especially when you're talking about  
15 the speed cushions and about some of the safety.  
16 And we're currently coming up with a process in  
17 order to look at the data and really assess  
18 injuries, serious injuries, death and really try to  
19 come up with almost a scoring system so that we  
20 know where the focus, the limited resources that  
21 we're going to have to have the greatest impact.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I think that makes  
23 sense and I think having a plan in place gives the  
24 residents of the City an idea of how we will

1 eventually move forward. Again, have the  
2 resources. We see what happens -- when we have  
3 limited resources to redo our streets and repaving,  
4 we get complaints all the time, why is our street  
5 done and why are their streets done and whether we  
6 have the capacity. And maybe this is a question --  
7 if there are additional resources given to the City  
8 to redo streets, do we have the capacity to grow  
9 the number of streets being done?

10 MR. ZACCAGNI: I'll pass that off to  
11 Deputy Commissioner Montanez, but I know the  
12 Streets Department has within its next plan over  
13 the few years, this budget cycle, to build those  
14 resources and there's been a commitment from the  
15 administration to dedicate those resources so that  
16 we're able to resurface more streets as we go out  
17 into the years.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: I mean,  
19 our goal is to get to 70 miles this year and  
20 hopefully grow that to a 131 miles in the next five  
21 to seven years.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's great.  
23 That's great news and I know Steve Lorenzo hates  
24 hearing this, but the other big question is storage



1 streets in our District. Seems like there's  
2 limited resources to do some of these streets. A  
3 lot of these streets haven't been done in 30, 40,  
4 50, longer years. And I'm advocating -- I know you  
5 guys can't ask for more money in your budget, but  
6 I'm advocating for more money in your budget to  
7 look at these streets to see -- we've done a study  
8 and there is a list of priorities, but since they  
9 cost so much money to do, is there any other way to  
10 look at grant funding or DVRPC, to look at streets  
11 -- special needs of Streets to get additional  
12 resources but then just the original way we do it  
13 now?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So as  
15 you know, the Streets Department is constantly  
16 looking at what kind of federal and state grants  
17 are out there and that's what we leverage our  
18 capital funds with. That's what we -- most of your  
19 capital investment projects are about 80 percent  
20 funded from either the state or the feds. And  
21 those are the things we look at. We try to stretch  
22 the City dollar as much as possible.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I know we have  
24 applied for some grants for some of these streets.

1 We didn't get the grants unfortunately, so those  
2 streets are pushed back for, you know, a later  
3 time. But, you know, I think the best part was put  
4 a priority list together. Not that everybody  
5 agrees with the priority list, but we have a list  
6 now of streets that need to be done and what order  
7 they would go in to get repaired, and obviously if  
8 something happens in the middle or construction  
9 they can be moved around. But knowing that we  
10 still don't have the resources to do them over a  
11 period of time. Constantly chasing our tail. And  
12 if we could work with the administration and the  
13 state and federal government to really understand  
14 our needs -- I know we have some unfunded mandates  
15 still for the handicap ramps that we need to do.  
16 But we need to be able to look at our streets. Who  
17 wants to drive up and down the City that's a  
18 constant full of potholes or bumps. And you guys  
19 do a great job and I'm glad to hear we're  
20 increasing the number of miles.

21           One last question and then I'll pass.  
22 I know you want me to go, Bob. As far as  
23 sanitation, are we looking to increase a number of  
24 new trucks?

1                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:  
2    Councilman, we have been granted replacement line  
3    item to replace our fleet. Unfortunately our fleet  
4    is about three or four years older than a normal  
5    replacement cycle we would like to get to, but with  
6    our current plan over the next six or seven years  
7    we should get to that seven-year replacement rate  
8    that we're looking for to make us viable.

9                   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Because I know  
10   sometimes with our equipment being old and I know  
11   we cut the budget years in the past and so we  
12   weren't renewing equipment as well as we should  
13   have been, but as our equipment is getting older,  
14   the machines break down as much, they can't hold as  
15   much, they have to be emptied more and cost more in  
16   labor and overtime and things like that, so really  
17   we're spending more money trying to do the same  
18   work than we would be if we bought new equipment.

19                  DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN: So  
20   currently with fleet, the replacement plan now  
21   going forward is about 35 new trucks a year and add  
22   to that an additional 25 trucks that we're  
23   receiving CMAQ for the CNG trucks. Again, I think  
24   we have a pretty solid plan now in about six or

1 seven years that we should be right where we need  
2 to be.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That would be  
4 great. Hopefully I'm still here when it's all done  
5 and we can have all new trucks out there. I do  
6 appreciate all the work that the Streets Department  
7 does. You guys are very responsive, a great group  
8 and thank you for all your help.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
10 Councilman. Councilman Green.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chair.

13 COUNCILMAN HENON: You are our last.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Trying to get out of  
15 here, so I'll skip my first 12 questions and move  
16 to questions 26 through 104.

17 Commissioner, thank you for being here.  
18 I had a chance to listen to testimony upstairs and  
19 review testimony. I have a quick question. I see  
20 the information provided regarding zero waste.  
21 Composting is a concept that has been discussed. I  
22 have been engaged in some conversations with that  
23 concept. There's been composting attempts made in  
24 neighboring states that was not done the best way

1 it could have been done. So I'm curious from the  
2 perspective -- from your perspective in considering  
3 that Mayor Kenny is promoting a zero waste policy  
4 and goal, what impacts, what thoughts you may have  
5 regarding composting.

6 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
7 Councilman. Yes, composting is a big part of our  
8 plan to get to zero waste. I frankly don't think  
9 that we can get to zero waste without a strong and  
10 robust composting program. Our recycling rate is  
11 currently at 20 percent, which means 20 percent of  
12 all trash is diverted and put back into productive  
13 use. We think we're about to hit the ceiling. 30  
14 to 35 percent according to the EPA is max  
15 recycling. That means there's a considerable  
16 amount of other material in the waste stream that  
17 we have to take a look at. And food waste and leaf  
18 waste which make up composting is a big part of  
19 that. So right now what we're doing is conducting  
20 a feasibility study to determine what areas that we  
21 can take those materials out of the waste stream.  
22 The biggest challenge that we are facing is not  
23 only collections but a processing facility that's  
24 in close area where we can actually take the

1 material to be generated. Delaware used to have a  
2 processing facility, and unfortunately they were  
3 not able to maintain it because they could not  
4 create a market for it. We're hoping to do that  
5 here in the City of Philadelphia with our solid  
6 waste contracts coming up and that feasibility  
7 study is going to tell us what opportunities exist.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: When does that solid  
9 waste contract come up?

10 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: 2019.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Because to me one of  
12 the things about composting, people are not aware  
13 of how much money we spend on our trash refuse,  
14 tipping fees and landfills and if we can reduce  
15 food waste and things that can be composted, that  
16 will have an impact on the money we spend out of  
17 our general fund. Also the fact that there's  
18 departments in the City like water and others use  
19 the by-product of compositing throughout the City  
20 so it's -- we have the raw material. It's how do  
21 we find the best way of making it into a product  
22 that could be -- you have a number of restaurants  
23 around the City. You have small compost like  
24 Bennett Compost and others who are doing that, but

1 how can we prime the market to increase composting  
2 and also change behavior? And I know that the  
3 Streets Department does a good job on carbon-based  
4 composting in the fall with the leaf collection,  
5 but how can we continue that process going forward?

6           The other point you talked earlier  
7 about CNG. I know Council President has been  
8 focusing on CNG vehicles, and they asked some  
9 questions to fleet management as the conversation  
10 has been going on and I know there's a process of  
11 getting new vehicles and we're working with PGW for  
12 CNG filling stations. Has there been any  
13 conversations at all with the state P3 board? I  
14 know they have initiatives that they announced, I  
15 believe last summer, spring around budget time last  
16 year where they were looking at doing CNG filling  
17 stations at 26 transportation authorities around  
18 the Commonwealth. They wanted SEPTA to be involved  
19 but SEPTA decided to go the electric bus route.  
20 But has there been any conversations with the state  
21 P3 board with the secretary of transportation,  
22 Linda Richards, about how we can incorporate some  
23 of the initiatives they're doing here in the City  
24 of Philadelphia? Because once again just like

1 composting, CNG is a chicken and egg perspective.  
2 People will buy more vehicles if there's filling  
3 stations. But without the filling stations, we  
4 don't buy the vehicles. So it's another chicken  
5 and egg issue. So I'm curious about your thoughts.

6 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: I have not had  
7 any conversations beyond the PGW. That's not to  
8 say none has existed with fleet management and I  
9 certainly can follow up. I know that there's talks  
10 about expanding another CNG location in Southwest  
11 Philadelphia to give us even additional access.  
12 Specifically with that company that you're speaking  
13 with and the agency you're speaking with, I haven't  
14 had direct conversation. I will follow up.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Mr. Chair, I see  
16 you're talking so -- I see you're talking. I was  
17 going to continue with question number 26, but I  
18 hear the bell so I will --

19 COUNCILMAN HENON: You get a tacit nod  
20 from our stenographer who, by the way, I want to  
21 say for the record, thank you so much for your  
22 patience.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'll just say for  
24 whom the bell tolls and I'll be quick.



1 COUNCILMAN HENON: You're witty,  
2 Council.

3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr.  
5 Chairman and we'll be as brief as we possibly can.  
6 Let me just quickly give a shout out to Nick who  
7 covers our District on east of Broad Street and  
8 David who covers the District west of Broad Street,  
9 Commissioner. If they didn't do a good job and  
10 weren't responsive to our constituents, we would be  
11 jumping up and down about it if something was  
12 wrong. So we needed to say thank you because they  
13 have done an excellent job.

14 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
15 Councilwoman.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: With that being  
17 said, let me just start with the issue of  
18 commercial truck parking, not just in the ninth  
19 councilmanic district and it may have already been  
20 mentioned, but I needed to know that the City's  
21 Vision Zero plan takes into account this challenge  
22 of the illegal parking of commercial vehicles such  
23 as tractor trailers in residential areas,  
24 particularly overnight. And I ask this question

1 because the origins of the problem seem to be  
2 multifaceted. First, truck drivers don't know  
3 where they can park and can't park overnight. I'm  
4 giving you the explanation that we received when  
5 trying to communicate with them. Two, truck  
6 drivers want to park close to their homes after two  
7 or three months on the road and there aren't any  
8 available parking lots close by where they live.  
9 And then third, the police often times have bigger  
10 fish to fry. I want to take the District like the  
11 14th that has the largest span of area to cover in  
12 the City of Philadelphia. And so if they are  
13 dealing with the issue that has a higher rate of  
14 priority, are they going to come back and write a  
15 ticket on the tractor trailer? So with that being  
16 said, the trucks, however, are causing some traffic  
17 and safety issues. For us let's just think about  
18 Limekiln Pike. They create blind spots and you  
19 either can't make a right turn, you can't go down  
20 the street, and don't let me start talking about  
21 around the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church that is  
22 already in and of itself a lot of parking  
23 challenges.

24 What kind of assistance would Vision

1 Zero help us to provide and address in that issue?

2 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
3 Councilwoman. Deputy Commissioner Montanez briefly  
4 discussed it earlier today. I'll let him give a  
5 summary of that issue on the trucking parking plan  
6 that he discussed earlier today.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: As I  
8 mentioned earlier, we are working with Otis, DVRPC  
9 and the trucking industry to see how to attack this  
10 problem. We're hoping to have a draft plan within  
11 the next six months and we will be coming to  
12 Council to discuss the plan. The issue as you  
13 mentioned, Councilwoman, is the location of parking  
14 lots and all the private parking lots that used to  
15 be over in Southern Jersey have closed in the last  
16 couple years is what the trucking industry has been  
17 telling us. So we are working with the Port  
18 Authority. We want to work with PIDC, other  
19 agencies to see what benefits we can provide to the  
20 City residents and how to best assess this.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And I appreciate  
22 that response. We just ask that you take into  
23 consideration that from my perspective this could  
24 be a potential opportunity for the private sector.

1 Like we talk about enhancing the tax base, right?  
2 We want to grow the pie. What economic opportunity  
3 for government to partner with the private sector,  
4 along with the industry. I envision a perfect P3  
5 here, right? Where it benefits residents. It  
6 benefits the truck drivers, you know, and our tax  
7 base, because someone makes this their business to  
8 do. So whatever we can do to be helpful, I'm happy  
9 to hear you'll be coming before Council. Please  
10 make sure you keep that abreast so that we can  
11 provide a response to our community so they know  
12 we're not twiddling our thumbs on the issue.

13           Next issue and I'm going fast because  
14 I'm standing in between the stenographer getting  
15 her break. Rising Sun Avenue. We have a  
16 constituent, Dr. Lewis Brown, we have been working  
17 very, very closely with there. He's located near  
18 the intersection of Rising Sun and Levick Street.  
19 I know he's communicated with your department  
20 relative to his traffic concerns at this  
21 intersection. I just want you to know we will be  
22 calling you to schedule a meeting with your office  
23 to talk about this issue and any things that  
24 Streets, you know, and Council can do to help to

1 address it. It's challenging. We'll wait to get  
2 the data from you on the number of accidents at the  
3 intersection where it can be streamlined, become  
4 more efficient and what from a technical  
5 perspective your inspectors say. But we do need to  
6 get that and it's a major concern in that area. So  
7 I needed to get it on the record that we asked.

8 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: We certainly  
9 look forward to that meeting as well, Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Finally -- and  
11 other questions that we have we will send to you in  
12 writing. But this issue of the repaving of the  
13 streets. I, you know, communicated -- as my  
14 colleagues and I have talked, communicated to the  
15 administration that when we have gone out, I think  
16 we're on our fifth budget briefing and town hall  
17 meeting. You know, I have these meetings every  
18 year in my District to give residents an overview  
19 of the City's budget. When you hear a sort of  
20 hoorah in the crowd, it's when you talk about the  
21 repaving of streets in the City of Philadelphia and  
22 that investment. However, nine times out of ten  
23 after they get excited, the sigh goes away and they  
24 say well, that doesn't mean anything to us. How

1 are we going to determine what streets get paved,  
2 what's priority, is there a rating system, what  
3 response do I give to our constituents?

4 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Well, I think  
5 that this year we're happy to be able to say that  
6 our budget was increased to do more miles of  
7 paving. Last year we did 55 miles. We're  
8 projected to come in at 75 miles this year. And it  
9 is our hope over the next six to seven years that  
10 we can get to 131 miles per year ratio, which will  
11 allow our streets to be maintained in a state of  
12 good repair. That is contingent upon us getting  
13 some additional resources in the next couple years.  
14 But we're happy that there was money put into the  
15 capital budget, over 170 million dollars over the  
16 next seven years for us to do additional paving.  
17 So I think relief is on the way. In the meantime  
18 we'll do our best to expedite, prioritize which  
19 streets need to be addressed first. Deputy  
20 Commissioner Montanez can talk a little bit briefly  
21 about how we do that prioritization.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: So every  
23 winter during our construction slowdown, we send  
24 our inspectors through to rate every one of the

1 City blocks and we do have a rating. That's how we  
2 create our list of what we're paving. We will be  
3 releasing our paving list this Friday for the  
4 Citywide schedule and Council will have an advanced  
5 notice of that prior to us -- we'll release it  
6 today, Commissioner, to Council?

7 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes, that's  
8 correct.

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Listen, thank you  
10 for that 5800 block of North Park Avenue. You  
11 heard us ask that question for the record. Again,  
12 I'll submit it to you, but this speeding around  
13 schools, you heard about the crisis that we had at  
14 Edmonds, which is a community school in our area.  
15 But it's not just Edmonds. That was the tragedy  
16 that got reported on. But there are a number of  
17 sites across the City. And so we will submit these  
18 questions to you relative to the purchasing of  
19 flashing signs, in addition to that, speed bumps  
20 and, you know, you have changed it because before I  
21 heard bumps and humps and something else, but  
22 somebody must have said we better change this  
23 because if Cherelle says that again, that's not  
24 going to sound real nice. So tell us for the

1 record what are the different variations of these  
2 traffic calming mechanisms called in the City  
3 streets.

4 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Speed cushions,  
5 we're referring to them for those areas, and we  
6 have some that are currently being installed, 50  
7 that are being installed across the City as we  
8 speak. Some of them are temporary, made out of  
9 recycled rubber that last two to three years which  
10 gives us the flexibility to actually come in and  
11 put a temporary solution until we can come up with  
12 long-term asphalt version. That is also part of  
13 Vision Zero and our transportation action plan to  
14 be able to consider those transportation issues  
15 that you discusses, especially around public  
16 safety. So we are certainly working with that and  
17 we're looking forward towards working with Council  
18 in implementing those plans.

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you,  
20 Commissioner. Again, thank you and your team for  
21 your responsiveness. Also have to say that when  
22 the Department is responsive, because, again, if it  
23 was the other way, it's easy to get beat up when  
24 you're doing things wrong. But when you give a



1 response, even when I don't like it, you make sure  
2 you get back to us and give a response and that  
3 matters. So thank and your team.

4 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
5 Councilwoman.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
7 Councilwoman.

8 Councilwoman Blackwell. Before  
9 Councilwoman Blackwell, I just want to -- you know,  
10 I'm sitting here through the hearings and over the  
11 last six years and the Streets Department really is  
12 on the frontline of what City services are about.  
13 You have an excellent team, you know, from  
14 management, you know, to your engineering team and  
15 the engineering department when it comes to civil  
16 engineering and design. I mean, if you think about  
17 it, break it down simple as possible, right? What  
18 do people want in the City of Philadelphia? They  
19 want their trash picked up. They want their  
20 streets plowed. They want bandaged signs which I  
21 hope is still a priority of the Streets Department.  
22 We want to get rid of those blighted signs that are  
23 all over our poles. And I think, you know, every  
24 member of this City Council has complained about

1 it. You know, we have introduced legislation. I  
2 know I have. Doubled the fines, hold the people  
3 accountable not just on the enduser like who are  
4 they advertising. But the people who are actually  
5 putting them up. Because everybody is being  
6 exploited there and it's just cluttering our  
7 neighborhoods. So it's all about you represent the  
8 quality of life of the City of Philadelphia, you  
9 know, again, from the roads, to the signs, to the  
10 blight, to the trash, to the litter, to the  
11 recycling to, you know -- you name it, you're on  
12 the front end of what people expect of the City of  
13 Philadelphia. So I want to thank you all for what  
14 you do every single day, and that's why I tried to  
15 do something cool and outside the box and I have  
16 done several times. One of the times I did  
17 councilman undercover, and I went on a ride with  
18 your sanitation department and, you know, that's  
19 where I learned what hazing really is about when it  
20 comes to the new hiree, so to speak, in your trucks  
21 and picking up trash. They do a great job and they  
22 don't get credit for it enough. So I want to thank  
23 all of you for what you do.

24 Councilwoman Blackwell, do you have any

1 final questions? If not, I'm going to end.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: No. Thank  
3 you.

4 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, all. I  
5 want to especially thank our stenographer for her  
6 patience and we will return in 40 minutes for the  
7 Library.

8 - - -

9 (Lunch break.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next up is  
12 the Free Library. Good afternoon.

13 MS. DEMBE: Good afternoon.

14 MS. REARDON: Good afternoon.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Please  
16 proceed with your testimony.

17 MS. DEMBE: Council members and  
18 President Clarke, I'm Pamela Dembe and I'm chair of  
19 the trustee board of the Free Library system. And  
20 thank you for giving us time, once again, this year  
21 to talk to you about what we're doing. I know that  
22 Council members are very concerned about diversity  
23 on City boards and agencies so let me get that out  
24 of the way right away. We appoint half of our 22

1 boards members. The mayor does the rest. And we  
2 strive for diversity. At the moment we are -- we  
3 have 36 percent African American, nine percent  
4 Hispanic, nine percent Asian, 55 percent women. So  
5 we're, I think, doing a lot in that direction. We,  
6 I think, we've told you this adopted a strategic  
7 plan in 2012 and it focuses on advancing literacy,  
8 guiding learning, inspiring curiosity. We have  
9 followed that plan and done a number of amazing  
10 things and we will have a strategic plan fall into  
11 place in 2018, which is basically an extension and  
12 expansion. We're not going in some entirely new  
13 direction. But the things that we have hammered on  
14 because you can't do everything, but the things we  
15 have hammered on, and I think really accomplished a  
16 lot, are in areas like supporting reading and  
17 writing, nutrition and health literacy. A third of  
18 the people who contact the Library contact it  
19 because they want health information. Job and  
20 computer skills because people can't apply except  
21 using a computer for most jobs nowadays and  
22 cultural and civic engagement. We are pretty  
23 excited. Before the year is over we're going to  
24 have five new libraries back online. You already

1 know about the one at Broad and Morris Street, the  
2 South Philadelphia branch, the venture with  
3 Children's Hospital. We have three others and we  
4 also are going to be opening up momentarily the  
5 Blackwell Memorial which was closed for some really  
6 major repairs. The trouble with that is that we  
7 still have an awful lot of unanticipated closures  
8 because we have these hundred year old buildings  
9 and rightfully the furnaces, the air conditioning,  
10 the plumbing, the roofs become so dysfunctional  
11 that they're not safe for people to be in. So they  
12 get closed and then you -- you usually can't turn  
13 it around and get it real within a couple of days,  
14 and every time we do that we see the children's  
15 reading scores decline. So it makes us turn away  
16 kids and that's the only safe place for them to be  
17 after school. That's where they get help with  
18 their homework. It's where people have to go to  
19 look for jobs. So we really need as much help as  
20 we can get in keeping the buildings going and  
21 keeping them open. We are really lucky that we  
22 have very active friends groups in many  
23 neighborhood libraries. In the past you have seen  
24 them so up in issues important to the library and

1 the business of the condition of the libraries is a  
2 serious concern for them, along with the inability  
3 to provide new books and other materials. We have  
4 almost no budget for materials, and at some point a  
5 library without new stuff becomes kind of  
6 pointless.

7           And it's also worth noting, like  
8 everybody else, we're being threatened with the  
9 elimination federal programs. Doesn't have to do  
10 with the sanctuary city stuff, it's more Institute  
11 for Museum and Library Services. That's on the  
12 chopping block and that kept our Grow Your Own, and  
13 it also was supporting the Stories Alive program  
14 where people who are incarcerated in the county  
15 prisons are on a video hookup and they have a book  
16 which they read to their children who is with the  
17 remaining parent or whatever at a facility and they  
18 have got the book, the kid has got the book so they  
19 can read the book and talk about it. And it not  
20 only is a way of salvaging or increasing the bond  
21 with the incarcerated parent, a lot of times it's  
22 helping the parent's literacy, as well as the  
23 child's literacy, because as I told you in my other  
24 was a real literacy problem among the people in the

1 jails. So losing those services, if that happens  
2 they're really going to cut us down below the bone.

3 As you know, we have a very  
4 hard-working staff and always have. Again, this  
5 year several of our employees won national awards  
6 for innovative programs. We've taken to inviting  
7 staffers at all levels to compete for a small  
8 amount of money to institute some program they have  
9 come up with, and as a result of that one of the  
10 ones that pops to mind is a program for autistic  
11 children. And so other employees evaluate these  
12 and we roll them out and if they work as a pilot  
13 program, then we try to expand them beyond that  
14 particular branch or office. So that we're looking  
15 deeply into our staff to get ideas to move the  
16 Library forward since it's not the kind of place it  
17 used to be.

18 We are very appreciative of your  
19 long-term support of the Library. We ask you to  
20 certainly support the Mayor's proposed budget and  
21 if you find any share change anywhere, this is a  
22 good place to put it.

23 MS. REARDON: So I'll just finish up  
24 with some brief comments. You know, I have a

1 four-page testimony but I promise not to read it.

2           So I'm Siobhan Reardon, President and  
3 Director of the Free Library, and I want to thank  
4 President Clarke and members of Council for being  
5 here today to hear our testimony. I want to begin  
6 by saying that even though Pam talked about the  
7 number of closures and the challenges to keep some  
8 of our Libraries open, for the first time since  
9 2014, the Free Library has been able to offer  
10 expanded hours throughout our neighborhood  
11 libraries despite extended disclosures,  
12 particularly in five of our locations. And Judge  
13 Dembe mentioned, the Free Library has been focusing  
14 its efforts in five strategic areas over the last  
15 five years, that being childhood and family  
16 literacy, job seekers, small business  
17 entrepreneurs, new Americans and services to  
18 persons with varying abilities. In the childhood  
19 literacy arena, we are the backbone agency for the  
20 90-member collaborative known as Read by Fourth  
21 whose goal it is to ensure that all Philadelphia  
22 school children are reading on grade level by the  
23 time they reach fourth grade. During FY17, the  
24 collaborative supported of establishment of book



1 nooks throughout the City's neighborhoods, sent  
2 thousands of books home for children for their home  
3 library and connected families and resources to  
4 tips and resources on developing early literacy  
5 skills in their children.

6           This year the Free Library instituted a  
7 new Sunday literacy tutoring initiative which takes  
8 place in 11 neighborhood libraries working with  
9 students in first through third grades who are  
10 struggling with reading and supported with  
11 one-on-one tutoring with the support of reading  
12 specialists. And we have any number of projects in  
13 collaboration with the School District from library  
14 card signups to Blast which is focused on fourth  
15 grade teachers and their resources, and with fourth  
16 grade teachers and their students on civics and  
17 social studies using Free Library resources.

18           We have been able to host an innovative  
19 model of health services at our Parkway Central  
20 Library this year. In partnership with the City's  
21 Department of behavioral health we have had two  
22 social workers working with Library staff and our  
23 customers on issues involving homelessness,  
24 accessing social services and handle behavioral and

1 mental health issues occurring throughout the  
2 building, in addition to training our staff on how  
3 to deal and cope and with challenging issues. This  
4 year we added a nurse on site. She happens to be  
5 one of University of Pennsylvania's presidential  
6 awardees. And she has been working in tandem with  
7 the social workers to ensure our customers are safe  
8 and have access to the health resources they need  
9 whenever inside our facility or elsewhere.

10 We continue to enhance and expand our  
11 programming efforts on behalf of small business and  
12 entrepreneurs in the City through the establishment  
13 of our New Business Resource and Innovation Center,  
14 otherwise known as BRIC, our services at Parkway  
15 Central, and will be hosted at the Tacony Library  
16 when it reopens in the fall. These services are  
17 designed to help stem the tide of small business  
18 closures by better supporting the entrepreneur with  
19 programs and networking designed to build stronger  
20 business skill sets and alongside expert mentoring.

21 With the opening of the new community  
22 health and literacy center at Broad and Morris, the  
23 Library has taken on the challenge of consumer  
24 health information with our partners at the

1 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the City  
2 Health Center number two, and the University of  
3 Pennsylvania School of Public Health, as well as  
4 any number of community organizations dedicated to  
5 healthy lifestyles and community information.

6           And our Culinary Literacy Center  
7 continues to expand its programming to veterans,  
8 teens and new Americans. In fact, our program for  
9 new Americans, which is essentially an ESL class  
10 using cooking, recipes and conversation as learning  
11 tools will be expanded to four neighborhood  
12 libraries this fall. And then the Culinary  
13 Literacy Center will also begin adding adult basic  
14 education classes to its roster of programming in  
15 the fall. This is essentially to get at this huge  
16 literacy issue in the City where over a half a  
17 million people are functionally illiterate, half a  
18 million adults are functionally illiterate.

19           Finally, we are particularly excited  
20 about the comprehensive work on four of our  
21 neighborhood facilities known as our 21st Century  
22 Library Initiative and which was essentially the  
23 precursor to the rebuild program. The Lillian  
24 Marrero, Tacony, Lovett and Logan libraries will

1 all reopen this fall in fully renovated, expanded,  
2 and fully ADA accessible buildings that will have  
3 enhanced computer and internet capacity, as well as  
4 children, teen and adult spaces that better reflect  
5 the work of the 21st century library. We fully  
6 believe the results of these renovations reflect  
7 well on the Library's ability to work well with  
8 Council and Mayor, as well as the private sector on  
9 managing major renovation projects, and thus we are  
10 excited about the rebuild initiative and look  
11 forward to the renovation of more of our libraries  
12 throughout the City.

13           So as can you see, the Free Library has  
14 been and will continue to be enthusiastically busy  
15 as we strive to meet our mission to advance  
16 literacy, guide learning and inspire curiosity.  
17 And I want to thank you for the opportunity to  
18 share these accomplishments and aspirations. We  
19 remain committed to bringing excellent service to  
20 the citizens of Philadelphia and we could not do it  
21 without the support of the members of City Council  
22 and look forward to working with you in the coming  
23 year.

24           MS. DEMBE: And one more thing. Before

1 we closed down Lovett, Councilwoman Bass came to a  
2 board meeting and Council members are always  
3 welcome to attend our board meetings and/or to have  
4 a tour of any of the older branches or the  
5 renovated branches. Just let us know. We'd love  
6 to have you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.  
8 Good afternoon.

9 MS. REARDON: Good afternoon.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The first  
11 question, how long did it take you to get to work  
12 today?

13 MS. REARDON: Fortunately I live over  
14 on Pier Five, so I just make a right up to -- my  
15 usual 10 minutes. I have to tell you, outside my  
16 window, the Library, it's just insane the amount of  
17 noise and honking. It's not conducive to good  
18 Library service.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I think  
20 there's an event tomorrow morning. Councilman  
21 Green and Councilwoman Brown, I think, will be  
22 there around some solar issues.

23 MS. REARDON: Yes, at the Library.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Concerned

1 about their ability to get to the event and then  
2 get back to work at City Council. It's okay. It's  
3 management.

4 MS. REARDON: I highly recommend  
5 staying overnight on Columbus Boulevard.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I had a  
7 couple questions. One you touched on a little bit.  
8 In your detail it shows a \$542,000 increase in  
9 grants revenues fund. And this is essentially to  
10 provide appropriation for increases from the state.  
11 The uncertainty of that is clearly the case. Just  
12 don't know what's going to open. What state grant  
13 is the Library hoping to obtain from the state?

14 MS. REARDON: During the coming year?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah. As it  
16 relates to this appropriation, increase in  
17 appropriation.

18 MS. REARDON: So the Library typically  
19 receives about four-and-a-half million -- more than  
20 that. About 7.7 million dollars from the  
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to do with support of  
22 the central libraries, Library materials budget,  
23 the Library for the Blind and Physically  
24 Handicapped. We also have applied for an

1 additional grant to support additional renovations  
2 at our Paschalville and Overbrook Park libraries.  
3 I'm trying to think what else. And we have a  
4 Keystone grant, which is a half-a-million dollars,  
5 that supports the work in the four neighborhood  
6 libraries that are under renovation right now.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is there one  
8 that relates to this 542,000 increase in  
9 appropriation?

10 MS. REARDON: I have to look at that,  
11 Councilman. I'm not specifically looking at that.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Or is that  
13 the aggregate?

14 MS. REARDON: I think it's an aggregate  
15 number. So what this is, it's a hedge, if you  
16 will, on the money that we expect coming in from  
17 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So we won't know  
18 until the state passes its budget what our actual  
19 final appropriation is. So we've put forward a  
20 budget that includes additional support for our  
21 work.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Only for  
23 appropriations?

24 MS. REARDON: Yes.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And in the  
2 event that that grant doesn't materialize --

3 MS. REARDON: That cuts to the budget  
4 because that is fundamental to our core operation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Right.  
6 Okay.

7 MS. REARDON: We're a little nervous.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You have  
9 also in your five-year plan successful work  
10 placement pilot program is currently up in  
11 Bustleton and Torresdale section of the City. And  
12 I'd like to know, is there -- what's the scope of  
13 potential expansion of that program?

14 MS. REARDON: Okay.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Given that  
16 it's been successful.

17 MS. REARDON: Why don't you come on up.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just state  
19 your name for the record.

20 MS. MORAN: Sara Moran. I'm delighted  
21 to tell you that we actually are expanding the  
22 program starting -- this is April. We are starting  
23 again in -- next year beginning in September. It's  
24 a program targeted at teenagers who are on the



1 autism spectrum. We found that there are plenty of  
2 services for young children, but when you get to be  
3 older, when you get to be a teenager, there are  
4 fewer services who are providing work experience so  
5 that hopefully these students will be able to get  
6 employment afterwards.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Thank  
8 you. One last question. Your performance goals  
9 show a decreasing number of in-person visits and  
10 attendance for teen programs. How do you explain  
11 the decline? I think I might know the answer.

12 MS. REARDON: So a lot of it has to do  
13 with the amount of closures that we have  
14 experienced in the five neighborhood libraries that  
15 are closed. So that has a big impact. And then,  
16 you know, when you think about Blackwell Regional  
17 Library, that's been closed for the whole year and  
18 then the four neighborhood libraries that have been  
19 closed, and then we've had substantial closures in  
20 greater Olney and a number -- where we have larger  
21 teen programming. So we will be looking to build  
22 that capacity back up. That's something that we're  
23 intending to focus on. But yeah, the closure of  
24 these five libraries for an entire year and then

1 some --

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So it's more  
3 that than the behavior of teens who increasingly  
4 have less interest in actually going in the library  
5 where they're --

6 MS. REARDON: You know, that is an  
7 interesting -- yeah --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's my  
9 thought.

10 MS. REARDON: No, I totally agree with  
11 you. But one of the things that we're working with  
12 is really growing their conversation with teenagers  
13 so that they actually have more say in the kind of  
14 programming that we're doing. We're doing a  
15 terrific job at Parkway Central. We have a large  
16 group of teenagers, over 200 I want to say, on a  
17 consistent basis who participate in our Teen  
18 Tuesday and we want to push that out to the  
19 neighborhood libraries. The thing we need to do  
20 also is to really focus -- like we have children  
21 librarians and like we have adult librarians, we  
22 need to create the specialty around people that are  
23 focused on teen services in a much more enhanced  
24 way. I recognize the deficit.

1 MS. DEMBE: Didn't you spend your  
2 entire adolescence in the library?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I guess to  
4 some degree I'm kind of under oath, so I'm not  
5 going to answer that question. All right. Thank  
6 you. Thank you for that response.

7 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.  
9 President. Good afternoon.

10 MS. DEMBE: Good afternoon.

11 MS. REARDON: Good afternoon.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good. Good. Just  
13 a couple things, questions that I had. I wanted to  
14 go back to your testimony in reference to having  
15 every student in Philadelphia public schools K  
16 through 12 with a library card by the end of 2016.

17 MS. REARDON: Right.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Have we met that  
19 goal?

20 MS. REARDON: We did. Actually that  
21 was a -- that's a work that we do fairly  
22 consistently with Dr. Hite. It was actually his  
23 request that he wanted every student in the  
24 district to have a library card. So that was

1 completed in 2016. It was an astounding number. I  
2 want to say over 200,000 cards were issued. I'll  
3 get that number for you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So about 95  
5 percent.

6 MS. REARDON: But now what we do on a  
7 regular basis is ensure that all of the  
8 kindergartners coming into school have a library --  
9 so we begin that process. Annually I want to say  
10 that we issue about roughly 100,000 new cards every  
11 single year.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Once we get the  
13 cards, do we also track their attendance or  
14 their --

15 MS. REARDON: Their utilization?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Utilization is a  
17 better word.

18 MS. REARDON: Yes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Library services.

20 MS. REARDON: Exactly. And depending  
21 upon the librarians, sometimes the children will  
22 hold onto their card or sometimes the librarian  
23 will hold onto their cards, so when we come in for  
24 class visits or on their own they know the card is

1 in a safe space for continuation as well. We can  
2 give you more data on the utilization of these  
3 cards as they come through. Be happy to do that.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good. Very  
5 good. Also, I did want to make mention of the  
6 renovations at Lovett Library. We've had a lot of  
7 conversation about Lovett Library and particularly  
8 around participation. So I did want to acknowledge  
9 that, you know -- well, as you know, our office has  
10 been paying a considerable amount of attention to  
11 the renovation work that was done at Lovett and at  
12 the other sites and that, you know, in the  
13 beginning we were not happy with the amount of  
14 diversity and inclusion on the work site. But we  
15 did, you know, work with the developer Intech and  
16 also with your office and I'm happy to say that the  
17 diversity levels have much improved and are  
18 starting to look much more like Philadelphia looks  
19 and very much inclusive. So I did want to give you  
20 kudos and acknowledgement because I kind of raked  
21 you over the coals a little bit.

22 MS. REARDON: It's okay.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So I just wanted to  
24 acknowledge that.

1 MS. REARDON: Good. It's a gorgeous  
2 renovation, I have to say. I'm ready take you  
3 through for a walk-through again.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'd be happy to go.  
5 I'd be very happy to see.

6 The last thing I wanted to mention is  
7 something we have discussed also a number of times,  
8 which is mobile hotspot lending. So today, just  
9 today we had asked for the figures in terms of what  
10 that would look like for the City of Philadelphia.  
11 You know, how far away are we from that budget and  
12 I just received the numbers today. Very much on  
13 time. But I have not had a chance to actually  
14 analyze them and work through them. So what I'd  
15 like to do is take a moment to look through those  
16 numbers and provide them to my colleagues and also  
17 to maybe have a call-back later on and have a  
18 further discussion about those numbers.

19 MS. REARDON: Happy to. Absolutely.  
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you very  
22 much. Thank you, Mr. President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
24 Councilwoman.

1 Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
2 Blackwell.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very  
4 much. Good afternoon. I was walking by my T.V.  
5 when I heard you say that the Lucien E. Blackwell  
6 Library is getting ready to open soon.

7 MS. REARDON: Yes, May 20th.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: May 20th.  
9 Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Judge.  
10 Always a pleasure to see you and thank you, Sara.  
11 Thank you.

12 Also, so we're grateful for that and --  
13 well, we're going to get to the Georges Library,  
14 aren't we?

15 MS. REARDON: Yes, we are. So that's  
16 one of those -- you know, it was -- you know, I was  
17 -- I drove by there just the other day with Sara  
18 and we still have the drawings of what we would  
19 like to see on that fabulous site. So it is still  
20 to recreate that site as a digital learning center,  
21 but then somebody else gave me a great idea to make  
22 it a two-story building and put a culinary literacy  
23 center on top of it. So we have got big ideas for  
24 this space. As you know, it's almost a

1 seven-million-dollar renovation and build-out of  
2 that space. And so we're working on prioritizing  
3 that in the next round of our 21st Century Library  
4 incentive. Georges is on our next round of our  
5 fund raising effort.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr.  
7 President. That's all I have.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're  
9 welcome, Council lady. And putting the Lucien  
10 Blackwell news in your testimony was going to be a  
11 hit with the Councilwoman. You know how to secure  
12 nine votes.

13 MS. REARDON: It deserves  
14 acknowledgement. It's been closed for an  
15 extraordinarily long period of time.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Whoever  
17 wrote your testimony, give them props. Doesn't  
18 seem to be any other questions.

19 One quick last question. Sixth and  
20 Girard, you're familiar with that proposal?

21 MS. REARDON: I am.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is that  
23 something that you're supportive of?

24 MS. REARDON: Yes. We are supportive



1 as long as we get a great library out of it, and  
2 it's that are we getting a great library out of it  
3 is the thing that concerns me about the project in  
4 and of itself right now.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm not sure  
6 it's going to happen but --

7 MS. REARDON: Right now we have a fully  
8 functioning library in a very large space. And so  
9 if, in fact, that project continues, I expect a  
10 fully functioning library much like happened at  
11 Broad and Morris.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Great.  
13 Okay. Thank you for your testimony.

14 MS. REARDON: Thank you.

15 MS. DEMBE: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next up,  
17 Parks & Rec.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I hope Streets  
19 Department is listening because I have asked Kasim  
20 Alin to work with me. He's been with the City  
21 around -- I don't know, probably around 30 years.  
22 Probably almost as long as I have. But I want to  
23 say to Commissioner Williams, to everybody, to the  
24 Deputy Commissioner and when it comes to Kasim

1 Alin, you all need to make him permanent. The man  
2 does a wonderful job. Make him permanent. Thank  
3 you, Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.  
5 I'm sure they heard you. If they didn't hear you  
6 just now, somebody is going to tell them. Thank  
7 you, Council Lady.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Parks & Rec.  
10 Good afternoon.

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Good  
12 afternoon. Good afternoon, Council President  
13 Clarke and members of Council, my name is Kathryn  
14 Ott Lovell. I'm the Commissioner of Parks &  
15 Recreation. With me today are Aparna Palantino,  
16 Deputy Commissioner for Capital Infrastructure and  
17 Natural Land, and Marissa Washington, Deputy  
18 Commissioner for Administration. It is our  
19 pleasure to be here today.

20 I appear before you today to present  
21 our proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2018,  
22 which includes a general fund obligation of  
23 \$61,156,041 and grants revenue of \$12,531,554. The  
24 FY18 general fund budget reflects an increase of

1 \$903,547 over FY17 estimated obligations. The  
2 Class 100 request of \$46,660,211 sustains the  
3 Department's authorized levels of 743 general fund  
4 full-time positions. \$9,294,525 dollars proposed  
5 for Class 200. And \$2,673,805 in Class 300, 400.  
6 And \$2,527,500 in Class 500.

7 I would like to begin my comments by  
8 thanking the staff at Philadelphia Parks &  
9 Recreation, many of who are with us here today, for  
10 their extraordinary dedication to the Department,  
11 our assets and programs and to the constituents we  
12 serve each day. The men and women serving  
13 Philadelphia Parks & Recreation represent various  
14 backgrounds and diversities. The Parks &  
15 Recreation executive team are 80 percent women, 20  
16 percent men, 20 percent African American, 40  
17 percent white, 20 percent Latino, and 20 percent  
18 Asian. The full-time new higher breakdowns for  
19 FY17 was 43 percent female, 57 percent male, 43  
20 percent minority, 57 percent white and seven  
21 percent bilingual.

22 Our plans for FY18 include implementing  
23 Parks & Recreation's first strategic plan as a  
24 merged department. Implementing this new plan will

1 not only strengthen the Department's ability to  
2 operate as a single and aligned entity, but will  
3 position it to more effectively serve and  
4 continuously engage communities across the entire  
5 City. It will help build stronger relationships  
6 between the Parks & Recreation system and  
7 Philadelphians for years to come.

8           In FY18 the Department will continue to  
9 build on its youth workforce efforts and take on a  
10 leadership role in the design and implementation of  
11 the City as a model employer strategy by way of our  
12 new career advancement project, a 24-month career  
13 exposure program designed to connect young adults  
14 and underemployed individuals to permanent careers.  
15 Capital support, innovative apprenticeship career  
16 pathways and expose individuals to natural resource  
17 management, health and wellness and community  
18 engagement fields. We will engage 40 participants  
19 in the first year of this program, targeting  
20 individuals who have held seasonal positions within  
21 our Department. Other new initiatives and projects  
22 for the Department in FY18 include the completion  
23 of the Love Park renovation, the opening of the  
24 Reading Viaduct Rail Park, the opening of the City

1 of Philadelphia's first zip line and ropes  
2 adventure course in West Fairmount Park, the  
3 hosting of our Second Annual Philadelphia  
4 International Unity Cup which celebrates the City's  
5 diversity through the game of soccer and offering a  
6 unique opportunity for hundreds of children to  
7 experience overnight summer camp in the Poconos  
8 through a new program called Camp Philly.

9           The Department will continue to support  
10 the rebuild initiative, working hand in hand with  
11 the rebuild team to address critical capital issues  
12 at our sites and to re-imagine how our facilities  
13 can best meet the needs and interests of our  
14 constituents. We will continue engaging community  
15 members in every neighborhood of Philadelphia and  
16 building the capacity of the volunteers serving in  
17 our hundreds of registered park friends groups and  
18 recreation advisory councils. Lastly we will put  
19 the needs of citizens first and we will work to  
20 provide optimal service in a rewarding and  
21 meaningful experience for each and every Parks &  
22 Recreation user.

23           I want to thank the Parks & Recreation  
24 commission members, many of us who are here with us

1 today. I also want to thank each of you for your  
2 tireless efforts on behalf of your constituents and  
3 your care, concern and support for Parks &  
4 Recreation facilities in your districts and  
5 throughout the City.

6 Should any Council member wish to  
7 engage in further discussion on any of these  
8 matters, my staff and I are available to meet with  
9 you at your convenience. Thank you for this  
10 opportunity to discuss our department with you  
11 today and I look forward to your questions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you  
13 and good afternoon. A couple questions. Last year  
14 during the operating budget, Council admitted the  
15 budget to include appropriations for 40 employees  
16 and I'm assuming that's based on the rebuild  
17 revenue. Can you tell me where we are with that?  
18 Although we have talked about a whole lot of  
19 different things relating to rebuild, there's  
20 really not been any conversation about those 40  
21 employees that will actually do, I guess, minimal  
22 capital or maintenance work to facilities. Can you  
23 tell me where we are with that project?

24 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure. So

1 when we found out that we received that extra  
2 allocation, we began the hiring process for those  
3 individual and we did hire 12 of the 40  
4 individuals, and then we put a hold on the hiring  
5 process when we learned that the revenue was  
6 connected to the Philadelphia Beverage Tax. And so  
7 as soon as that is resolved, we had hoped to pick  
8 the hiring back up and fill all of those spots.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Do we expect  
10 to meet our 40 person --

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Correct.  
12 Yes.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I mean, I  
14 know there was some conversations during the  
15 discussion about how it would be structured. They  
16 were talking about hiring maybe two or three  
17 individuals who were journeymen or retired  
18 construction individuals that would be supervisors.  
19 I mean where are we at --

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure. So our  
21 plan for the positions was to actually create a  
22 special project capital team. As you know, we've  
23 had a special project program that our skilled  
24 trades team has been working on for about three

1 years. It's been incredibly successful. We have  
2 done about a hundred capital projects using the  
3 existing skill trades team. And so it was our hope  
4 through this -- with this new funding to create a  
5 sort of dedicated capital squad of these 40  
6 individuals that would be made up of folks in each  
7 of those trades with sort of a group leader in  
8 charge of those and a superintendent who would  
9 oversee the special capital project. What we found  
10 was throughout the initial three years of doing  
11 this special capital project, while they were  
12 incredibly successful, saved time and money, well  
13 utilized by District Council people, it did put a  
14 strain on our ability to respond to maintenance  
15 requests and that coupled with the new institution  
16 of the Performo work management system, we have a  
17 higher need to be accountable and to complete work  
18 orders on time. So with Frank Fabey's direction  
19 and advice, along with Aparna we decided that a  
20 good use of a structure that we would create would  
21 be to create this special capital squad, which is  
22 still what we hope to do. The 12 individuals that  
23 we hired are working on the existing skill trades  
24 staff, so it has given us a good infusion of



1 additional support right now for our skilled trade  
2 staff. But it is our hope to eventually fill those  
3 40 positions and to be able to do those special  
4 capital projects alongside the rebuild team. So  
5 hopefully some of the rebuild projects that might  
6 be things that can be fulfilled by our skilled  
7 trades, that those guys would be able to do those  
8 projects.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.  
10 So of the 12, are they individuals that are  
11 certified in those particular disciplines? I mean,  
12 are we hiring individuals that are currently  
13 carpenters or --

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We are.  
15 Yeah, they have to come in -- there's  
16 specifications for the job which I can share for  
17 you. But they have to come in with a level of  
18 experience for that position.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.  
20 Of that 12, what's the racial breakdown.

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I believe  
22 it's 30 percent people of color. I can give you  
23 the exact racial breakdown. We actually have one  
24 female too, which is a big deal for us because we

1 don't have too many women in our skilled trades.  
2 Hang on one second. I have the number. So we have  
3 of the 12 positions, eight percent female which is  
4 one, 11 percent men which is 92 percent, four  
5 African Americans, 33 percent, seven Caucasians at  
6 58 percent and one Latino at eight percent.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So 30  
8 percent minority?

9 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.  
10 Actually if I'm reading this, it's actually 40  
11 percent minority, people of color.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 40?

13 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah. Of the  
14 12. And that's on par with what our skilled trades  
15 are overall. We're about 30, 32 percent in our --  
16 diversity of our skilled trades, people of color.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: When we  
18 recommended that strategy, we always believe that  
19 the percentages as it relates to -- reflecting the  
20 demographics of the City would be higher if we  
21 hired City employees and those City employees are  
22 required to live in the City of Philadelphia.

23 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Correct.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

1 I need to ask you about -- civil service changes.  
2 During the course of the conversation, this  
3 actually goes back sometime where we had these  
4 individuals that were provisionals, volunteers,  
5 people that basically worked at the rec centers in  
6 some cases more than the actual rec leader. And  
7 there was always a conversation about a path  
8 towards getting those people in some civil service  
9 capacity. Had that been followed through in terms  
10 of changing some of the requirements or giving some  
11 credits, time served -- I hate to use the term time  
12 served. Give it some credits associated with the  
13 activities of those individuals?

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: It has.  
15 There have been a couple things that we've done.  
16 The first thing was that we changed the specs for  
17 the GMW, the grounds maintenance worker position so  
18 that you had to have a certain amount of hours, I  
19 believe it's 40 hours of training, and if you had  
20 worked as an SMA, seasonal maintenance attendant,  
21 or had gone through our training program through  
22 the Department, which our seasonals would have done  
23 that, then they -- that was a requirement for the  
24 position. So we actually -- we just posted that

1 position and we had about a thousand people who  
2 applied for the position. I think we ended up  
3 having about 600 or so take the test, and I think  
4 about a hundred people on the eligibility list, and  
5 we're seeing a high number of them coming from our  
6 seasonal workforce so we were really happy about  
7 that.

8           The other thing we did was a robust  
9 recruitment effort towards our rec leader trainee  
10 position. We were realizing, you know, that our  
11 program staff, you know -- the SMAs have a pathway  
12 now, but the RSIs, which is the Recreational  
13 Specialty Instructor, those are the seasonal  
14 positions on the program side. It's a little more  
15 challenging for us to bring them through on the  
16 program side. And so through our Recreation Leader  
17 Trainee position we did a pretty robust recruiting  
18 effort where we solicited all of our program staff  
19 and said tell us -- give us prospects, people that  
20 we can actively recruit for this position coming  
21 from seasonals that you have worked with. So  
22 lifeguards that you have worked with or  
23 after-school counselors that you have worked with  
24 who are great and who meet the qualifications for

1 this position. And what we found was that through  
2 that effort, that we were able to increase the  
3 diversity of our rec leader trainee eligibility  
4 list by 50 percent through that effort. So we're  
5 going to continue to do that recruitment effort.  
6 It's a big lift for us because we don't have a  
7 tremendous amount of capacity. We're trying to  
8 build our capacity to be able to actively recruit  
9 from within our system and make people aware of the  
10 pathways that are available.

11           And then the third thing is the program  
12 I mentioned in my opening remarks is the career  
13 advancement project, and that is going to be these  
14 40 positions that we're actually going to bring  
15 them on for 24 months, four days of work and then  
16 one day of soft skills training, and we now have a  
17 full-time person who is going to be working with  
18 these individuals in terms of, you know, making  
19 sure that we have the mentors in place, making sure  
20 that we have the soft skill training, connecting  
21 them to other educational opportunities and really  
22 being a caseworker for them. And then the idea is  
23 that once they come through that 24-month cap  
24 program, that they would move right into a civil

1 service position. And we are targeting for that  
2 program individuals who are existing seasonals with  
3 us.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. One  
5 last question because I know my time is up. Real  
6 quick. There's this conversation about the rebuild  
7 program and the potential endusers and the  
8 capability of the enduser subleasing, possibly  
9 selling off facilities, and I was approached today  
10 by an individual who represents the workforce, i.e.  
11 the union, the existing workforce in the Parks &  
12 Recs, and I think most of them are District Council  
13 33.

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: 43 and 47.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 33 and 47.

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So in the  
18 event -- and you may not be able to answer this  
19 question and maybe our good friends over in the  
20 corner may be able to answer this question. In the  
21 event that that happens, which, you know, I'm not  
22 going to say it's unlikely, but in the event that  
23 somehow a facility is sold, who would be the  
24 workforce in those facilities?

1                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah, that's  
2 not something I can answer.

3                   MR. ABERNATHY: Thank you, Council  
4 President. Brian Abernathy, Deputy Managing  
5 Director. As you mentioned, I think to clarify,  
6 the entire asset does not -- is not required to be  
7 sold or optioned. It's only the improvement. So  
8 just to clarify what we're talking --

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: When you say  
10 required, I'm not asking you about required. It's  
11 allowed.

12                   MR. ABERNATHY: Sure. If it happens  
13 the City would still maintain those sites and  
14 operate those sites.

15                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: They would  
16 maintain --

17                   MR. ABERNATHY: Maintain and operate  
18 the recreation centers.

19                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Even if it's  
20 sold to a private source?

21                   MR. ABERNATHY: Yes.

22                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is that in  
23 legislation?

24                   MR. ABERNATHY: If it's not, it should

1 be.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. I'm  
3 good. Thank you. Chair recognizes Councilman  
4 Jones. And I want to make clear, I'm not good that  
5 the facility should be sold. I'm good with your  
6 response. Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So, Mr. President,  
8 I'm going to save all my rebuild questions for  
9 another day, in another hearing. What I'd like to  
10 say first of all and foremost is thank you to you  
11 and your staff for being so responsive to the needs  
12 of my constituents. Thank you for including the  
13 new members of your civilian auxiliary there that  
14 work so hard to be advocates for Parks & Rec and we  
15 appreciate their efforts as well. My all time  
16 favorite -- I really care about you guys, but Frank  
17 Fabey is my hero. He comes through and sometimes  
18 patches problems together with bubble gum and  
19 chicken wire, but it gets done and I really  
20 appreciate that on behalf of the kids.

21 A couple of questions. Golf courses.  
22 I have three in my District. I know Councilman  
23 Johnson has one, Maria has one as well and a  
24 driving range across the street from you. That's



1 mine, but it's yours. Listen, he pays for it. So  
2 what I want to know is when is the lease coming up  
3 and when can -- I hope you will consider input from  
4 Council members about some of the design of those  
5 leases. And so when is the lease coming up, let's  
6 start with that.

7 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I don't have  
8 that information in front of me. I can get that to  
9 you.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I believe it's '18.  
11 Is it '18?

12 MR. BESSLER: It runs through 2018.  
13 The lease for four of the courses, the two that are  
14 operating as nonprofits are on five year --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: State your  
16 name for the record.

17 MR. BESSLER: Barry Bessler, Director  
18 of Compliance and Policy. The current contract  
19 with Billy Casper Golf for four of our municipal  
20 golf courses ends December 31, 2018.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: While you're up  
22 here, there was a financial contribution proposed  
23 to Cobbs Creek. Does anyone know the status of  
24 those improvements?

1                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure, I do.  
2 We're still in conversations with that group around  
3 what the opportunity might be at Cobbs Creek and  
4 I'm happy to come in and bring you into the  
5 conversations.

6                   COUNCILMAN JONES: I just would like us  
7 to dream bigger.

8                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure. Sure.  
9 Absolutely.

10                  COUNCILMAN JONES: What I'd like to do  
11 is try to challenge us to dream bigger. Those are  
12 assets that obviously the private sector realizes  
13 are both historic and valuable and that we possibly  
14 can do some bigger things with them. To get caught  
15 into a five-year lease with folks that are, you  
16 know, at times -- I'm not going to call them  
17 marginal, but they're not big dreamers and not big  
18 investors. It's something that I'd like us to go  
19 to a greater height. So we can put a pin in that  
20 and go with that. I believe it was me and the  
21 chair of Parks & Recs that put in a resolution  
22 about phone connectivity in the park. Valley Green  
23 and other areas around the Philadelphia Park System  
24 are not connected to phones. So if you're riding

1 your bike or riding your horse or walking and  
2 sprain your ankle, or worse are accosted by  
3 someone, there's no way if they take your phone to  
4 do that. So what we've asked you to be a part of  
5 that hearing, not so much for you to provide the  
6 answers, but the Verizons, Comcast, AT&Ts of the  
7 world to give us a system that at least allows for  
8 folk to enjoy the wilderness, but not be in the  
9 wilderness disconnected.

10 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We completely  
11 understand the concern, we share that concern and  
12 we're very open to being a part of any of those  
13 conversations and figuring out how we can improve  
14 the situation.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Permitting.  
16 I need to get a better sense of that. There's a  
17 greater demand from the suburbs for our Parks & Rec  
18 now. They realize what treasures that we do have.  
19 And what I want to do is make sure that we maintain  
20 a balance of Philadelphians, as well as people that  
21 want to come from outside the City to enjoy it. I  
22 had an opportunity to ride down 33rd and -- what is  
23 it, 33rd and Berks? Out by you, up that way, and  
24 it was on a Sunday and I don't think I saw one kid

1 from the neighborhood taking advantage of that  
2 park. And I want us to welcome outsiders in as  
3 much participation of open space as dictated by the  
4 founders of the park. But I also want the kid  
5 across the street to feel welcome in the park and  
6 be a part of it. So the permitting of the baseball  
7 fields, football fields, how does that work?

8           COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah. So  
9 it's very challenging as you described because of  
10 the amount of demand that there is. You know, as  
11 more children and families have moved into the  
12 Center City area where there is very -- not a lot  
13 of opportunity for fields and we have seen youth  
14 programs grow within not just the Center City area,  
15 but I would say the perimeter neighborhoods of  
16 Center City it has been a challenge -- as those  
17 youth programs grow to find space in Center City  
18 proper, in those immediate neighborhoods. And so  
19 sometimes those groups do -- the youth programs do  
20 move to some of the East and West Fairmount Park  
21 field areas. What we do is we take requests as  
22 they come in. We certainly want to give priority  
23 to the immediate neighborhood, and on many of our  
24 fields, you know, those neighborhood groups have

1 been using those fields for many years and we  
2 respect that. We do have, you know, a first-rate  
3 refusal. If a group has been using a field for  
4 years, they can -- a youth group, youth always  
5 trumps -- we try to have a policy that youth groups  
6 always trump adult groups. But if a youth group  
7 has been using a field for a long time, we try to  
8 give them that opportunity to continue using that  
9 field. If we ever do get a request for a community  
10 group, does not have access to that field, we do  
11 our, very, very best to work one-on-one with that  
12 group to make sure that if we can't place them at  
13 that field we place them in a field in a very near  
14 location. But you area correct, I think youth  
15 sports and organized youth sports have exploded  
16 over the last 10 years and we still have the same  
17 number of fields and fewer fields because they're  
18 not all in as good a condition as some of the ones  
19 perhaps in East and West Fairmount Park. So we  
20 struggle with that. We also struggle because, to  
21 be honest, there's a lot of charter schools that  
22 are moving into buildings that are formal  
23 industrial spaces or former supermarkets or former  
24 elementary schools that don't have fields. And,

1 you know, we permitted, I think, you know, about  
2 8,000 hours for charter schools, last year alone 40  
3 different charter schools to use our fields. We  
4 didn't have that 10 years ago and so that creates  
5 more pressure on fields, and some of them are not  
6 from the immediate neighborhoods. Charter schools  
7 will often go wherever they can get on the field.  
8 So there's an incredible amount of pressure and I  
9 think through the rebuild initiative we have to  
10 really think about how we can create more equity in  
11 terms of where we make fields better and have  
12 enough fields for everybody to use them.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: If you have a really  
14 popular field -- I'm going to end on this -- where  
15 you have multiple requests, my suggestion -- well,  
16 would you provide to the President so he can  
17 provide to members the last five years of  
18 participation on our fields and who -- let's get a  
19 breakdown of where they're from. I want Center  
20 City after-work leagues to enjoy all of our fields,  
21 but I also want the Bad News Bears of communities  
22 to also be able to get some practice time, some  
23 playing time. So if you could give us a report  
24 that chronicles that and then a possible solution

1 might be a lottery. Like if you had it over the  
2 last five years, all right, you might want to take  
3 -- five years is a long time. So --

4 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Be happy to  
5 get that to you.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And I appreciate it.  
7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can you go  
9 back 10 years?

10 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: 10 years.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The folks  
12 over at 33rd Street are already gone and have been  
13 gone for quite sometime.

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure. We'll  
15 go back as far as we can. Absolutely.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: In the last  
17 10.

18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr.  
20 President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You're  
22 welcome, Council Lady.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good afternoon.  
24 How are you?

1                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Good. How  
2 are you?

3                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I just want to  
4 start by saying it's such a pleasure to work with  
5 you all. Parks and Rec, as the chair of Parks &  
6 Recreation it really is such an honor to work with  
7 such professionals and to have folks that you can  
8 really always come to agreement with in some way or  
9 another in terms of when we're trying to get  
10 something done, where we're working to get  
11 something done. And I really shouldn't call out  
12 names in Parks & Recreation but I have to just  
13 acknowledge a couple of people. Of course you  
14 ladies, you have been, like I said, a joy to work  
15 with. But I also want to acknowledge Frank Fabey  
16 who is -- everybody loves Frank. It's like a T.V.  
17 show, Everybody Loves Frank. And also Stephanie  
18 Craighead and Ken -- is Ken here? And really, your  
19 entire crew. And certainly the Parks & Recreation  
20 Commission for all of their hard work and volunteer  
21 hours because they are unpaid public servants and  
22 we have a lot of expectations and requests of them.  
23 And so I really just want to start by thanking all  
24 of them.



1                   And also as we talk about fields, you  
2 know, we had the pleasure just recently of throwing  
3 out the first pitch at Mt. Airy Baseball and I have  
4 to -- Councilman Jones. I'll teach you how to do  
5 it one day. But it was quite an interesting  
6 morning with children, like little ones, toddlers  
7 that we were trying to get to throw out the pitch  
8 with us, it didn't always work out so well. But I  
9 was just astonished in terms of the amount of youth  
10 at that field. And it's a field I go by on a  
11 regular basis and I've been there before but it  
12 seemed as if on this day there was an explosion, a  
13 baseball explosion and it was a good thing. And  
14 there were kids from all over, from different  
15 neighborhoods. There were about four different  
16 leagues, it looks like, going on all at the same  
17 time. And I just marveled at the amount of  
18 coordination that really requires to make sure -- I  
19 guess nobody is hitting a grand slam home run, but,  
20 you know, but if somebody hit a ball, you could  
21 easily end up in someone else's field or in someone  
22 else's game. So I don't know how that is all  
23 coordinated, but I have to just say Parks & Rec  
24 just does an amazing job at making sure that

1 everyone has the opportunity to participate in all  
2 of these activities. So, again, kudos to you.

3 A couple of things I just wanted to  
4 ask. And I had some rebuild questions, of course,  
5 but I'm actually going to save them for the rebuild  
6 hearing, although I don't -- you know, as the  
7 Council President mentioned earlier about the sale  
8 of the improvements and who the employees would be,  
9 I just really don't understand how we could -- how  
10 someone else could own a building and yet the City  
11 of Philadelphia is required to staff it or expected  
12 to staff it. It just really doesn't make a lot of  
13 sense to me. But like I said, I'm going to leave  
14 those questions for the actual rebuild hearing.

15 A couple of questions just following up  
16 on previous initiatives. So in 2013 we had an  
17 initiative, all the District members of Council had  
18 agreed that we would support funding for cameras  
19 out of our capital dollars. And I just wanted to  
20 get an update. Are all of our rec centers done?  
21 They were supposed to be done over a three-year  
22 period, which means really they should be done by  
23 now, and they were not just the cameras but they  
24 were also the anti-loitering devices.

1                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:   Aparna  
2 Palantino, Deputy Commissioner.   So Councilwoman, I  
3 would like to speak to the status of that  
4 initiative.   We have continued to implement cameras  
5 and it's taken sort of a broader approach since it  
6 was originally introduced.   We were going to  
7 address a certain number of sites every year.   But  
8 we've actually switched the approach a little bit  
9 in concert with some of Council members' requests  
10 to add them when we do major capital projects.   So  
11 rather than allocate funding separately to camera  
12 projects, they have brought it into their  
13 renovation projects.   So currently we have about 90  
14 sites completed at about a thousand cameras  
15 installed, with another 131 scheduled to go in  
16 within the next six months and then we'll continue  
17 as sites are being renovated.

18                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS:   Do you have a  
19 schedule for when that's expected to be?

20                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:   I don't  
21 have an exact schedule for when every site will  
22 have a camera based on renovations that will take  
23 place.

24                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS:   We want to do it

1 with the renovations because we want something that  
2 makes sense and it makes sense to do it. It  
3 doesn't make sense to put cameras in and then we  
4 know a renovation is going to be happening in a  
5 year or two years. So do it all at the same time.  
6 But I do want to be cognizant of the fact that we  
7 publically announced that cameras will be in every  
8 rec center in three years. So in the instance  
9 where there's not, it would be, I think, helpful or  
10 even much more important to let the community know  
11 that cameras are coming and an anticipated date  
12 when the cameras will be in. So if folks were  
13 expecting the cameras would be in by 2016 and  
14 certainly 2017 at the latest and they're not and  
15 they're scheduled, let's say, in 2018 and 2019,  
16 then I think that's information we need to provide  
17 to the public in some way, shape or form in those  
18 neighborhoods around that rec center, you know,  
19 maybe a public posting at that site or something of  
20 that sort to let folks know that they're working  
21 with the District Council -- you're working with  
22 the District Council person to make sure that the  
23 cameras are going to be in.

24 And also the anti-loitering devices,

1 the same status?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: Yes.

3 Those, of course, are restricted to areas where  
4 there's not immediate residents nearby because they  
5 do have a range of 60 feet so they can be  
6 disruptive to residents in neighboring houses. So  
7 we carefully select the sites. If it's possible,  
8 we install them. If it's not possible, we don't.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can you inform the  
10 District Council members if they're not going to be  
11 installed? But, again, that's something else that  
12 we collectively agreed to fund and if it's not  
13 going to be in -- you know, I certainly have the  
14 expectation that at every site there's also going  
15 to be this anti-loitering device and if it's not  
16 going in, then we should probably be made aware.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

18 Certainly.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'll come back  
20 around. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
22 Councilwoman.

23 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Council

1 President. So first and foremost, I want to  
2 acknowledge and recognize and commend Kathryn for  
3 her leadership under this position serving as  
4 Commissioner of Parks & Rec. We have done great  
5 things prior to you assuming the position. I look  
6 forward to continuing moving the 2nd Councilmanic  
7 District forward. And also I would be remiss if I  
8 didn't acknowledge Aparna, my good friend Francesco  
9 and obviously, as Curtis Jones mentioned, the great  
10 Frank Fabey who will assist us and make sure that  
11 when constituents call us and want to burn us to a  
12 stake because something is not taking place or  
13 something is not done at a recreation center, I  
14 will pick up the phone at any given hour and call  
15 my good friend Frank Fabey and say I need help. So  
16 I want to thank all of you for your hard work, your  
17 tenacity in helping us particularly address the  
18 issue of constituent services regarding Parks &  
19 Recreational facilities.

20 I just have three brief questions I  
21 want to get into. One, last year based upon some  
22 incidents that took place on the Schuylkill River  
23 Trail, I implemented the Schuylkill River Trail  
24 Watch in partnership with Townwatch Integrated

1 Services. So it continues to be a priority of mine  
2 because obviously the Schuylkill River Trail is an  
3 urban jewel in the City of Philadelphia. Moving  
4 forward in the near future, we're going to do a  
5 Schuylkill River Trail task force to bring together  
6 all the stakeholders to begin looking at some call  
7 boxes along the Schuylkill River Trail and also  
8 cameras. But the reason why we're going to do the  
9 task force because I think this needs to be a  
10 priority where the District Council person isn't  
11 solely responsible for the capital funds that's  
12 required. I think it should be an administration  
13 level priority because it is a Schuylkill River  
14 Trail that's -- one, it involves probably several  
15 different Council members who are here in the  
16 District, and often times when I get calls and the  
17 District is split, I will call Council President  
18 Clarke. We both just put up funds to put up  
19 lighting on certain parts of the trail, but  
20 nevertheless, from a public safety standpoint, I  
21 think we need to take it to the next level and  
22 focus this. And so I just wanted to put you not on  
23 notice but to let you know that we're rolling it  
24 out. Also working in partnership with you has been

1 my number two as a part of that task force to help  
2 guide us through the process, and maybe we can do  
3 some private partnerships to keep the trail safe as  
4 we move forward. I know Councilwoman Blackwell  
5 just celebrated Bartram's Mile the other day. So  
6 we want to continue to make sure that that trail is  
7 safe.

8 My other two statements and last  
9 question is dirt bike ATVs. Councilman Curtis  
10 Jones lead hearings with Councilwoman Blondell  
11 Reynolds Brown to look at the possibility of us  
12 having our own area where young people can go and  
13 ride their ATVs. We know it's a difficult process.  
14 We know it's not an easy process to find a  
15 location, but I still believe if we do it for the  
16 skate board park, this is a little more of a  
17 delicate situation because you're talking about  
18 young people on actual motorcycles, so to speak,  
19 and there's a liability issue, but we should still  
20 be trying to find an alternative place for young  
21 people to get off the streets if we can always find  
22 the parkland. So that's another item I want you to  
23 take a look at.

24 Last year we talked about the backlog



1 of the pruning of trees throughout neighborhoods.  
2 I just want to get an idea of where we're at in  
3 that process currently, what's the target this year  
4 for pruning trees throughout the City of  
5 Philadelphia, and how much staff do we have  
6 dedicated to pruning the trees here in the City of  
7 Philadelphia? I just want to say thank you.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: So with  
9 regards to the status of the tree pruning, this tax  
10 year we've actually -- we'll have pruned 4,678  
11 trees throughout the City. We do still have a  
12 significant backlog, but we're working -- for  
13 specifically the pruning I do not. I apologize. I  
14 can get that. We have an ongoing list of removals  
15 that are targeted. Pruning changes very frequently  
16 based on storms and events like that, so we don't  
17 have an exact number. But I can get you a good  
18 estimate for that.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can you break it  
20 down by District, please?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's it. Thank  
23 you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

1 Councilman.

2 Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
3 Quinones-Sanchez.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank  
5 you. Thank you, Kathryn. I too am very excited to  
6 see you at this department and some of the  
7 realignments that you have done, and I know that  
8 we're going to make tremendous improvements.

9 As we talk about realignment with Parks  
10 & Recreation and the parks system, is there going  
11 to be realignment around rules, around charges and  
12 costs? And let me explain. We have quite a bit of  
13 challenges in the past under the previous  
14 administration around costs related to utilization  
15 of the Parkway and other things. Is all of that  
16 information being updated?

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: In terms of  
18 the Parkway specifically, you know, that's probably  
19 a broader conversation that we're happy to have  
20 including the Managing Director's Office of Special  
21 Events as well. Many of the events on the Parkway  
22 we do in conjunction with the Special Events  
23 office. In terms of our -- you know, our cost for  
24 field permitting and things like that, as you know

1 for young people there is no cost and for adults,  
2 you know, there is cost and that cost changes  
3 depending on what asset you're using and what type  
4 of field that you're using. And those rates  
5 haven't changed since 2011 and we haven't been in  
6 discussions to change those rates. You know, we  
7 are open to having conversations around, you know,  
8 what our special events fees are for public spaces  
9 and do try to make accommodations when we can.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: And the  
11 reason I say this, it's a conversation that's come  
12 up with parades and others as people have  
13 post-parade events and the charges associated with.  
14 So I think that there's an opportunity there to  
15 have a discussion because it's been cost  
16 prohibitive.

17 Unlike Councilman Jones I don't want  
18 people coming from other parts of the City in my  
19 District to use my fields and bump off my folks.  
20 I'm just going to be real clear, right? I spent a  
21 whole lot of time getting them fixed. How are we  
22 realigning the utilization for schools and others  
23 so that community groups do not get bumped off as  
24 people get bumped off into other streets?

1                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: For school  
2 gyms specifically?

3                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We're  
4 going to get into the gym discussion. I'm talking  
5 about for permitting. So, you know, when folks  
6 come from outside the area, how is that handled?

7                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: If there is  
8 an existing community group who wants to use that  
9 field, then that group would have preference. If  
10 the field is unused and would remain unused, right,  
11 then if there is another group from outside that  
12 community that wants to use the field or, you know,  
13 perhaps they're being displaced because as I  
14 mentioned before in their neighborhood, like say  
15 they're in -- near East Fairmount Park and all  
16 those fields are being used, right, and we needed  
17 to place them somewhere else because we're trying  
18 to accommodate that group because there's another  
19 group using the field, then we will look throughout  
20 our system to identify another location. We would  
21 not go to an existing permit holder and tell them  
22 -- a youth league and tell them they're out of  
23 luck. We would respect that. But if fields are  
24 going unused, then we're certainly open to

1 providing that opportunity to people no matter  
2 where they're from.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: That's  
4 a written protocol, right, that you have  
5 internally?

6 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes. Yes.  
7 It's a guideline, correct.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: It's a  
9 guideline.

10 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: But again,  
11 Councilwoman, it's very much -- as I said earlier,  
12 it's very much a case-by-case basis and we do our  
13 very best with a high level of customer service to  
14 try to provide anybody who is looking for space to  
15 try to find them space, and we spend a lot of time  
16 working with folks, you know, through those  
17 situations and they are -- you are right, there are  
18 so many of them. It is every day and especially  
19 this time of year working so hard to try to  
20 identify where to put people. And as I'd mentioned  
21 before, organized youth sports continues to sort of  
22 explode in our City.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: That's  
24 a good thing. I just think that -- you know, I

1 have not had as much success as some of my  
2 colleagues with some of their maintenance issues,  
3 but as I fix fields I don't want my groups  
4 displaced. And many times we didn't have groups  
5 because we didn't have facilities. And so you're  
6 fixing facilities, building leagues to get -- to  
7 folks from the neighborhood to get displaced. And,  
8 again, I know that you're always receptive when we  
9 do this, but I just want folks to know I don't  
10 want --

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I completely  
12 am clear on where you stand on this. I do want to  
13 say that even though there was a situation where  
14 there was -- if you redid a field and there was an  
15 existing group from outside of the community that  
16 was using that field but then a new community group  
17 from within the community wanted to use that field,  
18 that would be a conversation we would want to have  
19 and we're very open to having that conversation.

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Good.  
21 Let's talk about the school agreement. I know you  
22 have been working a new agreement between the  
23 school and the recreation partnership, you know,  
24 and I have also talked to the School District. Can

1 we have Council input in this? I think that, you  
2 know, when I fought really hard for this  
3 partnership several years ago, that lead to the  
4 financial contribution by the school -- by the City  
5 to the schools, I never realized that we were going  
6 to have such an unequitable distribution of school  
7 gyms throughout the City. So what steps are we  
8 taking that we can broaden -- it's not about taking  
9 people away -- that we can broaden that so that  
10 more facilities are open?

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes. It  
12 really comes down to a budget for us to be  
13 completely honest. We right now permit 45 schools.  
14 So those are the same 45 schools that we have been  
15 permitting. We pay the School District \$338,000 to  
16 permit -- to be able to pay for the overtime that  
17 they have to expend so we can then permit those  
18 gyms. It equates to about 5,000 hours of School  
19 District overtime. We're actually permitting about  
20 18,000 hours of time in those -- I'm sorry, 23,000  
21 hours of time in those gyms. About 5,000 of that  
22 is School District overtime. That is where the  
23 \$338,000 number comes from. That's for 45 gyms.  
24 We have requested above and beyond that. I don't

1 have it currently within our budget to increase the  
2 number of gyms that we permit, and therefore we  
3 have what we have right now. And our MOU with the  
4 School District is really just for those same  
5 facilities. We have not been in conversations with  
6 them about additional gyms. So, you know, that  
7 would be a budget conversation.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Well, I  
9 think before the School District comes up, I would  
10 like to see what would be an aspirational plan  
11 based on request for use that we have had and what  
12 would be a fair distribution of that so that if  
13 there is a budget ask, we need to ask the School  
14 District. Because you're right, we have more and  
15 more youth leagues and they need access to these  
16 gyms. I mean, there was a -- you know, we went  
17 through this because the School District was in  
18 crisis. It's a different time and I think they  
19 need to step up to the plate in a bigger way. And  
20 it's hard to know what we're asking if we don't  
21 know what the requests are. So I don't know if  
22 you're team has been keeping a list of what the  
23 requests are and what would that look like so that  
24 we can --



1                   COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I would have  
2 to look and see and we would be grateful if you all  
3 have requests, if you could send them to us even if  
4 we can't accommodate them so that we're aware of  
5 what those needs are. I have a sense of football  
6 fields, a good sense of football fields. I don't  
7 have as much of a sense as with gyms. But I'm  
8 happy to try to collect that information and work  
9 with you on that.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Okay.  
11 I'll wait for the next round. Just keep in mind  
12 that we have community schools and that those are  
13 -- have not all been agreed that they're going to  
14 have evening hours and that's like a low-hanging  
15 fruit. If we're doing community schools, we should  
16 look at those because those were strategically  
17 designed based on community partnerships. I don't  
18 know if there's some conversations that need to  
19 happen around that. Thank you.

20                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
21 Councilwoman.

22                   Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
23 Blackwell.

24                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very

1 much. If all of these folks think they are going  
2 to praise Frank Fabey and beat me, they can't do  
3 it. With his background is their areas in our  
4 District that he remembers even longer than we  
5 like, those steps we did at Lee Cultural Center.  
6 But we all appreciate him and, Commissioner, we  
7 appreciate you too and your team. Thank you. And  
8 the longer you're there, the better because you get  
9 to know all those people and there's nothing like  
10 experience knowing your people and knowing how you  
11 need to treat them. But we are grateful and,  
12 Commissioner, I want to apologize. If you talked  
13 to the Commissioner about me, yes, we did tour each  
14 of my rec centers and yes, when they asked to  
15 cancel due to a Nor'easter, I said no. So I  
16 apologize for us having to tour in bad weather. I  
17 wanted to make sure we got it in before the budget.  
18 So we did and we're grateful. And we are grateful  
19 that we are really having a chance to look through  
20 our areas because we bring in the communities who  
21 are interested, as well as the rec employees and  
22 there's nothing like people being able to -- in  
23 summers everybody can't afford to go someplace, but  
24 when people get to use their neighborhood rec

1 center it's one of the most important things we do  
2 as elected officials. So let me say thank you to  
3 everybody concerned and we're looking forward to  
4 great things. Next year, next budget term I  
5 promise we don't do it during a Nor'easter. Thank  
6 you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
8 Councilwoman. Chair recognizes --

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sorry, Mr.  
10 President, I forgot one thing. We doing okay with  
11 the meals for those kids who would otherwise --

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We did. We  
13 did. We had our pilot initiative. For those of  
14 you who aren't familiar, during the School District  
15 spring break we distributed some meals at our  
16 facilities in the councilmanic district and it did  
17 go quite well. I think we had about an 80 percent  
18 rate of youth -- eating of the meals. So we look  
19 forward to seeing if we can expand the program in  
20 the future because I think it did quite well.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.  
22 Yeah, we want to do a Citywide. Thank you. Thank  
23 you all.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,

1 Councilwoman.

2 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

3 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr.  
4 Chairman. Good evening to each of you and welcome  
5 to you and your team. Let me sort of join the  
6 choir and thank you, thank Tiffany Thurman, Fabey,  
7 Aparna, the whole team. And the reason why we say  
8 it is because we want it all done now, we want it  
9 done right, effectively and you all are very  
10 patient and very responsive and I wanted to say  
11 that on the record. I think my first budget  
12 hearing here was some requests that we had made,  
13 maybe the interaction wasn't as smooth. But you  
14 have done a good job over the past year. So I want  
15 to put that on the record.

16 Let me go back to Councilwoman  
17 Quinones-Sanchez's line of questioning relative to  
18 sort of this inequity -- inequitable sort of  
19 distribution of youths as it relates to gyms and  
20 fields. The "R" word comes to mind and for me it's  
21 reciprocity, right, reciprocity. And I want to  
22 talk about School District property because, you  
23 know, we have Philadelphians who have children who  
24 are grown who are no longer attending public

1 schools and, you know, they too contribute to this  
2 tax base. And when they are interested in using a  
3 School District-owned facility but can't access it  
4 for one reason or another, it provides a great  
5 consternation there and that's taxpayers supporting  
6 the District and homeowners, they have a right to  
7 have that concern. So I want you to walk me  
8 through this, and if you answered any of this  
9 before I came in, I apologize for the repetition  
10 but just need it for the record.

11 How many gyms does Parks & Recs  
12 actually use after school hours and on the  
13 weekends? How many, do you know?

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: This is  
15 School District gyms?

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: 45.

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: It's a total of  
19 45. Now you gave a dollar amount. How much do you  
20 pay to use those gyms?

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: The cost is  
22 at a Class 200 and it's \$338,00. The same amount  
23 every year. 338,000. And that is for the overtime  
24 that we -- it's to cover the School District's

1 overtime costs.

2 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: School District's  
3 overtime cost.

4 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: To keep those  
5 facilities open. So it equates to around 5,000  
6 overtime hours. We are actually permitting around  
7 23,000 hours in School District's facilities. So  
8 we're permitting many hours while the school might  
9 still have staff there, right, between the 6:00 and  
10 7:30 hour. And then when their staff leaves we pay  
11 for the staff to stay on and we continue to permit.

12 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now, how many  
13 fields did you tell me you use after school hours  
14 and on the weekends?

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: School  
16 District fields?

17 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We don't  
19 permit School District's fields.

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Why don't you use  
21 School District fields?

22 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: It's not part  
23 of the MOU.

24 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay. So it's

1 not part of the MOU. Let me ask you this. The  
2 School District obviously uses Parks and Rec  
3 facilities.

4 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Does the School  
6 District -- now you just told me you pay \$338,000  
7 to the School District for the overtime that it  
8 costs them for you to use those facilities. Does  
9 the School District pay Parks for use of any of  
10 your facilities?

11 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: No, we don't  
12 -- the School District -- we do have schools using  
13 -- I'm looking. Sorry. We have about 80 schools  
14 who have --

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: 80 schools.

16 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I think it's  
17 around 80. I could be wrong. Maybe it's 75. 90  
18 schools. There we go. But we don't have -- we're  
19 not actually spending any overtime. So these are  
20 schools -- because our facilities are open, you  
21 know, until 9:30. So it doesn't cost us extra to  
22 have the schools use our space. But it does --  
23 going back to Councilman and Councilwoman's points,  
24 it does squeeze us, right, because we are --

1 because of the -- you know, we have, I think, 35  
2 charter schools alone that we're putting in our  
3 facilities for evening or weekend use in a Parks &  
4 Rec gym and schools as well which, you know,  
5 squeezes and puts pressure on us to not be able to  
6 accommodate perhaps other groups. But we don't  
7 have any overtime costs, so it's our straight time,  
8 which means -- we have a policy where we don't  
9 charge anybody for youth -- any youth programs for  
10 the use of our facilities or our fields that we  
11 don't charge the School District anything.

12 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now, I'm asking  
13 you this with specific -- so the concerns in mind  
14 relative to what is called super sites in the  
15 School District of Philadelphia. And I'm not sure  
16 how many School Districts have across the City.  
17 Someone mentioned a number four to me. I know I  
18 have one in my District. And this one facility in  
19 particular is being used by residents in the area,  
20 however, there are challenges with when they can  
21 access it along with the little leagues. So I'm  
22 asking you because of Parks & Rec's mission, is it  
23 at all possible for you to enter into some kind of  
24 agreement with the School District so that Parks



1 can assume maintenance of the field but make those  
2 fields readily available, so now because we have  
3 this growing interest by youth-based organizations  
4 to use fields you can add these forms very well  
5 maintained -- four from what I have heard, one  
6 again in my District, you can add them to your  
7 catalog of available space and the burden in terms  
8 of the cost -- because the little leagues, if they  
9 win -- we want them to do well, but lord knows when  
10 they win and it's time to go to Florida, we're all  
11 trying to figure out how do we help to make that  
12 happen. And right now we have these facilities,  
13 but they can't access them so they walk right by  
14 them, right, and sometimes may see other  
15 organizations or School District teams sort of  
16 practicing or playing on that field, but say I live  
17 here, my parents pay taxes here and because our  
18 practice starts, you know, at 6:00 -- from 6:00 to  
19 8:00, we can't use it. Have you ever he engaged in  
20 those discussions with the School District?

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We've had  
22 some discussions around, you know, expanding the  
23 facilities that we're able to permit. But again,  
24 it comes down to a budget issue.

1                   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I will, just for  
2 the record, and I have said this to the School  
3 District, I will ask them, this will be in my line  
4 of questioning, is it at all possible for  
5 after-school hours that the School District enters  
6 into an agreement with Parks & Recs, can add the  
7 super sites to your catalog of fields to make them  
8 readily available for youths by the community and  
9 then you can begin using those to assist some of  
10 those community-based organizations that you  
11 referenced earlier? So I will put it on the record  
12 when we talk with them. But accessibility is  
13 extremely important and I know -- on the next round  
14 I'll come back to hiring.

15                   Thank you, Mr. President.

16                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
17 Councilwoman.

18                   Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

19                   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Council  
20 President. Commissioner, team, I too just want to  
21 thank you for all the hard work that you do and the  
22 experience that you bring to the kids and the  
23 facilities of the City of Philadelphia is just, you  
24 know, second to none. I do want to thank -- use

1 this opportunity to thank you for thinking outside  
2 the box. All right. Thinking that sometimes when  
3 City Council members are looked upon skeptically at  
4 times and, you know, maybe pains in arses I'm going  
5 to say, that your flexibility in not just saying  
6 no, but where do we want to go, how can we better  
7 serve our kids in our neighborhoods is what you  
8 bring to the table and I thank you for that. In  
9 particular, you know, we're trying to make our kids  
10 healthy and happy, you know, through, you know, 60  
11 minutes of play, Philly Play every year, new  
12 programs that really change and adapt at times and  
13 what is necessary. So as you integrate a lot of  
14 the health aspect to what we do as Parks & Rec. So  
15 thank you for that.

16 I do want to just -- I mean, there's a  
17 lot of talk about the permits and you're talking --  
18 you mentioned 45 schools in the permits and, you  
19 know the overtime, which I get. I understand that.  
20 5,000 permitted hours, right? Is that correct?  
21 Was that hours?

22 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: That's hours.  
23 And that's the number of hours that we --  
24 technically the \$338,000 paid for to the School

1 District.

2 COUNCILMAN HENON: So there could be  
3 nights that have permits, but no youths and we're  
4 not paying for that?

5 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Correct.  
6 Correct. We're paying for what we use.

7 COUNCILMAN HENON: We're paying for  
8 what we use.

9 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: So we keep  
10 track of everybody and we, you know -- yeah.

11 COUNCILMAN HENON: I want to clarify  
12 that for the record too. So there may be 23,000  
13 hours of permitting but only 5,000 are being used?

14 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We have about  
15 -- I hope this right -- 18,000 hours that we're  
16 permitting that we don't pay for necessarily,  
17 right.

18 COUNCILMAN HENON: Do you know, are  
19 they being used?

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: That is  
21 youths. That is youths. That is permits that we  
22 have given to organizations, to youth schools that  
23 is while there is already --

24 COUNCILMAN HENON: But they're covering

1 their piece?

2 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Correct.

3 Yes. It's already a person in the building that  
4 doesn't -- we don't have to pay overtime, my  
5 understanding.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay. Great. I  
7 have no questions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
9 Councilman.

10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you again.

12 And just a couple other questions for you.

13 Something that came to my attention today, road  
14 closures. And we had this conversation, it must  
15 have been two years ago and it was with Mike  
16 DiBerardinis around road closures when Parks &  
17 Recreation has an event, an activity, so for  
18 example the Dad Vail Regatta or, you know,  
19 something of that sort, you know, when we have the  
20 bike race. I know we're not having it this year.  
21 But the bike race and things of that nature. Is  
22 there a way -- it seems like there should be a way  
23 that I can get like a text to my phone or dial into  
24 a number that will tell me what Parks & Recreation

1 routes are changed, what is closed. Have we made  
2 any progress on that? It's been a couple years.

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah, I  
4 haven't heard that before. I think it's a great  
5 idea and I'd love to continue that conversation  
6 with you and --

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So nothing happened  
8 with it before?

9 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah, I  
10 apologize that I'm not familiar with it. I think  
11 it's a great idea and I often find myself, you  
12 know, wondering the same information. And I know  
13 people who know I'm in this role will text me in  
14 the morning and ask me what's going on.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And it would be  
16 great if people can just opt in to a text that  
17 would push out to them when there's particular road  
18 closures.

19 MR. ABERNATHY: We publish,  
20 Councilwoman, every year on April 1st a list of all  
21 the Kelly Drive, Parkway and Martin Luther King  
22 Drive road closures for the upcoming season based  
23 on those events and it tells you exactly how far  
24 the road is going to be closed and the hours that

1 it is going to be closed. We do our best with all  
2 these events to try to have a Kelly Drive detour in  
3 place so it isn't technically fully closed but more  
4 detoured up through East Park. But all of that is  
5 published and we make sure we get it out early in  
6 the spring so that people can plan their year  
7 around it.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I appreciate that.  
9 But I do know there's no way I'm going to remember  
10 what I read in the paper in the spring like on July  
11 17th when the street is closed.

12 MR. ABERNATHY: It's on our Website  
13 that you can access any time. But I understand  
14 about the text.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Isn't there a way  
16 that we can, like, proactively push the information  
17 out if someone has that particular interest? So if  
18 I know I'm coming into town -- I live in the  
19 Northwest, I'm coming into Center City. I usually  
20 take Kelly Drive, you know. But I got a text this  
21 morning that says Kelly Drive is closed because  
22 there's a festival going on or the Art Museum is  
23 close because it's Made in America or whatever it  
24 may be. Because, you know, I'm not going to

1 remember what was, you know, online or what was in  
2 the paper back in the spring, and chances are I'm  
3 not going to go to the Parks & Recreation website  
4 and look it up. But if we could proactively push  
5 it out, I think that that would be something that  
6 people would appreciate and particularly people who  
7 live near the parks or who travel through the parks  
8 on a regular basis.

9           COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I think it's  
10 definitely something we could look into and look  
11 into further and research and figure out where it  
12 last went, and also working with the Managing  
13 Director's office for special events and see if  
14 there's some way that we can collaborate on that.  
15 Because there's a lot of interest in our department  
16 to certainly to modernize our special events  
17 process overall and to make it more, you know,  
18 technologically easier to access, you know,  
19 information both ways about our specialty events.  
20 So I think it's a great idea and it's certainly  
21 something we would be happy to talk more about.

22           COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Because the other  
23 thing it does is it really cuts down on the number  
24 of complaints about events, activities. You know,



1 it's funny to me, you know, I have lived in the  
2 City of Philadelphia my entire life and I'm just so  
3 used to activities, you know, in the City and road  
4 closures. I come down every day and so obviously,  
5 you know, over by the Art Museum it's closed and  
6 it's a little less convenient to get downtown.  
7 But, you know, there's public transportation here  
8 in Philadelphia. But at the same time, you know,  
9 like people feel, you know, really caught off  
10 guard. For whatever reason they feel caught off  
11 guard. There's a big festival coming. There's an  
12 activity coming. And to lessen the number of  
13 complaints, concerns, issues, it just might be  
14 helpful. That's all.

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Great.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: One other thing.  
17 Back in, I think it was 2013, we had done a couple  
18 of companion bills, one which required statistics  
19 on any criminal activity that took place working --  
20 Parks and Recreation working with the Police  
21 Department to provide statistics on, you know, what  
22 was happening at a particular recreation facility.  
23 And, you know, we really -- as a member of Council,  
24 I can say I really haven't received that

1 information and I don't think that my colleagues  
2 have either, but it is the law and I think that  
3 most members would like to know if there's a  
4 hotspot that they just don't happen to be aware of  
5 and would like to put some additional dollars in  
6 and, you know, we did that bill along with  
7 Councilman Clarke's bill which we worked on  
8 together, which would, you know, require that extra  
9 penalties be added if there's actually a firearm  
10 used in the commission of a crime at a City of  
11 Philadelphia recreation center or playground. So  
12 those are things that we would like to follow up on  
13 and have that information, if possible. Again, it  
14 helps us allocate our resources more effectively  
15 and we want to be helpful to you and also helpful  
16 to our constituents.

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL. Sure. We can  
18 certainly talk to the police and see if we can  
19 collaborate with them to get that information to  
20 you and to make it ongoing accessible.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That would be  
22 great. Okay. I'll come back.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you  
24 Councilwoman.

1                   Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
2 Quinones-Sanchez.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Thank  
4 you. I want to go back a little bit to our -- kind  
5 of a maintenance plan. With all of these  
6 discussions around rebuild and the internal  
7 maintenance team, do we have kind of a facility by  
8 facility maintenance work order, kind of what are  
9 the things that we need to repair or is that in the  
10 works? Because you guys gave round numbers, but we  
11 have never kind of gotten detailed, this roof  
12 absolutely must get done.

13                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: So we  
14 have -- it's about a year-and-a-half old now, it's  
15 a work order management system called Performa  
16 whereby staff at any level can enter a work order  
17 request in. So site staff, for example, rec leader  
18 on site could put in a request to have something  
19 addressed in their facility. Could be as simple as  
20 changing a light bulb, could be ceilings, roof,  
21 anything. And those are tracked on an annual  
22 basis. So they get entered and someone actually  
23 has to go in to say that they are complete and who  
24 has actually performed the work. So that exists.

1 It's, again, in the pilot. It's about a  
2 year-and-a-half old, but we do have that in place.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So I  
4 would be able to get -- again, because one of the  
5 things that I want to look at is, you know, we've  
6 -- again, Council have invested a lot in the  
7 internal maintenance and building up the building  
8 trades, folks internally. So it's sort of like,  
9 you know, are we addressing the top priorities in a  
10 facility to facility basis so that it can better  
11 inform us about the order in which things need to  
12 get fixed? Are we there? Are we working towards  
13 getting there?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: I have  
15 to say I think we're working towards getting there.  
16 Again, we only have about a year and a half of data  
17 so we're capturing recent requests. We can assess  
18 that currently based on the highest priority or  
19 needs. Within that system we do have the ability,  
20 for example, if something is severe and needs to be  
21 addressed by a capital squad, so it's beyond a  
22 simple maintenance request that it does need to  
23 turn into a capital project, it does get moved  
24 forward and then that's when we would approach your

1 office for assistance.

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I would  
3 like to get an update of our facilities plan by  
4 plan. Clearly I keep getting asked around rebuild  
5 what is a priority, and as I keep telling you my  
6 priority is my backlog so I don't know why I keep  
7 getting asked for my list because there's only one  
8 list. But I want to look at that because there  
9 might be something in that that may better inform  
10 what should be moved up.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:  
12 Certainly. We can get you that.

13 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I would  
14 appreciate that.

15 Who sets the regulations about the tree  
16 trimming, particularly the ones that PECO does  
17 along its lines?

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: What's the  
19 question again?

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So PECO  
21 where they have their electrical lines does some  
22 trimming, very badly by the way and very ugly. And  
23 so who regulates that?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

1 Unfortunately we don't regulate their tree  
2 trimming. We've had -- we've voiced our complaints  
3 in certain instances with them and other utilities  
4 when they work on trees in the public domain. Half  
5 the tree is lopped off. We do share some  
6 frustration there, unfortunately we don't regulate  
7 their crews.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Do they  
9 tell us when they're going to go out and do this so  
10 we can better --

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:  
12 Sometimes they give us advanced notice. Not always  
13 though.

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: Okay.  
15 I mean, I've complained to them about it. At some  
16 point they got to do it better. I go to certain  
17 neighborhoods and they look really nice and cut and  
18 then you go on Wyoming Avenue, you go on Castor  
19 Avenue and it's not acceptable and -- but they are  
20 telling me they're only required to keep it away  
21 from their lines.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: For  
23 safety reasons.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: For

1 safety reasons. So we need to figure something out  
2 because it's not consistent in all of the areas.  
3 And I know we're planting better trees, so we don't  
4 have the problems that we have.

5 A few years ago we had a discussion in  
6 this room and there was a discussion about the  
7 removal of all the dead trees. It would be nice to  
8 get an update. How many dead trees do we have? Do  
9 we have enough money in our capital budget?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO: So we  
11 had done an inventory. Last year when we were here  
12 at Budget we had embarked upon the process and  
13 ascertained how many dead trees we had across the  
14 City that are hazardous. We have a total of about  
15 1,400 trees, for a total cost of a little over a  
16 million dollars to address -- at a point in time.  
17 Trees continue to die, but as of the end of 2016 it  
18 was about 1,400 trees that needed to be addressed  
19 very quickly. We do not have enough funding in our  
20 capital budget to address that so we --

21 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: I will say  
22 that we have now broken up those dead trees by  
23 Council District and we are going to Council  
24 District person to Council District person to let

1    them know how many dead or dying trees are in their  
2    District and offering them the unique opportunity  
3    to pay for both the removal of those trees and the  
4    replanting of new trees, and I will say that of the  
5    three people that we have approached so far, all  
6    three have said that they are very anxious to  
7    support that effort.  So as we come around to the  
8    rest of the seven, we hope that we will get similar  
9    responses because we would very much like to wipe  
10   them out in the next six months.  Now, there will  
11   always be dead trees and trees will always be  
12   dying, but that's one way that we have found  
13   through this cyclomedia project, we know where the  
14   dead trees are, which it's a big deal and we're  
15   very excited about that.  And so now we just have  
16   to figure out how to --

17                   COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:  Just  
18   quickly as it relates to that.  And, again, I know  
19   we're planting better trees, but in the newer parts  
20   of my District, and Councilman Henon probably knows  
21   this well because he represented it, there's blocks  
22   and blocks where these Sycamore trees have totally  
23   uplifted all of the sidewalks.  Can anybody here  
24   have any institutional memory of what we did with



1 those trees? Because my concern is while I know we  
2 say it's the responsibility of the owner, it's --  
3 we planted them and now we've limited, you know,  
4 handicap accessibility to them. They're very  
5 costly because they're huge. Like, what did we do  
6 at one point around those trees?

7 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Meaning why  
8 did we plant them or what did we --

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: That  
10 person is not around, thank God, because I would  
11 have shot them myself.

12 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Again, if  
13 they're street trees then it is something that we  
14 can -- if they're dead or dying it is --

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: They're  
16 not dying.

17 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: If they're  
18 not dead or dying and they look terrible and  
19 they're breaking up the concrete outside of my  
20 mom's house and yes, it's a concern and it's a  
21 concern in communities where people don't want us  
22 to plant new trees because they assume that's going  
23 to happen again.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 Exactly. Just to give you an example, I said this  
2 to someone -- old man lived on 6th and Butler and I  
3 kept telling him we can't take it until it's dead,  
4 and then he put gas in it until it became dead.

5 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: He murdered  
6 it.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: And a  
8 wind came and took it down and I don't want to  
9 encourage people to do that but at the same time,  
10 it's pretty bad. I think Councilman Henon -- I  
11 mean, we did a tour of that area the other day with  
12 my staff and it's very cost prohibitive for those  
13 working class folks to address those. And many of  
14 them bought the house when the tree was there. All  
15 right. My time is up.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
17 Councilwoman. Councilwoman, we have a bunch of  
18 them over in our area. Actually that goes way  
19 back. Tells you how long I have been working in  
20 government when the City used to do curbs and  
21 sidewalks under the old program and they planted  
22 all these trees and people were kind of excited and  
23 now -- back then new curbs and sidewalks are now  
24 broken up. You can't walk down the sidewalk and

1 the City basically said that's your responsibility,  
2 that's your tree. Although they gave the tree to  
3 the people, so I know exactly what you're talking  
4 about. Real problematic.

5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

6 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. I asked this question yesterday of HR  
8 and you know it's something that has been of great  
9 concern. I wanted to know, has Parks & Rec thought  
10 about using the ratio equity tool in the hiring  
11 practices and are there any proposed solutions in  
12 working with Civil Service Commission and HR? And  
13 I'm specifically referring to those folks who are  
14 hired for summer jobs or part-time jobs and they're  
15 overwhelmingly people of color. However, of those  
16 part-time workers, the folks who actually end up  
17 becoming full-time civil servants are  
18 overwhelmingly white. And for me there is some  
19 kind of breakdown. So we're doing it right from a  
20 seasonal perspective and it's reflecting  
21 Philadelphia's population, but when it comes time  
22 for the actual grown up, you know, pay the mortgage  
23 and bills, you know, career, then something  
24 happens. Talk to us about the ratio equity tool

1 and communications with HR and whether or not  
2 there's a way we can make it through that.

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.

4 Unfortunately I can't speak as much to the ratio  
5 equity tool. I know there's a plan being developed  
6 and we have spoken with Nolan's group and other  
7 forks who are working on that plan through the  
8 racial equity grant. And, you know, we have given  
9 them a lot of information and data about the  
10 challenges that we have in our department and how,  
11 you know, being a part of that -- you know, being  
12 able to implement, you know, part of what comes out  
13 of that plan in our department would be incredibly  
14 beneficial because we have struggled with exactly  
15 what you said. We have 1,400 seasonal employees.  
16 We have 700 full-time staff. Now I will say that  
17 not all the 1,400 seasonal employees want a  
18 full-time job, but there is a good portion who do.  
19 And we really do want to create pathways for those  
20 individuals to come into our department full time  
21 or another City department full time. It doesn't  
22 necessarily have to be with us. And so there's a  
23 couple of things that we're doing. The first thing  
24 that I mentioned in my opening remarks is our

1 career advancement project and that's a small  
2 program, but I hope that it will become a model and  
3 also scaleable initiative that we can continue to  
4 build over the next few years and that is an  
5 initiative where we're going to have 40 individuals  
6 that are hopefully coming from -- we're going to  
7 target our seasonal employees to join this program  
8 that we will be starting in June, and it will be a  
9 24-month program for individuals to be paid \$11.00  
10 an hour to work with us in three different tracks,  
11 and then from that they will be in line for a civil  
12 service position. And we are targeting individuals  
13 who are in our existing seasonal workforce who have  
14 expressed an interest in full-time employment and  
15 would benefit from this program. It will be four  
16 days of work and one day of training. And, you  
17 know, we have had other workforce development  
18 programs. I would say this one we're doing with a  
19 highly level of intentionality and also, it's  
20 longer. It's 24 months. And what we had found was  
21 the six and nine-month positions that we currently  
22 offer, it's just not enough for folks, right? So  
23 that's one thing that we're doing. Another thing  
24 we're doing is working closely with OHR to actively

1 recruit for positions. To be honest, you know, we  
2 probably haven't done as much to recruit, actively  
3 recruit employees for our department as we could  
4 and, you know, I come from the nonprofit world,  
5 right, where, you know, I was a fundraiser, but  
6 everybody who worked in my organization was a  
7 fundraiser, from the accountant to the person who  
8 answered the phones. When I first got to the  
9 department, we sort of -- there was a bit of  
10 mentality that we had an HR problem and I said  
11 well, this is really -- we're all recruiters,  
12 right? And so we are really working hard as a  
13 department now with OHR and other internal HR  
14 division to recruit from our seasonal workforce and  
15 to make sure that our seasonal workforce is aware  
16 of the opportunities that exist, not just in our  
17 department by Citywide.

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Let me interject  
19 right there because I think the level of intention  
20 associated with the activity is something that was  
21 probably missing in the past. So I appreciate you  
22 referencing the new program, the 40 participants.  
23 Obviously we read that in the testimony. But I  
24 also appreciated your comments relative to trying

1 to scale it because there are a lot of people who  
2 have been sort of seasonal workers for years and  
3 while, you're right, many of them don't always want  
4 full-time employment, but many of them do. And  
5 they have talked about those barriers to entry. So  
6 that's the sort of barrier to entry, a concern.  
7 We'll see what happens with that program.

8           Let's talk about barriers to promotion.  
9 I did also -- just for the record, I mentioned to  
10 HR yesterday. Told them about a national  
11 experience where people looked at Philadelphia, at  
12 terrible rule of two and mentioned my Councilwoman  
13 Blondell Reynolds Brown who had been working on  
14 that issue and they talked about why don't you have  
15 a rule of five, why don't you have a rule of 10.  
16 Tell us about barriers to promotion. And we had an  
17 issue at one of our local rec centers with someone  
18 who was very knowledgeable there but because of  
19 that very limited rule we were not able to expand  
20 the universe to such a degree that we could sort of  
21 pool in the interest of the people who were there  
22 advocating strongly just based on the rules. What  
23 would the rule of five -- if the rule of five was  
24 in existence, what would it allow you to do

1 relative to diversity at Parks & Rec?

2           COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Well, you  
3 know, I'd love a rule 10, but I'll take five. You  
4 know, it would help us. It would help us. It is  
5 challenging. I'm new civil service so I have a  
6 very visceral sort of experience with this and, you  
7 know, it is challenging when you, you know, have a  
8 list of eligible candidates and you see that there  
9 is real diversity on the list and you see that some  
10 of those individuals have been working for your  
11 department for a long time and, you know, if you  
12 had the ability to pick them off that list and  
13 employ them full time, you would in a heartbeat.  
14 But the truth is that you won't get to them before  
15 that list expires. And then they have to go  
16 through the whole process again. And, you know,  
17 I'd be disingenuous if I didn't say I wasn't  
18 challenged by it. You know, it has forced me to  
19 sort of think about how we better recruit  
20 candidates because the more candidates we get on  
21 that list, the better our chances will be to hire  
22 -- you know, to be able to hire the best  
23 candidates. And so through our recreation leader  
24 trainee test when we knew that position was coming



1 up, we did a huge effort to try to recruit from our  
2 seasonal workforce eligible, diverse candidate for  
3 the rec leader trainee position and I'm happy to  
4 say that the eligibility list is 50 percent higher  
5 in terms of people of color than it was two years  
6 ago the last time that list was available. So it  
7 worked and it was just information sessions at rec  
8 centers where we told people about the job and said  
9 we really want you to work at Parks and Rec.

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And just for the  
11 record, if anyone complained about the number of  
12 people who responded, that was a good problem to  
13 have. Okay. When you have an overwhelming  
14 response to information that you distribute to the  
15 community and, Council President, I know my time is  
16 up but I also have to ask, have you and will you  
17 sort of look at from hiring to promotion -- and now  
18 I'm talking about for the regional -- sort of  
19 making it to the regional leader level, are there  
20 any antiquated, outdated eligibility requirements,  
21 you know, sort of on the record that you say to  
22 yourself look, I have only been here for a year but  
23 I want you to tell me why in order to be sort of a  
24 regional director you have to do X, Y and Z? Have

1 we taken a look at that, Parks & Rec working with  
2 HR?

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Not yet. We  
4 need to. We probably need to look at all of our  
5 specs for our jobs, both entry level and  
6 promotional and think about if they're still  
7 relevant for both the individuals who are within  
8 the Department, the individuals that we want to  
9 attract for employment and the individuals that we  
10 want to serve and that's a huge job.

11 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Is there anything  
12 that comes to the top of your mind when you think  
13 about something, for example, that you know could  
14 be --

15 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure. Sure.  
16 Sure. Red leader training test. That you need a  
17 degree in dance or theater or something but -- and  
18 yet, you know, we will knock people out if they  
19 have a degree in exercise science or something like  
20 that. Yes, someone might have a degree in history  
21 working with our department, you know, for a year,  
22 but won't be eligible. But a new graduate who just  
23 came out with a degree in dance will be eligible.  
24 So, again, those are things that working with OHR

1 to change the specs of these positions, I'm sure  
2 that when that spec for that position was created  
3 that a rec leader might have been different, right?  
4 Or the needs of the community might have been  
5 different. So it has become very clear to me over  
6 the last year in this position that part of the  
7 work has to be to go back and look at those specs  
8 and see how we can make those specs more relevant  
9 for today's constituents.

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you. And  
11 thank you, Mr. President, for flexibility.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
13 Councilwoman.

14 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Sanchez.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: I'm  
16 going to let Kathryn leave because I know her team  
17 works very hard. But I just wanted to echo what  
18 Councilwoman Parker has mentioned and we've had the  
19 conversation before. Particularly candidates who  
20 have bachelor's degrees and some of these other  
21 requirements. They have other options and so  
22 really readdressing that. I think the police  
23 department proved it when they went to 60 credits.  
24 African Americans and Latinos who have college

1 credits have other options so they don't  
2 necessarily explore that. So I really am grateful  
3 that you're exploring that.

4 Last thing because we were talking  
5 about it earlier and I kind of moved away from it,  
6 if you could submit to the Chair a breakdown of all  
7 the recreational staff, services and equipment,  
8 particularly overtime that is used for City-wide  
9 special events. I think it's important that we  
10 begin to break down your budget. I know that the  
11 rec department staff does a bunch of different  
12 things and we worked really hard to increase your  
13 budget, but we need to get -- I think we need to  
14 start parceling this out, not because we don't want  
15 to do it. In fact, I'm very pleased that this  
16 mayor has been more open to more activities and  
17 more community-based activities, but it would be  
18 nice to have a separate rundown on that because I  
19 think your staff is everywhere all the time.

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: We feel that  
21 way sometimes, we're happy to get that to you.  
22 Absolutely.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We want  
24 to give you separate credit for that, some of the

1 stuff that's going on in the different  
2 neighborhoods and rec centers and I don't think  
3 most of us realize how involved your Department is  
4 on all these other things. And then just for  
5 follow up, you know, really want to readdress the  
6 issue of when we use the Parkway and those kinds of  
7 charges. I'm open to look at what you have and  
8 some suggestions. And, again, none of this has  
9 been stuff that the mayor's folks haven't been open  
10 to looking at and readdressing. I'm also cognizant  
11 of nonprofits versus profit folks who have  
12 activities there and even some of the bigger  
13 nonprofits who have bigger budgets. So you can't  
14 -- it's not an apple-to-apple kind of situation.  
15 So the issue us the cost of using the parkway and  
16 those types of fees. You know, when there's  
17 corporate sponsorship it triggers another fee. Mr.  
18 Bessler is very aware of all of this. Been having  
19 the conversation since I was like 18 years old.

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: And he was  
21 much older then.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: He's  
23 been around a long time. Obviously with the  
24 realignment, I know that we have done all the

1 realignment at the neighborhood level but the  
2 downtown level --

3 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah, we're  
4 happy to look at that and happy to continue that  
5 conversation.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: So I  
7 can let you guys go home.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,  
9 Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ: We like  
11 Kathryn too much.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Give her a  
13 year though. Over a period of time you get a  
14 little softened up. It's all good. It's all good.  
15 No, we love you Kathryn and all of you. Recreation  
16 is one of our better departments and we really  
17 appreciate what you guys do for us. Thank you so  
18 much. Thank you for your testimony. Have a good  
19 day.

20 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Thank you,  
21 guys.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
23 committee will stand in recess until Tuesday, May  
24 2, 2017, 10:00 a.m., at which time we will

1 reconvene in Room 400, City Hall.

2 (Hearing recessed 5:21 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2

3 I hereby certify that the  
4 proceedings, evidence and objections noted, are  
5 contained fully and accurately in the notes taken  
6 by me on the hearing of this matter, and that this  
7 copy is a correct transcript of the same.

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12 SUSAN A. HURREY, R.P.R.

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Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

<b>A</b>	296:22	<b>accommoda...</b>	221:20	160:19	290:13	237:13	136:19
<b>a.m</b> 1:5	<b>abreast</b>	161:2	224:14	164:7 172:3	<b>addressed</b>	293:1	139:1
302:24	196:10	260:18	<b>acknowledg...</b>	180:12	152:2	<b>advancing</b>	140:10
<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>absolutely</b>	265:4 272:6	63:22	187:21	171:19	204:7	146:17,18
239:3,4,12	64:17 96:9	<b>accommoda...</b>	<b>acre</b> 5:19	251:10	198:19	<b>advantage</b>	149:5
239:17,21	111:24	259:9	<b>acres</b> 54:12	273:4,6	283:19	82:20 110:5	175:12
239:24	136:11	<b>accomplish</b>	122:1	274:6	284:21	110:9	203:12,13
278:19	157:5	36:24	<b>act</b> 5:21 6:12	<b>added</b> 93:6	287:18	144:15,22	203:14
279:12	162:18	153:23	68:7	154:21	<b>addressing</b>	244:1	213:8,9
<b>abilities</b>	168:3	<b>accomplished</b>	<b>acted</b> 161:16	210:4 282:9	284:9	<b>adventure</b>	219:9,10,11
208:18	222:19	204:15	<b>action</b> 14:6	<b>adding</b> 74:11	<b>adds</b> 68:6	229:2	223:4
<b>ability</b> 50:16	242:9	<b>accomplish...</b>	150:9 172:5	211:13	<b>adequate</b>	<b>advertising</b>	226:10,12
52:12	247:15	212:18	172:14	<b>addition</b> 16:8	173:23	32:24 35:10	226:12
174:19	283:12	<b>accorded</b>	179:3,13	28:24 77:11	<b>adjustment</b>	35:11,24	230:13
212:7 214:1	300:22	70:12	181:14	105:15	139:9	49:1 78:7	247:23
228:1	<b>abused</b> 68:5	<b>accosted</b>	183:1,3,10	127:1 166:1	<b>adjustments</b>	176:5 202:4	<b>afterthought</b>
232:14	<b>Acacia</b> 88:6	243:2	200:13	166:3	139:4	<b>advice</b> 232:19	171:23
284:19	<b>accept</b> 74:15	<b>account</b> 90:5	<b>active</b> 115:9	199:19	<b>administrat...</b>	<b>advisors</b>	<b>age</b> 113:12
296:12	<b>acceptable</b>	90:14 143:3	205:22	210:2	73:1,14	88:20	164:22
<b>able</b> 15:19	57:20	143:7	<b>actively</b> 110:6	<b>additional</b>	75:5 124:12	<b>advisory</b>	<b>agencies</b> 5:1
26:8 31:6	286:19	193:21	110:18	7:6 13:6	173:4	229:18	6:11 108:15
32:7 36:22	<b>access</b> 50:16	<b>accountable</b>	151:11	16:11 30:6	184:15	<b>advocates</b>	108:16
48:1 52:2	73:9 91:16	202:3	236:20	61:8,18	186:12	4:18 240:14	152:4
68:4 87:2,6	91:18	232:17	237:8	66:21,22	197:15	<b>advocating</b>	154:13
91:11,15,18	181:18	<b>accountant</b>	293:24	75:17 93:6	226:18	185:4,6	195:19
101:12	192:11	294:7	294:2	93:18 94:1	255:12	295:22	203:23
131:7,17	210:8	<b>accounting</b>	<b>activities</b>	94:18,19	258:14	<b>affairs</b> 34:1,5	<b>agency</b>
144:2,2,9	245:10	26:18 27:17	126:18	112:22	<b>administrat...</b>	34:10	192:13
150:11	264:15	64:21 112:7	154:13	143:23	175:15	<b>affiliated</b>	208:19
154:4 155:3	269:3	<b>accounts</b>	235:13	144:2,10,23	<b>admitted</b>	134:18	<b>agenda</b>
161:23	272:21	24:21,22	250:2	175:4 184:7	230:14	<b>afford</b> 46:15	124:16
164:8	273:13	25:14 50:16	280:24	185:11	<b>adolescence</b>	266:23	<b>aggravation</b>
171:14	279:13	63:5,6	281:3	187:22	219:2	<b>affordability</b>	46:9
174:20	280:18	66:22 106:5	300:16,17	192:11	<b>adopt</b> 2:9,12	32:4	<b>aggregate</b>
181:18	<b>accessed</b>	106:6 113:3	301:12	198:13,16	<b>adopted</b>	<b>affordable</b>	110:7
184:16	91:10	113:12	<b>activity</b>	215:1,1,20	204:6	4:22 48:19	215:13,14
186:16	<b>accessibility</b>	<b>accurate</b>	277:17	233:1 264:6	<b>adopting</b> 2:14	48:23 77:12	<b>aggressive</b>
190:3 198:5	175:20	64:10	281:12,19	282:5	<b>adult</b> 211:13	78:6	30:13
200:14	274:12	116:19	294:20	<b>address</b> 22:14	212:4	<b>African</b> 43:2	<b>aging</b> 18:5
208:9	289:4	<b>accurately</b>	<b>actual</b> 89:18	43:9 45:23	218:21	43:20 204:3	127:20
209:18	<b>accessible</b>	304:5	89:20	78:1 92:2	245:6	227:16	<b>ago</b> 30:12
217:5 233:3	17:19 51:9	<b>achieve</b>	135:16	128:3 130:8	<b>adults</b> 211:18	234:5	31:14 44:4
233:7 237:2	212:2	124:19	181:21	130:17	228:13	299:24	47:8 96:6
237:8	282:20	127:6,23	215:18	147:19	259:1	<b>after-school</b>	97:12 99:9
238:18,20	<b>accessing</b>	<b>achieved</b>	235:6	149:23	<b>advance</b>	236:23	99:16
246:22	209:24	125:6	250:14	152:16	124:15	274:5	100:11
263:16	<b>accident</b>	<b>acknowledge</b>	256:18	155:9 172:1	164:6	<b>after-work</b>	142:10,19
266:22	47:11	7:14 64:17	291:22	174:9 179:4	212:15	246:20	142:23
272:5	147:22	79:5,8	<b>ADA</b> 212:2	195:1 197:1	<b>advanced</b>	<b>afternoon</b>	143:6
273:23	148:4	221:8,24	<b>adapt</b> 275:12	229:11	199:4	88:15 91:2	161:18,19
284:4	<b>accidents</b>	248:13,15	<b>add</b> 9:1 27:2	251:7	286:12	91:3 92:5,6	166:19
292:12	172:11	254:2,8	27:6 75:19	254:17	<b>advancement</b>	124:5	180:23
295:19	197:2	<b>acknowledg...</b>	154:3	287:16,20	228:12	128:11	246:4 263:3

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

277:15	295:24	235:18	269:8 294:8	185:24	126:21	290:11,18	264:20
287:5 297:6	<b>allowed</b>	237:7	<b>answers</b>	214:24	<b>appropriate</b>	<b>areas</b> 58:2,5	272:12,22
<b>agree</b> 65:14	239:11	244:10	243:6	236:2	10:2	150:2 151:5	<b>aspect</b> 275:14
114:22	<b>allowing</b>	246:8 249:9	<b>anti-loitering</b>	<b>apply</b> 48:24	<b>appropriated</b>	155:14,18	<b>asphalt</b>
115:7,7	109:12	249:17	250:24	87:19	53:2	161:16	145:18,19
120:22	<b>allows</b> 128:2	269:19,22	252:24	118:18	<b>appropriati...</b>	164:1	156:13
141:20	154:6 243:7	<b>amounts</b>	253:15	147:4	94:18	168:22	200:12
177:7	<b>alongside</b>	89:22	<b>anticipate</b>	204:20	124:20,21	170:15	<b>aspirational</b>
218:10	210:20	113:13	5:16 9:9	304:19	214:10,16	172:10	264:10
<b>agreed</b>	233:4	<b>AMR</b> 12:7	11:4 58:18	<b>appoint</b>	214:17	173:11	<b>aspirations</b>
250:18	<b>alternative</b>	<b>analysis</b> 22:2	59:2 60:17	203:24	215:9,19	174:13	212:18
253:12	125:8	22:19 30:11	<b>anticipated</b>	<b>appointed</b>	<b>appropriati...</b>	175:18	<b>assembly</b>
265:13	174:19	30:18 95:23	17:20	43:18,21	24:9 215:23	189:20	163:2
<b>agreement</b>	256:20	142:4,10	252:11	<b>appreciate</b>	230:15	193:23	<b>assess</b> 183:17
2:24 83:5	<b>amazing</b>	143:6,10	<b>antiquated</b>	17:17 18:13	<b>approval</b>	200:5	195:20
94:24	204:9	<b>analyze</b> 106:4	297:20	74:21	2:16 32:6	204:16	284:17
161:11	249:24	222:14	<b>anxious</b> 288:6	113:15	96:24	208:14	<b>assessed</b>
248:8	<b>ambitious</b>	<b>and/or</b>	<b>anybody</b> 53:3	158:4 169:4	<b>approved</b> 3:1	242:23	134:11
262:21,22	124:15	167:15	56:11	181:15	<b>approving</b>	244:21	<b>assessment</b>
272:24	<b>America</b>	182:8 213:3	104:23	188:6	71:10	253:3 266:3	125:8
274:6	61:12	304:21	105:7,11,13	195:21	<b>approximat...</b>	266:20	<b>asset</b> 112:11
<b>agreements</b>	279:23	<b>anew</b> 75:15	261:14	240:15,20	24:16 25:15	287:2	239:6 259:3
50:17 52:13	<b>American</b>	<b>animal</b> 23:1	272:9	247:6 266:6	66:16,23	<b>arena</b> 208:19	<b>assets</b> 29:15
55:17	43:2,20	<b>ankle</b> 243:2	288:23	266:7 279:8	98:7,9 99:2	<b>arguing</b>	29:16
<b>agrees</b> 186:5	61:11 111:4	<b>announced</b>	<b>anyway</b> 13:21	280:6	114:21	112:3	227:11
<b>ahead</b> 140:24	122:17,23	173:3	<b>Aparna</b>	285:14	<b>April</b> 1:4	<b>arrears</b> 32:17	242:12
153:22	204:3	191:14	226:15	294:21	125:22	32:18 49:17	<b>assign</b> 115:21
<b>air</b> 148:1	227:16	252:7	232:19	302:17	161:5	112:5	<b>assigned</b>
165:11	<b>Americans</b>	<b>annual</b> 20:24	251:1 254:8	<b>appreciated</b>	216:22	<b>arses</b> 275:4	92:13 93:19
205:9	208:17	64:15	268:7	23:14 113:4	278:20	<b>Art</b> 279:22	93:20
<b>Airy</b> 173:16	211:8,9	125:21	<b>apologize</b>	181:14	<b>Aqua</b> 61:12	281:5	<b>assigning</b>
249:3	234:5	127:2 229:3	26:10	294:24	<b>AR</b> 25:11	<b>article</b> 168:8	92:22
<b>align</b> 39:13	299:24	283:21	111:24	<b>appreciative</b>	<b>area</b> 37:3	<b>ascertained</b>	<b>assist</b> 29:6
<b>aligned</b> 228:2	<b>AMI</b> 12:6,8	<b>annually</b> 70:2	114:3	207:18	86:9,13	287:13	52:4 151:8
<b>aligning</b>	80:10,19	126:10	257:13	<b>apprentice</b>	101:6	<b>Asian</b> 204:4	174:20
126:18	98:4	220:9	266:12,16	38:1,16	104:16,17	227:18	175:3,7
<b>aligns</b> 56:6	<b>amortization</b>	<b>answer</b> 7:19	269:9	39:8 40:2	130:6	<b>asked</b> 12:2	179:18
<b>Alin</b> 225:20	98:24	26:8,12	278:10	61:6	135:24	26:16 72:23	254:10
226:1	<b>amortize</b> 99:2	35:9 56:17	<b>apparently</b>	<b>apprentices...</b>	136:21	94:11 96:13	274:9
<b>Alive</b> 206:13	<b>amount</b> 81:22	56:20 76:23	56:2	6:8 8:15	137:8 138:4	113:1,23	<b>assistance</b>
<b>all-in</b> 98:21	89:14 98:13	78:2 95:5	<b>appear</b>	38:19,24	153:1	119:17	4:20 26:9
<b>ALLAN</b> 1:9	107:15	128:8	147:18	39:3 228:15	168:17	191:8 197:7	34:24 49:5
<b>Allegedly</b>	112:16,24	140:19	226:20	<b>approach</b>	175:1	222:9	77:13 93:6
21:19	121:1	141:9	<b>apple-to-ap...</b>	126:11	182:10	225:19	95:24
<b>allocate</b>	128:19	158:10	301:14	132:15	189:24	243:4	194:24
251:11	134:14	181:20,21	<b>application</b>	147:18	194:11	266:14	285:1
282:14	137:17	181:22,23	34:24	148:18	197:6	285:4,7	<b>assisting</b>
<b>allocation</b>	158:1 161:8	217:11	<b>applications</b>	179:5 251:5	199:14	291:7	168:21
231:2	189:16	219:5	32:6,13	251:8	244:12,14	<b>asking</b> 9:16	<b>associated</b>
<b>allotted</b> 6:21	207:8	238:18,20	33:8 35:21	284:24	245:14	21:3 28:2	29:24 50:18
<b>allow</b> 4:20	213:16	239:2	36:18	<b>approached</b>	256:12	70:1,4	94:23 134:5
109:8 165:6	217:13	<b>answered</b>	<b>applied</b> 123:8	238:9 288:5	260:6	178:6	235:12
198:11	221:10,13	167:17	123:10	<b>approaches</b>	272:19	239:10	259:13

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

294:20 <b>Association</b> 5:1 45:1 <b>associations</b> 49:4 78:10 <b>assume</b> 10:15 273:1 289:22 <b>assumed</b> 168:16 <b>assuming</b> 89:15 230:16 254:5 <b>assumption</b> 9:6 <b>astonished</b> 249:9 <b>astounding</b> 220:1 <b>astute</b> 80:21 <b>AT&amp;Ts</b> 243:6 <b>attach</b> 136:8 <b>attack</b> 195:9 <b>attempting</b> 150:24 <b>attempts</b> 188:23 <b>attend</b> 213:3 <b>attendance</b> 217:10 220:13 <b>attendant</b> 235:20 <b>attended</b> 174:17 <b>attending</b> 268:24 <b>attention</b> 14:14 42:21 221:10 277:13 <b>attract</b> 298:9 <b>attracting</b> 8:16,19 <b>attractive</b> 42:12 <b>attributable</b> 7:9 <b>attributed</b> 29:1 <b>attrition</b> 164:18	<b>ATVs</b> 256:9 256:13 <b>augment</b> 71:19 <b>authorities</b> 191:17 <b>authority</b> 2:23,23 3:3 133:13 135:6 151:4 195:18 <b>authorization</b> 95:22 <b>authorized</b> 3:1 70:23 71:7 227:3 <b>autism</b> 217:1 <b>autistic</b> 207:10 <b>auxiliary</b> 240:13 <b>avail</b> 36:22 49:23 <b>available</b> 51:10 118:13 121:14 122:5 178:6 180:14 194:8 230:8 237:10 273:2,7 274:8 297:6 <b>Avenue</b> 145:1 145:5,22,23 148:8,8 159:16,17 159:23 196:15 199:10 286:18,19 <b>avenues</b> 122:3 <b>average</b> 12:18 26:24 59:24 60:20 65:7 70:6 70:17,20,22 72:6 99:2 113:18 114:2,9,12 116:23 117:6	163:21 <b>avoid</b> 127:4 <b>award</b> 5:3 <b>awarded</b> 4:24 5:2 <b>awardees</b> 210:6 <b>awarding</b> 72:17 <b>awards</b> 207:5 <b>aware</b> 27:5 32:23 35:6 50:20,22 58:24 86:18 87:7,9 88:15 91:24 120:12,14 190:12 237:9 253:16 265:4 282:4 294:15 301:18 <b>awful</b> 205:7 <hr/> <b>B</b> <b>B</b> 44:7 <b>bachelor's</b> 299:20 <b>back</b> 12:4 19:1 23:13 26:5 30:2 34:2 45:9 45:15 46:21 52:4,15 68:22 70:19 73:14 79:3 84:5 85:16 94:2 107:3 107:24 111:8 113:1 113:14 120:4 139:10 141:4,8,11 142:17 149:16 151:20 152:15 157:9 159:8 159:21 162:1 173:3 177:14 179:1 183:5	186:2 189:12 194:14 201:2 204:24 214:2 217:22 219:14 231:8 235:3 247:9,15 253:19 268:16 271:23 274:14 280:2 281:17 282:22 283:4 290:19,23 299:7 <b>back-of-the...</b> 143:10 <b>backbone</b> 208:19 <b>backfill</b> 84:4 <b>background</b> 266:3 <b>backgrounds</b> 227:14 <b>backlog</b> 256:24 257:12 285:6 <b>backwards</b> 102:21 <b>bad</b> 246:21 266:16 290:10 <b>badly</b> 285:22 <b>bag</b> 174:1 <b>balance</b> 63:14 71:23 243:20 <b>balances</b> 63:20 <b>balancing</b> 68:7 <b>ball</b> 249:20 <b>Ballpark</b> 140:11 <b>bandaged</b> 201:20 <b>banking</b>	110:9 <b>Baptist</b> 194:21 <b>barrels</b> 101:14 <b>barricade</b> 23:6 <b>barrier</b> 295:6 <b>barriers</b> 295:5,8,16 <b>Barry</b> 45:10 241:17 <b>Bartram's</b> 256:5 <b>base</b> 14:16 31:2 58:13 112:11 196:1,7 269:2 <b>baseball</b> 244:6 249:3 249:13 <b>based</b> 9:6 11:17 20:3 24:5 59:20 66:20 115:16 116:7 230:16 251:22 254:21 257:16 264:11 265:17 278:22 284:18 295:22 <b>basements</b> 81:10 <b>basic</b> 19:19 211:13 <b>basically</b> 13:11 19:20 19:22 49:5 60:3 137:20 204:11 235:5 291:1 <b>basin</b> 98:1 <b>basins</b> 98:10 <b>basis</b> 22:23 64:15 88:10 116:21 117:18	118:17 124:24 218:17 220:7 249:11 261:12 280:8 283:22 284:10 <b>Bass</b> 1:8 50:8 90:24 91:1 91:4 92:6 92:15,19 93:5,8,12 93:24 94:4 146:15,16 146:20 147:3 149:12 150:5,10,15 150:20,23 151:10,18 151:22 153:11,18 153:24 154:15 156:17,23 157:3,6 169:11,15 169:16,19 170:11 171:1,4 172:16 176:9,17 177:1 213:1 219:7,8,12 219:18 220:4,12,16 220:19 221:4,23 222:4,21 247:18,19 247:23 248:3 251:18,24 253:9,19 277:10,11 278:7,15 279:8,15 280:22 281:16 282:21 <b>batteries</b>	167:10 <b>battle</b> 60:10 <b>Baxter</b> 98:2 <b>bear</b> 13:18 <b>Bears</b> 246:21 <b>beat</b> 200:23 266:2 <b>beautiful</b> 84:7 126:1 171:7 <b>becoming</b> 148:18 291:17 <b>beef</b> 21:17 <b>began</b> 130:8 231:2 <b>beginning</b> 36:19 119:15 160:7 171:19 216:23 221:13 <b>begun</b> 4:6 <b>behalf</b> 210:11 230:2 240:20 <b>behavior</b> 120:19 123:14 191:2 218:3 <b>behavioral</b> 209:21,24 <b>believe</b> 8:11 27:24 65:4 65:6 69:10 73:22 74:24 76:14 90:12 97:13 141:24 182:10 191:15 212:6 233:21 234:18 235:19 241:10 242:20 256:15 <b>bell</b> 44:10 139:18 192:18,24 <b>benchmarks</b>	123:13,15 <b>beneficial</b> 292:14 <b>benefit</b> 27:3 49:22 54:15 71:17 107:9 293:15 <b>benefits</b> 8:22 27:9 142:6 143:3,7 195:19 196:5,6 <b>benefitted</b> 15:13 <b>Bennett</b> 190:24 <b>Berks</b> 243:23 <b>Bessler</b> 241:12,17 241:17 301:18 <b>best</b> 11:17,23 20:16 72:21 80:18 84:6 143:11 151:8 152:24 160:6 179:4 181:4 182:10 186:3 188:24 190:21 195:20 198:18 229:13 245:11 261:13 279:1 296:22 <b>bet</b> 123:19 <b>better</b> 12:15 33:19 36:11 40:1 45:19 45:23 47:15 48:4,9,13 49:22 61:3 74:20 81:12 104:16,19 110:14 114:15 152:18 163:8
--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

170:15	301:12,13	174:8 175:6	<b>Blondell</b> 1:14	45:4 61:3	137:12	2:14 4:4 7:1	224:1
176:1	<b>biggest</b> 8:18	198:20	256:10	81:8 86:17	176:6	7:7 8:4 9:23	<b>building</b>
199:22	189:22	214:7	295:13	86:19	236:15	10:1,7,13	13:10 74:1
210:18	<b>bike</b> 144:12	221:21	<b>blowout</b> 87:2	169:12,14	237:14	10:14,18	75:15,20,21
212:4	144:15,19	251:8	<b>board</b> 6:19	187:14	242:4 255:5	12:20 26:23	75:24 76:1
220:17	144:23	258:12	191:13,21	196:15	266:20	26:24 29:1	77:6 93:20
243:16	243:1 256:9	283:4 294:9	203:19	201:17	274:22	33:20 35:24	107:17
246:11	277:20,21	<b>black</b> 12:7	213:2,3	203:9	275:8	69:24 70:2	110:10
266:8 275:6	<b>bilingual</b>	<b>Blackwell</b> 1:9	256:16	257:19	<b>bringing</b> 8:9	88:5 89:14	178:10
284:10	227:21	37:12 39:22	<b>boards</b>	267:15	29:2 35:1	90:2 97:7,9	179:17,23
285:9	<b>bill</b> 2:8,11,13	44:17,18,24	203:23	300:10	113:8	121:18	182:13
286:10,16	3:2 25:18	45:11,17	204:1	<b>breakdown</b>	171:21	124:14	210:2
287:3	32:1,20	46:10 48:10	<b>boardwalk</b>	233:20,23	212:19	128:1,6	223:22
288:19	49:9,13,15	48:15,21	167:8	246:19	<b>brings</b> 107:7	157:13,14	229:16
296:19,21	49:18,20	50:1,4 86:5	<b>Bob</b> 186:22	291:19	107:9	174:20	250:10
302:16	64:5 68:18	86:6 87:15	<b>BOBBY</b> 1:11	300:6	<b>broad</b> 76:23	177:3	262:6 277:3
<b>Beverage</b>	68:20 77:4	87:21	<b>bond</b> 74:7	<b>breakdowns</b>	76:23 98:9	184:13	284:7,7
231:6	79:19,21,22	114:16	88:19 95:19	227:18	193:7,8	185:5,6	<b>buildings</b>
<b>beyond</b> 63:20	80:2 82:24	167:19,20	95:20 97:13	<b>breaking</b>	205:1	187:11	75:1 101:19
192:7	105:1,2,10	167:23	97:19 98:13	72:14	210:22	191:15	108:16
207:13	105:12,20	168:4,23	206:20	289:19	225:11	197:16,19	179:24
263:24	105:21	169:5 201:8	<b>bone</b> 207:2	<b>breaks</b> 17:18	<b>broaden</b>	198:6,15	205:8,20
284:21	111:21	201:9	<b>book</b> 206:15	29:18 45:23	263:8,9	206:4	212:2
<b>bi-monthly</b>	116:19	202:24	206:18,18	80:4,20,22	<b>broader</b>	207:20	245:22
152:20	117:20,21	203:2 205:5	206:19	81:1,4	251:5	214:22	<b>built</b> 102:16
<b>bicycle</b> 178:3	118:2,3,3,6	217:16	208:24	161:14	258:19	215:18,20	111:22
<b>bid</b> 71:5	118:10,12	223:2,3,5,8	<b>books</b> 206:3	<b>Brennan</b>	<b>broke</b> 86:21	216:3	112:16,23
115:12	118:13	224:6,10	209:2	65:17	<b>broken</b> 67:3	222:11	165:13
145:24	132:21,23	225:18	<b>borrow</b> 95:21	<b>Breslin</b> 92:2,4	287:22	226:21,24	<b>bulb</b> 283:20
<b>bidders</b> 72:4	135:21	226:8 256:4	112:10	92:5,7,17	290:24	230:14,15	<b>bulk</b> 97:11
<b>big</b> 21:21	154:20	265:23,24	<b>borrowing</b>	92:21 93:7	<b>brought</b>	263:12	<b>bulky</b> 174:21
36:16 53:7	282:6,7	267:9,21	98:21	93:11,15	131:15	264:1,7,13	<b>bump</b> 259:19
76:4 86:8,9	<b>billing</b> 5:14	<b>blaming</b>	112:11	94:3	137:13	266:17	<b>bumped</b>
86:13 95:1	65:19 66:2	14:14	<b>Boston</b> 138:2	<b>Brian</b> 1:12	170:18	267:4	259:23,24
101:22,22	77:21 118:9	<b>Blast</b> 209:14	<b>bought</b>	239:4	251:12	268:11	<b>bumps</b>
107:19	<b>billings</b> 63:24	<b>blight</b> 202:10	187:18	<b>BRIC</b> 210:14	<b>Brown</b> 1:14	273:24	154:16,19
120:16	<b>bills</b> 1:19 2:4	<b>blighted</b>	290:14	<b>Bridget</b> 100:4	37:16,17,22	287:9,12,20	154:23
162:7	2:7 3:6 4:23	201:22	<b>Boulevard</b>	<b>brief</b> 172:13	38:10,15,21	300:10,13	155:2
168:16	6:17 49:19	<b>blind</b> 194:18	145:16	193:5	39:5,15	<b>budgeted</b> 8:5	186:18
182:24	50:18,18	214:23	147:23,24	207:24	40:9,15,20	10:20 34:3	199:19,21
184:24	52:13 68:19	<b>block</b> 30:15	148:7,22	254:20	40:24 42:1	<b>budgeting</b>	<b>bunch</b> 58:5
189:7,18	68:20 79:15	30:15,19	155:8 214:5	<b>briefing</b>	42:16,20	34:7	290:17
217:15	100:5 105:6	84:19 86:12	<b>box</b> 12:7,7,8	197:16	44:2 82:11	<b>budgets</b> 95:6	300:11
223:23	117:15,18	86:12 155:5	202:15	<b>briefly</b> 121:3	82:12,19	301:13	<b>burden</b> 31:3
233:24	119:4,4	199:10	275:2	124:24	83:1,8 85:1	<b>build</b> 108:14	31:6 102:17
237:6	281:18	206:12	<b>boxes</b> 255:7	138:21	85:5,11,23	112:15	273:7
242:17,17	291:23	<b>blocking</b>	<b>branch</b> 205:2	149:2 175:9	196:16	180:1	<b>Bureau</b> 4:17
281:11	<b>Billy</b> 241:19	17:20 20:18	207:14	195:3	213:21	184:13	5:11 29:3
288:14	<b>bit</b> 19:20 37:7	136:23	<b>branches</b>	198:20	256:11	210:19	<b>bureaucracy</b>
<b>bigger</b> 56:15	48:16 86:19	<b>blocks</b> 30:14	213:4,5	<b>bring</b> 27:2	295:13	217:21	75:10
194:9 242:7	102:22	160:3 199:1	<b>break</b> 7:23	34:5 71:20	<b>bubble</b>	228:5,9	<b>bureaucratic</b>
242:11,14	119:23	288:21,22	17:24 18:22	77:18,24	240:18	237:8 293:4	14:6
264:19	122:13,14	<b>Blonde</b> 46:17	21:5 35:19	88:9 104:2	<b>budget</b> 2:12	<b>build-out</b>	<b>burn</b> 254:11

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

<b>bus</b> 191:19	154:3 200:2	229:16	221:3	234:5	209:19	<b>certifying</b>	268:4 291:7
<b>buses</b> 21:20	229:8	235:9 237:7	<b>care</b> 87:6	<b>caught</b>	210:15	304:21	<b>challenge</b>
32:24 78:7	272:14	237:8	109:23	100:20	214:22	<b>CET</b> 39:23	8:19 21:24
<b>business</b> 6:7	283:15	<b>capital</b> 2:9,12	181:15	176:11	218:15	<b>chair</b> 15:1	23:7 74:6
87:8,11,12	<b>calling</b> 19:1	3:9,9 53:2	230:3	242:14	<b>centralized</b>	17:12 23:18	75:4 84:8
90:1 123:16	169:21	53:11,14	240:16	281:9,10	126:23	31:18 37:15	86:20 111:1
126:2	196:22	55:9 59:5	<b>career</b> 42:14	<b>cause</b> 60:15	<b>century</b> 18:10	44:5,16	111:1
165:23	<b>calls</b> 79:14	66:22 69:8	228:12,12	81:10,11	211:21	58:10 60:8	118:12
175:19	255:16	70:2,14	228:15	89:22	212:5 224:3	62:16 69:2	189:22
196:7 206:1	<b>calming</b>	71:5 72:3	237:12	<b>causing</b>	<b>ceremonies</b>	76:17,19	193:21
208:16	145:20	84:11,14	291:23	194:16	86:1	78:15 82:10	210:23
210:11,13	154:19,22	97:6,7,8	293:1	<b>cave</b> 86:10	<b>certain</b> 41:16	88:1,3	242:11
210:17,20	200:2	99:15	<b>careers</b>	<b>ceiling</b> 189:13	106:22	90:21,24	244:16
<b>businesses</b>	<b>cam</b> 213:1	108:14	228:14	<b>ceilings</b>	112:16,17	94:7 100:1	<b>challenged</b>
18:2 107:14	<b>camera</b>	141:23	<b>careful</b> 65:5	283:20	112:24	111:10	296:18
108:16	251:11,22	145:17	<b>carefully</b>	<b>celebrated</b>	123:16	117:6,8,11	<b>challenges</b>
109:10	<b>cameras</b>	152:21	253:7	256:5	133:22	119:11	8:10 20:9
110:22	250:18,23	153:3,20	<b>Carlton</b>	<b>celebrates</b>	148:15	136:17	20:11 21:17
122:20	251:4,14	161:23	124:7	229:4	150:1,2	140:8	62:4,6 76:2
<b>Bustleton</b>	252:3,7,11	165:5	<b>carpenters</b>	<b>cell</b> 103:3	166:11,11	146:15	83:19 85:12
216:11	252:12,13	185:18,19	233:13	<b>center</b> 29:1	174:13	157:4	85:13
<b>busy</b> 91:9	252:23	198:15	<b>carried</b>	34:11,13	178:7,8	167:18	116:14,18
170:6 171:8	255:8	226:16	111:16	107:4	235:18	169:10,15	124:18
212:14	<b>camp</b> 229:7,8	228:15	<b>carrot</b> 106:15	109:20	251:7	169:17	125:19
<b>Butler</b> 290:2	<b>campaign</b>	229:11	<b>cars</b> 138:7,9	126:23	255:19	177:17	127:19
<b>button</b> 44:11	33:23 36:1	230:22	145:4	131:5	286:3,16	179:21	143:19
<b>buy</b> 192:2,4	36:2	231:22	<b>case</b> 46:11	167:23	<b>certainly</b>	180:8	194:23
<b>by-product</b>	<b>campaigns</b>	232:2,5,9	54:5 55:10	170:4 176:1	77:15	188:12	208:7
190:19	32:23	232:11,21	102:11,17	178:8	138:19	192:15	258:13
	<b>cancel</b> 266:15	233:4	112:3 137:3	180:12	142:15,17	193:3	272:20
	<b>candidate</b>	250:19	178:14	182:13	144:6	203:18	292:10
	297:2	251:10	214:11	210:13,22	148:22,24	219:7 223:1	<b>challenging</b>
<b>C</b> 304:1,1	<b>candidates</b>	255:11	<b>case-by-case</b>	211:2,6,13	168:1,22	240:3	76:18 132:8
<b>cabinet</b> 125:7	62:1,3	284:21,23	261:12	223:20,23	172:8	242:21	164:3,8
<b>calculation</b>	296:8,20,20	287:9,20	<b>cases</b> 91:12	244:12,14	176:14	247:18	197:1 210:3
65:3	296:23	<b>Captain</b>	109:2	244:16,17	179:6,7	248:5	236:15
<b>call</b> 5:12,13	299:19	18:18	173:22	246:19	192:9 197:8	253:23	244:9 296:5
12:21 19:21	<b>cap</b> 67:12,20	<b>capture</b>	235:6	252:8,18	200:16	258:2	296:7
20:15 29:1	109:4,17	107:20	<b>caseworker</b>	254:13	207:20	265:22	<b>chance</b> 101:7
34:9,11,13	111:19	123:13	237:22	266:5 267:1	244:22	267:8 268:2	188:18
37:14 48:12	143:7	<b>capturing</b>	<b>cashiers</b>	279:19	248:19	274:18	222:13
103:2 110:8	237:23	109:10	92:10	282:11	252:14	277:10	266:19
110:8	<b>capabilities</b>	284:17	<b>Casper</b>	<b>centers</b> 5:12	253:13,18	283:1 291:5	<b>chances</b>
128:20	176:13	<b>carbon-based</b>	241:19	34:10 36:4	260:24	299:14	280:2
149:18	<b>capability</b>	191:3	<b>Castor</b>	101:22	280:16,20	300:6	296:21
156:6 168:7	238:8	<b>card</b> 209:14	286:18	126:4 175:1	285:12	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>change</b> 21:9
177:11	<b>capacity</b>	219:16,24	<b>catalog</b> 273:7	235:5	<b>certainty</b>	91:2 94:9	21:11 22:22
242:16	13:13 41:23	220:22,24	274:7	239:18	282:18	99:22 140:5	44:4 71:19
248:11	90:5,14	<b>Cardone</b>	<b>catastrophe</b>	250:20	<b>certification</b>	140:10	106:22,23
254:11,14	94:20 180:3	109:11	18:2	266:14	304:18	146:12,17	106:23
255:6,17	184:6,8	<b>cards</b> 220:2	<b>catch</b> 162:13	295:17	<b>certified</b>	168:24	111:6
<b>call-back</b>	212:3	220:10,13	163:7	297:8 301:2	233:11	180:6,11	115:20
222:17	217:22	220:23	<b>Caucasians</b>	<b>central</b>	<b>certify</b> 304:3	193:5 247:7	120:19
<b>called</b> 2:2							
14:22 19:23							

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

123:14	<b>cheaper</b>	<b>cities</b> 29:8	151:1,9	261:22	<b>Clarke</b> 1:8	226:4,9,13	136:9
156:12	142:11,13	138:1 182:3	154:17	263:4,7	2:1 3:4,17	230:12	<b>clearly</b>
191:2	<b>check</b> 11:11	<b>citing</b> 25:11	155:14	272:16	3:20 7:20	231:9,13	214:11
199:22	40:19 45:16	<b>citizen</b> 49:21	157:15	274:23	8:2 9:4,15	233:9,19	285:4
207:21	52:14 65:8	<b>citizens</b> 78:4	158:9	275:3	9:21 10:12	234:7,12,17	<b>clerk</b> 2:8 3:7
259:6	68:6	83:17	160:13	279:19	10:17,21,24	234:24	3:16 86:5
275:12	<b>checked</b> 42:4	160:16	168:9	281:2,3	11:13 12:17	238:4,15,17	<b>climbed</b>
299:1	45:10	212:20	173:11	282:10	13:3,20	239:9,15,19	143:4
<b>changed</b> 21:9	<b>Cherelle</b> 1:13	229:19	174:10,13	287:14	14:4,13,19	239:22	<b>CLIP</b> 127:11
199:20	199:23	<b>city</b> 1:1,3	177:5,20	290:20	14:24 17:10	240:2	133:6 134:7
235:16	<b>Chester</b> 86:8	2:17,18 3:3	178:3,7,8	291:1	23:16 30:3	241:15	134:9,17
259:5 278:1	86:18	3:20 5:10	179:4,14	292:21	31:12 34:2	247:8,11,16	136:14
<b>changes</b> 2:20	<b>Chestnut</b>	5:20 6:11	180:12	303:1	37:13 44:14	247:21	<b>close</b> 77:5
22:6 115:18	173:12,15	6:23 8:11	181:5 182:2	<b>City's</b> 45:12	50:6,13,23	253:21	86:11 87:9
132:24	<b>Chicago</b>	8:16,17,22	182:12,13	53:2 90:11	52:6,18	255:18	87:12 102:8
235:1	138:3	10:13 13:17	182:19	106:4	53:6,24	257:24	109:17
257:15	<b>chicken</b> 192:1	14:11 21:10	183:24	109:24	54:3,17,22	265:20	125:6
259:2	192:4	28:20,24	184:7	125:3,17	55:3,21	267:7,24	126:16
<b>changing</b>	240:19	29:14 30:6	185:22	126:12	56:7,17,20	274:16	149:10
166:20	<b>chief</b> 157:24	31:4 41:19	186:17	163:16	56:23 58:4	277:8	189:24
235:10	182:23	42:23 43:7	190:5,18,19	193:20	58:7 62:14	282:23	194:6,8
283:20	<b>child's</b> 206:23	43:11 44:1	190:23	197:19	68:24 76:15	290:16	279:23
<b>charge</b> 13:7	<b>childhood</b>	50:11 52:12	191:23	209:1,20	78:13 82:8	299:12	<b>closed</b> 149:19
14:3 47:4	208:15,18	53:11,14,18	194:12	229:4	91:23 117:9	302:8,12,22	195:15
84:10	<b>children</b>	55:9 57:8	195:20	<b>City-wide</b>	119:9	<b>Clarke's</b>	205:5,12
100:17	57:15	58:23 60:16	197:21	300:8	123:20	282:7	213:1
178:17	206:16	69:11 71:22	199:1,17	<b>Citywide</b>	124:3,6	<b>class</b> 66:7,8	217:15,17
232:8 272:9	207:11	79:13,20	200:2,7	175:9 199:4	128:10	66:11,13	217:19
272:11	208:22	80:16 83:10	201:12,18	267:22	129:6,14,17	69:5 107:14	224:14
<b>charged</b>	209:2,5	88:16,17,23	201:24	294:17	129:20	211:9	278:1,24
101:21	212:4 217:2	89:5 90:3	202:8,12	<b>civic</b> 45:1	130:11	220:24	279:1,3,11
<b>charges</b> 6:24	218:20	91:15 96:23	203:23	204:22	131:10,14	227:2,5,5,6	279:21
7:4 101:21	220:21	101:5,8,18	206:10	<b>civics</b> 209:16	131:22	269:22	281:5
258:11	229:6	102:15,16	210:12	<b>civil</b> 42:9,17	132:4,7,12	290:13	<b>closely</b> 46:4
259:13	244:11	102:16,18	211:1,16	201:15	133:8,14,17	<b>classes</b>	89:4 156:1
301:7	249:6	103:19	212:12,21	235:1,8	134:3,15,19	211:14	162:5,23
<b>charging</b>	268:23	104:9,11	214:2	237:24	135:20	<b>clean</b> 5:1,20	175:14
178:1	<b>children's</b>	105:7 109:7	216:11	291:12,17	136:7,16	5:21 6:12	196:17
<b>Charlene</b>	205:3,14	109:12,12	222:10	293:11	177:8	20:20,21	293:24
93:21	211:1	109:19,24	225:20	296:5	203:11,15	22:12 28:20	<b>closer</b> 12:2
<b>Charlie</b> 65:17	<b>chipped</b>	110:15	228:5,11,24	<b>civilian</b>	203:18	47:18	<b>closing</b> 136:1
<b>charter</b> 13:11	138:9	115:11	230:5	240:13	208:4 213:7	125:21	136:4
13:18 14:11	<b>choir</b> 268:6	120:20	234:20,21	<b>claims</b> 138:3	213:10,19	127:18	<b>closure</b>
14:11,20,21	<b>choose</b>	123:15	234:21,22	138:3	213:24	137:10	217:23
14:23 170:3	178:18	124:6	239:13	<b>clarification</b>	214:6,15	<b>cleaning</b>	<b>closures</b>
170:19	<b>chopping</b>	127:10	243:21	85:7	215:7,12,22	22:11 161:7	205:7 208:7
171:6	206:12	131:5	244:12,14	<b>clarify</b> 62:19	216:1,5,8	<b>clear</b> 20:22	210:18
245:21	<b>Chris</b> 124:11	140:20	244:16,17	135:3	216:15,18	41:1 98:1	217:13,19
246:2,3,6	<b>chronicles</b>	142:24	246:20	140:17	217:7 218:2	112:4 240:4	277:14,16
272:2	246:24	143:3	250:10	239:5,8	218:8 219:3	259:20	278:18,22
<b>chasing</b>	<b>Church</b>	144:18	255:3 257:4	276:11	222:23	262:12	281:4
186:11	194:21	145:14	257:6,11	<b>clarity</b> 119:15	224:8,16,22	299:5	<b>cluttering</b>
<b>chassis</b> 163:4	<b>CINDY</b> 1:8	149:20	259:18	120:3	225:5,12,16	<b>clearances</b>	202:6

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

<b>CMAQ</b>	129:2 130:1	125:14	57:14	282:10	58:13 59:4	116:3,8,16	158:17,19
165:10	136:13	138:13	<b>coming</b> 26:24	291:12	59:12,20	116:24	159:12,22
187:23	<b>collection</b>	146:24	30:22 34:12	<b>commissioner</b>	60:4,19	117:19	161:1,21
<b>CNG</b> 165:11	24:13,15	149:16	34:21 35:7	3:16,19,22	61:20 62:11	118:1,11,19	162:10,16
165:15,21	62:23,24	150:7	63:15 64:22	3:23,24	62:21,24	119:2,5,14	162:18,21
177:22,23	63:18,21	151:17	80:16 96:23	7:21,24 8:8	63:4,9,16	119:19,24	162:22
177:23	64:1,2,14	152:7,9,15	141:12	9:8,19 10:6	64:7,11,16	120:9,11,13	163:1,15
187:23	92:14,23	159:8 163:3	146:21	10:9,10,19	64:23 65:4	120:21	164:20
191:7,8,12	125:13	177:14	153:1,2	10:23 11:16	65:14,22	121:5,17	166:2,13,14
191:16	128:14	183:19	157:13	12:19 13:9	66:10,12	122:16	166:17
192:1,10	129:4	190:9	168:7 180:2	13:23 14:1	67:4,10,13	123:17,24	167:3,24
<b>co-op</b> 106:20	130:15,20	194:14	183:16	14:2,10,15	67:17,21	124:1,5,7,9	168:20
109:8	131:2,7,8	198:8	190:6	14:22 15:8	68:14,17	124:11,12	169:3,7
<b>coals</b> 221:21	131:21	200:10,11	195:11	15:14,18	70:1,9,11	125:1	170:9,17
<b>Cobbs</b> 168:18	162:4 191:4	207:9	196:9	16:2,6,13	70:18 71:4	126:10	171:2 172:2
241:23	<b>collections</b>	216:17	212:22	16:23 17:4	71:9,15	128:11,17	173:1
242:3	130:21	220:23	214:14	17:6,14,15	72:10,24	129:9,16,18	174:11,18
<b>code</b> 179:17	189:23	221:3 228:7	215:16	17:22 18:15	73:4,12,19	129:23	175:5,11,12
<b>cognizant</b>	<b>collectively</b>	233:15,17	220:8 236:5	19:7,18	74:16 75:13	130:18	176:11,24
252:6	253:12	237:23	236:20	21:7,12,23	76:22 77:11	131:12,16	177:7
301:10	<b>college</b> 40:12	242:4	241:2,5	22:7 23:2	78:18,24	132:2,6,11	178:20,22
<b>collaborate</b>	299:24	243:21	252:11	23:10,21	79:2,9,17	133:5,10,16	179:2,9,12
280:14	<b>color</b> 43:4	244:22	259:18	24:1,2,10	80:9 81:24	133:19	180:5,19,24
282:19	233:22	248:8	279:18,19	24:14,20	82:2,18,22	134:7,17	181:6,17
<b>collaborating</b>	234:11,16	253:19	281:11,12	25:3,6,19	83:3,18	135:1,3,18	182:16
6:11	291:15	259:11	293:6	26:1,2,7,13	85:4,10,18	136:5,10	184:11,18
<b>collaboration</b>	297:5	260:6	296:24	26:19 27:11	86:16 87:20	137:22	185:14
126:16	<b>Columbus</b>	274:14	<b>commend</b>	27:21 28:18	88:14 89:2	138:18,21	187:1,19
209:13	214:5	281:4	254:2	29:11 30:5	89:10,23	138:24	188:17
<b>collaborative</b>	<b>combination</b>	282:22	<b>commended</b>	30:7 31:10	90:9,18	139:2,16	189:6
89:4 208:20	20:1	288:7	44:6	32:14 34:8	91:3,22	140:2,13,16	190:10
208:24	<b>combine</b> 66:7	292:20	<b>commending</b>	34:16,20	92:2,4,5,7	140:22	192:6 193:9
<b>collateral</b>	104:5	294:4	78:21	35:6,15	92:17,21	141:2,4,6	193:14
59:23	105:17	<b>comes</b> 12:4	<b>comment</b>	36:3,12	93:7,11,15	141:17,21	195:2,3,7
<b>colleagues</b>	<b>combined</b>	71:10 84:1	138:19	37:6,21	94:3,16	142:9,19,22	197:8 198:4
31:24 33:22	104:17	84:5 123:15	148:21	38:7,12,18	95:3,7,11	143:5,13,21	198:20,22
37:11	<b>Comcast</b>	135:8	162:22	38:23 39:9	95:17 96:8	144:14	199:6,7
197:14	243:6	139:23	179:10	40:6,10,16	96:18,22	145:13	200:4,20
222:16	<b>come</b> 7:17	144:15	<b>comments</b>	40:23 41:5	97:6,10,14	146:9,18,23	201:4
262:2 282:1	23:13 27:4	153:8 161:8	174:12	42:2,19	97:18 98:4	148:20,21	225:23,24
<b>collect</b> 20:9	29:23 30:1	163:4,5	183:5	43:12,19	98:14,17,20	149:1,4,6	226:11,14
26:3 112:16	39:2,7 41:6	201:15	207:24	44:19,22	99:1,12,18	149:14	226:16,18
112:23	41:14 44:19	202:20	227:7	45:5,14,20	100:2,3	150:6,13,18	230:24
130:21	46:21 47:3	225:24	294:24	47:16 48:14	103:11,14	150:22	231:11,20
131:1	47:12,17,18	240:17	<b>commercial</b>	48:18,23	103:23	151:2,15,21	233:14,21
163:21	48:24 51:13	263:12,23	170:5	50:3,12,20	105:23	152:19	234:9,13,23
265:8	52:9 61:24	264:9	193:18,22	50:24 51:21	109:13	153:17,19	235:14
<b>collected</b>	68:21 76:11	268:20	<b>commission</b>	52:16 53:5	110:2,18	154:2,11	238:14,16
125:15	80:14 83:21	273:24	11:6 60:8	53:20 54:2	111:9,23	155:10,24	239:1 241:7
131:19	84:16 91:12	291:21	137:4	54:7,20,24	112:4 113:2	156:4,8,21	242:1,8
<b>collecting</b>	91:13 92:2	292:12	180:20,22	55:15,23	113:20,24	157:2,5,10	243:10
63:20 65:19	96:23	298:12	229:24	56:10,19,22	114:11,20	157:17	244:8 247:4
128:20,22	107:24	<b>comfortable</b>	248:20	57:11 58:6	115:5,10	158:13,14	247:10,14

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

248:1 251:1	302:23	<b>compactor</b>	262:11	230:3	242:24	<b>constituents</b>	126:3
251:2,20	<b>commodity</b>	163:19	263:13	243:11,11	<b>connecting</b>	79:14 91:6	127:17
253:2,17	164:6	<b>compactors</b>	<b>completing</b>	269:7 289:1	237:20	193:10	155:19,22
254:4 257:8	<b>common</b>	162:3	125:21	289:20,21	<b>connection</b>	198:3	156:10
257:21	163:18	<b>companies</b>	<b>completion</b>	291:9 295:6	58:22	227:11	165:6
258:17	<b>Commonwe...</b>	100:12	228:22	<b>concerned</b>	<b>connectivity</b>	229:14	175:23
260:1,7	191:18	<b>companion</b>	<b>complexes</b>	179:22	242:22	230:2	191:5
261:6,10	214:21	281:18	101:23	203:22	<b>consent</b> 94:23	240:12	192:17
262:11	215:17	<b>company</b>	<b>complexities</b>	213:24	<b>conservation</b>	254:11	210:10
263:11	<b>communicate</b>	56:9 57:7	178:19	267:3	107:3 166:7	282:16	212:14
265:1 266:6	83:16 194:5	84:15	<b>compliance</b>	<b>concerns</b> 50:9	166:12	299:9	228:8 229:9
266:12,13	<b>communica...</b>	192:12	5:21 135:13	77:24	<b>consider</b> 3:6	<b>constituents'</b>	229:14
267:12	196:19	<b>comparable</b>	241:18	141:13	22:4 43:17	79:24	237:5 245:8
269:14,17	197:13,14	4:14 69:19	<b>complicated</b>	155:16	46:13	<b>constitute</b> 3:7	251:16
269:21	<b>communica...</b>	<b>compare</b>	177:21	196:20	200:14	22:24	256:6
270:4,15,18	33:11 85:2	99:11	<b>complied</b>	225:3	241:3	<b>construction</b>	270:11
270:22	<b>communica...</b>	<b>compared</b>	134:12	272:13	<b>considerable</b>	6:2 98:10	278:5
271:4,11,16	36:2 292:1	27:9 99:9	<b>comply</b> 14:18	281:13	125:19	98:15 137:8	287:17
273:21	<b>communities</b>	142:23	36:19	<b>concert</b> 251:9	189:15	137:9 186:8	293:3 302:4
274:20	41:20 228:4	<b>compensate</b>	121:15	<b>concludes</b>	221:10	198:23	<b>continued</b> 4:6
275:22	246:21	150:11	133:22	123:21	<b>consideration</b>	231:18	126:22
276:5,9,14	266:20	<b>compete</b>	<b>component</b>	<b>concrete</b> 21:1	27:13 128:5	<b>consultants</b>	251:4
276:20	289:21	207:7	7:1 37:5,11	289:19	167:16	71:19,20	<b>continues</b>
277:2 278:3	<b>community</b>	<b>competing</b>	66:21	<b>condition</b>	172:6	95:16,18	20:10 21:5
278:9 280:9	33:17 51:8	8:20	<b>compositing</b>	127:3 141:5	175:16	<b>consulting</b>	126:6 211:7
281:15	78:1 111:8	<b>competitive</b>	190:19	206:1	177:13	95:18	225:9 255:1
282:17	125:23	142:13,18	<b>composition</b>	245:18	195:23	<b>consumer</b>	261:21
283:13	126:2	<b>complain</b>	125:19	<b>conditioning</b>	<b>considered</b>	210:23	<b>continuing</b>
284:14	156:12	47:10	<b>compost</b>	205:9	23:4 160:14	<b>consumption</b>	31:1 84:8
285:11,18	167:23	<b>complained</b>	190:23,24	<b>conditions</b>	<b>considering</b>	107:2	85:21 128:4
285:24	181:22	201:24	<b>composted</b>	127:1,16	189:2	<b>contact</b> 13:1	254:6
286:11,22	196:11	286:15	190:15	161:13	<b>consistent</b>	47:9,24	<b>continuous</b>
287:10,21	199:14	297:11	<b>composting</b>	<b>condominiu...</b>	118:16	87:10	173:19
289:7,12,17	210:21	<b>complaining</b>	188:21,23	130:14,19	159:10	204:18,18	<b>continuously</b>
290:5 292:3	211:4,5	138:9	189:5,7,10	131:4	218:17	<b>contacted</b>	228:4
296:2 298:3	228:17	<b>complaints</b>	189:18	<b>Condomini...</b>	287:2	47:6	<b>continuum</b>
298:15	229:14	22:23 184:4	190:12	130:23	<b>consistently</b>	<b>contacts</b>	39:20
300:20	245:9	280:24	191:1,4	<b>conducive</b>	219:22	115:14	<b>contract</b> 12:9
301:20	252:10	281:13	192:1	213:17	<b>constant</b>	<b>contained</b>	48:8 70:14
302:3,20	259:23	286:2	<b>comprehen...</b>	<b>conducting</b>	60:10 155:1	123:3,3	72:13 80:17
<b>COMMISS...</b>	260:8,12	<b>complete</b>	126:15	189:19	186:18	304:5	96:5,24
44:13	262:15,16	95:22	211:20	<b>conflicts</b> 20:7	<b>constantly</b>	<b>contingent</b>	114:24
<b>commitment</b>	262:17	126:12	<b>computer</b>	<b>Congestion</b>	40:16 152:7	161:10	115:11,12
74:21	265:12,15	145:2	204:20,21	165:10	154:16,16	198:12	139:6,18,20
144:13	265:17	232:17	212:3	<b>conjunction</b>	185:15	<b>continuation</b>	142:8 190:9
184:14	274:8	283:23	<b>computerized</b>	258:22	186:11	221:1	241:18
<b>committed</b>	297:15	<b>completed</b>	154:5	<b>connect</b> 40:1	<b>consternation</b>	<b>continue</b> 3:5	<b>contracting</b>
91:24	299:4	96:21 138:6	<b>concept</b>	85:8 122:21	269:5	4:15 6:7	69:13,16,20
144:12	<b>community...</b>	220:1	188:21,23	144:20	<b>constituent</b>	8:23 9:2	70:7 71:16
212:19	274:10	251:14	<b>concern</b>	228:13	18:24 79:6	26:2 43:23	72:3 81:23
<b>committee</b>	300:17	<b>completely</b>	22:13 23:12	<b>connected</b>	91:19	57:23	114:23
1:1 2:3 3:6	<b>compact</b>	76:9 137:18	159:11	162:15,17	196:16	104:12	<b>contractor</b>
126:1	163:14	243:10	197:6 206:2	209:3 231:6	254:18	125:12,22	139:7,8,10



Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

143:1	130:14,16	216:4	96:16,17	32:1 33:6	213:19,24	15:1,3,9,17	99:20,23,24
<b>contractors</b>	131:23	<b>corner</b> 21:20	98:21 104:6	33:22 34:2	214:2,6,15	15:23 16:3	100:1,2,15
6:5 114:18	132:3,17	22:17,18	104:24	36:5 37:10	215:7,12,22	16:10,21	102:24
142:14	188:22	171:14	114:22	37:13 44:14	216:1,5,8	17:2,5,8,11	103:13,18
<b>contracts</b>	191:13,20	238:20	115:17,21	50:6,13,23	216:15,18	17:12,13,16	104:18
5:23 6:6	192:7	<b>corporate</b>	117:24	51:6,16	217:7 218:2	17:23 18:16	105:24
47:21 70:12	231:14	301:17	118:9	52:6,18	218:8 219:3	19:9 20:23	106:11,17
70:24 72:1	242:2,5	<b>Corporation</b>	121:22	53:6,24	222:23	21:11,19	106:18
72:14 88:16	243:13	167:7	122:1 134:5	54:3,17,22	224:8,9,16	22:1,16	109:6,15
88:22 190:6	259:7 264:5	<b>correct</b> 24:11	134:10,20	55:3,21	224:22	23:10,17,18	110:16,20
<b>contribute</b>	265:18	26:20 50:3	136:2 142:5	56:7,17,20	225:5,12,16	23:19,22	111:10,14
269:1	<b>convinced</b>	62:21 63:10	142:8 143:8	56:23 58:4	226:4,7,9	24:7,12,17	117:11,12
<b>contributing</b>	12:2	64:12,17,23	182:15,20	58:7,11	226:12,13	25:1,4,17	117:23
110:1	<b>cooking</b>	80:21 89:3	185:9	62:12,14,17	230:6,12,14	25:22 26:4	118:8,15,24
<b>contribution</b>	211:10	89:24 96:9	187:15	68:23,24	231:9,13	26:11,14,22	119:3,6,10
241:22	<b>cool</b> 202:15	97:15	258:23	69:9 76:15	232:13	27:14 28:10	119:11,12
263:4	<b>cooling</b> 74:3	111:13	259:1,2,2	78:13,16	233:9,19	29:4,19	119:22
<b>control</b> 57:17	<b>Cooperation</b>	112:1,7	259:15	80:16 82:8	234:7,12,17	30:1,4,4	120:2,15,23
98:6 123:4	2:23,24	129:18	269:21	83:13 85:24	234:24	46:16 50:9	122:9,22
179:17,18	<b>cooperative</b>	133:4 135:1	270:3	96:23	238:4,12,15	58:10,11	123:19,21
304:21	100:20	135:17,19	271:21	113:11	238:17	59:9,18	135:2
<b>controls</b>	<b>coordinate</b>	140:21,22	273:8	117:9,10,12	239:3,9,15	60:1,6 61:4	136:11,17
88:24	84:9 152:4	150:22	287:15	119:9	239:19,22	62:8,12,15	136:18
<b>convenience</b>	152:17,18	153:17	290:12	123:20	240:2 241:4	62:16,17,22	137:6,24
126:4 230:9	152:23	157:16	301:15	124:3,6	241:15	63:2,6,12	138:19
<b>convenient</b>	153:2,9,20	159:1	<b>costing</b> 22:19	128:10	247:8,11,16	64:4,8,13	139:1,13,21
281:6	154:8,12	162:11	<b>costly</b> 127:4	129:6,14,17	247:21,22	64:19 65:1	140:4,6,7,8
<b>conventional</b>	158:17	166:3 170:8	289:5	129:20	250:7,17	65:9,16	140:9,18,24
125:5	159:2,3,4	170:10	<b>costs</b> 90:4,11	130:11	251:9	66:1,13	141:3,10
<b>conversation</b>	159:18	174:13	90:13 94:19	131:3,10,14	252:21,22	67:1,6,7,11	142:3,9
31:13 72:4	160:5,9	199:8	94:23	131:22	253:10,21	67:14,19	143:2,9,15
108:1	<b>coordinated</b>	231:11	100:10	132:4,7,12	253:24	68:11,15,21	144:11,24
111:19	84:13,17	234:23	115:7 118:1	133:8,14,17	255:10,15	69:1 76:19	145:14
112:19	179:5	245:14	142:7 165:3	134:3,15,19	255:17	76:21 78:11	146:7,10,11
120:4 191:9	249:23	261:7	182:11	135:19,20	257:24	78:14,15,16	146:13,14
192:14	<b>coordinates</b>	275:20	258:12,14	136:7,16	263:1	78:20 79:1	146:20
211:10	105:2 158:8	276:5,6	270:1 271:8	147:15	265:20	79:4,10,18	147:13,14
218:12	158:11	277:2 304:7	272:7	150:8	267:7,24	81:14 82:1	157:8,18
221:7	<b>coordinating</b>	<b>correctly</b> 24:8	<b>council</b> 1:1,8	154:20	274:16,19	82:4,9,14	158:16,20
230:20	49:4 78:10	114:1	2:1,16 3:1,4	155:17	275:3 277:8	82:14 87:23	159:14
235:2,7	158:21	<b>corridor</b>	3:17,20,21	169:15	281:23	88:1,2,15	160:11
238:6	<b>coordination</b>	123:2 170:5	4:18 7:20	177:8 183:6	282:23	88:21 89:8	161:18
258:19	107:8 125:7	<b>corridors</b>	8:2 9:4,15	191:7 193:2	284:6	89:12 90:7	162:7,12,17
259:11	151:23	111:4	9:21 10:2	195:12	287:23,23	90:16,20,22	162:19
262:18,19	153:14,16	<b>cost</b> 9:10	10:12,13,17	196:9,24	287:24	90:23 94:5	163:7
264:7	158:6,12	12:18 13:6	10:21,24	199:4,6	290:16	94:7,8 95:1	164:10
277:14	249:18	13:19 16:6	11:13 12:17	200:17	297:15	95:4,8,15	165:8,17
278:5	<b>cop</b> 132:18	22:2,5,7	13:3,20	201:24	299:12	96:5,9,12	166:4,24
299:19	<b>cope</b> 210:3	27:3,3	14:4,13,19	203:11,15	302:8,12,22	96:13,20	167:12
301:19	<b>copper</b> 11:23	29:24 59:18	14:24 17:10	203:17,22	<b>councilman</b>	97:3,8,12	169:9,11,18
302:5	<b>copy</b> 180:17	68:7 73:20	23:16,19	208:4 212:8	1:9,10,10	97:15,16	177:10,17
<b>conversations</b>	181:2 304:7	76:5,11	26:16 30:3	212:21	1:11,11,12	98:12,16,18	177:18
120:6,24	<b>core</b> 128:4	90:15 96:3	31:12,24	213:2,7,10	1:12,15	98:23 99:8	178:20,23

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

179:20	1:8,9,13,13	149:12	261:8,11,23	111:14	276:24	<b>criminal</b>	139:5,18,19
180:6,7,8,8	1:14 31:15	150:5,10,15	262:20	128:11,17	<b>covers</b> 193:7	281:19	140:12,14
180:10,21	31:18,20	150:20,23	264:8	130:19	193:8	<b>crisis</b> 199:13	144:18
181:1,7,8	33:9 34:14	151:10,18	265:10,21	132:24	<b>Craighead</b>	264:18	145:16
182:21	34:17 35:2	151:22	265:22,24	140:10	248:18	<b>criteria</b> 74:13	149:6,19
183:22	35:12,17	153:11,18	267:8,9,21	142:10	<b>crashes</b>	75:3	161:22
184:22	36:6 37:1	153:24	268:1,2,3	143:6 147:7	172:12	<b>critical</b> 126:7	164:22
185:23	37:12,14,15	154:2,15	268:16	150:16	<b>create</b> 74:13	229:11	166:18,20
187:2,9	37:17,22	156:17,23	269:16,18	164:24	99:6 122:19	<b>criticism</b>	170:7 172:5
188:3,9,10	38:10,15,21	157:3,6,9	270:2,12,17	169:20	151:5 190:4	103:5	183:16
188:10,11	39:5,15,22	157:11	270:20,24	195:16	194:18	<b>criticisms</b>	187:20
188:13,14	39:23 40:9	158:10	271:5,15	198:13	199:2	83:12	189:11
189:7 190:8	40:15,20,24	167:18,20	272:12	205:13	218:22	<b>cross</b> 171:9	200:6
190:11	42:1,16,20	168:1,4,23	274:1,17	214:7	231:21	171:11,14	216:10
192:15,19	44:2,15,16	169:4,5,10	277:10,11	219:13	232:4,20,21	<b>crosswalks</b>	233:12
192:23	44:18,23,24	169:11,15	278:7,15,20	230:13	246:10	182:9	251:13
193:1 201:6	45:11,17	169:16,19	279:8,15	235:15	292:19	<b>crowd</b> 197:20	257:3 264:1
202:17	46:10 48:10	170:11	280:22	240:21	<b>created</b> 149:8	<b>crushed</b>	284:18
203:4	48:15,21	171:1,4	281:16	248:13	299:2	20:14	293:21
213:20	50:1,4,7,8	172:2,16	282:21,24	250:3,15	<b>creates</b> 246:4	<b>culinary</b>	<b>curtail</b> 176:7
215:11	69:2,4 70:3	174:12	283:1,3	277:12	<b>creating</b>	211:6,12	<b>Curtis</b> 1:11
240:3,7,22	70:10,16,21	175:12	284:3 285:2	278:2	101:12	223:22	254:9 256:9
241:10,21	71:6,12,24	176:9,14,17	285:13,20	281:17	149:20	<b>cultural</b>	<b>cushions</b>
242:6,10	72:19 73:10	177:1,11	286:8,14,24	292:23	165:21	204:22	155:10
243:15	73:13 74:8	193:3,4,15	288:17	<b>coupled</b>	<b>creation</b>	266:5	156:3,6,13
246:13	74:19 76:8	193:16	289:9,15,24	232:15	107:21	<b>Cup</b> 229:4	156:14
247:6 249:4	76:16 82:10	195:3,13,21	290:7,17,17	<b>course</b> 24:4	<b>credit</b> 103:9	<b>curb</b> 19:22	182:8
253:23,24	82:12,19	197:9,10	291:5,6	24:15 26:13	106:7 107:6	21:15 160:4	183:15
256:9	83:1,8 85:1	199:9	294:18	35:21 37:12	109:22	160:4	200:4
257:19,22	85:5,11,23	200:19	295:12	81:13 99:1	130:2 132:1	<b>curbs</b> 290:20	<b>customer</b>
258:1	86:5,6	201:5,7,8,9	297:10	112:21	202:22	290:23	4:11 5:17
259:17	87:15,21,24	202:24	298:11	140:14	300:24	<b>curbside</b>	7:4,11 9:16
271:23	90:24 91:1	203:2 213:1	299:10,13	162:1 229:2	<b>credited</b>	125:13,15	11:10 12:14
274:18,19	91:4 92:6	213:21	299:14,15	235:2	109:9	125:17	48:2 51:7
276:2,7,11	92:15,19	219:7,8,12	299:18	248:13	<b>credits</b>	128:20	77:19
276:18,24	93:8,12,24	219:18	300:23	250:4 253:3	106:10	129:2 130:1	103:14
277:6,9	94:4,6	220:4,12,16	301:22	<b>courses</b>	109:4,18	<b>curiosity</b>	261:13
282:7	105:16	220:19	302:6,9,10	240:21	235:11,12	204:8	<b>customer's</b>
288:20	107:23	221:4,23	<b>Councilwo...</b>	241:13,20	299:23	212:16	6:17
290:10	108:8 111:3	222:4,21,24	158:5	<b>court</b> 133:23	300:1	<b>curious</b> 94:10	<b>customers</b> 4:8
<b>councilman's</b>	111:11,12	223:1,3,8	271:23	133:24	<b>Creek</b> 146:1	179:22	4:9,12,21
106:18	112:1,2,9	224:6,11	<b>counsel</b> 88:12	134:13	146:2	189:1 192:5	5:12 6:24
107:6	113:22	225:18	88:19,19	135:10	168:18	<b>current</b> 5:7	7:17 14:18
<b>councilmanic</b>	114:8,14,16	226:8	<b>counselors</b>	136:13	241:23	7:8 55:12	15:12,19
51:3 77:17	114:17	247:18,19	236:23	<b>covenant</b>	242:3	65:2 83:4	32:17 45:8
193:19	115:3,8,23	247:23	<b>count</b> 64:24	74:7	<b>crew</b> 144:2	102:18	46:2,7 67:9
254:6	116:5,12,22	248:3 251:2	<b>county</b>	<b>cover</b> 94:18	248:19	131:13,16	77:14 78:4
267:16	117:2	251:18,24	111:16	194:11	<b>crews</b> 22:10	156:5	80:19 105:5
<b>Councilper...</b>	119:16	253:9,19,22	206:14	269:24	163:21	174:20	209:23
33:6	122:24	256:4,10	<b>couple</b> 8:3	<b>coverage</b>	286:7	187:6	210:7
<b>councils</b>	146:15,16	258:2,4	30:12 41:20	100:13	<b>crime</b> 168:9	241:18	<b>cut</b> 50:2
229:18	146:19	259:10	44:20 45:7	<b>covered</b> 11:3	168:12,16	<b>currently</b>	137:19
<b>Councilwo...</b>	147:3 149:5	260:3 261:3	48:11 109:3	<b>covering</b> 2:19	282:10	74:1 129:12	138:15

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

164:15	237:16	72:12	<b>degrees</b>	63:7,17	188:6 191:3	220:20	150:22
187:11	240:9 249:5	<b>debundling</b>	299:20	64:9 65:6	196:19	259:3	151:2,15,21
207:2	249:12	72:8,13	<b>Delaware</b>	66:12 67:16	200:22	<b>deploy</b> 156:7	152:19
286:17	256:5	<b>December</b>	190:1	69:10 70:11	201:11,15	<b>deploying</b>	153:17,19
<b>cuts</b> 216:3	261:18	173:3	<b>delicate</b>	71:7,18	201:21	156:5	154:11
280:23	281:4	241:20	256:17	73:2 81:16	202:18	<b>deposited</b>	155:24
<b>cutting</b> 161:6	290:11	<b>decided</b> 168:9	<b>delighted</b>	83:14,21	209:21	98:15	156:4,21
<b>CVNs</b> 135:4	293:16	191:19	216:20	84:5,10,12	225:19	<b>deputy</b> 3:23	158:14,16
<b>cycle</b> 116:13	302:19	232:19	<b>delinquencies</b>	84:14,18,20	227:10,24	3:24 10:9	158:19
184:13	<b>daycare</b>	<b>decides</b> 83:23	63:3	88:13 89:16	228:8,21,22	10:10,19,23	159:6,12,22
187:5	170:4	<b>decision</b>	<b>delinquency</b>	97:13 99:9	229:9	14:1 24:1,2	162:22
<b>cyclomedia</b>	<b>daycares</b>	19:14 71:1	24:18	99:10	230:10	24:10,14,20	163:1
288:13	169:24	74:10 132:8	<b>delinquent</b>	101:17	235:22	25:3,6,19	166:14,17
	172:20	167:15	50:18 113:3	102:5,10	258:6	26:1,7,13	167:3
<b>D</b>	<b>days</b> 116:14	<b>decision-ma...</b>	<b>demand</b>	103:1,7	280:15	26:19 63:4	170:17
<b>D</b> 1:13	138:3	71:13	243:17	104:21	281:21	63:9,16	171:2
<b>Dad</b> 277:18	139:12,13	<b>deck</b> 100:18	244:10	105:8,12,13	292:10,13	64:7,11,16	174:18
<b>Dahm</b> 51:23	140:1,3	<b>decline</b>	<b>demands</b>	106:3 108:5	292:20,21	64:23 65:4	175:5,11,12
78:22	175:2	205:15	28:9	113:5	294:3,9,13	65:14 66:10	178:21
100:16	205:13	217:11	<b>demarkation</b>	117:17	294:17	66:11 67:4	179:9,12
107:10	237:15	<b>declining</b>	22:4	121:9	296:11	70:9,10,18	180:19,24
<b>Dahm's</b> 122:4	293:16	30:6	<b>Dembe</b>	122:18	298:8,21	88:14 89:2	182:16
<b>damage</b>	<b>DC</b> 117:15	<b>decrease</b> 38:5	203:13,17	124:8,10,15	299:23	89:10,23	184:11,18
81:11	<b>dead</b> 182:5,6	<b>decreasing</b>	203:18	127:17	300:11	90:9,18	185:14
<b>dance</b> 298:17	287:7,8,13	128:15,22	208:13	128:2	301:3	94:16 95:3	187:1,19
298:23	287:22	217:9	212:24	130:13	<b>Departmen...</b>	95:7,17	195:3,7
<b>danger</b> 22:24	288:1,11,14	<b>dedicate</b>	219:1,10	131:17	7:14 13:17	96:8 97:14	198:19,22
<b>Daniels</b> 93:21	289:14,18	184:15	225:15	132:16	55:10 227:3	97:18 98:14	225:24
<b>Dare</b> 52:20	290:3,4	<b>dedicated</b>	<b>demograph...</b>	133:3,12	228:1	98:17,20	226:16,17
56:2 57:16	<b>deal</b> 77:20	7:14 85:20	234:20	135:4,9,10	<b>departmental</b>	99:1,12	239:4 251:1
<b>DARRELL</b>	92:11,12	211:4 232:5	<b>demos</b> 136:8	136:12	14:8	100:16	251:2,20
1:8	131:24	257:6	<b>denied</b> 91:20	139:2,11,17	<b>departments</b>	103:10	253:2,17
<b>data</b> 72:9	178:15	<b>dedicating</b>	<b>dense</b> 163:16	147:19	3:12 7:10	105:23	257:8,21
113:2	210:3	102:14	<b>department</b>	148:14	29:5 42:22	111:23	283:13
183:14,17	233:24	<b>dedication</b>	3:22 4:6,23	152:20,22	72:22 83:10	120:11	284:14
197:2 221:2	288:14	227:10	6:10 7:1,10	152:24	83:13 85:3	124:1,9,10	285:11,24
284:16	<b>dealing</b> 77:10	<b>deemed</b> 13:18	9:7 10:11	153:22	89:5 100:9	124:11	286:11,22
292:9	194:13	<b>deeply</b> 207:15	13:5,12,15	158:8,12,22	103:19,21	125:1	287:10
<b>date</b> 6:9	<b>dealt</b> 107:11	<b>defect</b> 12:24	13:21 14:6	158:23	104:1	126:10	<b>DEREK</b> 1:10
15:19 82:23	107:12	16:18 59:15	17:18 18:21	159:18	106:12	128:8	<b>describe</b>
83:4 121:23	<b>dear</b> 79:13	<b>deficit</b> 218:24	23:24 24:3	160:22	107:7	138:20,24	137:20
252:11	<b>death</b> 183:18	<b>define</b> 24:21	25:20 26:6	165:14	109:19	139:1,16	<b>described</b>
<b>David</b> 1:12	<b>debated</b>	<b>definitely</b>	26:10 27:1	167:5	118:6	140:2,16	244:9
193:8	73:14	52:17	27:19 29:3	168:21	127:10	141:2,3	<b>deserves</b>
<b>day</b> 6:20 7:22	<b>Debra</b> 3:21	280:10	30:19 34:12	169:6,22	158:6,22	142:19,22	224:13
12:13 17:19	78:17	<b>degree</b> 50:9	37:19 38:4	170:12,18	160:21	143:5,13	<b>design</b> 71:19
17:21 39:2	<b>debris</b> 134:4	130:12	39:14 41:12	170:21	181:4	144:14	96:1 201:16
45:10 52:22	136:3	133:2	42:15 43:6	176:20	190:18	145:13	228:10
150:19	<b>debt</b> 26:6	134:23	43:10,14	177:3	302:16	146:9,23	241:4
163:22	99:6,10,15	219:4	53:13,23	179:17	<b>depend</b> 151:7	148:21	<b>designed</b>
174:2	111:15,16	295:20	54:23 55:12	181:4,19	<b>depended</b>	149:1,4,5	210:17,19
202:14	113:9,12	298:17,19	57:9 61:10	184:12	139:3	149:14	228:13
223:17	<b>debundle</b>	298:20,23	61:16 62:20	185:15	<b>depending</b>	150:6,13,18	265:17
227:12							

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

<b>desperate</b> 8:17 29:21	<b>die</b> 287:17	107:3 171:9	259:15	197:18	<b>diversities</b> 227:14	166:22	63:2,6,12
<b>despite</b> 125:18 127:19 208:11	<b>difference</b> 19:14 20:21 38:22	<b>director</b> 93:19 106:1	260:4 287:5 287:6	209:13 219:24	<b>diversity</b> 43:13	168:8 171:7	64:4,8,13
<b>detail</b> 67:2 88:5 89:14 214:8	<b>different</b> 19:4 38:16 41:7 55:11 56:8 56:11 61:5 69:6 77:9	106:8 208:3 239:5 241:17 297:24	<b>discussions</b> 101:4 259:6 273:20,22 283:6	232:13 238:12 240:22 250:17	203:22 204:2 221:14,17 229:5 234:16 237:3 296:1 296:9	174:8 175:6 177:24 182:12,18 189:19 190:24 191:16,23 200:24 203:21 204:5	64:19 65:1 65:9,16 66:1 67:1,6 67:11,14,19 68:11,15,21 82:14 94:7 94:8 95:1,4 95:8,15 96:5,12,20 97:3,8,12
<b>detailed</b> 283:11	91:15 106:24	<b>Director's</b> 104:19,20 182:18	<b>displaced</b> 46:2 260:13 262:4,7	252:21,22 253:10 254:7 255:10,16 255:17	<b>diverted</b> 102:4	218:14,14 232:10	97:16 98:12
<b>details</b> 57:20 77:1 87:16	114:23 115:1 118:6	258:20 280:13	<b>disposal</b> 126:5 132:23	257:20 259:19 262:24	189:12	265:15 267:10	98:16,18,23 99:8,20
<b>detect</b> 61:1 81:8,12	118:6 152:10	<b>dirt</b> 177:6 256:9	<b>disruption</b> 81:11 84:24	263:15,19 263:22	<b>diverting</b> 125:4	291:19 292:23	111:14 117:11,12
<b>detecting</b> 81:7	163:3,6,11 182:7 200:1	<b>dirty</b> 177:5	<b>disruptive</b> 46:8 81:9 253:6	264:4,9,14 264:17 266:4 267:14,16 268:22	<b>divided</b> 26:23 <b>division</b> 125:2 126:6 175:13 294:14	293:18,23 293:24 <b>dollar</b> 185:22 269:19	117:23 118:8,15,24 119:3,6 140:8,9,18 140:24
<b>determinati...</b> 21:4	230:19 246:3	<b>disciplines</b> 233:11	<b>distinction</b> 59:10	269:6,15 270:16,21 271:2,6,7,9 271:12 272:11,15 272:18,24 273:6,15,20 274:3,5 276:1	<b>divisions</b> 161:2	293:24 <b>dollars</b> 7:7 13:6 14:8	141:10
<b>determine</b> 142:11 143:11 189:20 198:1	249:14,15 255:15 264:18 293:10 299:3,5 300:11	<b>disclosure</b> 88:12,19	<b>distribute</b> 297:14	271:12 272:11,15 272:18,24 273:6,15,20 274:3,5 276:1	<b>documents</b> 69:24	18:12 24:6 24:19 25:16 27:20 53:12 53:14 55:9 63:14 66:17 66:19,24 67:15 69:21 75:8 89:18 96:19 97:5 98:8,9,13 121:20 150:17 154:22 157:16 198:15 214:20 215:4 227:4 250:19 282:5 287:16	142:3 143:2 143:9,15 144:11,24 146:7,11 <b>Donna</b> 3:24 16:14 <b>door</b> 36:9 <b>Doubled</b> 202:2 <b>doubt</b> 164:10 <b>downtown</b> 52:9 91:14 281:6 302:2 <b>DPE</b> 5:23 <b>Dr</b> 196:16 219:22 <b>draft</b> 195:10 <b>drain</b> 153:10 <b>drainage</b> 119:20 <b>drastic</b> 108:24 121:10 <b>drawings</b> 223:18 <b>dream</b> 242:7 242:11 <b>dreamers</b> 242:17 <b>Dredging</b>
<b>detour</b> 279:2 <b>detoured</b> 279:4	301:1	<b>discount</b> 49:21	<b>distributed</b> 267:15	270:16,21 271:12 272:11,15 272:18,24 273:6,15,20 274:3,5 276:1	<b>DOE</b> 166:19 <b>dog</b> 18:17 <b>doing</b> 9:5 11:8 12:5,5 21:21 29:8 32:10,24 34:11 38:9 51:1,2 55:24 58:18 59:2 61:16 61:17 69:21 71:1,22 72:21 74:20 77:16 78:7 80:6 81:2 81:16,18 86:14 102:11 104:4,6,8 108:19 117:14 118:4 121:8 130:9 138:22 139:3 157:18,24 159:6,19,21 161:7	175:13 294:14 <b>divisions</b> 161:2 <b>documents</b> 69:24 <b>DOE</b> 166:19 <b>dog</b> 18:17 <b>doing</b> 9:5 11:8 12:5,5 21:21 29:8 32:10,24 34:11 38:9 51:1,2 55:24 58:18 59:2 61:16 61:17 69:21 71:1,22 72:21 74:20 77:16 78:7 80:6 81:2 81:16,18 86:14 102:11 104:4,6,8 108:19 117:14 118:4 121:8 130:9 138:22 139:3 157:18,24 159:6,19,21 161:7	140:24 141:10 142:3 143:2 143:9,15 144:11,24 146:7,11 <b>Donna</b> 3:24 16:14 <b>door</b> 36:9 <b>Doubled</b> 202:2 <b>doubt</b> 164:10 <b>downtown</b> 52:9 91:14 281:6 302:2 <b>DPE</b> 5:23 <b>Dr</b> 196:16 219:22 <b>draft</b> 195:10 <b>drain</b> 153:10 <b>drainage</b> 119:20 <b>drastic</b> 108:24 121:10 <b>drawings</b> 223:18 <b>dream</b> 242:7 242:11 <b>dreamers</b> 242:17 <b>Dredging</b>
<b>develop</b> 70:24 <b>developed</b> 172:5 292:5 <b>developer</b> 221:15 <b>developers</b> 110:3 136:23 <b>developing</b> 209:4 <b>development</b> 33:18 110:10 120:20 132:22 167:6 293:17 <b>device</b> 253:15 <b>devices</b> 145:9 250:24 252:24 <b>dial</b> 277:23 <b>DiBerardinis</b> 277:16 <b>dictated</b> 244:3	<b>difficult</b> 256:13 <b>dig</b> 83:11 <b>digging</b> 81:12 83:15 <b>digital</b> 223:20 <b>digs</b> 84:1 <b>dilemma</b> 40:5 41:1 <b>diligent</b> 33:15 <b>diligently</b> 4:16 32:22 168:1 <b>direct</b> 89:17 90:1 114:24 149:23 157:23 192:14 304:20 <b>directed</b> 104:19 <b>directing</b> 126:11 <b>direction</b> 204:5,13 232:18 <b>directly</b> 53:12	<b>discourse</b> 150:8 <b>discover</b> 19:3 <b>discovered</b> 161:15 <b>discrepancy</b> 79:19 <b>discuss</b> 152:21 195:12 230:10 <b>discussed</b> 100:8 101:16 188:21 195:4,6 222:7 <b>discusses</b> 200:15 <b>discussing</b> 7:2 <b>discussion</b> 75:11 102:7 109:2 222:18 230:7 231:15	263:6 264:12 268:19 <b>district</b> 39:21 39:24 40:7 51:4 53:18 55:22,24 56:1,1 57:7 57:13,16,22 57:23 77:17 100:15 101:3 102:9 104:17 110:24 113:6,11 147:10,15 148:9 159:5 168:11 171:5 173:2 173:10,12 173:21 174:16 175:8 176:3 185:1 193:7 193:8,19 194:10	197:18 209:13 219:24 232:13 238:12 240:22 250:17 252:21,22 253:10 254:7 255:10,16 255:17 257:20 259:19 262:24 263:15,19 263:22 264:4,9,14 264:17 266:4 267:14,16 268:22 269:6,15 270:16,21 271:2,6,7,9 271:12 272:11,15 272:18,24 273:6,15,20 274:3,5 276:1 287:24 288:2,20 <b>District's</b> 269:24 270:2,7,19 <b>District-ow...</b> 269:3 <b>districts</b> 77:1 147:11 176:4 230:4 272:16 <b>ditch</b> 84:2,7 <b>diverse</b> 115:24 163:17 297:2 <b>diversified</b> 177:21 <b>diversion</b> 108:6 129:12	166:22 168:8 171:7 174:8 175:6 177:24 182:12,18 189:19 190:24 191:16,23 200:24 203:21 204:5 <b>diverted</b> 102:4 189:12 <b>diverting</b> 125:4 <b>divided</b> 26:23 <b>division</b> 125:2 126:6 175:13 294:14 <b>divisions</b> 161:2 <b>documents</b> 69:24 <b>DOE</b> 166:19 <b>dog</b> 18:17 <b>doing</b> 9:5 11:8 12:5,5 21:21 29:8 32:10,24 34:11 38:9 51:1,2 55:24 58:18 59:2 61:16 61:17 69:21 71:1,22 72:21 74:20 77:16 78:7 80:6 81:2 81:16,18 86:14 102:11 104:4,6,8 108:19 117:14 118:4 121:8 130:9 138:22 139:3 157:18,24 159:6,19,21 161:7	18:12 24:6 24:19 25:16 27:20 53:12 53:14 55:9 63:14 66:17 66:19,24 67:15 69:21 75:8 89:18 96:19 97:5 98:8,9,13 121:20 150:17 154:22 157:16 198:15 214:20 215:4 227:4 250:19 282:5 287:16 <b>domain</b> 286:4 <b>Domb</b> 1:9 23:18,19,22 24:7,12,17 25:1,4,17 25:22 26:4 26:11,14,22 27:14 28:10 29:4 30:1 62:16,17,22	63:2,6,12 64:4,8,13 64:19 65:1 65:9,16 66:1 67:1,6 67:11,14,19 68:11,15,21 82:14 94:7 94:8 95:1,4 95:8,15 96:5,12,20 97:3,8,12 97:16 98:12 98:16,18,23 99:8,20 111:14 117:11,12 117:23 118:8,15,24 119:3,6 140:8,9,18 140:24 141:10 142:3 143:2 143:9,15 144:11,24 146:7,11 <b>Donna</b> 3:24 16:14 <b>door</b> 36:9 <b>Doubled</b> 202:2 <b>doubt</b> 164:10 <b>downtown</b> 52:9 91:14 281:6 302:2 <b>DPE</b> 5:23 <b>Dr</b> 196:16 219:22 <b>draft</b> 195:10 <b>drain</b> 153:10 <b>drainage</b> 119:20 <b>drastic</b> 108:24 121:10 <b>drawings</b> 223:18 <b>dream</b> 242:7 242:11 <b>dreamers</b> 242:17 <b>Dredging</b>

98:9	<b>E</b>	54:13 73:20	89:15 152:3	293:14	<b>engrain</b> 33:18	118:22	208:24
<b>drill</b> 12:3	<b>e</b> 213:1 223:5	76:5 81:6	152:14	295:4 298:9	<b>enhance</b>	<b>entrepreneur</b>	210:12
<b>drinking</b> 7:16	304:1	104:6	285:21	<b>emptied</b>	127:3	210:18	<b>estate</b> 65:20
<b>drive</b> 8:23	<b>e-mails</b>	121:22	<b>electricity</b>	187:15	210:10	<b>entreprene...</b>	66:2 118:13
21:18 138:8	181:10	122:1	94:19 152:2	<b>enable</b> 6:16	<b>enhanced</b>	208:17	173:18
145:2,7,8	<b>earlier</b> 91:23	155:11	<b>electronic</b>	<b>encourage</b>	212:3	210:12	<b>estimate</b> 11:6
145:17	94:17	228:3	29:22 62:5	33:12,17,22	218:23	<b>entry</b> 295:5,6	11:18,23
146:3,21,24	125:22	<b>effectively</b>	65:19 118:9	290:9	<b>enhancing</b>	298:5	115:16
154:17	130:14	268:9	<b>elementary</b>	<b>encouraged</b>	109:23	<b>environment</b>	257:18
186:17	135:23	282:14	245:24	44:3	196:1	165:19	<b>estimated</b>
278:21,22	154:11	<b>efficiencies</b>	<b>eligibilities</b>	<b>encouraging</b>	<b>enjoy</b> 174:15	<b>environmen...</b>	20:24 32:7
279:2,20,21	191:6 195:4	7:4 28:7	121:16	122:15	243:8,21	125:10	227:1
<b>driven</b> 183:13	195:6,8	74:11	<b>eligibility</b>	<b>ended</b> 236:2	246:20	<b>envision</b>	<b>estimation</b>
<b>driver</b> 108:6	250:7	<b>efficient</b>	236:4 237:3	<b>ends</b> 105:18	241:20	196:4	148:2
148:4	261:11	<b>effort</b> 106:3	297:4,20	241:20	<b>endure</b> 83:17	<b>EPA</b> 189:14	<b>Estrada</b> 88:7
<b>drivers</b> 194:2	274:11	224:5 236:9	<b>eligible</b> 4:21	<b>endured</b> 86:2	<b>Enon</b> 194:21	<b>equates</b>	<b>EV</b> 178:1,1,2
194:6 196:6	300:5	236:18	32:8 35:22	<b>enduser</b>	<b>enroll</b> 32:10	263:18	<b>evaluate</b>
<b>drives</b> 20:13	<b>early</b> 39:18	237:2,4,5	36:15 296:8	202:3 238:8	<b>enrolled</b> 33:5	270:5	207:11
<b>driving</b>	83:12 136:8	288:7 297:1	297:2	<b>endusers</b>	33:8	<b>equipment</b>	<b>evaluating</b>
105:13	175:19	288:7 297:1	298:22,23	238:7	<b>enrollment</b>	27:24 57:3	80:12
155:6	209:4 279:5	<b>efforts</b> 4:15	<b>elimination</b>	<b>energy</b> 36:4	36:7	94:22 134:6	<b>evening</b>
240:24	<b>easements</b>	13:17	206:9	49:3 78:10	<b>ensure</b> 32:11	142:6	265:14
<b>drop</b> 42:5	55:18	126:11	<b>else's</b> 249:21	89:17 90:1	113:16	161:10	268:4 272:3
<b>drop-off</b>	<b>easier</b> 280:18	154:23	249:22	90:3,4,10	208:21	163:5	<b>event</b> 127:14
175:18,24	<b>easily</b> 46:1	181:12	<b>embark</b>	90:11 94:18	210:7 220:7	187:10,12	213:20
<b>drove</b> 223:17	249:21	208:14	126:7	100:5	<b>enter</b> 90:10	187:13,18	214:1 216:2
<b>due</b> 6:17	<b>east</b> 98:3	210:11	<b>embarked</b>	105:15	96:24	300:7	238:18,21
63:20	193:7	228:9 230:2	287:12	107:2 166:8	272:23	<b>equity</b> 42:21	238:22
107:15	244:20	240:15	<b>emergencies</b>	166:12	283:16	246:10	277:17
161:13	245:19	<b>egg</b> 192:1,5	23:4 153:7	<b>enforcement</b>	<b>entered</b>	291:10,24	<b>events</b> 257:16
266:15	260:15	<b>eight</b> 5:9,9	46:5 153:12	149:3	283:22	292:5,8	258:21,21
<b>dug</b> 83:16	279:4	28:14 75:5	153:13,15	<b>enforces</b>	<b>enterprise</b>	<b>ESL</b> 211:9	258:22
152:1 154:9	<b>easy</b> 117:13	148:11	154:12	134:8	6:23	<b>especially</b>	259:8,13
<b>dump</b> 134:8	118:9	164:15	158:23	<b>engage</b> 228:4	<b>enters</b> 274:5	23:3 118:8	278:23
<b>dumping</b>	200:23	234:3,6	160:2	228:18	<b>enthusiastic...</b>	131:5	279:2
132:13	256:14	<b>Eighth</b>	<b>employ</b> 7:9	230:7	212:14	149:10	280:13,16
133:7 134:6	<b>eating</b> 267:18	147:10	296:13	<b>engaged</b>	<b>entire</b> 30:18	160:16	280:19,24
134:23	<b>echo</b> 299:17	173:2,21	<b>employees</b>	188:22	31:4 160:4	161:4 164:1	300:9
173:14,17	<b>economic</b>	174:16	6:10 34:21	273:19	165:1	170:19	<b>eventually</b>
173:18,22	69:11	<b>either</b> 74:9,24	38:3 39:4	<b>engagement</b>	217:24	172:9	112:18
174:9 175:1	125:10	76:13 88:11	127:9,17,23	204:22	219:2 228:4	174:14,21	156:11
176:3,7,8	128:18	101:12	207:5,11	228:18	239:6	174:24	184:1 233:2
<b>duty</b> 40:21	196:2	133:22	230:15,21	<b>engaging</b>	248:19	183:14	<b>everybody</b>
<b>DVRPC</b>	<b>Edmonds</b>	147:21	234:21,21	229:14	281:2	200:15	15:4 86:7
149:7	199:14,15	185:20	250:8	<b>engine</b> 69:11	<b>entirely</b>	203:5	136:19
185:10	<b>educate</b> 48:7	194:19	266:21	<b>engineer</b>	204:12	261:18	153:3
195:8	<b>education</b>	282:2	292:15,17	157:24	<b>entities</b> 61:11	<b>essentially</b>	157:13
<b>dying</b> 288:1	130:9 175:4	<b>elected</b> 113:5	293:7 294:3	<b>engineering</b>	61:17	150:10	186:4 202:5
288:12	211:14	267:2	<b>employer</b>	95:22	103:24	211:9,15,22	206:8
289:14,16	<b>educational</b>	<b>electric</b>	8:12 228:11	201:14,15	<b>entity</b> 109:22	214:9	225:23
289:18	237:21	<b>electrical</b>	<b>employment</b>	201:16	136:12	<b>established</b>	246:12
<b>dysfunctional</b>	<b>effect</b> 32:1	62:4,10	217:6	<b>English</b> 33:3	228:2	75:3	248:16,17
205:10	<b>effective</b>				<b>entrance</b>	<b>establishme...</b>	266:23

267:3	204:23	<b>expanded</b>	296:6	<b>extremely</b>	284:10,10	<b>family</b> 208:15	<b>feet</b> 86:23,24
276:10	211:19	16:15 41:18	<b>experienced</b>	110:20	<b>facing</b> 189:22	<b>fan</b> 73:22	171:15
294:6	212:10	43:23 126:9	111:2	127:15	<b>fact</b> 32:12	76:4 120:16	253:5
<b>evidence</b>	258:5	208:10	217:14	274:13	53:14 65:24	<b>far</b> 46:13	<b>fell</b> 127:15
304:4	288:15	211:11	<b>experiences</b>	<b>eyelet</b> 32:4	72:12 75:2	59:8 68:3,8	<b>felt</b> 92:24
<b>evolving</b>	290:22	212:1	70:7		90:2 100:4	93:12 102:8	<b>female</b> 43:2
29:20	<b>excitement</b>	<b>expanding</b>	<b>expert</b> 210:20	<b>F</b>	111:17	178:5 182:6	227:19
128:21	32:16	4:11 126:1	<b>expertise</b>	<b>F</b> 304:1	113:7	186:22	233:24
<b>exact</b> 141:15	<b>exciting</b> 5:15	192:10	71:17,18	<b>FA</b> 88:7	142:13	222:11	234:3
183:10	<b>Excuse</b> 38:13	216:21	<b>expires</b>	<b>Fabey</b> 240:17	155:2,12	247:15	<b>festival</b>
233:23	<b>executive</b>	273:22	296:15	248:15	171:1	278:23	279:22
251:21	40:3 42:23	<b>expansion</b>	<b>explain</b> 9:22	254:10,15	190:17	288:5	281:11
257:17	43:2,5,17	7:11 113:15	19:13	266:2 268:6	211:8 225:9	<b>FAs</b> 88:9	<b>fewer</b> 31:2
<b>exactly</b> 25:7	43:24	204:12	217:10	<b>Fabey's</b>	252:6	<b>fashion</b> 81:10	217:4
53:9 109:15	143:17,20	216:13	258:12	232:18	300:15	<b>fast</b> 103:6	245:17
109:15	227:15	<b>expect</b> 5:24	<b>explanation</b>	<b>fabulous</b>	<b>factor</b> 63:22	154:17	<b>field</b> 48:2
116:16	<b>exemplary</b>	7:17 9:11	194:4	223:19	64:3 108:14	171:12	77:19
220:20	125:12	125:14	<b>explode</b>	<b>faced</b> 108:23	<b>factory</b> 63:1	196:13	115:19
278:23	<b>exempt</b>	202:12	261:22	<b>facilitate</b>	<b>fail</b> 21:18	<b>faster</b> 54:9	244:21
290:1 291:3	101:20	215:16	<b>exploded</b>	126:5	<b>failed</b> 135:13	<b>fault</b> 23:11	245:3,7,9
292:14	<b>exercise</b>	225:9 231:9	245:15	<b>facilities</b> 73:3	<b>failure</b> 83:24	45:12,12	245:10,13
<b>exam</b> 41:15	298:19	<b>expectation</b>	<b>exploited</b>	73:11,15,18	<b>fair</b> 6:20	46:18	245:13
42:9	<b>exercising</b>	253:14	202:6	73:21 74:4	16:24	<b>favorable</b>	246:7,14
<b>example</b>	44:7	<b>expectations</b>	<b>explore</b> 300:2	74:12,15	264:12	128:5	249:10,10
27:16 89:17	<b>exhausted</b>	248:22	<b>exploring</b>	75:8,15,22	<b>fairly</b> 61:24	<b>favorite</b> 5:17	249:21
101:2	29:8	<b>expected</b>	300:3	81:18	68:1 72:12	240:16	258:24
103:20	<b>exist</b> 40:14	144:6 154:7	<b>explosion</b>	170:16	219:21	<b>feasibility</b>	259:4 260:9
106:19	153:16	250:11	60:12	179:23	<b>Fairmount</b>	95:19	260:10,12
108:8 109:6	190:7	251:19	249:12,13	211:21	229:2	189:20	260:19
134:9	294:16	<b>expecting</b>	<b>expose</b>	229:12	244:20	190:6	262:14,16
138:11	<b>existed</b> 192:8	252:13	228:16	230:4,22	245:19	<b>feasible</b> 131:4	262:17
171:5	<b>existence</b>	<b>expedite</b>	<b>exposure</b>	238:9,24	260:15	<b>federal</b> 49:6	273:1,16
173:12	295:24	165:15	228:13	254:19	<b>fall</b> 23:1	49:10	<b>fields</b> 228:18
277:18	<b>existing</b> 75:15	198:18	<b>expressed</b>	262:5,6	80:17 96:23	185:16	244:7,7,13
283:17	93:9,10	<b>expend</b>	293:14	263:10	170:21	186:13	244:24
284:20	99:6 232:3	263:17	<b>expressway</b>	264:5	191:4	206:9	245:1,17,17
290:1	232:23	<b>expense</b>	155:7	267:16	204:10	<b>fed</b> 185:20	245:24
298:13	238:2,11	67:24 96:16	<b>extend</b>	270:5,7	210:16	<b>fee</b> 98:22	246:3,5,11
<b>exceeded</b>	260:8,21	<b>expensive</b>	175:18	271:3,8,10	211:12,15	110:3	246:12,18
41:23	262:15	54:11 75:14	<b>extended</b>	271:20	212:1	301:17	246:20
<b>Excellence</b>	293:13	108:20	208:11	272:3,10	<b>falling</b> 127:16	<b>feedback</b>	249:1
5:2	<b>exists</b> 43:9	<b>experience</b>	<b>extension</b>	273:12,23	<b>falls</b> 34:10	18:9 123:7	259:19
<b>excellent</b>	170:2	35:20 45:18	204:11	274:23	133:7	145:15,21	260:16,23
193:13	283:24	60:7 69:13	<b>extra</b> 27:19	285:3	158:13	<b>feel</b> 102:24	262:3 265:6
201:13	<b>expand</b> 15:7	69:16,20	29:6 150:16	<b>facility</b> 52:7	<b>familiar</b>	114:15	265:6
212:19	15:15 28:16	71:21	171:16,16	74:1 189:23	91:21	148:24	268:20
<b>excess</b> 90:5	106:18	106:19	231:1	190:2	224:20	170:12	270:13,16
90:14	127:2	217:4 229:7	271:21	206:17	267:14	173:5 244:5	270:19,21
157:15	207:13	229:21	282:8	210:9	278:10	281:9,10	272:10
<b>excited</b> 31:22	210:10	233:18	<b>extraordina...</b>	238:23	<b>families</b> 32:8	300:20	273:2,4
85:21	211:7	266:10	224:15	240:5 269:3	148:24	<b>fees</b> 190:14	274:7
124:15	267:19	274:22	<b>extraordina...</b>	272:18	209:3	259:8	<b>fifth</b> 197:16
197:23	295:19	295:11	227:10	281:22	244:11	301:16	<b>fight</b> 13:14,17
				283:7,8,19			

<b>fighting</b> 14:17 163:5	96:4 241:22 263:4	159:9 174:12	213:14 217:14,24	<b>flush</b> 19:11 19:12,15	262:7,9 266:1 284:8	46:20 152:13	173:20,20 217:1 231:1
<b>figure</b> 27:18 28:13 33:21 73:17 100:22 101:13 106:14 109:16 110:13 135:21 176:19 273:11 280:11 287:1 288:16	<b>financing</b> 98:21 <b>find</b> 18:19 30:24 47:12 53:16 61:13 81:3 101:11 134:20 169:2 190:21 207:21 244:17 256:14,20 256:21 261:15 278:11	181:2 188:15 194:2 198:19 208:8 209:9 213:10 227:23 228:19 229:1,19 235:16 240:10 249:3 254:1 268:11 292:23 294:8	241:14 246:17 247:2,3 295:15,23 295:23 296:3 <b>five-year</b> 2:17 11:1,2 12:22 59:22 68:16 82:17 128:13 216:9 242:15 <b>fix</b> 152:8 262:3	<b>focus</b> 122:12 126:15 183:20 217:23 218:20 255:22 <b>focused</b> 40:21 96:10 100:12 126:20 209:14 218:23 <b>focuses</b> 204:7 <b>focusing</b> 191:8 208:13 <b>folk</b> 243:8 <b>folks</b> 8:11,13 8:20,24 12:2 29:2 33:5,8 34:5 34:12,23 35:1 36:20 37:4 39:10 39:12 40:13 41:6,11,16 41:21,23 42:2,6,8 45:7 47:11 48:2,8,24 49:23 51:7 51:7 52:2,4 59:13 61:21 67:23 68:10 77:18,19 78:2 85:19 91:12 110:4 110:9,14 111:20 112:12,13 113:10,11 113:14 137:9 174:3 232:6 242:15 247:11 248:7 252:12,20 259:19 260:5 261:16	290:13 291:13,16 293:22 301:9,11 <b>follow</b> 82:13 87:10,11 96:13 121:2 192:9,14 282:12 301:5 <b>follow-up</b> 94:1 157:10 <b>followed</b> 154:9 204:9 235:9 <b>following</b> 3:12 250:15 <b>followup</b> 66:3 <b>food</b> 189:17 190:15 <b>football</b> 244:7 265:5,6 <b>footprint</b> 107:16,16 107:20 108:18 <b>force</b> 149:8 151:1 173:2 173:5,21 174:16 175:7,14 176:19 255:5,9 256:1 <b>forced</b> 160:3 296:18 <b>forego</b> 49:19 <b>foregoing</b> 304:18 <b>foremost</b> 78:21 79:7 240:10 254:1 <b>forethought</b> 172:22 <b>forever</b> 54:6 <b>forgive</b> 79:21 <b>forgiveness</b> 37:4,5,11 111:17,19 <b>forgot</b> 46:19	<b>forks</b> 292:7 <b>form</b> 252:17 <b>formal</b> 25:14 245:22 <b>former</b> 245:23,23 <b>forms</b> 117:15 117:16 273:4 <b>formula</b> 107:13 <b>formulate</b> 106:5 <b>formulating</b> 89:5 <b>forth</b> 73:15 120:4 <b>Fortunately</b> 213:13 <b>forward</b> 3:9 9:14 45:24 56:5 80:8 89:13 90:13 109:17 115:22 116:6 117:5 121:21 123:10 124:16 137:5 144:7 169:6 171:24 176:18 179:6 183:3 184:1 187:21 191:5 197:9 200:17 207:16 212:11,22 215:19 230:11 254:6,7 255:4 256:4 267:3,19 284:24 <b>fought</b> 44:20 263:2 <b>found</b> 145:5 149:24	<b>founders</b> 244:4 <b>Fountain</b> 146:24 <b>four</b> 16:17 43:19 80:11 89:21 92:10 109:1 164:15 187:4 211:11,20 215:5 217:18 234:4 237:15 241:13,19 249:15 272:17 273:5 293:15 <b>four-and-a...</b> 214:19 <b>four-page</b> 208:1 <b>fourth</b> 177:15 208:20,23 209:14,15 <b>Fox</b> 18:1 <b>FPL</b> 49:13 <b>frame</b> 6:20 57:10 137:15 <b>Francesco</b> 254:8 <b>Frank</b> 92:5 232:18 240:16 248:15,16 248:17 254:10,15 266:2 <b>Frankford</b> 159:16,17 159:23 <b>Franklin</b> 101:10 <b>frankly</b> 189:8 <b>Free</b> 3:12
<b>figured</b> 46:1 <b>figures</b> 222:9 <b>figuring</b> 74:17 80:14 243:13 <b>fill</b> 10:3 121:15 160:22 161:12 231:8 233:2 <b>filled</b> 10:4 26:17 28:2 28:5,15 34:3 <b>filling</b> 43:24 61:22 191:12,16 192:2,3 <b>fills</b> 173:24 <b>filth</b> 177:6 <b>final</b> 99:3 163:1 203:1 215:19 <b>Finally</b> 7:13 197:10 211:19 <b>finance</b> 3:23 104:20,20 106:1,8 165:9 <b>financial</b> 2:18 24:5,22 25:8,15,21 25:22 63:10 66:20 88:6 88:20 95:16 95:18,23	<b>findings</b> 151:16 <b>fine</b> 76:24 132:19 133:24 134:1 <b>finer</b> 202:2 <b>finish</b> 207:23 <b>finished</b> 107:24 154:14 160:1 <b>finishes</b> 139:7 <b>finishing</b> 42:7 <b>fire</b> 13:5,12 13:14,16 14:6 47:7,7 47:13 75:8 <b>firearm</b> 282:9 <b>fires</b> 13:14,15 13:17 14:17 47:3 <b>firm</b> 72:17 95:18,24 97:1 <b>first</b> 3:14 6:18 19:21 36:16 51:3 72:15 77:18 78:20 79:7 104:9 113:5 136:19 146:3 147:8 152:11	<b>first-rate</b> 245:2 <b>fiscal</b> 2:10,12 2:14,19,21 3:8,10,10 4:3,16 5:24 6:3,4 7:7,8 15:20 24:4 24:8,23 25:16 32:9 35:10,10 49:1,2 63:20,23,24 64:18 66:16 68:4 78:8 84:18,21 90:1 99:4,5 106:9 124:14,16 124:22 125:16 140:15 226:21 <b>fish</b> 194:10 <b>Fishtown</b> 52:20 <b>fit</b> 172:18 <b>five</b> 13:3 18:12 63:13 68:14 73:16 145:6 156:15 184:20 204:24 208:12,14 208:15	<b>fixed</b> 77:15 100:19 259:21 284:12 <b>fixing</b> 262:6 <b>flashers</b> 170:22 <b>flashing</b> 145:11 199:19 <b>fleet</b> 127:11 127:21 162:1,23 164:7,21 165:1,2 177:24 178:1 187:3 187:3,20 191:9 192:8 <b>flexibility</b> 123:5 200:10 275:5 299:11 <b>flood</b> 6:12,14 81:10 <b>flooded</b> 86:19 <b>flooding</b> 60:15 86:8 <b>floods</b> 47:2 <b>Florida</b> 273:10 <b>flow</b> 20:17 171:12 <b>fluctuations</b> 89:22	<b>flush</b> 19:11 19:12,15 <b>focus</b> 122:12 126:15 183:20 217:23 218:20 255:22 <b>focused</b> 40:21 96:10 100:12 126:20 209:14 218:23 <b>focuses</b> 204:7 <b>focusing</b> 191:8 208:13 <b>folk</b> 243:8 <b>folks</b> 8:11,13 8:20,24 12:2 29:2 33:5,8 34:5 34:12,23 35:1 36:20 37:4 39:10 39:12 40:13 41:6,11,16 41:21,23 42:2,6,8 45:7 47:11 48:2,8,24 49:23 51:7 51:7 52:2,4 59:13 61:21 67:23 68:10 77:18,19 78:2 85:19 91:12 110:4 110:9,14 111:20 112:12,13 113:10,11 113:14 137:9 174:3 232:6 242:15 247:11 248:7 252:12,20 259:19 260:5 261:16	46:20 152:13 267:10 <b>forks</b> 292:7 <b>form</b> 252:17 <b>formal</b> 25:14 245:22 <b>former</b> 245:23,23 <b>forms</b> 117:15 117:16 273:4 <b>formula</b> 107:13 <b>formulate</b> 106:5 <b>formulating</b> 89:5 <b>forth</b> 73:15 120:4 <b>Fortunately</b> 213:13 <b>forward</b> 3:9 9:14 45:24 56:5 80:8 89:13 90:13 109:17 115:22 116:6 117:5 121:21 123:10 124:16 137:5 144:7 169:6 171:24 176:18 179:6 183:3 184:1 187:21 191:5 197:9 200:17 207:16 212:11,22 215:19 230:11 254:6,7 255:4 256:4 267:3,19 284:24 <b>fought</b> 44:20 263:2 <b>found</b> 145:5 149:24	288:12 293:20 <b>founders</b> 244:4 <b>Fountain</b> 146:24 <b>four</b> 16:17 43:19 80:11 89:21 92:10 109:1 164:15 187:4 211:11,20 215:5 217:18 234:4 237:15 241:13,19 249:15 272:17 273:5 293:15 <b>four-and-a...</b> 214:19 <b>four-page</b> 208:1 <b>fourth</b> 177:15 208:20,23 209:14,15 <b>Fox</b> 18:1 <b>FPL</b> 49:13 <b>frame</b> 6:20 57:10 137:15 <b>Francesco</b> 254:8 <b>Frank</b> 92:5 232:18 240:16 248:15,16 248:17 254:10,15 266:2 <b>Frankford</b> 159:16,17 159:23 <b>Franklin</b> 101:10 <b>frankly</b> 189:8 <b>Free</b> 3:12	

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

203:12,19	<b>fully</b> 10:7	<b>furnaces</b>	<b>Georges</b>	224:17	169:14	12:5 14:7	178:5,15
208:3,9,13	26:20 92:8	205:9	223:13	233:22	178:16,23	19:13,17	182:1,3,9
209:6,17	212:1,2,5	<b>further</b> 86:12	224:4	235:12	184:16	22:4 26:5	182:24
212:13	225:7,10	222:18	<b>geothermal</b>	236:19	186:7,22	27:3 31:21	183:2,8,12
<b>freight</b>	279:3 304:5	230:7	74:2	243:7	191:19	32:3,10,24	183:13,21
134:24	<b>function</b>	280:11	<b>Germantown</b>	244:22	194:19	33:10,16	187:21
<b>frequent</b>	173:22	<b>future</b> 183:9	174:15	245:8	205:18	34:5 35:4	190:7 191:5
165:22	<b>functionally</b>	255:4	<b>getting</b> 8:15	246:23	219:14	35:13,14,18	191:10
<b>frequently</b>	211:17,18	267:20	10:1 35:15	286:12	222:4	35:19 36:1	192:17
117:21,24	<b>functioning</b>	<b>FY</b> 89:18	36:21 39:16	290:1	242:18,20	36:2 37:2	194:14
257:15	225:8,10	<b>FY16</b> 89:20	59:2 62:1,3	300:24	246:7 247:8	41:24 42:3	196:13
<b>Friday</b> 199:3	<b>fund</b> 6:22,23	<b>FY17</b> 8:5	68:8 73:9	302:12	247:15	45:24 47:20	198:1
<b>friend</b> 254:8	7:2 10:7	208:23	85:20 96:10	<b>given</b> 39:19	249:10	47:22 51:2	199:24
254:15	13:10,19,24	227:1,19	101:21	106:1	251:15	51:8 52:11	203:1
<b>friends</b> 5:3	14:3,8,16	<b>FY18</b> 226:24	104:15	133:21	256:12	52:21 57:12	204:12,23
205:22	26:20 37:8	227:22	110:9	184:7	260:21	57:14,18,19	205:4,20
229:17	53:2 66:14	228:8,22	116:13,18	216:15	266:23	65:18 74:11	207:2
238:19	66:15 69:7		122:4 123:7	232:24	267:17	75:1,6,6	214:12
<b>fringe</b> 27:2	69:7,8,17	<b>G</b>	162:20	254:14	268:16	77:13 80:2	218:4 219:5
142:6 143:3	81:17 97:4	<b>Gainer</b> 22:16	166:5	276:22	271:18	80:13 81:1	223:13
143:7	98:15	<b>gallon</b> 75:19	171:15	292:8	273:10	83:5 84:18	224:10
<b>front</b> 179:1	124:20	<b>gallons</b> 75:18	178:24	<b>gives</b> 115:16	275:6 280:3	89:17,20	225:6 226:6
202:12	160:12	<b>game</b> 229:5	187:13	135:4	283:4,23	93:24 94:13	237:5,13,14
241:8	190:17	249:22	191:11	183:23	286:9,16,18	95:9 96:21	237:17
<b>frontline</b>	214:9 224:5	<b>gap</b> 82:17	196:14	200:10	286:18	97:4 102:20	238:22
201:12	226:22,24	<b>garages</b>	198:12	<b>giving</b> 74:9	296:15	104:15	240:8
<b>fruit</b> 265:15	227:3	180:2	223:6 225:2	111:8	299:7 302:7	107:23	242:16
<b>fruits</b> 144:18	253:12	<b>garden</b>	235:8	172:22	<b>goal</b> 5:24	108:23	246:14
<b>frustration</b>	<b>fundamental</b>	109:21	259:21	194:4	17:7 32:9	113:9	249:16
286:6	216:4	<b>gardens</b>	284:13,15	203:20	34:18 35:22	115:21	250:5,13
<b>fry</b> 194:10	<b>funded</b> 6:23	54:23	285:4,7	235:10	36:13,14	117:18	251:6 252:4
<b>fuel</b> 178:17	120:17	<b>gardens/pla...</b>	<b>Girard</b> 81:21	<b>glad</b> 169:1	96:22 125:4	128:15	252:23
<b>fulfill</b> 155:3	185:20	52:19	224:20	186:19	139:12	129:21	253:10,13
<b>fulfilled</b> 233:6	<b>funding</b> 9:23	<b>GARP</b> 95:13	<b>give</b> 7:21	<b>global</b> 128:18	140:3 141:7	132:14,18	253:14,16
<b>fulfilling</b>	10:16 14:7	121:19	18:17 19:13	<b>GM</b> 89:5	141:24	145:18	255:4,8
127:23	60:22 66:22	<b>gas</b> 60:8 61:7	23:23 24:13	<b>GMW</b> 235:17	144:3 156:7	147:1	258:8,10
<b>full</b> 10:15	124:21	84:14,15	48:1 66:8	<b>go</b> 11:9 16:16	164:14,20	148:17	259:20
91:13	143:23	165:9 290:4	67:1 83:5	18:18,22	184:19	151:6 154:6	260:4,24
160:23	150:11	<b>GEFIS</b> 154:3	114:6	20:12 22:10	189:4	157:21,22	263:5
174:5	165:6	<b>general</b> 13:10	136:24	41:16 46:13	208:21	158:2 159:3	265:13
186:18	185:10	13:19 14:8	141:8	51:12 84:15	219:19	159:8	266:1
292:20,21	232:4	14:16 66:14	153:21	88:17,22	<b>goals</b> 7:5 85:7	160:20	271:23
296:13	250:18	66:15 69:14	154:24	96:11	217:8	161:19	275:4
<b>full-scale</b>	251:11	69:18 95:20	155:4	113:14	<b>God</b> 289:10	164:17,23	278:14,24
127:5	287:19	124:20	166:15	117:21,22	<b>goes</b> 13:16	165:15,21	279:1,9,22
<b>full-time</b> 6:10	<b>fundraiser</b>	178:21	179:15	118:8 121:4	15:24 19:22	165:22	279:24
38:3 39:4	294:5,7	190:17	192:11	121:5,21	34:2 107:3	167:1,11,15	280:3 286:9
227:4,18	<b>funds</b> 66:7,8	226:22,24	193:6 195:4	140:24	135:10	167:17,22	287:23
237:17	69:6 161:23	227:3	197:18	145:10	181:17	168:10,13	289:22
291:17	165:10,11	<b>generate</b>	198:3	151:3 152:8	197:23	169:10	293:5,6
292:16,18	185:18	128:24	200:24	152:12	235:3	171:17	299:16
293:14	255:11,18	<b>generated</b>	201:2 221:2	160:13	290:18	172:19	301:1
295:4	<b>funny</b> 281:1	6:24 32:5	221:19	167:2,5,11	<b>going</b> 9:13,13	174:6 176:2	<b>golf</b> 240:21
		190:1					



Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

241:19,20 <b>good</b> 2:1 3:17 3:19 7:21 8:12,19,22 10:9 15:4 15:10 23:8 23:20,21 24:1,14 27:9 31:21 37:19,21 42:6,13,14 46:10 49:20 53:10 61:21 62:1 64:21 69:15 70:9 74:5 76:5 78:18 80:3 80:6 83:6 85:1,6,19 85:19 88:14 91:2,3 92:4 92:6 105:24 117:10 121:22 122:4 124:5 127:6 128:11 132:7 136:19 138:10,24 139:14 140:5,10 141:19 142:2 146:17,18 147:5,6 148:2 149:4 151:22 154:1,15 156:18,18 156:19 165:17 166:6 168:17 171:21 175:11 191:3 193:9 198:12 203:12,13 203:14 207:22 213:8,9,17 219:9,10,11	219:12,12 221:4,5 222:1 223:4 226:10,11 226:12 230:13 232:20,24 238:19 240:3,4,5 245:18 247:23 248:1 249:13 254:8,15 257:17 261:24 262:20 265:6 268:4 268:14 292:18 297:12 302:14,14 302:18 <b>gorgeous</b> 222:1 <b>Gotcha</b> 89:12 <b>gotten</b> 32:12 47:21 283:11 <b>government</b> 42:23 54:19 55:5 186:13 196:3 290:20 <b>grade</b> 208:22 208:23 209:15,16 <b>graded</b> 20:13 <b>grades</b> 209:9 <b>graduate</b> 298:22 <b>graduation</b> 85:24 <b>grand</b> 47:7,7 249:19 <b>grant</b> 42:24 53:21,22,23 53:24 54:8 54:10 56:3 57:17 70:24 73:6 95:11 120:7 166:19	185:10 214:12 215:1,4 216:2 292:8 <b>granted</b> 187:2 <b>grants</b> 72:7 73:5 81:24 121:24,24 123:9 157:15 185:16,24 186:1 214:9 226:23 <b>grass</b> 161:6 <b>grate</b> 20:2,6 21:12 <b>grated</b> 19:24 20:8 21:13 <b>grateful</b> 223:12 265:2 266:11,18 266:18 300:2 <b>grates</b> 20:16 <b>great</b> 37:13 52:7 106:13 108:20 109:13 115:24 157:6 158:20 166:4 168:18 171:7 172:16 184:22,23 186:19 188:4,7 202:21 223:21 225:1,2,12 236:24 254:4,9 267:4 269:4 277:6 278:4 278:11,16 280:20 281:15 282:22 291:8 <b>greater</b> 28:16	217:20 242:19 243:17 <b>greatest</b> 183:21 <b>green</b> 1:10 5:19,20 28:20 54:12 57:24 58:10 58:11 59:9 59:18 60:1 60:6 61:4 62:8,12 67:7 73:2,6 73:18,20,21 74:2,4,10 74:14 75:13 75:23 76:2 76:3,4,5 82:14 88:1 88:2,21 89:8,12 90:7,16,20 108:19 110:14 121:22 122:1,21 127:18 188:10,11 188:14 190:8,11 192:15,23 213:21 242:22 <b>greened</b> 101:6 <b>greener</b> 110:1 <b>Greenlee</b> 1:10 15:2,3,9,17 15:23 16:3 16:10,21 17:2,5,8 51:16 136:17,18 137:6,24 139:13,21 140:4 <b>Greenwald-...</b> 100:3 <b>grew</b> 108:10 <b>gross</b> 65:11 <b>ground</b> 19:11 19:12,15	52:23 <b>groundbrea...</b> 52:21 <b>grounds</b> 235:17 <b>group</b> 88:6 188:7 218:16 232:7 242:2 245:3,4,6 245:10,12 260:8,9,11 260:18,19 262:15,16 292:6 <b>groups</b> 112:17 205:22 229:17 244:19,24 245:5,6 259:23 262:3,4 272:6 <b>grow</b> 182:2 184:8,20 196:2 206:12 244:14,17 <b>growing</b> 28:11,15 31:2 99:14 109:24 218:12 273:3 <b>grown</b> 268:24 291:22 <b>grows</b> 120:18 <b>growth</b> 94:21 <b>guarantee</b> 148:13 <b>guard</b> 176:12 281:10,11 <b>guess</b> 26:18 29:7 65:19 71:10 83:19 96:13 133:1 134:6 143:17 148:6 163:17 166:11 180:16	219:3 230:21 249:19 <b>guesstimate</b> 11:17 <b>guide</b> 212:16 256:2 <b>guideline</b> 261:7,9 <b>guiding</b> 204:8 <b>gum</b> 240:18 <b>guts</b> 67:18 <b>guy</b> 55:5 <b>guys</b> 18:3 47:17 103:4 130:15 181:3,10 185:5 186:18 188:7 233:7 240:16 283:10 302:7,17,21 <b>gym</b> 260:4 272:4 <b>gyms</b> 260:2 263:7,18,21 263:23 264:2,6,16 265:7 268:19 269:11,15 269:20 <hr/> <b>H</b> <hr/> <b>half</b> 27:17 34:7 135:12 203:24 211:16,17 284:16 286:4 <b>half-a-million</b> 215:4 <b>hall</b> 1:3 50:11 51:2 52:12 77:16 197:16 303:1 <b>halls</b> 51:13 <b>hammered</b> 204:13,15 <b>hand</b> 47:22 229:10,10 <b>handicap</b>	186:15 289:4 <b>Handicapped</b> 214:24 <b>handle</b> 34:23 67:23 77:21 91:12 209:24 <b>handled</b> 260:6 <b>handles</b> 93:21 93:21 <b>hands</b> 100:17 <b>Hang</b> 234:2 <b>hanging</b> 48:12 <b>happen</b> 18:6 44:8 47:3 52:2 54:4 57:6,8 79:20 102:2 123:6 149:9 157:22 164:17 225:6 265:19 273:12 282:4 289:23 <b>happened</b> 50:15 53:8 63:24 103:19 148:22 149:13 225:10 278:7 <b>happening</b> 22:22 51:19 51:24 152:6 252:4 281:22 <b>happens</b> 47:13 72:17 184:2 186:8 207:1 210:4 238:21 239:12 291:24 295:7 <b>happy</b> 7:19 22:14 35:18 58:3 67:5	72:18 87:9 87:11 99:16 121:18 128:8 129:5 142:20 143:14,22 144:9 196:8 198:5,14 221:3,13,16 222:4,5,19 236:6 242:4 247:4 258:19 265:8 275:10 280:21 297:3 300:21 302:4,4 <b>hard</b> 7:3 8:10 8:12 11:7 23:7 27:8 36:17,24 48:2 63:19 74:15 84:3 100:13,13 113:8 116:20 176:5 240:14 248:20 254:16 261:19 263:2 264:20 274:21 294:12 299:17 300:12 <b>hard-worki...</b> 207:4 <b>hardest</b> 56:14 <b>hate</b> 235:11 <b>hates</b> 184:23 <b>hazardous</b> 287:14 <b>hazing</b> 202:19 <b>head</b> 22:8 99:14 114:4 <b>headache</b> 83:17 <b>headed</b>
---	---	--	---	--	--	--	---

182:17 <b>heading</b> 51:4 <b>heads</b> 167:1 <b>health</b> 6:13 204:17,19 209:19,21 210:1,8,22 210:24 211:2,3 228:17 275:14 <b>healthy</b> 211:5 275:10 <b>hear</b> 3:11 18:8 44:3 45:3 47:19 151:20 165:17 181:22,23 186:19 192:18 196:9 197:19 208:5 226:5 <b>heard</b> 85:12 93:15,16 102:6 141:11 199:11,13 199:21 223:5 226:5 273:5 278:4 <b>hearing</b> 2:2,3 3:5 25:5 85:17 119:16 121:4 159:10 168:8 169:22,23 172:18 184:24 240:9 243:5 250:6,14 268:12 303:2 304:6 <b>hearings</b> 58:19 137:13 201:10 256:10 <b>heart</b> 102:8 <b>heartbeat</b>	296:13 <b>heating</b> 74:3 <b>heavily</b> 99:19 101:5 <b>heavy</b> 100:12 171:12 <b>hedge</b> 90:3,11 215:15 <b>hedged</b> 90:13 <b>hedges</b> 90:11 <b>height</b> 242:19 <b>held</b> 132:23 228:20 <b>help</b> 6:13 9:12 12:21 12:22 15:5 15:20 16:18 20:19,20 32:7 33:7 34:6 35:23 40:4 43:8 59:7,11,21 60:2,2,3 67:18,22,22 72:22 78:1 85:16 91:18 93:1 100:23 102:5 109:19 110:21 113:14 114:9 115:14 119:1 144:7 151:3 173:1 176:21 188:8 195:1 196:24 205:17,19 210:17 228:5 254:15 256:1 273:11 296:4,4 <b>helped</b> 162:3 <b>helpers</b> 61:23 <b>helpful</b> 47:2 72:9 117:8 137:2,7 172:8 196:8 252:9 281:14	282:15,15 <b>helping</b> 100:18 206:22 254:17 <b>helps</b> 32:17 67:23 120:18 154:12 165:2,3 282:14 <b>Henon</b> 1:11 87:23 90:22 94:5 99:23 106:17 109:15 110:16,20 111:10 119:11,12 119:22 120:2,15,23 122:9,22 123:19 135:2 140:6 146:13 157:8,18 158:16,20 159:14 160:11 161:18 162:7,12,17 162:19 163:7 164:10 165:17 166:4,24 167:12 169:9,18 177:10 180:7 188:9 188:13 192:19 193:1 201:6 203:4 274:18,19 276:2,7,11 276:18,24 277:6 288:20 290:10 <b>Henon's</b> 100:15 <b>Henry</b> 145:1	145:5,22,23 <b>hero</b> 240:17 <b>hey</b> 40:18 78:17 105:11 121:12 <b>high</b> 6:8 37:24 38:16 38:24 39:8 39:16,17,21 39:24,24 40:11 85:8 113:19 155:15 172:10 178:10 236:5 261:13 <b>high-density</b> 163:19 <b>high-friction</b> 145:19 <b>higher</b> 25:10 36:13 105:1 105:5 109:2 125:18 194:13 227:18 232:17 234:20 297:4 <b>highest</b> 4:24 7:15 284:18 <b>highlight</b> 154:4 165:8 179:4 <b>highlighting</b> 4:5 <b>highlights</b> 11:1 <b>highly</b> 214:4 293:19 <b>highway</b> 159:24 <b>highways</b> 160:14 <b>Hill</b> 173:12 173:15 <b>hire</b> 27:4 42:10 231:3 296:21,22 <b>hired</b> 6:9 38:3 39:11	232:23 234:21 291:14 <b>hiree</b> 202:20 <b>hiring</b> 27:8 34:1 231:2 231:4,8,16 233:12 274:14 291:10 297:17 <b>Hispanic</b> 204:4 <b>historic</b> 242:13 <b>history</b> 22:15 83:6 298:20 <b>hit</b> 103:20 189:13 224:11 249:20 <b>Hite</b> 219:22 <b>hitting</b> 249:19 <b>hold</b> 56:8,9 75:21 150:20 163:13,19 187:14 202:2 220:22,23 231:4 <b>holder</b> 260:21 <b>holding</b> 56:11 <b>holds</b> 163:23 <b>holes</b> 161:15 <b>home</b> 11:9 16:16 58:23 73:8 209:2 209:2 249:19 302:7 <b>homelessness</b> 209:23 <b>homeowners</b> 269:6 <b>homes</b> 11:4 194:6 <b>Homestead</b> 33:13 36:8 <b>homework</b> 205:18 <b>honest</b> 245:21	263:13 294:1 <b>honestly</b> 168:15 <b>honking</b> 213:17 <b>honor</b> 168:10 248:6 <b>honors</b> 4:24 <b>hookup</b> 206:15 <b>hoorah</b> 197:20 <b>hope</b> 15:7 17:6 37:10 42:8 45:17 80:16 106:7 160:14 161:24 179:7 198:9 201:21 225:18 232:3,22 233:2 241:3 276:15 288:8 293:2 <b>hoped</b> 231:7 <b>hopefully</b> 36:21 39:4 51:11,14 176:7 184:20 188:4 217:5 233:5 293:6 <b>hoping</b> 33:4 49:23 165:4 190:4 195:10 214:13 <b>hoppers</b> 163:3 <b>horse</b> 243:1 <b>Hospital</b> 205:3 211:1 <b>host</b> 209:18 <b>hosted</b> 210:15 <b>hosting</b> 229:3 <b>hotel</b> 46:2 47:7 148:5 <b>hotels</b> 178:10 179:24 <b>hotspot</b> 222:8 282:4	<b>hour</b> 145:7 145:11,12 254:14 270:10 293:10 <b>hours</b> 148:15 175:20 208:10 235:18,19 246:2 248:21 263:18,20 263:21 265:14 269:12 270:6,7,8 270:13 274:5 275:20,21 275:22,23 276:13,15 278:24 <b>house</b> 174:7 175:21 289:20 290:14 <b>housed</b> 88:16 <b>households</b> 174:23 <b>houses</b> 30:23 31:15,16 75:8 130:7 253:6 <b>housing</b> 11:17 30:13 33:15,16 100:20 <b>HR</b> 291:7,12 292:1 294:10,13 295:10 298:2 <b>huge</b> 44:4 74:6 120:16 173:8 174:9 211:15 289:5 297:1 298:10 <b>humps</b> 199:21 <b>hundred</b> 10:13 32:5 90:4,12	205:8 232:2 236:4 <b>hundreds</b> 75:7 105:4 229:6,17 <b>HURREY</b> 304:12 <b>hurry</b> 169:17 169:20 <b>hydrants</b> 5:15 13:14 <hr/> <b>I</b> <hr/> <b>I-95</b> 157:22 157:23 159:13 <b>i.e</b> 238:10 <b>ice</b> 127:12 <b>icy</b> 127:15 <b>idea</b> 11:20 12:15 23:23 24:13 66:9 79:11 98:18 98:23 106:13 107:6 155:1 171:21 179:15 183:24 223:21 237:22 257:2 278:5 278:11 280:20 <b>ideas</b> 122:7 207:15 223:23 <b>identification</b> 41:2 <b>identified</b> 87:1 <b>identify</b> 11:8 11:9,14 12:10 28:7 39:6,12 75:1 155:18 260:20 261:20 <b>identifying</b> 85:13 86:22 <b>ignore</b> 148:16 <b>illegal</b> 132:13 133:6 193:22
--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--

<b>illegally</b> 136:23	<b>imposed</b> 133:11,18	<b>inception</b> 121:7	28:17 34:9	228:20	5:2 11:19	21:1,13	206:10
<b>illiterate</b> 211:17,18	133:20	<b>inches</b> 127:15	34:19,21	231:4,17,18	18:5,11	22:13	207:8
<b>imagine</b> 99:14	<b>imposes</b> 133:8,24	<b>incidents</b> 159:5	38:4 39:17	232:6,22	28:22,23	<b>inlets</b> 18:21	<b>instituted</b> 45:21,22
<b>immediate</b> 244:18,23	<b>improve</b> 6:12	254:22	60:22 94:14	233:10,12	29:13 30:8	19:15,20,24	175:17
246:6 253:4	85:21	<b>incinerators</b> 125:5	94:15,17	235:4,13	30:21 55:1	20:22 21:8	209:6
<b>immediately</b> 155:21	103:15,16	<b>include</b> 15:9	95:2 107:15	237:18	55:14 57:12	22:12 23:8	<b>institution</b> 232:15
172:23	110:6	16:15	108:24	238:2	57:24 69:12	<b>inner</b> 13:21	<b>institutional</b> 288:24
183:21	116:17	158:18	121:6,10,21	292:20	69:23 73:7	13:24 14:2	<b>Innovation</b> 4:17 210:13
190:16	138:20,22	227:22	126:4 130:5	293:5,9,12	74:7,14	14:8	<b>innovative</b> 207:6
217:15	144:20	228:22	130:10	296:10	76:7,13	<b>Innovation</b> 4:17 210:13	<b>instrument...</b> 236:13
<b>impacted</b> 143:18	145:18	230:15	161:14	298:7,8,9	77:23 80:7	4:17 210:13	<b>intact</b> 85:9
<b>impacts</b> 79:24 189:4	243:13	<b>included</b> 65:21 82:5	165:5	<b>industrial</b> 101:23	87:6 96:15	207:6	<b>Intech</b> 221:15
<b>implement</b> 7:3 29:9	<b>improved</b> 31:23	<b>includes</b> 25:11 98:21	186:23	<b>industries</b> 110:24	97:20	209:18	29:22 62:5
144:7 146:3	126:24	215:20	191:1 214:8	<b>industry</b> 122:10	122:21	228:15	62:6
251:4	221:17	226:22	214:16	123:12	126:14,17	<b>inordinate</b> 137:17	<b>integrate</b> 275:13
292:12	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	227:22	215:8	128:23	127:21	<b>input</b> 241:3	<b>integrated</b> 254:24
<b>implementa...</b> 96:2 143:16	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	<b>including</b> 4:9	226:24	149:22	164:22	263:1	<b>integration</b> 126:22
228:10	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	55:11	237:2 264:1	150:14	182:15	<b>insane</b> 213:16	183:8
<b>implemented</b> 48:20	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	126:13,19	300:12	195:9,16	226:16	<b>inside</b> 210:9	<b>integrated</b> 254:24
175:24	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	127:10,20	<b>increased</b> 9:17 12:20	196:4	<b>infusion</b> 232:24	<b>insights</b> 106:19	<b>integration</b> 126:22
254:23	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	144:16	92:22 95:12	<b>inequitable</b> 268:18	<b>initial</b> 51:17	<b>Inspections</b> 46:6 133:12	<b>intelligently</b> 97:23
<b>implementi...</b> 200:18	<b>improvement</b> 239:7	152:22	121:18	<b>inequity</b> 268:18	136:14	<b>inspector</b> 115:15,15	<b>intend</b> 36:19
227:22,24	<b>in-house</b> 71:17	153:21	126:23	<b>inform</b> 9:12	232:10	<b>inspectors</b> 197:5	57:23
<b>important</b> 8:14 43:13	<b>in-house</b> 71:17	153:21	198:6	<b>information</b> 58:14,15	<b>initiated</b> 130:3	<b>inspectors</b> 197:5	<b>intending</b> 217:23
43:22 69:11	<b>in-person</b> 217:9	153:21	<b>increases</b> 9:10 28:24	69:9 83:9	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspire</b> 198:24	<b>intention</b> 294:19
103:15	<b>in-person</b> 217:9	240:12	94:22,22	99:17	<b>initiative</b> 59:3	<b>inspiring</b> 204:8	<b>intentionality</b> 293:19
112:12	<b>inability</b> 206:2	240:12	161:3,5	172:17	<b>initial</b> 51:17	<b>install</b> 75:14	<b>intentions</b> 85:8
126:7	<b>inability</b> 206:2	258:20	214:10	188:20	136:14	144:12,22	<b>interaction</b> 136:22
170:13	<b>incarcerated</b> 206:14,21	<b>inclusion</b> 221:14	<b>increasing</b> 28:19,20	204:19	232:10	145:9 253:8	<b>interdepart...</b> 158:11
181:16,24	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>inclusive</b> 2:10	34:23	210:24	<b>initiated</b> 130:3	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	<b>interest</b> 12:22
205:24	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>income</b> 49:7,8	186:20	211:5 241:8	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	59:22 98:19
252:10	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	49:12,14	206:20	252:16	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	218:4 273:3
267:1	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	67:12,20	<b>increasingly</b> 218:3	258:16	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	279:17
274:13	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	68:2,6	218:3	265:8	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	280:15
300:9	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	77:14	<b>incredible</b> 158:1 246:8	278:12	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	293:14
<b>importantly</b> 17:24 31:7	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	117:16	<b>incredibly</b> 232:1,12	279:16	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	295:21
<b>impose</b> 133:13	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>incomes</b> 77:15	292:13	280:19	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	<b>interest-free</b> 11:3 67:9
134:16	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	100:19	<b>Independent</b> 6:18	282:1,13,19	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	67:15 68:16
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>inconvenien...</b> 18:3	6:18	292:9 297:7	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	82:17
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>incorporate</b> 191:22	<b>indicated</b> 15:6	297:14	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>incorporated</b> 37:5	<b>individual</b> 130:23	<b>infrastruct...</b>	<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>incorporati...</b> 2:20	231:3		<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	<b>increase</b> 5:6	238:10		<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	7:8 9:5,14	<b>individuals</b> 6:9 23:13		<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	
	<b>incentive</b> 4:12 106:16	10:1 16:20	228:14,16		<b>initiation</b> 179:8	<b>inspiration</b> 204:8	

<b>interested</b> 8:15 105:7 110:21 123:6 266:21 269:2	<b>investment</b> 18:4 69:12 74:12 75:9 108:21 145:17 152:21 153:21 162:8,8 185:19 197:22	196:23 197:12 211:16 220:10 254:18 256:19 273:24 295:14,17 301:6,15 issued 80:10 97:13 121:23 220:2 issues 5:14 33:14 47:9 47:13 51:14 56:13 60:15 77:20,22 86:9 92:11 92:12,13 103:21 117:3 128:18 130:8 133:6 152:16,18 155:16 158:7 160:23 161:3 194:17 200:14 205:24 209:23 210:1,3 213:22 229:11 262:2 281:13	149:10,16 149:19 195:15 <b>JEVS</b> 61:5 <b>jewel</b> 255:3 <b>Jim</b> 48:5 <b>Joanne</b> 51:23 78:22 79:1 100:16 107:10 117:20 122:3 <b>job</b> 27:7,7 35:4 41:4 42:13 45:24 47:23 80:3 80:18 85:15 127:22 137:17 158:1 159:6 166:6 171:7 186:19 191:3 193:9 193:13 202:21 204:19 208:16 218:15 226:2 233:16 249:24 268:14 292:18 297:8 298:10 <b>jobs</b> 35:5 84:14 165:21 204:21 205:19 291:14,14 298:5 <b>Johnson</b> 78:15,16,20 79:1,4,10 79:18 81:14 82:1,4 96:13 102:24 240:23 253:23,24 257:19,22 <b>join</b> 268:5	293:7 <b>Joining</b> 124:8 <b>joint</b> 89:11 <b>Jones</b> 1:11 17:12,13,16 17:23 18:16 19:9 20:23 21:11,19 22:1,16 23:10 29:19 46:16 50:9 240:4,7 241:10,21 242:6,10 243:15 246:13 247:6 249:4 254:9 256:10 259:17 <b>journeymen</b> 231:17 <b>joy</b> 248:14 <b>JR</b> 1:11 <b>Judge</b> 208:12 223:9 <b>July</b> 36:19 48:24 96:11 279:10 <b>jump</b> 139:19 <b>jumping</b> 193:11 <b>June</b> 5:22 161:6 293:8 <b>jurisdiction</b> 133:7 <b>justify</b> 75:10 <hr/> <b>K</b> <hr/> <b>K</b> 1:10 219:15 <b>Kasim</b> 225:19,24 <b>Kathryn</b> 226:13 254:2 258:5 299:16 302:11,15 <b>keep</b> 7:4 20:20 23:8 68:10 104:14 123:18 141:5 165:3	174:22 177:13 196:10 208:7 256:3 265:11 270:4 276:9 285:4,5,6 286:20 <b>keeping</b> 20:21 137:10 150:4 205:20,21 264:22 <b>Keith</b> 124:10 125:1 131:20 175:12 181:10 <b>Kelly</b> 145:7 146:3,21,24 278:21 279:2,20,21 <b>Ken</b> 248:18 248:18 <b>Kenny</b> 143:17 189:3 <b>kept</b> 18:24 206:12 290:3 <b>key</b> 125:2 144:9 <b>Keystone</b> 215:4 <b>kid</b> 22:24 206:18 243:24 244:4 <b>kids</b> 205:16 240:20 249:14 267:11 274:22 275:7,9 <b>killed</b> 148:3 <b>kind</b> 12:2,3 15:10,11 28:3 73:17 74:15 101:4 107:7,21 108:4,9,17 121:8	122:11 123:12,14 134:18 136:24 154:4,24 162:14 172:12 178:14 179:22 185:16 194:24 206:5 207:16 218:13 219:4 221:20 272:23 283:4,7,8 283:11 290:22 291:19 300:5 301:14 <b>kindergart...</b> 220:8 <b>kinds</b> 47:9 301:6 <b>King</b> 278:21 <b>knew</b> 296:24 <b>knock</b> 298:18 <b>knocking</b> 36:9 <b>know</b> 5:13 6:22 9:1,13 9:16 11:10 11:21,22,24 12:1,11,12 12:12 13:1 13:23 14:5 14:15 16:8 16:24 19:19 20:19,20 21:7,15 22:9 23:8 28:6 31:1,8 32:3,5,15 33:14 35:19 36:17,18 39:1,11,12 40:12,13 41:5,16 42:5 43:5 43:15,19,23	45:2 46:7 46:23 47:1 47:10,14,17 48:5,12 49:1,3,17 49:19 50:19 51:5,9,17 51:20,22,23 53:3,9,15 53:16,17,18 55:16 56:10 56:24 58:1 58:18,24 59:14,21 60:7 66:1 68:2,9,10 69:9,22 71:1 72:2,4 72:6,7 73:20 74:3 74:20,24 75:16 76:3 76:18,24 77:2,6,13 78:3,5 80:24 81:7 84:3,10 86:14 87:4 91:8,15,16 93:12 96:20 99:13 101:6 101:13 103:4,24 104:1,14 106:11,20 106:21 107:5,9,12 107:17,18 107:19,21 107:23 108:2,3,4,7 108:13 109:8,12,16 109:18,20 109:21 110:1 111:2 111:2,3,4,5 113:7 114:23 116:17 117:4,20 118:22 120:3,5,9
---	--	---	---	---	--	---	--

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

120:18,24	177:20,22	252:10,18	298:21	98:17,20	<b>Latino</b>	149:21	<b>legally</b> 148:1
121:3,6,9	177:23	252:20	299:16	99:1,12	227:17	<b>leads</b> 41:3	148:5
121:11,13	178:5,13,16	253:13	300:10	105:23	234:6	<b>leaf</b> 189:17	150:12
121:15	180:11,18	255:23	301:5,16,24	111:23	<b>Latinos</b>	191:4	<b>legislation</b>
122:1,2,12	182:22	256:4,13,14	<b>knowing</b>	120:11	299:24	<b>league</b> 260:22	47:1 202:1
122:16,22	183:5,10,20	258:7,18,23	11:20	124:1	<b>laughing</b>	<b>leagues</b>	239:23
122:23	184:11,23	258:24	181:15,19	<b>lack</b> 176:1	46:16	246:20	<b>Lehigh</b> 50:10
123:6,18	185:4,15,23	259:2,6,7	186:9	<b>ladies</b> 118:22	<b>launch</b> 4:19	249:16	<b>lending</b> 222:8
131:3,12,14	186:2,3,14	260:5,12	266:10,10	248:14	<b>launched</b>	262:6	<b>length</b> 164:11
132:19,20	186:22	261:16,24	<b>knowledge</b>	<b>lady</b> 224:9	32:21	264:15	<b>lessen</b> 281:12
132:24	187:9,10	262:8,9,21	92:18	226:7	<b>launching</b>	272:21	<b>let's</b> 194:17
135:6,11,16	191:2,7,10	262:23	<b>knowledgea...</b>	247:22	32:16	273:8	241:5
137:2,18	191:14	263:2 264:6	295:18	<b>lamps</b> 167:1	<b>law</b> 53:13	<b>leak</b> 29:18	246:18
138:4,4,7	192:9	264:16,20	<b>known</b> 176:2	<b>land</b> 101:6	55:10,12	60:11 61:2	252:15
139:22	193:20	264:21,21	208:20	102:5	135:10	81:8	262:21
141:11,15	194:2 196:6	265:18	210:14	226:17	136:11	<b>leaks</b> 6:17	295:8
142:4	196:11,19	266:9	211:21	<b>landfills</b>	282:2	29:16 60:14	<b>letting</b> 178:16
143:16	196:21,24	268:23	<b>knows</b> 86:8	125:5	<b>layperson</b>	61:2 81:4,7	<b>level</b> 42:23
144:11,17	197:13,17	269:1,13	273:9	190:14	14:5	<b>learned</b> 33:13	49:7,11
145:14	199:20	271:21	288:20	<b>landlords</b>	<b>lead</b> 4:7,10,11	83:12	82:5 85:2
147:4,5,6	201:9,13,14	272:1,4,17	<b>kudos</b> 221:20	17:1 130:4	4:13,13	174:15	130:15
147:11,13	201:23	273:18,22	250:2	130:6	11:2,4,5,11	202:19	161:11
148:3,5,14	202:1,2,9	274:13,24	<hr/>	<b>lanes</b> 144:12	12:11,21,23	231:5	166:11
149:8,12	202:11,18	275:4,9,10	<b>L</b>	144:15,19	12:24 15:15	<b>learning</b> 36:8	208:22
150:11	203:21	275:10,19	<b>L</b> 1:8,9,13	178:3	15:22 16:9	204:8	233:17
152:1,1,3	205:1 207:3	276:10,18	<b>L&amp;I</b> 133:3,6	<b>languages</b>	16:12,18	211:10	255:13,21
152:10,11	207:24	277:18,19	134:16	33:4	58:16,20	212:16	261:13
153:12,13	213:5	277:20	135:12	<b>Lanier</b> 81:19	59:6,13	223:20	283:16
154:16,18	214:12	278:12,12	136:15	<b>large</b> 6:17 8:6	67:8,21	<b>lease</b> 162:13	293:19
154:23	215:17	278:13	<b>labor</b> 66:5	13:13 68:1	82:15 83:23	241:2,5,13	294:19
155:7	216:12	279:9,18,20	142:6	72:12	94:21	242:15	297:19
156:19	217:11,16	279:24	187:16	100:12	100:17	<b>leases</b> 241:5	298:5 302:1
157:13,19	218:6	280:1,17,18	<b>laborer</b> 62:2	107:17,17	114:2	<b>leasing</b>	302:2
157:22,24	220:24	280:24	<b>LaBuda</b> 3:23	134:23	119:17,19	161:20,20	<b>levels</b> 125:18
158:7,21,24	221:9,9,12	281:1,3,5,7	10:9,10,19	151:6	120:5	161:22	125:23
159:20	221:15	281:8,9,21	10:23 14:1	179:24	256:10	162:9	160:24
160:16	222:11	281:23	24:1,2,10	218:15	263:3	<b>leave</b> 111:20	207:7
162:12	223:16,16	282:3,6,8	24:14,20	225:8	<b>leader</b> 232:7	250:13	221:17
164:12,15	223:24	284:5,9	25:3,6,19	<b>largely</b> 144:3	235:6 236:9	299:16	227:3
164:17,18	224:11	285:6 287:3	26:1,7,13	<b>larger</b> 131:4	236:16	<b>leaves</b> 20:9	<b>leverage</b>
165:18	225:21	288:1,13,18	26:19 63:4	131:24	237:3	20:18,18	185:17
166:10	231:14,22	289:1,3	63:9,16	133:2	283:17	270:10	<b>leveraged</b>
167:14	236:10,11	291:3,8,9	64:7,11,16	155:22	296:23	<b>LED</b> 126:24	99:19
168:14,15	237:18	291:22,23	64:23 65:4	174:21	297:3,19	166:7,15,18	<b>leverages</b>
169:1	238:5,21	292:5,8,11	65:14 66:10	217:20	298:16	167:2,4,4	106:23
170:14,23	240:22	292:11,12	66:11 67:4	<b>largest</b> 125:2	299:3	167:10,11	<b>leveraging</b>
171:7,15,16	241:2,23	293:17	70:9,10,18	194:11	<b>leadership</b>	167:14,15	106:24
171:20	242:16	294:1,4,5	88:14 89:2	<b>lastly</b> 229:18	37:20 44:8	167:17	108:13
172:21	244:10,24	296:3,4,7,7	89:10,23	<b>late</b> 128:12	125:1,3	<b>LEDs</b> 166:9	<b>Levick</b>
173:3,16,16	245:2 246:1	296:11,16	90:9,18	<b>lateral</b> 58:22	158:14	166:21	196:18
174:1	246:1 249:2	296:18,22	94:16 95:3	68:1 119:18	228:10	<b>Lee</b> 266:5	<b>Lewis</b> 196:16
176:22,23	249:20,22	297:15,21	95:7,17	<b>laterals</b> 58:20	254:3	<b>left</b> 13:4	<b>liability</b>
177:11,19	250:6 252:4	298:13,18	96:8 97:14	<b>latest</b> 252:14	<b>leading</b>	<b>legal</b> 88:12	256:19
			97:18 98:14				

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

<b>Liberties</b> 54:5	134:16,21	<b>Lindley</b> 148:8	208:16,19	<b>loan</b> 11:2,3	224:15	189:17	191:16
<b>librarian</b>	135:11	<b>line</b> 4:13 11:5	209:4,7	12:22,23	225:1,22	197:9	200:17
220:22	<b>liened</b> 68:9	12:11,18	210:22	13:2,2 15:5	245:7 247:3	205:19	207:14
<b>librarians</b>	135:8	16:19 35:1	211:6,13,16	15:20 16:18	290:19	212:10,22	215:11
218:21,21	<b>liens</b> 133:13	58:16 59:13	212:16	59:7,11,21	296:11	215:10	217:21
220:21	133:15	83:24 94:21	223:22	59:22 60:3	301:23	221:18	255:6
<b>libraries</b>	135:16	114:2	<b>literal</b> 43:16	67:12,16,18	<b>long-term</b>	222:10,15	261:14
204:24	136:8,14	119:20	<b>literally</b>	67:21,22,23	6:14 125:10	230:11	267:3
205:23	<b>lieu</b> 110:3	145:20	18:24 30:14	68:8,12,16	156:2	254:5	271:13
206:1 208:8	<b>life</b> 99:2	177:13	<b>litter</b> 125:7	82:17 83:5	200:12	256:11,23	301:10
208:11	202:8 281:2	187:2 229:1	173:13	113:18	207:19	260:19	<b>looks</b> 43:7,11
209:8	<b>lifeguards</b>	268:17	175:16	114:9 115:1	<b>longer</b> 56:13	264:23	69:19,20
211:12,24	236:22	274:3	202:10	115:14,18	57:21 101:3	265:2,16	83:22
212:11	<b>lifestyles</b>	293:11	<b>little</b> 8:21	<b>loans</b> 12:21	156:14	266:19	115:15
214:22	211:5	<b>lines</b> 4:10	19:20 37:7	12:21 15:22	185:4 266:4	267:18	117:17
215:2,6	<b>lift</b> 36:16	15:16 30:16	48:16 76:18	16:9 67:9	266:8	280:4,10,10	148:9
217:14,18	237:6	30:22 59:7	83:20 86:19	<b>local</b> 33:2	268:24	284:5 285:8	221:18
217:24	<b>light</b> 32:11	67:8 83:15	102:22	72:5 110:22	293:20	286:17	249:16
218:19	52:24	90:5,14	119:14,23	111:8 116:7	<b>look</b> 9:10,11	289:18	<b>Loop</b> 36:8
<b>library</b> 3:13	123:11	144:23	122:11,13	116:10	9:12,14	297:17,22	<b>loose</b> 105:18
169:14	167:4,10	152:3,14	122:14	148:5	19:12 22:15	298:1,4	<b>lopped</b> 286:5
203:7,12,19	283:20	285:17,21	123:4 135:5	162:19,20	22:15,18	299:7 301:7	<b>lord</b> 273:9
204:18	<b>lighting</b>	286:21	135:5 138:8	163:6,9	35:14 37:11	302:4	<b>Lorenzo</b>
205:24	126:24	<b>list</b> 39:10	171:15	295:17	41:12 42:22	<b>looked</b> 68:2	184:23
206:5,11	166:7,16	42:9 97:22	174:8 175:6	<b>locally</b> 163:2	44:1 50:21	75:21,22,24	<b>lose</b> 9:2 177:1
207:16,19	167:11	106:5 113:9	198:20	<b>located</b>	51:21 52:4	99:8 138:10	177:4
208:3,9,13	255:19	114:24	214:7 216:7	155:18	56:24 58:3	275:3	<b>losing</b> 207:1
209:3,6,13	<b>lights</b> 146:5	115:9,24	221:21	171:10	65:6 69:12	295:11	<b>lost</b> 87:13
209:17,20	147:1 166:8	116:2,6	236:14	196:17	69:14,19	<b>looking</b> 3:9	148:24
209:22	166:21	156:24	249:6 251:8	<b>location</b>	70:22 71:17	9:9 19:2	<b>lot</b> 8:10 11:22
210:15,23	167:8	160:7,8	256:16	75:23 91:7	72:1,2,20	28:6 29:12	20:3 21:24
211:22	<b>lightweight</b>	185:8 186:4	272:21	92:14,23	72:20 74:11	29:17 61:4	27:23 28:21
212:5,13	129:24	186:5,5	273:8 281:6	148:12	79:23 104:4	68:2 72:7	33:5 35:16
213:16,18	<b>likelihood</b>	199:2,3	283:4	165:14	104:12	72:11 74:21	36:9 42:11
213:23	50:15	236:4 237:4	287:15	177:23	112:15	89:13,16	42:21 47:21
214:13,18	<b>likes</b> 56:1	257:14	302:14	192:10	113:11	92:1 96:18	49:17 52:7
214:22,23	<b>Lillian</b>	264:22	<b>live</b> 16:16	195:13	117:3,16	101:23	52:8 56:3
217:17	211:23	278:20	77:5 96:11	245:14	118:4,14	110:5,6,7	71:20,22
218:4 219:2	<b>Limekiln</b>	285:7,8	177:6 194:8	256:15	121:12	110:17	77:2,4
219:16,24	194:18	296:8,9,12	213:13	260:20	123:1	116:10	80:24 81:16
220:8,19	<b>limit</b> 146:5	296:15,21	234:22	<b>locations</b>	142:16	121:20	81:17 86:21
221:6,7	147:1	297:4,6	273:16	53:18 131:5	144:21	122:19	91:9 96:9
223:6,13	<b>limited</b>	<b>listed</b> 88:4	279:18	131:20,20	153:21	126:3 144:6	102:10
224:3 225:1	141:19	<b>listen</b> 188:18	280:7	155:13,20	168:13,19	144:19	103:5 107:8
225:2,8,10	179:19	199:9 241:1	<b>lived</b> 281:1	156:9,22,24	169:5	149:21	108:6 110:4
<b>Library's</b>	183:20	<b>listening</b>	290:2	157:1 175:2	171:24	151:3	113:2,7
212:7	184:3 185:2	147:5	<b>lives</b> 149:1	178:9	172:8	171:22	114:5,15
<b>Licenses</b> 46:5	289:3	225:19	<b>living</b> 30:15	208:12	176:18	179:6 182:8	122:1 123:3
133:11	295:19	<b>listing</b> 41:15	144:13	<b>log</b> 91:18	182:2,20	182:12	123:5
<b>lien</b> 25:12	<b>limits</b> 145:4	<b>literacy</b> 204:7	<b>LLC</b> 89:17	<b>Logan</b> 211:24	183:8,17	183:4,9	129:23
59:22 133:9	<b>Lincoln</b> 145:1	204:17	90:1	<b>long</b> 44:19	185:7,10,10	185:16	132:13
133:11,18	145:8,17	206:22,23	<b>load</b> 163:21	58:9 160:3	185:21	186:23	134:9 135:6
134:2,3,13	<b>Linda</b> 191:22	206:24	<b>loads</b> 163:20	213:11	186:16	187:8	135:22

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

137:7 149:9	242:1,8	26:22	<b>maintaining</b>	232:16	<b>marveled</b>	12:19 13:9	85:4,10,18
149:14	243:10	<b>Lucian</b> 47:6	73:8	283:15	249:17	13:23 14:2	86:16 87:20
157:18,21	244:8 247:4	167:23	<b>maintenance</b>	<b>manager</b>	<b>massive</b>	14:10,15,22	91:3,22
157:21	247:10,14	<b>Lucien</b> 223:5	22:10 54:14	92:14,23,24	73:15	15:8,14,18	95:11 96:18
160:12,18	248:1	224:9	73:23 94:20	93:1,5,8,10	<b>master</b> 73:15	16:2,6,13	96:22 97:6
165:19	258:17	<b>luck</b> 260:23	98:10 165:3	93:18	182:19	16:23 17:4	97:10 99:18
168:12	260:1,7	<b>lucky</b> 28:12	230:22	<b>managing</b>	<b>match</b> 79:15	17:6,15,22	103:11,14
173:18	261:6,10	205:21	232:14	104:19	<b>material</b>	18:15 19:7	103:23
174:15	262:11	<b>Lunch</b> 203:9	235:17,20	182:17	128:24	19:18 21:7	109:13
179:15	263:11	<b>Luther</b>	262:2 273:1	212:9 239:4	129:15,24	21:12,23	110:2,18
183:7,13	265:1	278:21	283:5,7,8	258:20	134:10	22:7 23:2	111:9 112:4
185:3	267:12	<b>luxury</b> 174:3	284:7,22	280:12	189:16	23:21 26:2	113:20,24
194:22	269:14,17		<b>major</b> 18:1	<b>mandates</b> 7:6	190:1,20	27:11,21	114:11,20
204:5,16	269:21	<b>M</b>	108:6,14	27:23	<b>materialize</b>	28:18 29:11	115:5,10
205:7	270:4,15,18	<b>ma'am</b> 45:20	139:6 175:2	186:14	216:2	31:10 32:14	116:3,8,16
206:21	270:22	169:3	197:6 205:6	<b>manhole</b>	<b>materials</b>	34:8,16,20	116:24
217:12	271:4,11,16	<b>machines</b>	212:9	138:15	126:5	35:6,15	117:19
221:6	273:21	187:14	251:10	139:4,8	128:21	36:3,12	118:1,11,19
230:18	275:22	<b>mad</b> 18:13	<b>making</b> 19:14	<b>manholes</b>	189:21	37:21 38:7	119:2,5,19
244:12	276:5,9,14	<b>Madam</b>	23:5 31:2	137:19	206:3,4	38:12,18,23	119:24
245:21	276:20	223:9	77:14 86:24	138:13	214:22	39:9 40:6	120:9,13,21
248:22	277:2 278:3	<b>magnamous</b>	120:17	<b>manner</b>	<b>math</b> 64:4,16	40:10,16,23	121:17
250:12	278:9 280:9	148:23	123:5 168:2	164:9	65:10,15	41:5 42:2	122:16
259:21	281:15	<b>magnitude</b>	171:22	<b>manpower</b>	<b>matter</b> 56:12	42:19 43:12	123:17,24
261:15	282:17	158:2	190:21	28:21	65:23 85:7	44:13,22	<b>meals</b> 267:11
275:13,17	285:18	<b>main</b> 17:18	237:18,19	<b>manufactur...</b>	106:15	45:5,14,20	267:15,18
280:15	287:21	17:24 18:7	249:24	164:4	169:1 261:1	47:16 48:14	<b>mean</b> 9:15
284:6 292:9	289:7,12,17	29:18 60:9	297:19	<b>manufactur...</b>	304:6	48:18,23	14:16,20
295:1	290:5 292:3	60:10,13,17	<b>male</b> 227:19	107:11,19	<b>matters</b> 79:7	50:3,12,20	21:15 27:8
<b>lots</b> 103:22	296:2 298:3	61:9,18	<b>mall</b> 101:10	128:23	83:7 201:3	50:24 51:21	51:18,19
107:17	298:15	62:7,8 80:4	102:15	<b>manufactur...</b>	230:8	52:16 53:5	55:5,8
133:2 136:9	300:20	80:20 84:19	<b>man</b> 226:1	110:23	<b>maturities</b>	53:20 54:2	57:15 71:9
149:11,18	301:20	86:17,21	290:2	122:10	99:4	54:7,20,24	107:13
180:15	302:3,20	87:3,5 98:7	<b>manage</b> 48:9	123:11	<b>maturity</b> 99:3	55:15,23	108:19
194:8	<b>loves</b> 248:16	98:8	75:17 76:1	<b>map</b> 182:10	<b>max</b> 189:14	56:10,19,22	122:24
195:14,14	248:17	<b>mains</b> 5:6	124:18	<b>March</b> 15:20	<b>Maximum</b>	57:11 58:6	123:13
<b>lottery</b> 247:1	<b>Lovett</b> 211:24	29:17 59:6	<b>manageable</b>	15:21 113:1	29:15	59:4,12,20	129:7
<b>love</b> 74:23	213:1 221:6	81:3 84:16	67:24	<b>marginal</b>	<b>mayor</b> 2:22	60:4,19	135:16
168:18	221:7,11	<b>maintain</b>	<b>managed</b>	242:17	3:2 37:7	61:20 62:11	158:2 159:1
172:17	<b>low</b> 7:4 32:6	13:14 19:8	145:24	<b>Maria</b> 1:13	143:17	62:21,24	160:11,17
213:5	71:5 77:14	27:24 28:22	<b>management</b>	240:23	144:11	65:22 67:10	163:13
228:23	87:13	28:23 29:13	29:14 45:6	<b>Marissa</b>	189:3 204:1	67:13,17,21	164:12
278:5 296:3	105:21	29:21,23	45:24 46:5	226:17	212:8	68:14,17	165:18
302:15	115:12	30:10 57:14	46:5,12	<b>MARK</b> 1:15	300:16	70:1 71:4,9	181:9
<b>Lovell</b> 226:11	<b>low-hanging</b>	141:18	53:22 91:20	<b>market</b> 90:13	<b>mayor's</b>	71:15 72:10	184:18
226:14	144:17	142:1 190:3	112:14	104:10	105:14	73:4,12,19	197:24
230:24	265:14	239:13,16	126:21	127:22	207:20	74:16 75:13	201:16
231:11,20	<b>low-income</b>	239:17	127:12	130:6 190:4	301:9	77:11 78:18	231:13,19
233:14,21	82:16	243:19	162:24	191:1	<b>McCarty</b>	78:24 79:2	233:11
234:9,13,23	<b>lower</b> 105:12	<b>maintained</b>	191:9 192:8	<b>Marrero</b>	3:16,19,21	79:9,17	264:16
235:14	148:8	30:17,21	201:14	211:24	7:24 8:8 9:8	80:9 81:24	275:16
238:14,16	174:14	125:16	214:3	<b>Martin</b>	9:19 10:6	82:2,18,22	286:15
239:1 241:7	<b>lowered</b>	198:11	228:17	278:21	11:6,16	83:3,18	290:11
		273:5					

<b>meaning</b> 45:12 289:7	281:23	261:20	145:11,12	<b>minimize</b> 46:8	209:19	145:13	23:21 24:2
<b>meaningful</b> 229:21	<b>members</b> 3:20 10:12	272:17	146:4 147:1	<b>minimizes</b> 83:17	228:11	146:9,23	24:15 37:19
<b>means</b> 16:21	85:24 111:2	275:18	184:19,20	<b>minimizing</b> 113:16	293:2	148:22	37:21 70:10
64:13	124:6	292:24	186:20	<b>minimum</b> 49:15 120:7	<b>modernize</b> 280:16	149:1,4,5	78:18
189:11,15	147:15	295:9,12	198:6,7,8	<b>minor</b> 94:9	<b>modes</b> 182:7	149:14	213:20
250:22	177:12	299:18	198:10	<b>minority</b> 6:6	<b>mom's</b> 289:20	150:6,13,18	249:6
272:8	203:17,22	<b>mentioning</b> 105:16	<b>milestone</b> 125:20	81:22 82:5	<b>moment</b> 124:23	150:22	278:14
304:20	204:1 208:4	210:20	<b>mill</b> 137:18	116:7	148:12	151:2,15,21	279:21
<b>meant</b> 114:4	212:21	<b>mentors</b> 237:19	160:3	227:20	204:2	152:19	<b>Morris</b> 205:1
<b>measure</b> 155:4	213:2	<b>merged</b> 227:24	<b>milled</b> 138:7	234:8,11	222:15	153:17,19	210:22
<b>measurement</b> 66:20 142:4	226:13	<b>merger</b> 29:1	<b>million</b> 139:7	<b>minuses</b> 20:3	<b>momentarily</b> 205:4	154:11	225:11
<b>measures</b> 3:8	229:15,24	34:11	18:12 24:6	<b>minute</b> 84:21	<b>money</b> 10:3	155:24	<b>mortgage</b> 291:22
109:1	240:13	<b>message</b> 118:10,12	24:9 25:16	<b>minutes</b> 13:4	15:10 28:8	156:4,21	<b>motor</b> 154:18
145:20	241:4	<b>met</b> 5:19	27:16,18,20	203:6	30:19 53:1	158:15,19	<b>motorcycles</b> 256:18
<b>mechanical</b> 62:5,10	245:15	45:21	62:20 63:3	213:15	53:8 66:4	159:12,22	256:18
<b>mechanisms</b> 200:2	275:3 282:3	173:20	63:13,14,15	275:11	66:17 69:22	167:3	<b>MOU</b> 264:3
<b>media</b> 40:17	<b>members'</b> 155:17	183:6	65:10,11	<b>mirrored</b> 175:15	95:21 97:17	170:17	270:23
<b>medication</b> 49:19	251:9	219:18	66:8,16,19	<b>missed</b> 119:15	102:6	171:2	271:1
<b>meet</b> 5:24 7:5	<b>memo</b> 106:8	<b>meter</b> 6:15	66:23 67:2	158:10	112:17	178:22	<b>mouth</b> 19:15
7:11 27:23	<b>Memorial</b> 205:5	12:8 79:12	67:15 69:21	<b>missing</b> 294:21	117:24	179:9,12	19:21 20:5
57:19 68:4	<b>memory</b> 288:24	79:15 80:10	70:13 89:18	<b>mission</b> 127:18,23	118:1	180:19,24	20:12,15
212:15	<b>men</b> 43:20	<b>metering</b> 96:15,17	89:19,20,21	212:15	141:23	182:16	21:1
229:13	227:12,16	<b>method</b> 118:24	94:12 95:9	272:22	150:3	184:11,18	<b>move</b> 7:21
230:8	234:4	<b>methods</b> 125:8	95:10,13	<b>misspeak</b> 116:9	160:17,18	185:14	21:14 56:5
231:10	<b>mens</b> 118:23	<b>MGM</b> 47:7	96:7,19	<b>misspoke</b> 111:24	177:2	195:3,7	73:24
236:24	<b>mental</b> 210:1	<b>mid-March</b> 127:14	97:4 98:8,9	<b>mistaken</b> 38:13 40:8	182:11	198:20,22	115:22
<b>meeting</b> 28:8	<b>mentality</b> 294:10	<b>middle</b> 186:8	98:15,16	<b>misunderst...</b> 85:12	185:5,6,9	199:13,16	124:16
128:13	<b>mention</b> 122:23	<b>Mike</b> 182:23	121:19,20	<b>mitigate</b> 6:13	187:17	160:1 176:5	133:22
161:11	136:20	277:15	124:21	101:11,24	190:13,16	<b>monthly</b> 4:22	161:19
174:16	172:24	142:8 256:5	154:22	<b>mitigated</b> 105:6	198:14	<b>months</b> 52:22	179:11
175:7,14,24	221:5 222:6	165:20	157:14,16	<b>mitigating</b> 102:1	207:8	64:5,9	184:1
196:22	15:15 62:22	<b>miles</b> 5:6,7,8	198:15	<b>mitigation</b> 105:3	215:16	106:2	188:15
197:9,17	63:2 94:17	5:9 60:21	211:17,18	107:21	232:12	147:17	207:15
213:2	105:16	60:21,23	214:19,20	108:18	287:9	151:16,19	237:24
<b>meetings</b> 51:2	109:7	61:1 126:9	287:16	<b>mobile</b> 222:8	<b>monitoring</b> 80:3,20	188:14	244:20
77:17	113:17	127:2	<b>Mills</b> 101:10	<b>model</b> 93:1	113:15	199:13	256:4
152:20	193:20	140:11,15	102:12		114:18,19	161:13	<b>moved</b> 53:11
197:17	195:8,13	140:20	105:4		118:18,19	171:3	186:9
213:3	208:13	141:7,12,18	<b>mind</b> 207:10		<b>Montanez</b> 124:8	175:22	244:11
<b>Melissa</b> 3:22	237:12	144:12,19	265:11		126:10	176:2 194:7	284:23
10:8,10	239:5 250:7	145:6,6,8	268:20		138:21,24	195:11	285:10
24:2 66:11	254:9		272:13		139:1,16	237:15	300:5
70:10	260:14		298:12		140:2,16	251:16	<b>moves</b> 135:16
<b>member</b> 201:24			<b>mine</b> 241:1		141:2,3	288:10	<b>moving</b> 34:15
230:6			255:1		142:19,22	293:20	52:24 55:13
			<b>mini</b> 50:10		143:5,13	<b>Moran</b> 216:20,20	80:8 86:2
			51:12 52:12		144:14	<b>morning</b> 2:2	89:13
			<b>minimal</b> 230:21			3:18,19	109:16
						10:10 15:4	123:10
						18:18 23:20	166:22
							183:3
							245:22



254:6 255:3 <b>MSB</b> 51:13 93:22 <b>Mt</b> 173:16 249:3 <b>multi-mobile</b> 126:14,19 <b>multi-module</b> 144:1 <b>multifaceted</b> 194:2 <b>multifamily</b> 130:3 <b>multiple</b> 124:17 127:24 153:6 154:13 179:10 246:15 <b>municipal</b> 77:6 91:9 91:14 93:2 93:20 241:19 <b>murdered</b> 290:5 <b>Museum</b> 206:11 279:22 281:5	280:7 <b>nearby</b> 253:4 <b>nearest</b> 171:14 <b>neatly</b> 172:18 <b>necessarily</b> 11:21 42:12 71:21 74:5 173:10 276:16 292:22 300:2 <b>necessary</b> 127:6 162:8 164:14 175:13 <b>need</b> 5:13 8:17 21:5 27:15,23,24 28:1 29:20 29:22 30:6 33:21 35:13 37:9 40:1 54:12 57:15 61:8 75:20 78:4 85:16 112:21 115:1 141:14 142:1 152:13 169:13 177:16 186:6,15,16 188:1 197:5 198:19 205:19 210:8 218:19,22 226:1 232:17 235:1 243:16 252:16 254:15 255:21 264:13,15 264:19 265:18 266:11 269:10 283:9 284:11,22	287:1 298:4 298:4,16 300:13,13 <b>needed</b> 152:14 155:21 193:12,20 197:7 260:16 287:18 <b>needs</b> 8:18 68:4 75:11 113:17 131:8 141:12 152:2 185:11 186:14 229:13,19 240:11 255:9 265:5 284:19,20 299:4 <b>negotiate</b> 18:11 <b>negotiating</b> 139:5 <b>neighborho...</b> 33:7 36:4 49:3 78:10 106:20 108:10 155:5 168:17 175:8 205:23 208:10 209:8 211:11,21 215:5 217:14,18 218:19 229:15 244:1,23,24 260:14 262:7 266:24 302:1 <b>neighborho...</b> 57:1 151:13 163:17 202:7 209:1 244:15,18	246:6 249:15 252:18 257:1 275:7 286:17 301:2 <b>neighboring</b> 188:24 253:6 <b>nervous</b> 216:7 <b>network</b> 126:13 144:20,20 163:9 <b>networking</b> 210:19 <b>never</b> 10:4 77:8 102:6 159:4,7 263:5 283:11 <b>nevertheless</b> 255:20 <b>new</b> 13:10 16:9 22:5 29:12,16 30:23 31:22 35:5 48:19 59:16 61:24 74:1 81:5 84:2 97:13 98:13 107:13 144:12 149:9,16 155:13 162:2 164:19 165:14,23 165:24 166:2 170:3 186:24 187:18,21 188:5 191:11 202:20 204:12,24 206:3,5 208:17 209:7 210:13,21 211:8,9	220:10 227:18,24 228:12,21 229:8 232:4 232:15 240:13 262:16,22 275:11 288:4 289:22 290:23 294:22 296:5 298:22 <b>newer</b> 100:16 288:19 <b>newly</b> 84:1 <b>Newman</b> 124:11 <b>news</b> 47:20 85:2,6 105:24 147:20 184:23 224:10 246:21 <b>newspapers</b> 33:3 <b>nice</b> 42:13 61:23 83:22 84:7 137:3 199:24 286:17 287:7 300:18 <b>nicely</b> 84:1 <b>Nick</b> 193:6 <b>night</b> 17:20 51:3 86:22 87:2 147:23 <b>nights</b> 276:3 <b>nine</b> 43:1 52:14,23 171:2 197:22 204:3,4 224:12 <b>nine-month</b> 293:21 <b>ninth</b> 193:18 <b>nod</b> 192:19 <b>noise</b> 213:17 <b>Nolan's</b> 292:6	<b>non-City-o...</b> 55:9 <b>non-trash</b> 175:2 <b>nonprofit</b> 53:3 102:20 109:21 294:4 <b>nonprofits</b> 241:14 301:11,13 <b>nooks</b> 209:1 <b>Nor'easter</b> 266:15 267:5 <b>normal</b> 175:19 187:4 <b>normally</b> 176:7 <b>north</b> 92:9 93:4 102:3 146:1 164:2 182:13 199:10 <b>Northeast</b> 93:2 98:5 <b>Northern</b> 54:5 <b>northwest</b> 22:17 279:19 <b>Nosa</b> 88:7 <b>NOTARY</b> 304:13 <b>noted</b> 29:19 164:10 173:4 304:4 <b>notes</b> 42:24 82:16 88:8 304:5 <b>notice</b> 16:18 32:8 89:14 133:20,21 135:15 199:5 255:23 286:12 <b>noticed</b> 137:24 <b>notices</b> 134:8 135:9 136:3 <b>noting</b> 206:7	<b>notion</b> 53:15 74:13 <b>NOV</b> 134:9 135:13,15 <b>NOVs</b> 135:3 135:4 <b>nowadays</b> 204:21 <b>number</b> 2:4,5 2:8,11,13 2:15 3:2 5:13 8:7,9 8:24 12:3 17:20 25:5 25:8,10,11 28:14 30:5 36:14 37:23 39:17 41:16 41:21 53:17 126:4 128:20 141:15,20 141:22,24 147:12,16 168:6 180:13 184:9 186:20,23 190:22 192:17 197:2 199:16 204:9 208:7 209:12 211:2,4 215:15 217:9,20 220:1,3 222:7 234:2 236:5 245:17 251:7 256:1 257:17 263:23 264:2 272:17 275:23 277:24 280:23 281:12 297:11 <b>numbers</b> 15:12 36:7	36:11 69:14 69:18 112:24 117:5 130:10 142:5,15,17 142:20 143:14 145:8 222:12,16 222:18 283:10 <b>numerous</b> 147:14 <b>nurse</b> 210:4 <b>nutrition</b> 204:17
<b>O</b>							
O 304:1							
O'Donnell 137:1							
O'Neill 1:12							
76:20,21							
78:11 100:1							
100:2							
103:13,18							
104:18							
106:11							
oath 219:4							
objections 304:4							
objective 125:6							
127:24							
objectives 124:19							
126:19							
obligated 28:22							
obligation 89:18,21							
226:22							
obligations 90:2 227:1							
observations 80:21							
obtain 214:13							
obvious 164:13							
obviously 79:24							
132:18							
142:15							

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

186:7	33:6 91:15	176:17	22:11 80:15	7:1 45:22	244:13	<b>origins</b> 194:1	297:20
242:12	93:23	179:20	105:15	69:14,18	245:8 250:1	<b>Otis</b> 144:7	<b>outlined</b>
254:9 255:2	118:21	214:2 216:6	164:19	124:14	259:14	149:7	114:22
271:2 281:4	155:17	216:14	207:10	145:4	261:1 275:1	155:19	128:1
294:23	<b>officials</b> 267:2	217:7	245:18	226:21	288:2	172:3,14	<b>outreach</b> 4:11
301:23	<b>offline</b> 58:8	221:22	249:6	230:14	<b>opposed</b> 31:2	179:3	33:10 34:6
<b>occasions</b>	120:23	225:13	285:16	241:14	54:4 56:15	182:18,24	41:8 77:7
55:11	163:8	238:4 240:2	<b>ongoing</b>	<b>operation</b>	167:2	195:8	77:10,14
<b>occur</b> 102:19	<b>Ogontz</b> 148:8	243:15	139:15	93:1 105:20	<b>opt</b> 278:16	<b>Ott</b> 226:11,14	121:8 122:2
<b>occurring</b>	148:8	265:10	257:14	216:4	<b>optimal</b>	230:24	126:1 130:9
210:1	<b>oh</b> 1:12 40:23	267:10	282:20	<b>operational</b>	229:20	231:11,20	175:4
<b>occurs</b> 176:7	46:23 50:12	270:24	<b>online</b> 52:10	7:3 28:7	<b>option</b> 22:20	233:14,21	<b>outside</b> 27:10
<b>October</b>	79:2 119:24	277:6	204:24	92:9 125:10	102:9	234:9,13,23	71:18 161:6
36:20,23	147:5 150:5	282:22	280:1	<b>operations</b>	143:12	235:14	202:15
<b>offer</b> 15:19	152:13	286:14	<b>onus</b> 139:9	4:1 61:23	<b>optioned</b>	238:14,16	213:15
41:10	169:11	297:13	<b>open</b> 5:15	100:7	239:7	239:1 241:7	243:21
130:21,22	177:17,18	<b>old</b> 25:10	16:12 19:21	105:10,17	<b>options</b>	242:1,8	260:6,11
130:24	178:23	38:11 48:5	20:5,12,15	126:23	299:21	243:10	262:15
131:1,1	179:20	168:5	20:24 35:4	143:18	300:1	244:8 247:4	275:1
176:13	180:6	177:21	35:5 122:6	<b>operator</b> 41:8	<b>order</b> 2:2	247:10,14	289:19
208:9	<b>OHR</b> 61:24	187:10	152:6,12	<b>operators</b>	29:13 94:23	248:1	<b>outsiders</b>
293:22	293:24	205:8	170:19	41:9,18	115:20	258:17	244:2
<b>offered</b> 59:16	294:13	283:14	171:3	<b>opinion</b> 53:13	143:17,20	260:1,7	<b>outsource</b>
<b>offering</b> 4:9	298:24	284:2 290:2	175:19	55:11	183:17	261:6,10	142:12
67:8 229:5	<b>OIT</b> 65:18	290:21	205:21	<b>opportunities</b>	186:6 283:8	262:11	<b>outstanding</b>
288:2	<b>okay</b> 9:4 11:1	301:19	208:8	4:9 39:13	283:15,16	263:11	24:18
<b>offerings</b>	13:3 14:24	<b>older</b> 76:1	214:12	40:2,18	284:11	265:1	<b>overall</b>
88:13	17:5 19:18	164:18	223:6	43:10 61:14	297:23	267:12	106:24
<b>office</b> 4:17	24:7,12	187:4,13	243:12	72:7,11	<b>orders</b> 232:18	269:14,17	123:13
46:4 81:21	26:5 38:15	213:4 217:3	244:3 259:7	102:10	<b>ordinance</b> 2:9	269:21	126:12
87:10 88:17	40:24 42:20	301:21	260:24	104:5,12	2:11,13 3:1	270:4,15,18	145:3
88:24 89:3	45:17 48:14	<b>Olney</b> 217:20	262:19	116:11	36:20 95:21	270:2	157:14
90:3,10	50:4,12	<b>on-time</b> 162:4	263:10	190:7	<b>ordinances</b>	271:4,11,16	234:15
91:7,9,10	56:22 58:9	<b>once</b> 66:2	270:5	237:21	147:12,16	273:21	280:17
91:20 92:9	65:9 66:5	83:9,10	271:20	294:16	<b>organization</b>	275:22	<b>Overbrook</b>
93:4,10,16	73:12 80:9	87:14 90:8	300:16	<b>opportunity</b>	294:6	276:5,9,14	215:2
104:20,20	82:2 85:6	100:21	301:7,9	4:2 29:5	<b>organizations</b>	276:20	<b>overdue</b>
104:21	87:15,21	117:22,22	<b>open-mouth</b>	35:5 39:19	33:7 126:3	277:2 278:3	140:12,13
105:14,14	90:7,16	131:2,18,21	20:2 21:12	41:11 42:18	211:4 273:3	278:9 280:9	140:17
126:16	96:12 97:3	139:22,23	<b>opened</b> 41:19	82:21	273:15	281:15	<b>overhead</b>
136:20	103:13	150:6	154:10	101:16	274:10	282:17	27:3,6
168:6	114:14	156:11	<b>opening</b> 23:3	118:14	276:22	285:18	142:6 143:7
179:24	129:17	161:14	205:4	123:1 127:9	<b>organized</b>	287:21	<b>overnight</b>
182:18	138:3	191:24	210:21	128:7	81:9 245:15	289:7,12,17	148:6 150:2
196:22	140:24	203:20	228:23,24	142:16	261:21	290:5 292:3	193:24
207:14	146:7	220:12	237:12	144:16	<b>oriented</b>	296:2 298:3	194:3 214:5
221:9,16	150:23	237:23	292:24	195:24	103:8	298:15	229:7
258:20,23	151:10,18	<b>one-on-one</b>	<b>opens</b> 170:23	196:2	<b>original</b>	300:20	<b>oversee</b> 232:9
280:13	156:23	209:11	<b>operate</b> 27:18	212:17	185:12	301:20	<b>oversight</b>
285:1	158:16	245:11	228:2	229:6	<b>originally</b>	302:3,20	126:16
<b>officers</b>	159:1	<b>one-way</b>	239:14,17	230:10	251:6	<b>ought</b> 44:6	<b>overstep</b>
132:16	169:19	155:9	<b>operating</b>	242:3	<b>originated</b>	<b>outdated</b>	63:19
<b>offices</b> 4:18	173:24	<b>ones</b> 16:11	2:14 3:8 4:4	243:22	30:10	142:15	<b>overtime</b>

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

162:14	95:6 100:5	228:23,24	127:11	200:12	211:19	237:10	66:14 83:5
187:16	105:2	229:2,17	225:17	243:4,12	221:7	292:19	83:6 116:13
263:16,19	116:13,21	242:22,23	226:9,14	244:6 256:1	254:17	<b>patience</b>	116:15,18
263:22	134:1,12	244:2,4,5	227:8,13,14	270:22	280:6	192:22	117:6
269:23	150:1	244:20	227:23	271:1	285:16	203:6	<b>payors</b> 13:18
270:1,3,6	275:24	245:19	228:6	292:11,12	299:19	<b>patient</b>	<b>pays</b> 14:16
271:7,19	293:9	256:16	229:21,23	299:6	300:8	268:10	101:20
272:7	<b>pain</b> 46:9	260:15	230:3	<b>part-time</b>	<b>partner</b>	<b>patrol</b> 18:18	105:19
275:19	<b>pains</b> 275:4	279:4	238:11	291:14,16	127:10	<b>patterns</b>	112:18
277:4 300:8	<b>Palantino</b>	<b>parked</b>	240:14	<b>participants</b>	196:3	171:22	241:1
<b>overview</b>	226:15	147:24,24	242:21	38:3 39:7	<b>partnered</b>	<b>pause</b> 44:11	<b>pebbles</b> 138:8
178:14	251:1,2,20	148:4,11	243:17	121:1,5	167:6	<b>pave</b> 140:14	<b>PECO</b> 37:9
197:18	253:2,17	<b>Parker</b> 1:13	248:5,5,12	123:7	<b>partnering</b>	142:7	84:12 87:3
<b>overwhelmed</b>	257:8,21	147:14	248:19	228:18	145:22	<b>paved</b> 84:1,8	89:19,24
41:19	283:13	193:3,4,16	249:23	294:22	<b>partners</b> 46:6	140:12,14	139:17
<b>overwhelmi...</b>	284:14	195:21	254:4,18	<b>participate</b>	144:8	141:13	152:13
297:13	285:11,24	197:10	258:9,10	4:13 122:13	210:24	159:8 198:1	154:7
<b>overwhelmi...</b>	286:11,22	199:9	269:11	122:15	<b>partnership</b>	<b>paving</b>	177:24
291:15,18	287:10	200:19	271:2,9	130:5	109:14	100:12	285:16,20
<b>owed</b> 26:6	<b>Pam</b> 208:6	268:2,3	272:3,22,24	218:17	126:2	141:18	<b>pedestrian</b>
<b>owned</b> 11:19	<b>Pamela</b>	269:16,18	274:6	250:1	209:20	142:12	154:23
<b>owner</b> 54:15	203:18	270:2,12,17	275:14	<b>participates</b>	254:24	143:23	155:15
55:20 56:4	<b>paper</b> 279:10	270:20,24	277:16,24	108:3	255:24	154:6 158:5	182:7
102:18	280:2	271:5,15	280:3,7,7	<b>participating</b>	262:23	198:7,16	<b>penalties</b>
115:17	<b>paperwork</b>	272:12	281:20	39:22	263:3	199:2,3	282:9
133:21	115:22	274:1 291:5	291:9 296:1	<b>participation</b>	<b>partnerships</b>	<b>pay</b> 4:21 8:20	<b>pencils</b>
134:2,11,12	121:15	291:6	297:9 298:1	5:23 69:14	102:19	9:18 13:6	100:22
289:2	<b>par</b> 16:8	294:18	<b>parkway</b>	70:5,8,15	256:3	25:18 31:3	<b>PennDOT</b>
<b>owners</b> 11:20	80:23	297:10	209:19	72:5 81:22	265:17	32:19 42:21	145:3,15,22
11:22 48:3	176:16	298:11	210:14	82:5 117:5	<b>parts</b> 163:3	42:21 49:20	145:24
48:7 55:17	234:14	299:10,18	218:15	125:24	173:16	68:13 77:3	158:24
55:22 58:21	<b>parades</b>	<b>parking</b>	258:15,18	221:8 244:3	178:8	79:22 115:2	159:1,2,7
59:17	59:12	103:22	258:21	246:18	255:19	119:3,4	159:20,24
130:23	<b>parceling</b>	107:18	278:21	<b>particular</b>	259:18	134:24	160:1,4,12
134:21	300:14	147:8,9,12	301:6,15	22:13	288:19	150:21	<b>PennDOT's</b>
<b>ownership</b>	<b>Pardon</b> 58:6	147:16	<b>part</b> 5:20	113:11	<b>Paschalville</b>	263:15,16	160:6,8
130:8	<b>parent</b>	148:15	12:9 16:15	136:21	215:2	269:20	<b>Pennsylvania</b>
	206:17,21	149:3,10,18	16:19 31:13	207:14	<b>pass</b> 132:19	270:10	1:4 2:22 5:3
<b>P</b>	<b>parent's</b>	178:7,10,11	32:20 33:22	233:11	184:10	271:6,9	211:3
<b>p.m</b> 303:2	206:22	179:19,22	55:1 59:4	272:19	186:21	273:17	214:21
<b>P3</b> 191:13,21	<b>parents</b>	180:1,2,11	69:17,24	275:9	<b>passed</b> 32:1	276:16	215:17
196:4	170:20	180:14,15	77:15 89:6	278:17	132:21	277:4 288:3	<b>Pennsylvan...</b>
<b>package</b>	273:17	180:16	96:1 100:16	279:17	154:20	291:22	210:5
106:23	<b>park</b> 81:17	182:4	110:21	281:22	<b>passes</b> 215:18	<b>payer</b> 76:12	<b>Pennypack</b>
<b>packaging</b>	81:21 98:3	193:18,22	111:18	<b>particularly</b>	<b>passing</b> 56:21	93:19	100:14
128:24	104:23	194:8,22	112:11	52:8 68:1	<b>Pat</b> 137:1,2	<b>payers</b> 78:4	101:6,18
129:22,24	149:15	195:5,13,14	139:6 144:3	127:13	<b>patches</b>	80:16	102:2,4
<b>page</b> 8:4 11:1	150:1,12,15	<b>parkland</b>	151:8	131:24	240:18	<b>paying</b> 9:20	105:3 109:6
43:1 89:13	150:21	256:22	155:22,24	137:14	<b>path</b> 235:7	9:22 10:2	109:8
128:14	151:5 175:1	<b>parks</b> 3:13	160:21	138:7	<b>pathway</b>	13:21 80:1	<b>people</b> 8:15
173:7	194:3,3,6	74:17,22	173:10,11	169:23	236:11	221:10	15:10,24
<b>pages</b> 88:5	199:10	104:3 107:1	178:9 186:3	193:24	<b>pathways</b>	276:4,6,7	16:22 17:3
<b>paid</b> 49:19	215:2	107:2	189:7,18	208:12	228:16	<b>payment</b>	18:9 21:14
64:6 65:11							

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

30:14 31:3	236:1,4,19	227:20,20	167:22	191:11	295:11	284:1	155:23
32:23 34:15	237:9	227:21	168:2	192:7	<b>Philadelphi...</b>	<b>piloted</b>	156:5 164:6
34:18 35:3	243:20	233:22	275:17,18	<b>phases</b> 136:8	229:1	145:15	166:6 172:5
36:15 40:2	248:13	234:3,4,4,5	276:3,21	<b>Philadelphia</b>	291:21	<b>pin</b> 242:19	172:14
41:3 42:4,5	256:12,18	234:6,6,8	<b>permitted</b>	1:1,4 2:17	<b>Philadelphi...</b>	<b>pipe</b> 61:1	175:23
42:13 43:17	256:21	234:11,15	246:1	2:18 3:21	228:7	86:24 87:1	179:3,8,13
45:3,13	259:1,12,18	237:4	275:20	6:1 10:11	243:20	<b>pipeline</b>	182:12,19
46:15,23	259:24	267:17	<b>permitting</b>	24:3 29:10	268:23	39:18	183:1,3,7
47:3,3,6,9	261:1,20	297:4	243:15	39:21 43:8	<b>Philly</b> 33:19	<b>pipes</b> 11:4,19	183:10,23
47:10,12,12	263:9 266:9	<b>percentage</b>	244:6	43:11 44:1	73:23 92:9	52:22 83:10	184:12
49:2 52:8	266:10,22	121:11	258:24	57:8 61:10	93:2,4	104:14,15	187:6,20,24
55:5 58:23	266:24	123:10	260:5	66:12 70:11	125:21	<b>pipng</b> 152:17	189:8
61:8,13,14	278:13,16	129:11	263:15,19	81:19,20	178:8 229:8	<b>pitch</b> 249:3,7	193:21
61:18 68:8	279:6 280:6	<b>percentages</b>	270:6,8	101:10	275:11	<b>place</b> 20:3	195:5,10,12
70:23 71:7	280:6 281:9	129:3,7	276:13,16	102:12	<b>phone</b> 5:13	25:13 37:13	200:13
76:19 85:14	288:5	234:19	<b>person</b> 3:14	104:10	17:19 103:3	109:3 148:2	204:7,9,10
86:1 87:18	289:21	<b>perception</b>	43:4 77:3	105:4	103:7	154:7,8	216:9
91:18	290:9,22	111:21	103:6	120:20	242:22	163:4,6	227:23,24
100:18	291:3,15	<b>perfect</b> 75:23	231:10	125:24	243:3	168:16	231:21
108:22	295:1,11,21	106:19	237:17	145:14	254:14	170:8	264:10
111:20	297:5,8,12	123:1 171:5	252:22	149:17	277:23	171:20	279:6 283:5
112:20	298:18	196:4	255:10	151:4	<b>phones</b>	183:23	285:3,4
116:1	<b>people's</b>	<b>perform</b>	277:3	154:17	242:24	204:11	292:5,7,13
118:17,18	68:19	142:12	287:24,24	155:14	294:8	205:16	<b>planned</b>
119:1	<b>percent</b> 5:23	<b>Performa</b>	289:10	164:1,2	<b>photo</b> 19:21	207:16,22	84:13
132:19	6:1,1,5	283:15	294:7	165:9	19:24 20:8	209:8	<b>planning</b>
137:16	10:13,14,20	<b>performance</b>	<b>personal</b>	174:10	<b>photos</b> 18:17	237:19	169:24
138:8	10:21 24:16	41:13 217:8	181:9	181:5 190:5	19:17	245:12,13	179:16
145:10	28:12,15	<b>performed</b>	<b>personally</b>	191:24	<b>physically</b>	251:23	180:19,21
148:3 155:4	34:4 49:6,7	283:24	51:19,22	192:11	5:11 214:23	254:12,22	182:9
155:6	49:8,10,11	<b>Performo</b>	<b>persons</b>	194:12	<b>pick</b> 61:2	256:20	<b>plans</b> 127:1
172:11	49:13,14	232:16	208:18	197:21	176:10	260:17	144:8 149:2
174:21	62:23 63:13	<b>perimeter</b>	<b>perspective</b>	201:18	231:7	279:3	156:2
175:1,20	63:13,21	108:9	25:21,23	202:8,13	254:14	281:19	172:13
176:6 177:1	64:2 65:7	244:15	38:6 57:6	205:2	296:12	284:2	200:18
177:4,23	65:12 70:15	<b>period</b> 38:8	58:17 59:1	208:21	<b>picked</b>	<b>placed</b> 134:2	227:22
178:16	90:4,12	133:22	60:12 61:16	211:1	173:13,13	134:13	<b>plant</b> 29:15
179:15	94:14 95:2	134:1	63:10 189:2	212:20	201:19	170:22,23	41:9,18
181:13	98:22 109:1	186:11	189:2 192:1	219:15	<b>picking</b>	<b>placement</b>	98:2,6
183:6	113:5	224:15	195:23	221:18	168:10	170:15	289:8,22
190:12	129:13,14	250:22	197:5	222:10	202:21	216:10	<b>planted</b> 289:3
192:2	141:14	302:13	291:20	227:8,13	<b>PIDC</b> 151:3	<b>places</b> 20:5	290:21
201:18	143:4 145:6	<b>permanent</b>	<b>PFM</b> 88:7	229:3,15	195:18	<b>plan</b> 2:18 3:9	<b>planting</b>
202:2,4,12	145:7	226:1,2	<b>PGW</b> 37:9	231:6	<b>pie</b> 196:2	4:15 5:5	287:3
204:18,20	185:19	228:14	60:8 83:11	234:22	<b>piece</b> 182:24	11:1 35:18	288:19
205:11,18	189:11,11	<b>permit</b>	84:12,21	242:23	277:1	60:22 73:15	<b>plants</b> 94:21
206:14,24	189:14	260:21	87:4 139:19	250:11	<b>Pier</b> 213:14	74:10 84:11	<b>plate</b> 264:19
211:17	204:3,3,4,4	263:13,16	152:16	255:3 257:5	<b>Pike</b> 194:18	110:1	<b>play</b> 57:2
218:22	220:5	263:17	153:1 154:7	257:7	<b>pilot</b> 123:1	112:14,19	275:11,11
232:13	227:15,16	264:2	158:18,23	272:15	175:22	112:23	<b>playground</b>
233:22	227:16,17	270:11,19	159:19	274:23	207:12	128:13	81:19,20
234:11,16	227:17,17	273:23	160:1,3	281:2,8	216:10	132:23	108:9,10,12
235:5,8	227:19,19	<b>permits</b>	165:13,23	282:11	267:13	144:5	108:12,15

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

282:11 <b>playgrounds</b> 57:2 <b>playing</b> 246:23 273:16 <b>please</b> 2:6 52:6 177:12 196:9 203:15 257:20 <b>pleased</b> 41:22 124:13 300:15 <b>pleasure</b> 223:10 226:19 248:4 249:2 <b>plenty</b> 103:20 217:1 <b>plop</b> 172:22 <b>plowed</b> 201:20 <b>plumber</b> 84:1 115:21 116:1,19 <b>plumber's</b> 84:2,7 <b>plumbers</b> 84:4 114:21 115:6,9,13 <b>plumbing</b> 6:17 205:10 <b>pluses</b> 20:2 <b>pocket</b> 150:4 150:16 <b>pocketbooks</b> 80:1 <b>Poconos</b> 229:7 <b>point</b> 10:3 21:3 22:4 22:20,21,24 95:24 102:13 112:12,20 132:9 145:3 164:24 179:21 191:6 206:4 286:16 287:16 289:6	<b>pointless</b> 206:6 <b>points</b> 271:23 <b>poles</b> 201:23 <b>police</b> 75:8 132:16,16 148:13 194:9 281:20 282:18 299:22 <b>policy</b> 25:20 74:10,23 105:17 106:24 189:3 241:18 245:5 272:8 <b>Pollution</b> 98:6 <b>pool</b> 295:21 <b>poor</b> 141:5 <b>pop</b> 138:8 <b>pops</b> 28:4 207:10 <b>popular</b> 246:14 <b>populate</b> 30:18 <b>population</b> 28:11,13,17 28:19 163:17 291:21 <b>pore</b> 101:12 104:8,9 <b>port</b> 151:4,6 195:17 <b>portfolio</b> 70:13 <b>portion</b> 79:21 79:22 90:6 292:18 <b>ports</b> 151:7 <b>position</b> 27:4 42:12 43:3 160:12,15 228:3 233:18 235:17,24 236:1,2,10 236:17,20 237:1 238:1	254:3,5 293:12 296:24 297:3 299:2 299:6 <b>positions</b> 8:5 9:24 26:17 27:15,19 28:1,14,16 34:3 43:5 227:4 228:20 231:21 233:3 234:3 236:14 237:14 293:21 294:1 299:1 <b>possibility</b> 50:14 256:11 <b>possible</b> 7:5 20:15,16 23:9 28:5 46:9 60:9 60:14 105:21 106:10 109:4 110:21 138:11 145:21 153:14 160:6 164:7 176:10 185:22 201:17 246:24 253:7,8 272:23 274:4 282:13 <b>possibly</b> 60:11 102:4 157:20 182:14 193:5 238:8 242:13 <b>post-parade</b> 259:13 <b>postage</b> 66:5 <b>posted</b> 65:23 118:21	235:24 <b>posting</b> 252:19 <b>potential</b> 195:24 216:13 238:7 <b>potentially</b> 130:17 <b>potholes</b> 18:19 161:12 186:18 <b>pounds</b> 75:19 <b>poverty</b> 49:6 49:10 <b>Powelton</b> 45:1 <b>PowerCorps</b> 6:8 8:14 38:1,18 39:6,9 <b>powers</b> 167:9 <b>practical</b> 108:22 <b>practice</b> 246:22 273:18 <b>practices</b> 63:18 72:21 291:11 <b>practicing</b> 273:16 <b>praise</b> 266:2 <b>precertified</b> 115:4 <b>precursor</b> 211:23 <b>preference</b> 72:5 260:9 <b>preferred</b> 22:20 <b>preliminary</b> 98:5 150:7 150:8 151:16 <b>prematurely</b> 100:8 <b>present</b> 1:7 4:3 164:4 226:20 <b>presentations</b> 80:14	<b>president</b> 1:8 2:1 3:4,17 3:20 7:20 8:2 9:4,15 9:21 10:12 10:17,21,24 11:13 12:17 13:3,20 14:4,13,19 14:24 15:4 17:9,10,14 18:17 19:11 22:21 23:15 23:16,20 26:16 30:3 31:11,12 37:13,18 44:14 45:1 50:5,6,13 50:23 51:16 52:6,18 53:6,24 54:3,17,22 55:3,21 56:7,17,20 56:23 58:4 58:7,12 62:13,14,18 68:23,24 76:15,22 78:13,17 82:8 86:4 91:23 117:9 117:13 119:8,9,13 123:20 124:3,6 128:10 129:6,14,17 129:20 130:11 131:3,10,14 131:22 132:4,7,12 133:8,14,17 134:3,15,19 135:20 136:7,16,19 177:8 191:7 203:11,15 203:18 208:2,4 213:7,10,19	213:24 214:6,15 215:7,12,22 216:1,5,8 216:15,18 217:7 218:2 218:8 219:3 219:9 222:22,23 223:9 224:7 224:8,16,22 225:5,12,16 226:3,4,9 226:12 230:12 231:9,13 233:9,19 234:7,12,17 234:24 238:4,15,17 239:4,9,15 239:19,22 240:2,7 241:15 246:16 247:8,11,16 247:20,21 250:7 253:21 254:1 255:17 257:24 265:20 267:7,10,24 274:15,16 274:20 277:8 282:23 290:16 297:15 299:11,12 302:8,12,22 <b>presidential</b> 210:5 <b>pressure</b> 87:13 178:24 246:5,8 272:5 <b>pretty</b> 12:1 16:8 27:9 53:6 54:13 61:21 69:15	77:7 99:19 101:3 117:14 137:22 148:12 187:24 204:22 236:17 290:10 <b>prevalent</b> 174:14 <b>prevent</b> 6:16 <b>previous</b> 9:12 35:20 72:24 72:24 73:14 141:17 250:16 258:13 <b>previously</b> 47:17,23 139:3 <b>price</b> 60:5 114:6,12 119:17 122:2 <b>primarily</b> 7:9 58:21 88:5 <b>prime</b> 6:4 191:1 <b>primes</b> 117:7 <b>prior</b> 25:2,5 36:22 63:24 64:18 92:23 106:8 199:5 254:5 <b>priorities</b> 128:3 185:8 284:9 <b>prioritization</b> 198:21 <b>prioritize</b> 23:4 198:18 <b>prioritizing</b> 224:2 <b>priority</b> 122:12 127:24 155:21 170:13 186:4,5 194:14 198:2 201:21	244:22 255:1,10,13 284:18 285:5,6 <b>prisons</b> 206:15 <b>private</b> 11:18 54:9,18 55:7,13,16 56:9 57:7 61:11 73:9 95:14 102:20 103:24 108:16 109:21 131:7 195:14,24 196:3 212:8 239:20 242:12 256:3 <b>privy</b> 132:3 <b>proactively</b> 29:17 60:24 176:20 279:16 280:4 <b>probably</b> 8:18 59:23 65:7 81:1 88:15 148:1 155:3 171:13,18 181:8 225:21,22 253:16 255:14 258:18 288:20 294:2,21 298:4 <b>problem</b> 21:8 55:4 77:23 114:10 115:16 133:1 149:20 173:8,9 174:9,24 175:3 176:2 176:22,23 194:1
--	---	---	--	---	--	--	---

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

195:10	<b>processing</b>	113:14	125:11	267:5	128:1	261:1	2:23
206:24	125:9	114:20	<b>prohibition</b>	<b>promote</b> 76:9	207:20	<b>provisionals</b>	<b>pursue</b>
294:10	189:23	120:6,16	57:4	110:22	226:21	235:4	127:18
297:12	190:2	121:7,14,19	<b>prohibitive</b>	<b>promoting</b>	227:4	<b>pruned</b>	<b>pursuing</b>
<b>problematic</b>	<b>procuring</b>	122:14,18	76:12	189:3	241:22	257:10	110:19
132:13	6:15	123:8	259:16	<b>promotion</b>	291:11	<b>pruning</b>	<b>push</b> 31:1
171:17,23	<b>product</b>	131:19	290:12	295:8,16	<b>props</b> 7:22	257:1,4,6,9	40:18 44:10
171:24	190:21	156:11	<b>prohibits</b>	297:17	136:24	257:13,15	116:20
291:4	<b>productive</b>	175:16,18	55:13	<b>promotional</b>	224:17	<b>public</b> 2:3 3:5	218:18
<b>problems</b>	189:12	175:22	<b>project</b> 5:16	35:4 298:6	<b>prospects</b>	5:2 6:2	278:17
18:19 22:12	<b>professional</b>	189:10	12:6 53:21	<b>proper</b>	236:19	20:19 34:1	279:16
51:11 86:13	6:5 88:4,22	206:13	53:22 56:5	108:12	<b>protocol</b> 75:3	34:5,10	280:4
93:16 149:9	94:10,12	207:8,10,13	56:15 104:5	244:18	85:9 261:4	54:24 70:12	<b>pushed</b> 186:2
170:21	<b>professionals</b>	211:8,23	122:19	<b>properly</b>	<b>proud</b> 5:4	70:14 73:3	<b>pushing</b>
171:8	88:11 248:7	216:10,13	145:17	20:13 43:4	<b>proved</b>	73:11,18	30:12 31:14
240:18	<b>profit</b> 301:11	216:22,24	152:22	84:4 91:11	299:23	74:17,23	33:1 40:17
287:4	<b>program</b> 2:9	228:13,19	154:7 168:3	<b>properties</b>	<b>provide</b> 7:15	100:5 105:1	<b>put</b> 19:14
<b>procedural</b>	3:9 4:14,20	229:8	225:3,9	12:9 15:21	13:15 22:20	126:20	20:5,5 38:5
57:6	5:20 6:8	231:23	228:12	17:1 47:18	61:13 81:21	170:3	47:20 67:18
<b>procedure</b>	7:11 8:15	235:21	230:23	57:3 86:18	93:6 112:22	178:12	68:18 85:14
45:22	11:2 15:5,5	236:11,14	231:22,23	104:3	113:2	200:15	135:11,12
<b>procedures</b>	15:7,13,15	236:16,18	232:9,11	135:22,24	124:13	211:3	145:19,19
64:2	15:23 16:12	237:11,24	237:13	<b>property</b>	125:12	219:15	148:14
<b>proceed</b>	28:21 31:23	238:2,7	284:23	11:20,22	128:4	248:21	160:15
203:16	32:4,7,16	267:19	288:13	12:7 16:17	130:24,24	252:17,19	164:21
<b>proceedings</b>	32:20,23	290:21	293:1	48:3,7	131:18,21	255:20	170:2
304:4	34:24 36:15	293:2,7,9	<b>projected</b>	54:15 55:9	157:3	259:8	173:24
<b>proceeds</b>	38:1,8,11	293:15	198:8	55:16,17,20	174:19	268:24	177:2 186:3
97:19,24	38:17,19,19	294:22	<b>projecting</b>	55:21 56:1	179:21	281:7 286:4	189:12
<b>proces</b> 138:20	38:24 39:3	295:7	96:7	56:4 58:21	195:1,19	304:13	198:14
<b>process</b> 6:14	39:6,8	<b>programmi...</b>	<b>projections</b>	59:16,22	196:11	<b>publically</b>	200:11
53:10 71:13	41:17,24	4:8 210:11	7:8	68:9 73:9	206:3	252:7	207:22
72:16 79:11	42:3,6	211:7,14	<b>projects</b> 5:18	74:17 81:10	214:10	<b>publicly</b> 7:13	215:19
79:19,24	46:22 48:16	217:21	6:3 53:15	95:14 100:5	222:16	<b>publish</b> 115:6	223:22
80:12 85:9	48:19,22	218:14	55:14,24	105:1,9	229:20	278:19	229:18
86:2 88:9	49:5,24	<b>programs</b>	56:2,13	112:5	243:5	<b>published</b>	231:4
88:10,18,24	52:3 54:8	33:19 36:9	57:24,24	115:17	246:16,17	279:5	232:13
89:11	55:2 56:3	51:10 61:5	69:8 82:4,6	130:23	252:16	<b>pull</b> 97:22	242:19,21
135:15	58:24 59:7	77:9 90:6	97:21,23	133:21	261:14	99:16	252:3
138:2	61:5,6	108:7 122:5	106:22	134:2,11,11	281:21	116:20	255:18,18
155:13,24	67:12 68:5	126:20	110:8 146:1	134:14,21	<b>provided</b>	<b>purchase</b>	255:22
165:12	68:7 77:12	206:9 207:6	153:3,21	268:22	20:1 91:6,7	156:10	261:20
183:16	77:13 79:12	210:19	154:4 158:2	<b>proponent</b>	188:20	164:4	268:15
191:5,10	85:15,22	217:10	185:19	120:17	<b>providers</b>	<b>purchased</b>	274:11
220:9 231:2	87:18 94:22	227:11	209:12	<b>proportions</b>	33:16 88:4	162:2	282:5
231:5 256:2	95:12,13,24	244:14,17	212:9	148:23	<b>provides</b>	<b>purchasing</b>	283:18
256:13,14	96:1,2,11	244:19	228:21	<b>proposal</b>	13:12 39:10	163:9	290:4
257:3	97:2 98:5	272:9	232:2 233:4	224:20	66:15 95:19	164:19	<b>puts</b> 272:5
280:17	99:15 107:5	275:12	233:5,8	<b>proposals</b>	269:4	165:6	<b>putting</b> 18:7
287:12	107:22	293:18	251:10,12	80:11,11,13	<b>providing</b>	199:18	18:12 74:3
296:16	108:2 110:3	<b>progress</b>	251:13	<b>proposed</b>	2:16 4:12	<b>purposes</b>	76:3 117:14
<b>processes</b>	111:19	278:2	<b>promise</b>	2:20 3:7	6:20 127:12	112:7 170:1	118:10
89:7 136:14	112:15	<b>progresses</b>	125:9 208:1	24:9 89:19	172:8 217:4	<b>pursuant</b>	155:20

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

156:19	193:24	54:4 55:7	267:17,20	<b>rates</b> 6:18,20	222:2 223:6	100:6 101:9	217:12
164:18	199:11	55:13 108:1	<b>quote</b> 52:11	9:17 24:15	<b>real</b> 30:4 40:4	102:6	218:6,10
202:5 224:9	213:11	179:11	116:24	48:19 63:11	41:4,15	103:18	219:11,17
272:2	217:8 219:5	193:6	147:24	70:8 77:12	52:18 65:20	113:8	219:20
<b>PW</b> 89:5	224:19	287:19	<b>quoted</b> 60:5	78:6 180:16	66:2 85:15	123:12	220:6,15,18
<b>PWD's</b> 4:3	238:5,19,20	288:18	<b>quotes</b> 148:1	259:4,6	102:12	134:22	220:20
	256:9	<b>Quinones-S...</b>		<b>rating</b> 198:2	118:13	153:14	221:22
<b>Q</b>	285:19	1:13 31:19	<b>R</b>	199:1	132:13	170:2 183:9	222:1,19
<b>qualifications</b>	291:7	31:20 33:9	<b>R</b> 268:20	<b>ratio</b> 198:10	173:18	183:11,12	223:7,15
236:24	<b>questioning</b>	34:14,17	304:1	291:10,24	176:23	183:17,18	224:13,21
<b>qualified</b> 62:3	79:8 177:12	35:2,12,17	<b>R.P.R</b> 304:12	292:4	179:11	186:13	224:24
<b>qualify</b> 48:17	177:14	36:6 37:1	<b>race</b> 277:20	<b>raw</b> 190:20	199:24	187:16	225:7,14
<b>quality</b> 7:16	268:17	69:3,4 70:3	277:21	<b>re-imagine</b>	205:13	201:11	<b>reason</b> 8:6
127:3	274:4	70:16,21	<b>raceway</b>	229:12	206:24	202:19	11:9,12
165:11	<b>questions</b>	71:6,12,24	154:18	<b>reach</b> 33:17	238:5	204:15	14:20 16:11
202:8	5:14 7:19	72:19 73:10	<b>racial</b> 233:20	141:23	259:20	205:5,19,21	19:16 70:4
<b>quarter</b> 6:4	8:3 23:22	73:13 74:8	233:23	144:3	291:4 296:9	207:2	94:15 255:8
<b>quarters</b>	44:11 53:10	74:19 76:8	292:8	208:23	<b>realigning</b>	218:12,20	259:11
125:16	62:18 77:5	111:12	<b>radio</b> 33:1	<b>reached</b>	74:14	230:20	268:7 269:4
<b>question</b> 9:16	78:2 82:13	112:2,9	78:7,9	125:20	259:22	236:6	281:10
15:5 18:20	86:7 91:5	113:22	<b>Raftelis</b> 95:15	144:17	<b>realignment</b>	237:21	<b>reasonable</b>
19:9 21:3	94:1,9	114:8,14,17	95:18	183:5	258:9,11	240:16,19	132:15
22:1 26:4	123:21	115:3,8,23	<b>Rail</b> 228:24	<b>reaching</b> 33:5	301:24	246:10,13	139:15
26:14,16	128:9,12	116:5,22	<b>rain</b> 101:14	78:6 121:12	302:1	248:6,8,11	<b>reasons</b> 8:13
29:7 30:4	140:11	117:2 258:3	<b>raise</b> 177:3	122:12	<b>realignments</b>	248:18,23	54:8 164:13
35:9 44:5	147:7	258:4	<b>raised</b> 19:15	130:9	258:7	249:18	286:23
50:7 54:3	169:20	259:10	82:13 182:8	<b>react</b> 6:16	<b>realistically</b>	250:9,12,22	287:1
60:7 65:16	188:15,16	260:3 261:3	<b>raising</b> 224:5	<b>read</b> 2:6 3:7	180:4	263:2,12	<b>reassess</b>
66:6 67:6	191:9	261:8,23	<b>raked</b> 221:20	206:16,19	<b>reality</b> 108:23	264:4	183:12
76:23 77:23	197:11	262:20	<b>ramped</b> 4:7	208:1,20	<b>realize</b> 8:21	266:19	<b>rebuild</b> 145:2
81:15 87:17	199:18	264:8	<b>ramps</b> 186:15	279:10	23:11 76:19	275:12	153:4
88:3 92:7	203:1 214:7	265:10	<b>Randolph</b>	294:23	141:19	280:23	211:23
95:4 96:12	219:13	283:2,3	40:7,9	<b>readress</b>	151:6 153:9	281:9,23,24	212:10
96:14	224:18	284:3 285:2	<b>range</b> 240:24	301:5	243:18	286:17	229:10,11
104:18	230:11,13	285:13,20	253:5	<b>readdressing</b>	301:3	292:19	230:16,19
114:1	240:8,21	286:8,14,24	<b>rare</b> 164:5	299:22	<b>realized</b>	294:11,12	233:4,5
117:13	250:4,14,15	288:17	<b>rate</b> 4:22 5:23	301:10	263:5	297:9	238:6 240:8
130:12	254:20	289:9,15,24	6:19 9:5,10	<b>readily</b> 273:2	<b>realizes</b>	299:22	246:9 250:4
131:15	277:7,12	290:7	9:14 13:18	274:8	242:12	300:2,12	250:5,14
132:14	<b>quick</b> 30:4	299:15	24:13 32:6	<b>readiness</b>	<b>realizing</b>	301:5	283:6 285:4
140:19	50:7 52:18	300:23	36:21,22	181:11	236:10	302:16	<b>rebuilding</b>
141:16	88:3 140:10	301:22	48:23 49:16	<b>reading</b> 6:15	<b>really</b> 8:22	<b>realtime</b>	72:3
143:16	143:10	302:6,10	61:22 62:23	24:7 43:3	9:11 11:7	142:16	<b>rec</b> 74:17
144:24	169:20	<b>Quinones-S...</b>	64:14 69:6	204:16	12:3 17:17	<b>Reardon</b>	104:3 107:1
145:3	177:19	268:17	70:5 72:5	205:15	21:14 23:11	203:14	107:2,4
148:17	181:14	<b>quite</b> 5:4	76:12 78:4	208:22	29:7 31:22	207:23	109:20
151:23	188:19	31:16 41:21	80:15 98:19	209:10,11	33:14,14	208:2 213:9	175:1
158:5	192:24	63:19	125:17	228:24	35:13 41:22	213:13,23	225:17
167:13	224:19	113:18	129:12	234:10	46:14,14,18	214:4,14,18	226:9 235:5
182:1 184:6	238:6	153:7	162:4 187:7	<b>readings</b>	52:9 62:1	215:10,14	235:6 236:9
184:24	<b>quicker</b> 54:19	247:13	189:10	79:16	65:1 74:21	215:24	237:3
186:21	<b>quickly</b> 6:16	249:5	194:13	<b>ready</b> 46:11	83:16,22	216:3,7,14	240:14
188:19	53:8,11	258:12	198:24	56:24 96:11	85:9,20	216:17	243:17
192:17			267:18				

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

248:5	<b>recognize</b>	111:13	294:11	<b>referencing</b>	285:23	<b>remaining</b>	222:2 224:1
249:23	27:12 48:3	141:6	<b>recruiting</b>	294:22	<b>regulation</b>	177:12	228:23
250:20	78:3 160:14	192:21	236:17	<b>referring</b>	75:11	206:17	251:13
252:8,18	169:10	197:7	<b>recruitment</b>	200:5	<b>regulations</b>	<b>remains</b>	252:4
254:4	173:9	199:11	41:2 236:9	291:13	160:5	129:11	<b>renovations</b>
266:14,21	218:24	200:1	237:5	<b>reflect</b> 90:2	285:15	132:14	212:6 215:1
266:24	254:2	216:19	<b>Recs</b> 3:13	212:4,6	<b>regulatory</b>	<b>remarkable</b>	221:6
271:2 272:4	<b>recognizes</b>	241:16	104:22	<b>reflecting</b>	7:12 27:22	127:22	251:22
275:14	15:1 17:12	268:11,15	238:12	234:19	28:9,19	<b>remarks</b>	252:1
283:17	23:18 31:18	269:10	242:21	291:20	54:13	237:12	<b>rental</b> 16:17
291:9	37:15 44:16	274:2,11	269:11	<b>reflects</b> 9:24	<b>related</b> 79:7	292:24	<b>rentals</b> 94:22
295:17	58:10 62:16	276:12	274:6	25:9 129:15	88:8 94:17	<b>remediation</b>	<b>reopen</b> 212:1
296:1 297:3	69:2 76:17	295:9	<b>rectified</b>	226:24	95:19 96:2	134:10	<b>reopens</b>
297:7,9	76:19 78:15	297:11,21	159:11	<b>refresh</b>	96:3 131:23	<b>remedy</b>	210:16
298:1 299:3	82:10 88:1	<b>record-setti...</b>	<b>recycle</b> 130:6	112:21	159:12	150:24	<b>repair</b> 18:11
300:11	90:24 94:7	125:23	156:16	<b>refusal</b> 245:3	258:14	151:12	18:23 20:24
301:2	100:1	<b>records</b> 25:24	<b>recycled</b>	<b>refuse</b> 132:21	<b>relates</b> 69:13	<b>remember</b>	22:3,8 23:8
<b>Rec's</b> 272:22	111:10	<b>recreate</b>	200:9	190:13	70:5 80:1	25:5 31:15	61:2,23
<b>recall</b> 113:20	117:11	223:20	<b>recycling</b>	<b>regard</b> 38:1	214:16	31:24 279:9	81:9 94:20
114:1	119:11	<b>recreation</b>	125:17,17	<b>regarding</b> 2:4	215:8	280:1	127:7
118:13	136:17	81:18	125:20	37:24 58:14	234:19	<b>remembers</b>	141:19
<b>receivable</b>	140:8	127:11	127:22	58:16,20	268:19	266:4	142:2 160:2
24:21,23	146:15	226:15	128:21	59:3 79:12	288:18	<b>reminded</b>	178:18
25:14 63:5	167:18	227:9,13,15	129:4,10,15	88:3 113:3	<b>relating</b>	16:14 86:10	198:12
63:6 112:10	169:15	228:6	129:21	122:24	230:19	<b>reminder</b>	283:9
<b>receivables</b>	177:17	229:18,22	130:4,5	151:23	<b>relationship</b>	121:13	<b>repaired</b>
25:9	180:8 193:3	229:23	156:7	158:5	39:20	<b>remiss</b> 254:7	186:7
<b>receive</b> 63:23	219:7 223:1	230:4	189:10,15	188:20	<b>relationships</b>	<b>removable</b>	<b>repairing</b>
143:22	240:3	236:16	202:11	189:5	228:5	156:6	164:16
<b>received</b> 6:18	247:18	239:18	<b>red</b> 146:3,5	254:18	<b>relative</b>	<b>removal</b>	<b>repairs</b> 16:7
80:11 123:9	253:23	248:6,12,19	147:2	<b>Regardless</b>	196:20	127:13	20:23 21:2
160:8 194:4	258:2	254:13	298:16	76:11	199:18	136:3 287:7	22:6,11
222:12	265:22	258:10	<b>redid</b> 262:14	<b>regards</b> 41:2	268:17	288:3	23:3,5
231:1	267:8 268:2	262:23	<b>redo</b> 184:3,8	257:9	272:14	<b>removals</b>	86:24
281:24	274:18	277:17,24	<b>reduce</b> 31:6	<b>Regatta</b>	294:24	257:14	164:11,11
<b>receives</b>	277:10	280:3	155:11	277:18	296:1	<b>remove</b> 134:4	205:6
214:19	283:1 291:5	281:20,22	165:2	<b>regional</b>	<b>release</b> 45:14	<b>removed</b>	<b>repave</b> 83:22
<b>receiving</b>	299:14	282:11	190:14	151:4	63:11 199:5	134:10	152:12
106:6	<b>recognizing</b>	296:23	<b>reduced</b>	217:16	<b>released</b>	<b>removing</b>	<b>repaved</b>
187:23	44:6 170:14	302:15	128:19	297:18,19	144:6	180:1	141:14
<b>receptive</b>	173:7	<b>Recreation's</b>	<b>reduces</b>	297:24	<b>releases</b> 45:9	<b>rendition</b>	154:9
79:5 262:8	<b>recommend</b>	227:23	129:10,10	<b>registered</b>	<b>releasing</b>	22:5	<b>repaving</b>
<b>recess</b> 169:12	214:4	<b>recreational</b>	<b>reduction</b>	229:17	199:3	<b>renewal</b>	160:7,8
177:14	<b>recommend...</b>	236:12	31:5 92:16	<b>regular</b> 21:22	<b>relevant</b>	66:18 97:19	184:3
302:23	175:17	254:19	92:19	22:23 88:10	298:7 299:8	<b>renewing</b>	197:12,21
<b>recessed</b>	<b>recommend...</b>	300:7	129:11	117:18	<b>reliability</b>	187:12	<b>Repeat</b> 83:1
303:2	234:18	<b>recruit</b> 85:14	180:15	156:12	5:10	<b>renovated</b>	<b>repetition</b>
<b>recipes</b>	<b>reconstruct...</b>	236:20	<b>reference</b>	220:7	<b>relief</b> 151:13	212:1 213:5	269:9
211:10	127:5	237:8 294:1	88:9 135:23	249:11	198:17	251:17	<b>replace</b> 4:10
<b>reciprocity</b>	159:13	294:2,3,14	219:14	280:8	<b>remain</b> 129:3	<b>renovation</b>	12:7,14
268:21,21	<b>reconvene</b>	296:19	<b>referenced</b>	<b>regulate</b>	129:7	212:9,11	18:5 59:14
<b>reclaim</b>	303:1	297:1	14:20 30:7	286:1,6	212:19	215:6	59:15 60:9
135:22	<b>record</b> 37:2	<b>recruiters</b>	274:11	<b>regulates</b>	260:10	221:11	60:10,13



Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

83:23 84:19	<b>representat...</b>	<b>requirements</b>	157:20	<b>responsiven...</b>	92:22	201:22	161:21
187:3	77:20 92:11	7:12 28:9	183:20	17:17	117:17	<b>ride</b> 202:17	167:23
<b>replaced</b> 5:6	101:17	28:20 47:21	184:2,3,7	157:19	118:5 136:2	243:22	176:12
11:21,22	<b>represented</b>	54:13 82:20	184:14,15	200:21	136:4	256:13	180:22
13:1 59:7	288:21	235:10	185:2,12	<b>rest</b> 30:15	226:23	<b>riding</b> 242:24	181:13
83:10 86:23	<b>represents</b>	297:20	186:10	204:1 288:8	230:17	243:1	188:1
166:9 180:3	238:10	299:21	198:13	<b>restaurants</b>	231:5	<b>right</b> 7:24	189:19
<b>replacement</b>	<b>reproduction</b>	<b>requires</b>	209:3,4,15	190:22	<b>revenues</b> 6:23	10:24 13:22	194:19
5:8 11:3	304:19	28:21 36:20	209:17	<b>restore</b> 84:4	23:24 24:4	15:1 16:12	196:1,5
12:18 61:19	<b>reps</b> 11:10	130:4	210:8	87:7	62:19 63:22	17:4,9 18:3	201:17
62:7,9	<b>reputation</b>	249:18	282:14	<b>restored</b>	64:18 66:23	19:3 20:14	203:24
66:18 79:12	177:5	<b>requiring</b>	<b>respect</b> 2:20	84:24 87:14	151:7 214:9	24:12 26:18	213:14
80:10 82:15	<b>request</b> 9:5	12:10	245:2	<b>restores</b> 84:5	<b>review</b> 106:4	27:11,11	215:6 216:5
97:20	69:5 70:6	132:21	260:23	<b>restricted</b>	188:19	33:20 42:3	219:5,17
114:13	80:11,17	<b>research</b>	<b>respond</b>	253:3	<b>reviewing</b>	42:19 43:4	225:4,7
119:17	124:24	138:1	181:11,19	<b>result</b> 127:16	42:24	43:12 44:7	226:4 233:1
161:24	128:5,6	280:11	232:14	129:1	<b>revised</b> 2:17	45:5 48:10	233:9,19
164:21	219:23	<b>resident</b>	<b>responded</b>	132:22	<b>revisit</b> 108:1	49:21 50:23	234:24
165:1,16	227:2 245:9	126:5	297:12	175:6,13,23	<b>revisiting</b>	55:6 57:13	237:24
166:5,11	264:11	<b>residential</b>	<b>responding</b>	207:9	48:11	60:4,6	247:2
187:2,5,7	283:17,18	130:7,21	79:6	<b>results</b> 79:18	<b>revolving</b>	64:10,19	259:20
187:20	284:22	155:8	<b>response</b>	212:6	175:24	67:8 78:5	260:10,16
<b>replacements</b>	<b>requested</b>	193:23	41:22 51:17	<b>resurface</b>	<b>rewarding</b>	79:17 81:18	261:4,17
58:16 61:9	13:6 263:24	<b>residents</b> 6:1	181:14,21	137:20	229:20	82:16 83:18	263:13
98:7,8	<b>requesting</b>	79:21	195:22	139:11	<b>Reynolds</b>	87:22 97:22	264:3,14
<b>replacing</b>	7:6 9:23	125:13	196:11	144:16	1:14 37:15	102:3	268:9,21
59:5 60:18	124:19	131:2 175:7	198:3 201:1	160:4	37:17,22	103:23	269:6 270:9
<b>replanting</b>	<b>requests</b>	183:24	201:2 219:6	184:16	38:10,15,21	104:10	271:24
288:4	141:22	195:20	240:6	<b>resurfaced</b>	39:5,15	107:14,19	273:12,13
<b>replicated</b>	155:2,4	196:5	297:14	139:24	40:9,15,20	108:22	273:14
93:3	232:15	197:18	<b>responses</b>	159:23,24	40:24 42:1	109:1 111:6	275:2,20
<b>report</b> 5:22	244:21	253:4,6	72:15 288:9	<b>resurfacing</b>	42:16,20	112:9 116:4	276:15,17
22:12 25:8	246:15	272:19	<b>responsibili...</b>	126:9	44:2 82:10	118:11	290:15
95:23	248:22	<b>residual</b> 69:7	109:24	137:14	82:12,19	119:2 123:1	291:19
246:23	251:9	<b>resolution</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	144:21	83:1,8 85:1	123:3 132:5	293:22
<b>reported</b>	264:21,23	1:20 2:5,7	19:5,8	152:23	85:5,11,23	132:6,12	294:5,12,19
24:21 43:16	265:3	2:15,15	105:9 289:2	153:23	256:11	133:16	295:3 299:3
134:20	268:12	169:21	291:1	160:17	295:13	136:10,11	<b>right-of-way</b>
199:16	284:17	242:21	<b>responsible</b>	<b>retain</b> 111:7	<b>RFP</b> 65:18	136:16	126:21
<b>reporter</b>	<b>require</b> 131:6	<b>resolve</b> 51:11	58:22 93:22	<b>retired</b>	70:24 71:11	137:19,21	136:22
168:7	282:8	51:14 83:7	105:20	231:17	71:14 72:15	138:13	<b>rightfully</b>
304:22	<b>required</b>	<b>resolved</b> 45:7	133:3	<b>retiring</b> 9:1	88:10,18	139:14,14	205:9
<b>reporting</b>	66:17 95:20	231:7	134:22	<b>return</b> 108:21	89:6	140:4	<b>rights</b> 55:19
5:15	171:20	<b>resource</b>	136:12	203:6	<b>RFPs</b> 71:8	148:10	<b>rigs</b> 149:15
<b>reports</b> 41:13	234:22	176:15	139:8	<b>revenue</b> 4:17	<b>Rich</b> 149:5	150:23	<b>ring</b> 44:10
93:18	239:6,10,10	210:13	255:11	5:11 25:20	182:1	151:10	<b>rise</b> 42:18
<b>represent</b>	250:11	228:16	<b>responsive</b>	26:9 29:3	<b>Richard</b>	153:24	<b>Rising</b> 196:15
106:21	255:12	<b>resources</b>	111:6 158:4	34:12,22,22	124:8 139:1	156:17	196:18
108:11	281:18	78:1 107:1	188:7	37:4 51:6	141:3	157:9,20	<b>risk</b> 45:6,24
202:7	286:20	141:20	193:10	63:7,17	<b>Richards</b>	158:9 159:7	46:5,11
227:13	<b>requirement</b>	143:23	200:22	64:8 65:6	191:22	159:15,16	172:10
<b>representat...</b>	14:21 96:4	144:8,10	240:11	77:19 88:8	<b>rid</b> 174:5,21	160:15,18	<b>risks</b> 6:14
172:4	235:23	153:10	268:10	92:5,12,14	175:21	160:20	<b>River</b> 18:7

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

167:6	<b>ropes</b> 229:1	126:12	<b>Saturday</b>	57:13,15,16	167:6,7	55:7,14	267:19
254:22,23	<b>roster</b> 211:14	127:19	147:22	57:22,23	254:22,23	108:17	<b>seek</b> 26:9
255:2,5,7	<b>rotate</b> 115:13	205:11,16	176:4	85:8 170:3	255:2,5,7	123:16	95:21
255:13	<b>rotating</b>	210:7 221:1	<b>save</b> 27:16,17	170:3,3,22	255:13	195:24	<b>seekers</b>
<b>rivers</b> 6:13	42:11	256:3,7	27:20 28:8	170:23	<b>Schwartz</b>	196:3 212:8	208:16
<b>road</b> 18:7	<b>rough</b> 46:14	<b>safely</b> 111:7	30:19 66:4	171:4,6,7	3:24	242:12	<b>seeking</b> 28:2
101:18	<b>roughly</b>	<b>safer</b> 172:9	102:5 240:8	171:10,21	<b>science</b>	<b>secure</b> 87:5	<b>seen</b> 18:21
145:10	63:13	<b>safety</b> 4:7,12	250:5	199:14	298:19	224:11	46:12 56:15
160:4 194:7	154:21	126:15	<b>saved</b> 232:12	205:17	<b>scooters</b>	<b>see</b> 21:24	80:5,22
277:13,16	220:10	154:23	<b>savings</b> 107:3	208:22	178:4	35:18 47:3	121:6,10
278:17,22	<b>round</b> 30:2	155:5	<b>saw</b> 61:4	209:13	<b>scope</b> 89:6	52:1 58:15	130:5
278:24	37:2,7	169:23	243:24	211:3 220:8	216:12	67:2 69:9	137:15
281:3	44:12 50:8	172:19	<b>saying</b> 9:17	260:1	<b>scores</b> 205:15	69:17,24	138:17
<b>Roadmap</b>	68:22	183:15	11:24 27:7	262:21,23	<b>scoring</b>	70:5 71:2	205:23
179:14	177:15,15	194:17	34:4 38:14	262:24	183:19	72:18 81:3	244:13
<b>roads</b> 145:5	224:3,4	200:16	54:18 55:8	263:4,6,15	<b>Scott</b> 45:10	88:6 107:10	<b>select</b> 88:19
160:13	265:11	255:20	73:11	263:18,22	<b>screen</b> 76:18	116:6	253:7
202:9	274:13	286:23	113:21	264:4,9,13	<b>scrutinize</b>	122:19	<b>selection</b>
<b>roadway</b>	283:10	287:1	121:12	264:17	77:4	129:5	72:16 89:7
126:9 127:2	<b>route</b> 191:19	<b>salary</b> 26:24	139:21	267:14	<b>season</b> 80:22	139:24	89:9,11
<b>robust</b> 88:18	<b>routes</b> 278:1	42:14	208:6 248:4	268:22	127:13	143:11,19	<b>selling</b> 238:9
189:10	<b>RSIs</b> 236:12	<b>sale</b> 250:7	275:5	269:3,12,15	139:15,17	145:10	<b>semiskilled</b>
236:8,17	<b>rubber</b> 156:7	<b>salvaging</b>	<b>says</b> 12:14	269:24	161:15	148:11	62:2
<b>role</b> 103:10	156:14	206:20	22:2 95:8	270:2,7,8	278:22	150:5,9	<b>send</b> 113:10
110:23	200:9	<b>Sanchez</b>	105:7,11	270:13,15	<b>seasonal</b>	151:3,12	115:15
125:3	<b>rubbish</b>	39:23	115:14	270:19,21	228:20	153:15	117:15
228:10	129:4	105:16	199:23	271:2,5,7,9	235:20	161:8,14	135:9 181:9
278:13	<b>rule</b> 115:20	107:24	279:21	271:12	236:6,13	168:13	197:11
<b>roll</b> 113:13	295:12,15	108:8	<b>scale</b> 295:1	272:11,15	291:20	171:16	198:23
207:12	295:15,19	111:11	<b>scaleable</b>	272:16,24	292:15,17	181:2,13	265:3
<b>rolled</b> 19:5	295:23,23	116:12	293:3	273:15,20	293:7,13	182:19	<b>senior</b> 49:21
<b>rolling</b> 49:1	296:3	119:16	<b>schedule</b>	274:2,5	294:14,15	184:2 185:7	<b>seniors</b> 49:18
255:23	<b>rules</b> 14:11	122:24	94:10 117:6	275:24	295:2 297:2	188:19	49:23 52:8
<b>roof</b> 73:6,7,9	160:5	299:14	154:6	<b>schools</b> 39:22	<b>seasonally</b>	192:15,16	77:2,2,10
73:22 74:2	258:11	<b>sanctuary</b>	161:24	40:8 169:24	161:2	195:9,19	77:15 78:5
75:17,24	295:22	206:10	164:22	170:19,19	<b>seasonals</b>	205:14	100:19
76:2,4	<b>rumor</b> 86:9	<b>sanitation</b>	165:2,16	172:10,20	235:22	212:13	<b>sense</b> 76:4
100:11,13	141:11	124:11	196:22	199:13	236:21	222:5	80:15
283:11,20	<b>run</b> 128:12	125:2 161:4	199:4	219:15	238:2	223:10,19	110:11,13
<b>roofs</b> 73:2,18	249:19	173:2,7,21	251:19,21	245:21,24	<b>second</b> 6:4	258:6	183:23
73:20 74:4	<b>rundown</b>	175:13	<b>scheduled</b>	246:2,3,6	19:10,24	264:10	243:16
75:14 76:3	300:18	176:4	118:2 159:3	259:22	50:8 177:15	265:2	250:13
76:5 107:18	<b>runoff</b> 104:2	181:12	251:15	263:5,13,14	229:3 234:2	273:14	252:2,2,3
108:19	104:13	186:23	252:15	265:12,15	274:24	280:13	265:5,6,7
205:10	108:24	202:18	<b>school</b> 6:8	269:1	<b>seconds</b> 13:4	282:18	<b>sensitive</b>
<b>room</b> 1:3	109:9 111:7	<b>Sanitation's</b>	37:24 38:16	271:12,13	<b>secretary</b>	295:7 296:8	165:19
118:22,23	<b>runs</b> 66:18	125:24	38:24 39:8	271:15,18	191:21	296:9 299:8	<b>sent</b> 209:1
287:6 303:1	102:3	<b>Sara</b> 216:20	39:16,17,21	271:20,22	<b>section</b>	<b>seeing</b> 81:6	<b>separate</b>
<b>rooms</b> 46:2	163:20	223:10,17	39:24 40:1	272:2,4	216:11	122:13	38:19 39:8
<b>Roosevelt</b>	241:12	<b>sat</b> 44:5	40:7,11	275:18	<b>sections</b>	128:19	68:20
145:16		100:21	52:20 55:22	276:22	132:14	129:1,3	300:18,24
147:23	<b>S</b>	<b>satellite</b> 93:23	55:24,24	<b>schools'</b> 57:3	178:7	174:24	<b>separately</b>
148:7	<b>S</b> 1:10	<b>satisfy</b> 131:7	56:1 57:7	<b>Schuylkill</b>	<b>sector</b> 54:9,18	236:5	104:16
	<b>safe</b> 57:15						

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

251:11	293:12	<b>seven-year</b>	<b>shout</b> 193:6	133:24	253:14	<b>skill</b> 62:10	<b>smooth</b> 93:13
<b>SEPTA</b> 21:19	296:5	164:21	<b>show</b> 8:4	147:16	283:17,18	210:20	268:13
32:24 78:7	<b>services</b> 6:6	165:1 187:7	19:17 83:6	257:12	<b>sites</b> 199:17	232:3,23	<b>snatching</b>
87:4 191:18	7:16 13:11	<b>severe</b> 284:20	154:6	<b>significantly</b>	221:12	237:20	136:1
191:19	30:7 66:15	<b>sewer</b> 4:22	168:12	16:5 125:18	229:12	<b>skilled</b> 231:23	<b>snow</b> 127:12
<b>September</b>	77:6,19	5:8 6:19	217:9	126:8,24	239:13,14	233:1,6	163:5
216:23	88:7,12,18	14:17 22:9	248:17	<b>signs</b> 118:20	251:7,14,17	234:1,14,16	<b>soccer</b> 229:5
<b>septic</b> 18:8,10	88:22 89:6	30:16 32:19	<b>showing</b>	145:15,21	253:7	<b>skills</b> 204:20	<b>social</b> 40:17
<b>serious</b> 77:7	89:15,16	49:9,12,15	68:19	148:14	272:14	209:5	209:17,22
183:18	91:10,14,19	65:21 66:3	<b>shown</b> 47:18	149:3	274:7	237:16	209:24
206:2	91:19 92:8	66:4 73:23	180:13	199:19	<b>sits</b> 138:14	<b>skip</b> 188:15	210:7
<b>seriously</b> 4:15	93:19,20,22	82:23 84:19	<b>shows</b> 20:8	201:20,22	<b>sitting</b> 79:3	<b>slam</b> 249:19	<b>soft</b> 101:12
<b>servants</b>	93:23 94:11	98:8,10	48:6 214:8	202:9	107:10	<b>slated</b> 145:2	237:16,20
248:21	94:12 95:19	104:17	<b>shut</b> 87:14	<b>signups</b>	201:10	<b>sleepy</b> 170:6	<b>softened</b>
291:17	125:13	110:12	<b>sick</b> 41:13	209:14	<b>situation</b>	<b>slighting</b>	302:14
<b>serve</b> 227:12	127:13	119:21	<b>side</b> 61:7	<b>silly</b> 21:16	103:2	167:16	<b>solar</b> 167:2,4
228:3 275:7	128:4 129:5	137:19	107:10	<b>similar</b> 111:5	104:24	<b>slightly</b>	167:5,8,16
298:10	151:24	<b>sewers</b> 18:8	171:11	145:8,23	158:24	142:13	213:22
<b>served</b> 235:11	154:10	84:17	236:14,16	173:4 288:8	243:14	<b>slip</b> 31:8	<b>sold</b> 135:24
235:12	174:19	<b>shape</b> 252:17	<b>sides</b> 108:11	<b>simple</b> 65:10	256:17	<b>slow</b> 155:11	238:23
<b>service</b> 4:10	175:5	<b>shaped</b> 99:5	<b>sidewalk</b>	65:15 145:1	262:13	<b>slowdown</b>	239:7,20
4:13 5:17	201:12	<b>share</b> 31:3	171:10	201:17	301:14	198:23	240:5
7:5 9:11	206:11	32:15 87:8	290:24	283:19	<b>situations</b>	<b>slowly</b> 166:22	<b>solely</b> 167:15
11:5,10	207:1	108:9	<b>sidewalks</b>	284:22	76:12 101:8	<b>SMA</b> 235:20	255:11
12:11,23,24	208:17	142:20	20:20	<b>simplest</b>	101:9 104:2	<b>small</b> 18:2	<b>solicited</b>
13:8 15:16	209:19,24	207:21	136:23	56:14	111:5	23:1 116:1	236:18
16:19 30:16	210:14,16	212:18	137:10	<b>simultaneo...</b>	261:17	155:8	<b>solid</b> 187:24
30:20,22	217:2,4	233:16	154:24	128:22	<b>six</b> 2:9 5:8	163:22,24	190:5,8
42:9,17	218:23	243:11	288:23	<b>single</b> 104:22	25:16 60:22	190:23	<b>solution</b>
47:4 48:2	220:19	286:5	290:21,23	104:22	60:23	207:7	200:11
51:7 58:16	254:18	<b>shared</b> 83:9	<b>sign</b> 197:23	139:10	127:15	208:16	246:24
59:6,19	255:1 300:7	109:11	<b>sign</b> 41:12	153:5	147:17	210:11,17	<b>solutions</b>
67:8 79:6	<b>serving</b>	<b>sharp</b> 21:21	42:7 45:14	202:14	148:11	293:1	23:14
82:15 83:24	227:12	<b>sharpened</b>	115:22	220:11	151:16,19	<b>smaller</b> 17:1	291:11
88:4 91:5	229:16	100:22	131:18	228:2	163:23	163:12,23	<b>somebody</b>
91:13,16	254:3	<b>shed</b> 110:12	<b>signage</b>	<b>single-day</b>	176:3 187:6	164:3	19:1 23:5
92:16 94:21	<b>sessions</b>	<b>shift</b> 42:11	145:20	176:15	187:24	<b>smart</b> 23:13	25:17 30:11
96:3 99:6	297:7	<b>shifts</b> 102:17	170:22	<b>sinkholes</b>	195:11	179:14	30:11,17
103:8,14	<b>set</b> 156:14	<b>shock</b> 107:13	<b>signaled</b>	60:15	198:9	182:3	83:23
114:2,10,12	<b>sets</b> 210:20	<b>shop</b> 132:5	11:14	<b>Siobhan</b>	201:11	<b>smarter</b>	113:23
114:13	285:15	165:4	<b>signals</b>	208:2	251:16	128:24	134:23
119:19	<b>seven</b> 43:5,18	<b>shoppers</b>	126:22	<b>sir</b> 31:8 78:19	288:10	<b>SMAs</b> 236:11	199:22
130:22	65:12 86:23	18:3	146:4 166:9	97:10	293:21	<b>SMIP</b> 53:21	223:21
131:1,7,18	141:23	<b>shopping</b>	166:18	132:11	<b>Sixth</b> 224:19	54:10 56:2	226:6
131:21	163:23	101:22	<b>signed</b> 41:21	157:17	<b>size</b> 70:7,17	57:17 73:5	249:20
161:3,11	166:5	<b>short</b> 134:23	45:9	<b>sit</b> 52:12	70:20,22	81:24 95:13	<b>someone's</b>
212:19	184:21	169:13	<b>significant</b>	<b>site</b> 93:2	72:6 163:11	107:22	73:8
213:18	187:6 188:1	<b>shortage</b>	5:16 18:4	103:3 104:3	163:12	108:2 120:6	<b>someplace</b>
229:20	198:9,16	30:23 61:8	97:21 106:3	210:4	<b>sizes</b> 163:11	120:7,15	155:8
235:1,8	227:20	<b>shorter</b> 99:4	124:18	221:14	164:3	121:7,13,14	266:23
238:1	234:5 288:8	<b>shortly</b> 173:5	126:13	223:19,20	<b>skate</b> 256:16	121:19,24	<b>Somerset</b>
261:13	<b>seven-millio...</b>	<b>shot</b> 100:10	127:14,19	251:21	<b>skeptically</b>	123:8	91:8
291:12	224:1	289:11		252:19	275:3	<b>Smith</b> 81:20	<b>somewhat</b>

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

91:16 100:8	195:15	<b>specifically</b>	<b>sports</b> 245:15	232:24	<b>starts</b> 135:14	192:20	<b>storms</b>
<b>soon</b> 31:5	<b>Southwest</b>	77:10 91:5	245:15	233:2	273:18	196:14	257:16
106:10	192:10	178:22	261:21	236:11,18	<b>state</b> 38:2	203:5	<b>straight</b>
139:7	<b>space</b> 174:4	179:10	<b>spot</b> 18:4	240:11	127:6	<b>step</b> 62:2	272:7
167:22	174:23	182:18	47:23 73:24	250:11,12	128:13	264:19	<b>strain</b> 232:14
223:6 231:7	221:1	192:12	77:22	257:5 270:9	142:2	<b>Stephanie</b>	<b>strategic</b>
<b>sooner</b> 31:6	223:24	215:11	<b>spots</b> 33:2	270:10,11	157:15	248:17	124:17
<b>sorry</b> 25:3	224:2 225:8	257:13	176:3,6	283:16,17	159:24	<b>steps</b> 138:22	126:7,11,21
34:22 56:19	244:3,17	258:18	180:14	290:12	185:16,20	171:16	128:3
78:24 90:8	261:14,15	260:2	194:18	292:16	186:13	263:7 266:5	147:18
113:24	271:22	291:13	231:8	300:7,11,19	191:13,20	<b>sterns</b> 259:24	179:5 204:6
114:5 141:1	273:7	<b>specifications</b>	<b>sprain</b> 243:2	<b>staffers</b> 207:7	198:11	<b>Steve</b> 184:23	204:10
180:18	<b>spaces</b> 178:7	233:16	<b>spring</b> 125:21	<b>staffing</b> 92:20	214:10,12	<b>stick</b> 106:15	208:14
263:20	212:4	<b>specs</b> 235:16	161:4,7,14	92:22	214:13	<b>Stint</b> 2:6 3:5	227:23
267:9	245:23	298:5 299:1	191:15	160:20,21	215:18	3:14	<b>strategically</b>
271:13	259:8	299:7,8	267:15	160:23,24	216:18	<b>stipend</b> 150:1	148:17
<b>sort</b> 53:3	<b>span</b> 194:11	<b>spectrum</b>	279:6,10	164:12,13	241:15	150:3	265:16
109:17	<b>Spanish</b> 33:4	217:1	280:2	176:14	<b>stated</b> 141:17	<b>stock</b> 11:17	<b>strategy</b>
132:1	<b>speak</b> 25:7	<b>speed</b> 52:24	<b>squad</b> 232:5	<b>stage</b> 86:3	167:13	113:7	30:13 33:11
197:19	37:23 63:21	145:4 146:3	232:21	<b>stake</b> 254:12	<b>statement</b>	<b>stop</b> 148:7,7,9	228:11
232:5,7	97:23	146:5 147:1	284:21	<b>stakeholders</b>	24:6 25:21	148:10	234:18
251:5	174:18	154:15,19	<b>squeeze</b>	4:19 255:6	25:23 63:10	<b>storage</b> 98:3	<b>stream</b>
252:20	178:22	154:23	271:24	<b>stand</b> 262:12	64:10 66:20	173:23	125:20
261:21	200:8	155:2,10	<b>squeezes</b>	302:23	178:21	174:3	189:16,21
268:5,18,18	202:20	156:3,6,13	272:5	<b>standard</b>	<b>statements</b>	184:24	<b>streamlined</b>
273:15	251:3	156:14	<b>Squilla</b> 1:15	45:22 56:8	24:22 25:9	<b>store</b> 86:11	197:3
277:19	256:18	178:24	147:13	56:12 74:24	25:15 256:8	174:2,23	<b>streams</b> 6:13
284:8 294:9	292:4	182:8	180:9,10,21	<b>standing</b>	<b>states</b> 188:24	<b>stored</b> 104:16	<b>street</b> 18:1,7
295:2,6,20	<b>speaking</b> 25:7	183:15	181:1,8	196:14	<b>station</b>	<b>Stories</b>	20:4,6,12
296:6,19	83:20 89:24	199:19	182:21	<b>standpoint</b>	165:12,22	206:13	29:15 50:10
297:17,18	111:15	200:4	183:22	255:20	<b>stations</b> 33:2	<b>storm</b> 4:23	52:11 81:11
297:21,23	120:15	<b>speeding</b>	184:22	<b>start</b> 17:16	178:1	5:21 6:19	83:15,22
<b>sorts</b> 45:23	192:12,13	146:4	185:23	31:21 73:21	191:12,17	14:17 32:19	84:2,4,6,7
122:5 152:3	<b>spec</b> 102:16	199:12	187:9 188:3	78:21 79:8	192:3,3	49:9,12,15	84:24 87:7
<b>sound</b> 74:5	299:2	<b>spelled</b>	<b>stabilization</b>	96:21	<b>statistic</b> 99:13	52:19 53:22	101:5 102:2
80:7 199:24	<b>special</b>	112:19	37:8 69:7	119:16	<b>statistics</b>	54:23 57:24	104:2,9,13
<b>sounds</b> 21:16	185:11	<b>spend</b> 53:14	<b>staff</b> 7:22	161:7,24	168:12	73:16 82:23	109:7 111:4
80:24	231:22,23	55:8 190:13	10:15 18:13	193:17	281:18,21	95:13	122:18,18
139:14	232:9,11,21	190:16	33:6 34:23	194:20	<b>status</b> 131:11	100:10	122:23
140:5	233:3	219:1	36:5 40:3,4	241:6 248:4	131:17	101:20,21	123:2
<b>source</b> 167:4	258:20,22	261:15	42:4 43:2,5	248:23	241:23	102:6	126:24
167:10	259:8	<b>spending</b> 3:8	43:17 44:1	300:14	251:3 253:1	103:21	127:1
239:20	280:13,16	75:7 187:17	78:22 86:10	<b>started</b> 68:19	257:9	105:1,5,12	138:12
<b>south</b> 81:19	300:9	271:19	92:8 93:9	77:16 108:2	<b>stay</b> 21:14	106:4	139:10,22
81:20 102:3	<b>specialists</b>	<b>spent</b> 70:13	106:2 128:8	120:24	80:6 112:5	107:13	139:23
104:10	209:12	97:17,19	161:2,4,9	130:3	175:19	108:13,24	150:16
146:2	<b>specialty</b>	259:20	161:16	157:11	270:11	109:9,22	151:24
149:10	218:22	<b>spikes</b> 99:7	182:24	<b>starting</b> 77:7	<b>staying</b> 17:17	111:7	152:6,12
164:1 178:8	236:13	<b>split</b> 255:17	183:6 207:4	92:13 168:5	214:5	112:14	153:5 154:9
182:13	280:19	<b>spoke</b> 98:4	207:15	183:2	<b>stays</b> 25:23	120:19	154:14,22
205:2	<b>specific</b> 87:16	<b>spoken</b> 292:6	209:22	216:22,22	<b>stem</b> 210:17	121:11,22	155:9
<b>Southern</b>	178:24	<b>sponsorship</b>	210:2 227:8	221:18	<b>stenographer</b>	122:21	156:15
149:19	272:13	301:17	230:8	293:8	169:13	123:14	158:5

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

165:4 166:8	178:16	245:20,20	61:22	<b>support</b> 6:7	116:20	173:17	42:8 55:19
166:20	179:16,18	<b>struggled</b>	127:24	13:15 37:10	117:14	<b>switched</b>	56:13 57:21
170:6,7	179:19	43:6 292:14	262:1	76:7 207:19	118:5,16	251:8	67:22 82:20
171:9,11	181:3,18	<b>struggling</b>	<b>successful</b>	207:20	120:17	<b>switches</b>	87:6 103:9
184:4 193:7	182:3,6	32:19	68:3 93:3	209:11	122:8	100:21	104:13
193:8	184:3,5,8,9	209:10	107:22	212:21	142:20	<b>switching</b>	110:9
194:20	184:12,16	<b>stuck</b> 101:15	216:9,16	214:21	143:13	166:24	111:15
196:18	185:1,2,3,7	<b>student</b>	232:1,12	215:1,20	152:5	167:14	113:7 114:7
205:1	185:10,11	219:15,23	<b>successfully</b>	228:15	155:20,23	<b>Sycamore</b>	123:1
240:24	185:15,24	<b>students</b> 39:1	124:18	229:9 230:3	159:9 168:2	288:22	124:23
244:5	186:2,6,16	39:18 40:11	127:12	233:1	172:12	<b>synch</b> 173:6	127:8 130:2
247:12	188:6 191:3	40:12 209:9	<b>sudden</b>	250:18	180:3	<b>system</b> 5:10	137:15
279:11	196:24	209:16	100:11	288:7	196:10	13:12,13	143:2,6
289:13	197:13,21	217:5	<b>suffer</b> 46:15	<b>supported</b>	201:1 225:5	42:23 45:19	144:15,21
<b>streets</b> 3:12	198:1,11,19	<b>studies</b> 95:20	<b>sufficient</b>	208:24	226:5	46:19	144:22
18:20 19:6	200:3	209:17	40:3	209:10	230:24	109:11	154:7,8
20:20 46:6	201:11,20	<b>study</b> 145:4	<b>suggestion</b>	<b>supporting</b>	231:20	154:5,12	164:23
83:20,21	201:21	149:22	28:10	13:16	237:19,19	166:21	169:13,17
84:5,9,13	225:18	150:7,8	246:15	204:16	239:12	183:19	172:6 174:1
84:17,20	256:21	170:7	<b>suggestions</b>	206:13	242:1,8,8	198:2	174:6
100:9	<b>strengthen</b>	180:12,13	122:7 301:8	210:18	243:19	203:19	175:16
101:19	228:1	185:7	<b>summarize</b>	269:5	245:12	228:6	178:12
102:5,10,14	<b>stretch</b>	189:20	124:24	<b>supportive</b>	247:14	232:16	189:17,21
102:15,18	185:21	190:7	<b>summary</b>	143:24	249:18,24	237:9	189:24
104:8,22	<b>strict</b> 101:3	<b>stuff</b> 15:10	195:5	176:20	252:22	242:23	194:10
124:4,7,10	<b>strictly</b> 40:21	31:21 54:14	<b>summer</b>	224:23,24	254:10	243:7	195:22
124:14,14	<b>striping</b>	64:21 74:22	40:13	<b>supports</b>	256:6	258:10	213:11
125:12,14	145:21	74:23 101:4	175:21	215:5	266:17	260:20	222:2,15
126:12	<b>strive</b> 204:2	138:10	176:1,4	<b>supposed</b>	272:15	283:15	228:9 236:3
127:4,9,17	212:15	152:3 206:5	191:15	137:9	279:5	284:19	243:3
127:19	<b>strong</b> 63:17	206:10	229:7	250:21	282:17	<b>systematic</b>	244:21
128:2 135:4	63:18 64:1	301:1,9	291:14	<b>sure</b> 17:8,8	292:3	125:8	247:2
139:2,11	189:9	<b>stuffer</b>	<b>summers</b>	22:9,14	294:15	<b>systematica...</b>	251:22
140:12,20	<b>stronger</b>	117:21	266:23	26:15 27:5	298:15,15	166:10	255:21
141:5,12,14	210:19	<b>stuffers</b>	<b>summit</b> 33:15	28:4 32:3	298:16	<b>systems</b> 29:14	256:23
141:17,18	228:5	117:20	<b>sun</b> 167:9	36:7,10,13	299:1	126:17	279:20
142:2	<b>strongly</b>	118:3,4,7	196:15,18	40:15 41:6	<b>surface</b>	172:9	290:3 296:3
147:19	33:16 69:10	<b>subject</b> 106:6	<b>Sunday</b> 209:7	43:3,7,10	100:13	<hr/>	<b>taken</b> 50:19
151:23	295:22	<b>subleasing</b>	243:24	46:7 48:3	101:12	<b>T</b>	106:3
152:20,22	<b>struck</b> 37:23	238:8	<b>super</b> 272:14	48:13 51:5	<b>surfacing</b>	<b>T</b> 304:1,1	133:23
153:22	101:15	<b>submit</b> 69:8	274:7	51:9 52:5	127:2	<b>T.V</b> 78:8	134:12
158:8,12,23	<b>structurally</b>	199:12,17	<b>superinten...</b>	53:5 64:20	138:16	223:4	207:6
159:17	75:16,20	300:6	232:8	65:20 66:10	<b>surveying</b>	248:16	210:23
160:22	76:1	<b>submitted</b>	<b>supermark...</b>	75:16,20	60:24 81:3	<b>Tabernacle</b>	251:5 298:1
163:24	<b>structure</b>	2:21	245:23	76:6 77:1	<b>SUSAN</b>	194:21	304:5
165:14	30:9 232:20	<b>subs</b> 117:7	<b>supervising</b>	78:2 80:7	304:12	<b>table</b> 275:8	<b>takes</b> 138:2,3
167:5	<b>structured</b>	<b>subsequent</b>	40:4	82:15 84:3	<b>sustainability</b>	<b>tacit</b> 192:19	193:21
168:21	93:17	44:11	<b>supervision</b>	87:12 88:8	90:10	<b>Taony</b>	209:7
169:22	231:15	<b>substantial</b>	304:21	90:9 91:11	105:15	210:15	<b>talent</b> 8:19
170:12,18	<b>structures</b>	217:19	<b>supervisors</b>	95:5 96:14	125:11	211:24	<b>talk</b> 37:7
170:21	179:23	<b>suburbs</b>	231:18	97:18 98:20	<b>sustains</b>	<b>tail</b> 186:11	52:13 58:7
176:20	<b>struggle</b>	243:17	<b>supplier</b>	105:21	227:2	<b>take</b> 4:14	138:21
177:3,21	49:18	<b>success</b> 6:20	163:9	111:3	<b>swaths</b>	22:18 27:12	149:1
						32:1 41:15	

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

151:17	<b>tanks</b> 18:8,10	200:20	190:7	140:17	44:14,18,22	189:6	158:3
157:11	<b>TAP</b> 4:20	201:3,13,14	199:24	147:19	50:4,6	192:21	161:23
172:4 174:8	31:23 46:22	227:15	213:15	149:2 156:2	58:11 62:12	193:4,12,14	<b>thanking</b>
175:5,9	48:16 52:3	229:11	216:21	162:3	62:14,17	195:2 199:9	227:8
196:1,2,3	87:17 96:2	231:22,24	226:6	168:20	68:21,23,24	200:19,20	248:23
197:20	96:10	232:3 233:4	230:17,23	170:14	69:4 76:15	201:3,4,6	<b>theater</b>
198:20	113:13	264:22	236:19	222:9 235:9	76:21 78:11	202:13,22	298:17
203:21	<b>target</b> 141:22	266:7 268:5	260:21,22	237:18	78:13,16	203:2,4,5	<b>theoretically</b>
206:19	141:24	268:7	270:13	246:11	79:9 82:6,8	203:20	178:11
249:1 258:9	257:3 293:7	274:20	277:24	248:9 249:9	82:12 86:3	208:3	<b>thing</b> 16:24
262:21	<b>targeted</b>	283:7	286:9	258:17,23	86:4,6	212:17	44:7 49:20
268:22	216:24	299:16	295:16	273:7 297:5	87:22,22,23	213:7 217:7	52:23 73:17
274:12	257:15	<b>teams</b> 273:15	297:23	<b>terrible</b> 103:1	88:2 90:16	219:5,6,8	80:6 111:3
275:17	<b>targeting</b>	<b>technical</b>	<b>telling</b> 150:14	289:18	90:20,22	222:20,21	135:7
280:21	33:3 121:9	197:4	195:17	295:12	91:1 92:4	222:22,23	136:24
282:18	228:19	<b>technically</b>	285:5	<b>terrific</b>	94:3,4,5,8	223:3,9,9	138:6 152:5
291:24	238:1	275:24	286:20	218:15	99:20,21,21	223:10,11	152:8
295:8	293:12	279:3	290:3	<b>test</b> 56:21	99:23	224:6	154:24
<b>talked</b> 37:6,6	<b>targets</b> 5:19	<b>technologic...</b>	<b>tells</b> 115:17	236:3	102:23	225:13,14	161:12
65:18 67:7	<b>task</b> 149:7	280:18	278:23	296:24	103:11	225:15	212:24
91:22 100:4	151:1 173:2	<b>technologies</b>	290:19	298:16	106:16,17	226:2,6,8	218:19
101:1 117:4	173:5,21	125:9	<b>temperature</b>	<b>testify</b> 3:14	111:12	229:23	222:6 225:3
177:22	174:16	<b>technology</b>	161:13	128:7	117:8,8,12	230:1,9,12	235:16
191:6	175:7,14	4:18 6:15	<b>temperatures</b>	<b>testimony</b>	119:6,7,9	239:3 240:3	236:8
197:14	176:18	29:5,9,12	127:16	3:11 4:3 8:4	119:12	240:6,10,12	237:11
208:6	255:5,9	29:12,19,21	<b>Temple</b>	38:2 43:1	123:19,20	247:7,19	249:13
230:18	256:1	29:23 81:5	135:23	58:15 99:21	123:22,24	253:20,21	261:24
256:24	<b>Taskforces</b>	81:5 154:3	<b>temporary</b>	119:7	124:1 127:9	253:24	267:10
262:24	6:12	<b>techs</b> 29:22	21:2 164:13	123:23	128:6,10	254:16	280:23
266:12	<b>tax</b> 14:16	29:22 62:5	200:8,11	124:13	136:18	257:7,22,24	281:16
295:5,14	31:2 32:7	<b>teen</b> 212:4	<b>ten</b> 5:3	128:1 146:8	138:18	258:4,5	292:23
<b>talking</b> 18:7	92:12 93:19	217:10,21	128:21	188:18,19	140:5,5,6,9	265:19,20	293:23,23
34:2,9 47:5	109:4,18	218:17,23	197:22	203:16	141:2	265:24	300:4
57:9 83:14	117:16	<b>teenager</b>	<b>tenacity</b>	208:1,5	143:15	266:7 267:2	<b>things</b> 11:8
86:16 101:9	178:10	217:3	254:17	219:14	146:7,8,9	267:5,7,21	12:5 32:2
119:18	196:1,6	<b>teenagers</b>	<b>tend</b> 42:10,21	224:10,17	146:11,13	267:22,22	32:15 33:13
165:24	231:6 257:9	216:24	71:16 77:3	225:13	146:16	267:24	33:24 41:7
182:5	269:2	218:12,16	77:3,4	294:23	147:8 157:7	268:3,6,6	41:14 46:4
183:14	<b>taxes</b> 31:3	<b>teens</b> 211:8	<b>tends</b> 73:7	302:18	157:8 159:6	274:15,16	46:15 48:11
192:16,16	65:20	218:3	<b>tens</b> 4:21	<b>testing</b> 81:6	167:20	274:19,21	49:4 50:17
194:20	273:17	<b>television</b>	<b>term</b> 68:11	<b>text</b> 277:23	168:4,5,23	274:24	51:1 52:3
231:16	<b>taxpayer</b>	33:2	155:22	278:13,16	168:24,24	275:1,8,15	52:10 53:10
239:8	76:13 93:22	<b>tell</b> 8:6 27:21	176:1	279:14,20	169:4,6,7,9	277:8,11	54:9 55:18
256:17	93:23	42:24 43:15	235:11	<b>thank</b> 3:4 4:2	169:16	282:23	57:1 72:8
260:4	160:17	46:22 48:15	267:4	7:18,20	173:1	283:3	100:7 101:1
275:17	<b>taxpayers</b>	72:11 73:22	<b>terms</b> 54:18	15:1,3 17:9	174:12	289:10	101:14
291:3	31:7 269:5	76:22 97:16	57:4 71:2	17:9,10,13	177:8,10	290:16	102:13
297:18	<b>teach</b> 249:4	118:20	72:1,2	17:15 18:15	180:4,6,7	291:6	105:19
300:4	<b>teachers</b>	128:15	76:11 81:22	23:15,16,19	180:10	299:10,11	113:3 115:1
<b>talks</b> 39:23	209:15,16	137:2 156:2	115:7	30:1,2,3	181:2,6,10	299:12	122:17
192:9	<b>team</b> 40:21	157:12	128:18	31:8,20	181:17	302:8,17,18	128:18,20
<b>tandem</b> 210:6	71:3 100:15	167:22	130:20	37:14,17	188:8,9,11	302:20	137:3
<b>tank</b> 98:3	122:4	173:15	137:10	44:8,12,13	188:17	<b>thankfully</b>	143:22

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

149:21	112:11,15	266:1	138:2	178:4	255:16	129:4,9	148:11
152:7	112:20,21	267:17,20	142:18	179:21	262:4 275:4	161:5,8	193:23
157:12,19	113:10	268:11	153:23	184:4 186:3	275:12	163:13,23	194:15
172:6 173:8	114:1 116:7	271:16	165:20	186:11	<b>tipping</b>	<b>tons</b> 125:15	<b>trade</b> 109:4
173:19	116:8,9	272:1 278:4	187:4 194:7	191:15	190:14	163:20,24	109:18
174:17,22	117:19	278:10	200:9 205:3	203:20	<b>tips</b> 209:4	<b>tool</b> 155:11	233:1
175:21	118:3 120:5	280:5,9,20	231:16,24	205:14	<b>tireless</b> 230:2	291:10,24	<b>trades</b> 8:13
183:13	120:10,18	281:17	232:10	208:8,23	<b>title</b> 42:10	292:5	8:17 62:4
185:21	121:2 123:2	282:1,2	240:22	222:13	61:24	<b>tools</b> 211:11	62:10
187:16	129:21	284:15	252:8	224:15	<b>titles</b> 2:7	<b>top</b> 22:8 80:7	231:24
190:12,15	130:19	290:10	254:20	232:12,18	<b>today</b> 3:5,11	97:23 99:13	232:3,7,23
196:23	131:8	294:19	288:5,6	235:11,11	3:22 7:3	100:13	233:7 234:1
200:24	132:20,23	296:19	293:10	238:5	77:9 99:9	223:23	234:14,16
204:10,13	135:2,6,14	298:6,12	<b>three-and-a...</b>	240:15	99:11,15	284:9	284:8
204:14	142:18	299:22	154:22	245:7	100:8 108:1	298:12	<b>traditional</b>
218:11	147:14,20	300:9,13,19	<b>three-foot</b>	246:22,23	112:20	<b>tore</b> 159:21	53:1
219:13	151:11	301:2	87:2	247:3	114:1 119:7	<b>Torresdale</b>	<b>traffic</b> 126:15
230:19	154:20	<b>thinking</b>	<b>three-year</b>	249:17	121:3	216:11	126:22,23
233:6	158:1	120:8 275:1	250:21	252:5	123:22	<b>total</b> 23:24	145:20
235:15	159:18	275:2	<b>throw</b> 249:7	259:21	124:8 128:7	24:4,18,23	154:19
242:14	165:23,23	<b>third</b> 152:11	<b>throwing</b>	261:15,19	143:10	25:11 26:6	155:12,15
250:3 254:5	172:7 173:8	177:15	249:2	263:20,21	146:8 147:9	26:23 96:16	166:9,18
258:15,24	173:23	194:9	<b>thrown</b> 102:1	264:18	157:14	96:17 98:12	169:23
267:1,4	174:17	204:17	<b>thumbs</b>	272:7	195:4,6	127:15	170:7
277:21	176:22	209:9	196:12	273:10	199:6 208:5	128:14	171:12,22
282:12	177:2,4	237:11	<b>Thurman</b>	279:13	213:12	182:12	172:19,23
283:9 284:5	179:2 181:3	<b>thought</b>	268:6	281:8	222:8,9,12	269:18	194:16
284:11	181:23	75:23	<b>ticket</b> 194:15	287:16	226:15,19	287:14,15	196:20
292:23	182:24	113:23	<b>tide</b> 210:17	290:9,15	226:20	<b>totally</b> 139:24	200:2
298:24	183:7,22,23	167:13	<b>tied</b> 183:1	291:21	227:9 230:1	218:10	<b>tragedy</b>
300:12	186:3	172:21	<b>Tiered</b> 4:20	292:20,21	230:11	288:22	148:23
301:4	187:23	218:9 291:9	34:24 49:5	296:11,13	238:9	<b>touch</b> 58:13	199:15
<b>think</b> 15:6	189:8,13	<b>thoughts</b>	77:12 95:24	297:6,15	277:13	<b>touched</b>	<b>trail</b> 167:7
16:7,13,24	194:17	189:4 192:5	<b>Tiffany</b> 268:6	300:19	<b>today's</b> 29:6	214:7	254:23,23
18:20 28:11	197:15	<b>thousand</b> 5:3	<b>tight</b> 73:24	301:23	299:9	<b>tough</b> 46:18	255:2,5,7
31:13 34:8	198:4,17	15:19 59:6	<b>time</b> 6:20	302:13,24	<b>toddlers</b>	160:12	255:14,19
35:7,13,23	201:16,23	59:10 61:1	7:18 12:13	<b>timeline</b>	249:6	<b>tour</b> 213:4	256:3,6
36:12 37:8	204:5,6,15	100:19	27:8 31:9	182:22	<b>told</b> 53:12	266:13,16	<b>trailer</b> 148:3
40:17 42:7	213:19,21	166:23	41:14 46:18	183:11	140:19	290:11	194:15
48:8 51:23	215:3,14	236:1	48:14 57:9	<b>timely</b> 116:21	145:1 159:7	<b>town</b> 51:2,12	<b>trailers</b> 21:21
52:1 54:11	217:11,16	251:14	68:12 76:14	164:9	168:15	77:16	21:24
55:15 65:17	236:2,3	<b>thousands</b>	84:23 86:20	<b>times</b> 19:4	204:6	197:16	148:11
65:23 67:7	238:12	4:21 75:7	95:21	20:3 45:21	206:23	279:18	193:23
67:19 68:8	239:5	209:2	129:11	46:15 56:3	271:6	<b>Townwatch</b>	<b>train</b> 61:17
75:9 78:8	243:24	<b>threatened</b>	132:10	71:20 79:14	295:10	254:24	105:13
80:3,5,18	245:14	206:8	133:23	111:14	297:8	<b>track</b> 220:13	<b>trainee</b> 236:9
85:18 86:23	246:1,9,10	<b>threats</b> 46:20	134:1	118:17	<b>tolls</b> 192:24	276:10	236:17
87:1 92:10	252:9,16	<b>three</b> 8:4 19:4	137:14,17	138:5 194:9	<b>tomorrow</b>	<b>tracked</b>	237:3
103:19	255:9,12,21	19:19 28:12	142:21	197:22	12:14	283:21	296:24
106:13,24	259:14	30:14 31:14	153:4,5,8	202:16,16	213:20	<b>tracks</b> 86:20	297:3
107:5,22	261:24	49:14 52:22	154:14	206:21	<b>tonnage</b>	293:10	<b>training</b> 41:3
108:5,19	263:1 264:9	55:11 69:6	159:9	222:7	125:18	<b>tractor</b> 21:21	41:9,17
109:3	264:18	86:23 89:20	177:13	242:16	128:19	21:23 148:2	61:6,8,13

Committee Of The Whole  
 April 26, 2017

85:14 210:2	<b>Treasurer's</b>	147:16,23	168:13	194:19	68:12 88:12	45:6 50:14	14:5
235:19,21	88:17,23	148:6,7,9	174:19	205:12,15	158:24	61:7 88:23	<b>unpaid</b>
237:16,20	89:3	148:10,15	175:3 177:3	284:23	163:13	170:1	248:21
293:16	<b>treasures</b>	149:3,3,7	177:18	<b>turning</b> 21:15	182:15	178:15	<b>unquote</b>
298:16	243:18	150:12	183:18	166:13	259:3	181:12	52:11 148:1
<b>transcript</b>	<b>treat</b> 266:11	151:1 164:2	185:21	<b>tutoring</b>	<b>types</b> 19:19	277:5	<b>unused</b>
304:7,19	<b>treatment</b>	193:18	207:13	209:7,11	72:8 301:16	<b>understood</b>	260:10,10
<b>transfer</b>	29:15 41:9	194:2,5	242:11	<b>twiddling</b>	<b>typically</b>	96:15 136:5	260:24
13:21 14:9	41:17 75:22	196:6	245:5,7	196:12	41:10 66:2	<b>undertake</b>	<b>upcoming</b>
66:14,17,19	98:2,5	<b>truckers</b>	259:9	<b>two</b> 5:12	214:18	169:22	124:16
66:21	<b>treatments</b>	149:15	261:14,15	12:19 28:12		<b>undo</b> 159:8	154:5
<b>transferred</b>	145:23	150:1 151:5	261:19	31:16 37:9	<b>U</b>	<b>unequitable</b>	278:22
35:3	<b>tree</b> 257:9	151:6	265:8 279:2	43:20,20	<b>Uber</b> 178:12	263:6	<b>update</b> 106:1
<b>transfers</b> 7:9	285:15	<b>trucking</b>	297:1	45:2 49:7,8	<b>ugly</b> 285:22	<b>unexpected</b>	113:9
<b>transition</b>	286:1,5	107:18	<b>trying</b> 28:4,7	52:22 68:20	<b>Uh-huh</b> 70:3	67:24	143:14
93:13	290:14	149:22	28:13 30:24	86:7 92:10	<b>ultimately</b>	<b>unfilled</b> 8:5	166:15
<b>transportat...</b>	291:2,2	150:14	43:6 46:24	92:12 95:2	14:7 71:10	9:24	172:12
124:9 126:6	<b>trees</b> 257:1,4	195:5,9,16	53:7 55:4	96:6 97:3	89:8 161:7	<b>unfortunate</b>	250:20
126:13,17	257:6,11	<b>trucks</b> 18:22	57:5 60:8	97:11,12	161:16	134:21	285:3 287:8
126:18,20	286:4 287:3	47:12	60:10,13	108:11	165:2	<b>unfortunat...</b>	<b>updated</b> 6:15
127:20	287:7,8,13	149:11,15	61:13 65:10	109:1 118:3	<b>ultrasound</b>	26:8 70:19	96:15
144:1	287:15,17	150:2 163:2	71:13 76:17	125:16	81:5	99:13 110:4	112:13
155:23	287:18,22	163:10,22	103:24	126:7 138:4	<b>unanticipat...</b>	153:6	258:16
172:4,9,14	288:1,3,4	164:3	105:2,17	138:15	205:7	176:12	<b>updating</b>
177:20	288:11,11	165:11	110:13	142:18,22	<b>unattended</b>	179:16	96:17
178:13	288:14,19	186:24	116:17	145:24	158:3	186:1 187:3	<b>uplifted</b>
179:3,13	288:22	187:21,22	122:2,17	148:3 152:9	<b>uncertainty</b>	190:2 286:1	288:23
182:7,19	289:1,6,13	187:23	132:19	153:2 159:5	214:11	286:6 292:4	<b>upstairs</b>
191:17,21	289:22	188:5	134:20	163:20,20	<b>undercover</b>	<b>unfunded</b>	188:18
200:13,14	290:22	194:16	135:21	165:20	202:17	186:14	<b>uptake</b> 161:8
281:7	<b>tremendous</b>	202:20	153:22	168:6 172:7	<b>underempl...</b>	<b>unhedged</b>	<b>urban</b> 109:20
<b>trash</b> 20:18	103:4	<b>trump</b> 245:6	156:9	180:22	228:14	90:6	255:3
125:13,15	107:15	<b>trumps</b> 245:5	160:22	194:5,6	<b>underground</b>	<b>union</b> 238:11	<b>usage</b> 41:13
128:14	237:7 258:8	<b>trustee</b>	162:13	200:9	152:4,15,16	<b>unique</b> 229:6	<b>use</b> 40:17
129:10	<b>trend</b> 125:22	203:19	166:10	209:21	<b>underneath</b>	288:2	88:11 101:2
130:14,19	<b>trends</b> 9:12	<b>truth</b> 296:14	176:15,19	211:2	19:22	<b>unit</b> 22:10	108:7 109:8
131:2 173:7	<b>tried</b> 41:7	<b>try</b> 8:23	178:2	231:16	102:16	70:23	112:10
173:12,23	100:22	18:23 21:5	187:17	241:13	<b>understand</b>	136:22	150:3 154:3
173:24	135:3	21:17 26:3	188:14	252:5 256:1	8:3 26:5,15	137:1	161:23
174:2,2,4,4	202:14	47:2 48:7	194:5 215:3	256:8	43:8 52:24	<b>units</b> 16:17	163:18,22
174:5 176:6	<b>trigger</b> 147:2	51:8 61:17	237:7 248:9	277:15	53:7 55:4,6	22:11	165:10,11
176:22	<b>triggers</b>	101:13	249:7	295:12	57:5 58:9	100:19	178:12
181:13	146:5	106:5	256:20	297:5	64:19,20	131:6	179:10
189:12	301:17	138:22	260:17	<b>two-and-a-...</b>	65:10 91:17	<b>Unity</b> 229:4	182:3,8
190:13	<b>trimming</b>	139:12	273:11	49:11	92:10	<b>universe</b>	189:13
201:19	285:16,22	144:2,15	275:9	<b>two-day-a-...</b>	153:13	295:20	190:18
202:10,21	286:2	145:18	294:24	176:10	163:8 178:9	<b>universities</b>	232:20
<b>travel</b> 145:6	<b>trolley</b> 86:20	152:23	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>two-story</b>	182:11	169:24	235:11
149:17	<b>trouble</b> 205:6	153:2,5,8	218:18	223:22	186:13	172:20	246:3,12
280:7	<b>troubling</b>	153:20	302:23	<b>two-year</b> 97:2	243:11	<b>University</b>	259:19
<b>travels</b> 20:14	91:17	160:5,9	<b>turn</b> 21:20	97:11	250:9	135:24	260:8,12
<b>treasurer</b>	<b>truck</b> 19:4	164:6,6,15	139:10	<b>type</b> 19:10,12	275:19	210:5 211:2	262:17
88:16	147:7,9,12	164:21	148:21	61:14,18	279:13	<b>unnecessary</b>	264:11



266:24	<b>valuable</b>	211:7	<b>walk</b> 171:13	177:19	298:8,10	189:18,21	80:2,4,20
269:12,20	242:13	<b>viable</b> 187:8	171:15	179:10	300:14,23	190:6,9,15	81:3,16
270:13,20	<b>value</b> 43:14	<b>Viaduct</b>	269:7	181:22	301:5	<b>wastewater</b>	82:23,23
271:8,9,22	75:9	228:24	273:13	186:22	<b>wanted</b> 23:23	7:16 94:21	84:12,16,19
272:3,10	<b>variations</b>	<b>video</b> 206:15	290:24	192:20	46:20,23	<b>watch</b> 43:21	86:17,22
273:4,19	200:1	<b>view</b> 67:22	<b>walk-through</b>	194:6,10	58:13 59:1	254:24	87:13 88:13
274:24	<b>varies</b> 22:8	<b>viewed</b>	222:3	195:18	62:18,19	<b>watching</b>	88:24 89:16
276:6,8	<b>variety</b>	130:22	<b>walking</b>	196:2,21	65:20 82:13	147:5,20	91:5,17,19
301:6	163:15	<b>vigorously</b>	223:4 243:1	201:9,18,19	86:14 96:14	<b>water</b> 3:12,21	92:11,12
<b>user</b> 229:22	164:2	127:18	<b>wallets</b> 80:1	201:19,20	120:2	4:5,17,22	95:14 97:13
<b>users</b> 105:5	<b>various</b> 15:24	<b>Village</b> 45:1	<b>Walnut</b>	201:22	137:12	4:23 5:1,6	98:1,6,6,10
<b>uses</b> 106:19	32:22 33:1	<b>violation</b>	168:11,16	202:13,22	160:19	5:11,21,21	99:9,10
271:2	56:12 74:4	133:20,21	<b>want</b> 18:9,16	203:5	172:3	6:10,12,19	100:9,10
<b>usual</b> 213:15	90:11	135:8,15	26:15 27:1	204:19	191:18	6:19,22 7:1	101:17,20
<b>usually</b> 83:7	227:13	136:2	35:23 36:7	208:3,5	219:13,23	7:2,10,16	101:21
103:1,2	<b>varying</b>	<b>violations</b>	36:10 39:11	212:17	221:23	10:11 13:7	102:2,6,16
133:7,19	208:18	15:24 134:8	41:6 47:4	218:16,18	222:6 250:3	13:8,12	103:1,7,21
161:5	<b>vehicle</b>	<b>virtue</b> 53:8	51:12,13	220:2,9	250:19	14:17,18	105:1,6,12
170:18,23	127:21	<b>visceral</b> 296:6	52:1,2,9	221:5,8,19	255:22	17:3,7,18	106:3,4
205:12	163:18	<b>Vision</b> 126:8	56:5 58:17	225:22	262:17	17:24 19:22	107:13
279:19	178:18	126:19	59:14,15	229:23	266:17	20:10,14,17	108:5,13,24
<b>utilities</b> 20:4	<b>vehicles</b>	143:18,24	63:18 64:20	230:1 240:4	268:10	23:24 24:3	109:9,11,22
20:7,8 84:9	161:19,20	144:4	70:21 72:2	241:2	291:9	25:18 26:6	111:7
87:5 139:3	162:20,23	155:19	72:20,20	243:19,21	299:17	27:1,19	112:14
152:21,24	163:10,16	172:7 183:2	73:1 76:6	244:2,4,22	<b>wants</b> 56:4	29:2,3,17	113:4,6
158:9	164:12,16	193:21	76:24 77:3	246:19,21	73:5 87:10	29:18 30:11	114:11,13
159:19	164:18	194:24	78:20 79:4	247:2 248:3	152:16	31:7 32:19	119:4,20
160:10	165:3,7,15	200:13	79:7,10,23	248:15,23	177:6	32:20 34:11	120:19
286:3	166:1,3	<b>visits</b> 217:9	81:15 82:20	251:24	181:23	34:12,21,22	121:9,11,22
<b>utility</b> 78:3	177:22	220:24	83:23 87:8	252:1,6	186:17	37:4,19	122:21
151:24	179:11	<b>vocational</b>	91:11 97:22	254:1,11,16	260:8,12	39:13 41:12	123:14
<b>utilization</b>	191:8,11	39:24	103:18	254:21	<b>Warren</b>	43:6,10	127:11
220:15,16	192:2,4	<b>voiced</b> 286:2	104:21,22	256:6,22	124:10	45:4 47:13	139:17
221:2	193:22	<b>volatile</b>	107:24	257:2,7	125:1	49:9,9,12	152:1,24
258:14	<b>vein</b> 28:6	127:21	111:5,13,20	259:17	162:22	49:12,15,15	158:22
259:22	<b>Venango</b>	<b>volunteer</b>	113:11,14	262:3,9,10	163:1	50:16,18	190:18
<b>utilized</b>	165:13	125:23	115:14,22	262:12,18	174:18	51:6 52:19	<b>water-related</b>
232:13	<b>vendor</b> 12:10	248:20	116:9	266:12	175:5,11,13	53:22,23	5:14
	48:5 80:18	<b>volunteers</b>	121:12	267:22	187:1,19	54:1,23,23	<b>Waters</b> 5:20
<b>V</b>	<b>vendors</b>	229:16	123:18,22	268:8,8,14	<b>Washington</b>	57:8 58:20	28:21
<b>vacancies</b> 8:7	47:22 80:13	235:4	136:20,24	268:21	226:17	59:5 60:12	<b>watershed</b>
9:7,9,18,20	<b>venture</b> 205:2	<b>votes</b> 224:12	141:15	269:7 273:9	<b>wasn't</b> 107:20	60:14 61:10	109:5,19
9:22 10:3,4	<b>Verizons</b>	<b>vulnerability</b>	147:8	274:20,24	159:17	61:11,16,22	110:12
10:7,14,15	243:6	172:11	149:18	275:6,16	173:13	62:7,8,19	<b>way</b> 20:7,23
26:21 28:5	<b>version</b>		150:7	276:11	268:13	65:21 66:3	27:18 29:9
35:7 37:23	200:12	<b>W</b>	155:18	282:15	296:17	66:4,12	44:19 46:1
39:19 42:11	<b>versus</b> 19:15	<b>wait</b> 32:21	162:5 165:8	283:4 284:5	<b>waste</b> 125:3,4	67:16 68:18	48:9 51:4
43:24 61:22	22:6 34:18	37:2,9	170:2	285:8	125:7,9	68:19 69:7	53:1 54:14
<b>vacancy</b> 31:5	71:14,16	84:20 139:5	172:24	289:21	129:1	69:10,17	55:19 62:3
180:16	133:3 135:3	197:1	173:1	290:8	175:15	70:11 72:22	67:24 91:14
<b>vacant</b> 30:16	142:7,24	265:11	174:22	292:17,19	188:20	73:2,17	93:17 103:1
31:4	301:11	<b>waiting</b> 45:3	175:3	295:3 297:9	189:3,8,9	75:17,17	105:11
<b>Vail</b> 277:18	<b>veterans</b>	45:8,13		297:23	189:16,17	77:18 79:15	106:12
<b>Valley</b> 242:22		167:21					

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

109:16	199:5	119:18	207:14	273:21	299:23	163:15	86:11
110:21	247:14	121:20	216:7	284:5 286:2	<b>weren't</b>	164:20	<b>Woods</b>
112:19,23	251:16	122:2,6,17	217:22	286:2 289:3	187:12	166:2,13	100:14
114:23	257:10	122:19	218:11,14	299:18	193:10	167:24	101:6,18
121:22	295:7	128:19,19	218:14	<b>weather</b>	<b>west</b> 73:23	168:20	102:4 105:3
138:11	<b>we're</b> 5:4,10	128:22	223:12,13	139:22	193:8 229:2	169:3,7	<b>word</b> 27:10
154:17	8:9,20 9:13	129:1,2,3,5	224:2	266:16	244:20	170:9 172:2	59:3 118:16
156:11	9:13 10:5	129:19,24	234:15	<b>website</b> 4:11	245:19	174:11	122:3,4
167:2,11	11:7,8 12:5	138:21,22	236:5 237:4	183:4	<b>Whack-a...</b>	176:11,24	153:12
185:9,12	12:5 14:7	139:2,5,18	237:7,14	279:12	28:3	177:7	220:17
188:24	22:4,14	140:14	239:8 242:2	280:3	<b>Wheatsheaf</b>	178:20	268:20
190:21	28:12 29:2	144:5,6,9	243:12	<b>Wednesday</b>	165:13	179:2 180:5	<b>work</b> 7:3 8:23
192:20	29:11,21	144:19,21	248:9,10	1:4	<b>white</b> 227:17	181:6 189:6	9:3 18:12
198:17	31:1,17	149:21,21	255:4,8,23	<b>week</b> 33:15	227:20	190:10	23:7 29:6
200:23	32:24 33:3	151:2,11,17	257:2,12	39:2 83:16	291:18	192:6	29:13 36:9
203:24	33:4,5	155:20	258:8,19	131:2,18,21	<b>wholeheart...</b>	193:14	38:24 39:1
206:20	34:11 35:15	156:9	260:3,17,24	138:14	120:22	195:2 197:8	39:2,11
218:24	36:3 37:3	157:18	262:19	<b>weekend</b>	<b>wide</b> 41:19	198:4 199:7	40:6,11
228:11	40:7,16	160:17	263:19	103:3	173:17	200:4 201:4	41:6 43:24
243:3,23	47:5,22	161:22	264:20	147:21,21	<b>widespread</b>	225:23	48:1,1,2
248:8	49:23 50:7	162:4,5	265:4,15	272:3	174:24	<b>willing</b> 46:13	52:7 54:18
252:17	50:22 51:1	165:4,8,23	266:18	<b>weekends</b>	<b>wilderness</b>	<b>willingness</b>	55:19 57:23
264:19	51:6,13	166:19,22	267:3 270:8	269:13	243:8,9	181:11	58:2 59:5
277:22,22	55:24 56:24	166:22	271:18	270:14	<b>WILLIAM</b>	<b>win</b> 273:9,10	61:15,21,24
279:9,15	57:11,14,18	167:11,17	272:2	<b>weekly</b>	1:10	<b>wind</b> 18:23	63:19 69:21
280:14	57:18 58:2	172:18	273:10,23	176:16	<b>Williams</b>	290:8	71:2,5,14
285:22	59:2,5 60:8	173:6,6	275:9 276:3	<b>weeks</b> 97:12	124:5,7	<b>window</b>	71:22 74:16
288:12	60:9 62:1,2	174:8,24	276:6,7,15	138:4,16	128:17	213:16	81:17,19,23
290:18	66:17 73:16	175:6	277:20	<b>weight</b>	129:9,16,18	<b>winter</b> 80:4,5	84:3,12,13
292:2	74:2,13,20	176:15	284:15,17	128:14	129:23	80:22	84:22 89:4
300:21	75:1,7	177:24	287:3	<b>weighted</b>	130:18	127:13,14	96:3,10
<b>ways</b> 4:8 28:8	77:13 78:3	178:2,15	288:14,19	135:5	131:12,16	161:13,15	101:13
29:16 54:10	78:6 79:11	179:13,15	291:19	<b>welcome</b>	132:2,6,11	198:23	103:4,24
54:12 56:15	79:23 80:2	179:23	292:23	17:14 41:3	133:5,10,16	<b>wipe</b> 288:9	113:15,17
77:9 101:11	80:12,14,23	182:3,5,6	293:5,6,18	90:19	133:19	<b>wire</b> 240:19	116:20
101:24	80:24 81:1	183:1,3,4,8	293:23,24	151:17	134:7,17	<b>wish</b> 230:6	118:5,6
280:19	81:2,4,5,12	183:9,12,16	294:11	180:5 213:3	135:1,18	<b>Wissahickon</b>	133:6
<b>we'll</b> 12:8,11	81:18 83:5	183:21	300:21	224:9 244:2	136:5,10	146:1,2	142:24
12:12,12,15	84:18 85:18	184:16	302:3	244:5	137:4,22	<b>Wissinoming</b>	143:1 153:7
13:1 31:6	85:19 86:14	186:19	<b>we've</b> 6:9	247:22	138:18	108:10	155:19
43:23 44:10	86:22,24	187:8,17,22	68:1 75:21	268:4	140:13,22	<b>witty</b> 193:1	159:18,20
51:4 84:16	87:3,9,9,11	189:13,19	95:12 131:9	<b>wellness</b>	141:21	<b>woman-ow...</b>	162:23
84:22,22,23	91:11,24	190:4	137:7	228:17	142:9	6:7 72:17	165:5 179:7
87:6 94:1	93:17 96:6	191:11	144:17	<b>went</b> 19:1	143:21	<b>women</b> 43:20	182:9,14
115:2,6,21	96:18 97:24	195:10	178:3 185:7	53:2 60:2	146:18	204:4	186:12
121:2	101:3,20	196:12	204:6 207:6	72:15 101:5	148:20	227:12,15	187:18
151:12,19	103:16,24	197:16	215:19	107:12	154:2	234:1	188:6
152:8,8	105:7 108:4	198:5,7,14	217:19	144:18	155:10	<b>won</b> 207:5	195:18
157:9 169:2	108:13	199:2 200:5	221:6	148:10	157:2,5,17	<b>wonderful</b>	207:12
176:5 181:1	110:5,6,13	200:17	231:22	168:6	158:13	226:2	211:20
182:5 193:5	110:17,18	203:21	235:15	202:17	161:1,21	<b>wondering</b>	212:5,7
197:1	113:13	204:5,12,23	243:4 251:8	264:16	162:10,16	278:12	213:11
198:18	116:10	206:8	257:10	280:12	162:18,21	<b>Woodland</b>	214:2 215:5

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

215:21	31:17 32:22	292:7	<u>Y</u>	92:13 95:9	279:6	184:13,17	273:3
216:9 217:4	36:3,17,23	293:24	<b>Y</b> 297:24	98:7 99:4,5	284:16	184:21	<b>youths</b>
219:21	37:3 40:7	294:12	<b>yard</b> 57:3	111:16,21	287:11	185:4 187:4	268:19
221:11,14	41:11 45:6	295:13	73:23 98:11	112:6,8,13	297:22	187:6,11	274:8 276:3
221:15	46:4 49:3	296:10	142:23,24	117:22,22	298:21	188:1	276:21,21
222:14	55:23 56:12	298:1,21,24	174:1	121:7	299:6	195:16	<u>Z</u>
225:20	57:20,22	<b>works</b> 6:2	<b>yarders</b>	124:14,16	302:13	198:9,13,16	<b>Z</b> 297:24
229:19	87:3 93:9	29:14 48:17	163:22	124:22	<b>year-and-a-...</b>	200:9	<b>Zaccagni</b>
230:22	93:17 97:24	70:12,14	<b>yards</b> 52:14	125:14,16	283:14	201:11	182:23,23
232:16,17	103:16	84:11,15	52:23	125:24	284:2	208:15	184:10
237:15	108:5 113:4	97:21 108:4	171:13	140:15,15	<b>year-plus</b>	225:21	<b>zero</b> 12:22
240:14	113:13	126:20	<b>yeah</b> 16:14,23	141:7,18	4:19	228:7 232:1	49:6 59:21
244:7	138:20	165:10	21:24 40:23	147:17	<b>yearend</b>	232:10	125:3,7
245:11	139:19	175:22	56:7 57:9	151:19	106:9	245:1,4,16	126:8,19
248:4,6,14	144:5,7	183:13	67:18 83:18	153:1	<b>years</b> 2:10,19	246:4,17	143:18,24
248:20	149:6	283:10	85:19 111:9	156:10,22	5:5 12:1	247:2,3,9	144:4
249:8	151:11	299:17	114:5	156:23	16:4 25:2,5	247:10	155:19
254:16	156:1	<b>workshops</b>	119:24	160:7,9	26:5 30:12	252:5,8	172:7 183:2
265:8	157:23	41:20	120:13	162:2	31:14,16	263:3	188:20
274:21	161:22	<b>world</b> 29:6	131:20	165:12	35:21 37:9	277:15	189:3,8,9
283:8,15,16	162:5 165:9	243:7 294:4	170:17	166:23	44:4,20	278:2 287:5	193:21
283:24	166:20	<b>worlds</b> 20:16	179:12	184:19	45:4 47:8	293:4 295:2	195:1
286:4	168:1	<b>worries</b> 33:24	214:15	187:21	56:16 60:20	297:5	200:13
293:10,16	171:24	<b>worse</b> 243:2	217:23	191:16	60:21,22,23	301:19	<b>zero-interest</b>
297:9 299:7	172:15	<b>worst</b> 46:12	218:7	197:18	64:18 68:14	<b>Yep</b> 40:10	13:2
<b>worked</b> 113:8	173:6	<b>worth</b> 18:12	233:15	198:5,7,8	75:5 80:23	118:19,19	<b>zip</b> 229:1
148:13	176:18	206:7	234:9,13	198:10	80:24 95:2	119:5	<u>0</u>
155:16	178:2 179:3	<b>wouldn't</b> 28:1	239:1 244:8	203:20	96:6 97:3	123:17	<b>01</b> 167:21
235:5,20	179:6,14	112:3	267:22	204:23	97:11 99:3	<b>yesterday</b>	<u>1</u>
236:21,22	191:11	<b>write</b> 25:18	276:10	205:8 207:5	99:3,9,10	65:17,23	<b>1,100</b> 141:12
236:23	195:8,17	111:18	278:3,9	209:6,20	99:16	77:18 86:17	<b>1,400</b> 287:15
282:7 294:6	196:16	194:14	302:3	210:4	100:11	100:3 291:7	287:18
297:7	200:16,17	<b>writes</b> 63:7	<b>year</b> 2:14,21	212:23	103:9	295:10	292:15,17
300:12	209:8,22	<b>writing</b> 64:9	4:3,7 5:7	214:14	108:21	<b>young</b> 40:2	<b>10</b> 5:9 9:1
<b>worker</b>	210:6	197:12	15:6,20	216:23	109:3	41:2 85:13	44:4 95:12
235:17	212:22	204:17	24:4,8,23	217:17,24	111:17,18	86:1 217:2	99:9,10,16
<b>workers</b>	218:11	<b>written</b> 25:12	25:10,16,18	220:11	112:5 127:7	228:13	121:19
209:22	224:2	25:20 75:10	32:2,9	226:21	127:20	256:12,18	139:12,13
210:7	229:10	112:6,7	36:16 38:5	228:19	130:19	256:20	140:1,3
291:16	231:24	261:4	38:5 41:8	230:13	141:23	259:1	146:4 147:1
295:2	232:23	<b>wrong</b> 159:2	41:18 49:2	241:14	142:10,19	<b>youth</b> 228:9	164:23
<b>workforce</b> 6:2	237:17	164:14	49:2 51:1	246:2 251:7	142:23	244:13,17	213:15
7:14 50:16	248:10	193:12	58:18,18	252:5	143:6 153:2	244:19	245:16
134:5 228:9	252:20,21	200:24	59:2 60:18	254:21	153:23	245:4,4,5,6	246:4 247:9
236:6	255:24	271:17	60:21,23	256:24	156:15	245:14,15	247:10,17
238:10,11	257:12	<b>wrote</b> 224:17	61:1 63:8	257:3,10	158:4	249:9	295:15
238:24	261:16,19	<b>Wyalusing</b>	63:21,23,24	261:19	161:18,19	260:22	296:3
293:13,17	262:22	46:3	66:2,16	267:4	162:2	261:21	<b>10-million-...</b>
294:14,15	280:12	<b>Wyoming</b>	67:15 68:4	268:14	164:11,15	264:15	98:1
297:2	281:19,20	286:18	69:21,23	269:23	164:16,23	267:18	<b>10,000</b> 32:12
<b>working</b> 5:11	284:12,15	<u>X</u>	72:13 73:16	275:11	164:24	272:9,9	35:20
8:9,16 11:7	290:13,19	<b>X</b> 297:24	75:7 77:16	277:20	166:19	276:22	
15:11 21:4	291:12		78:8,8 81:2	278:20	180:23	<b>youth-based</b>	

Committee Of The Whole  
April 26, 2017

113:18,21	<b>14.46</b> 142:24	278:20	2:14,19 3:8	<b>26</b> 1:4 188:16	189:14	10:21 11:23	<b>6th</b> 290:2
114:3,5	<b>14th</b> 194:11	<hr/>	3:10 4:3,16	191:17	272:1	12:1,4 34:4	<hr/>
120:3,7	<b>15</b> 13:4 25:16	<b>2</b>	94:13 97:1	192:17	<b>36</b> 204:3	38:2 49:6	<b>7</b>
<b>10:00</b> 302:24	38:13 94:12	<b>2</b> 302:24	124:14,22	<b>27</b> 5:23	<b>37</b> 66:23	94:14 95:2	<b>7.7</b> 214:20
<b>10:34</b> 1:5	95:8,9,12	<b>2,000</b> 59:23	204:11	<b>28</b> 5:6 60:21	<b>38</b> 15:21 59:8	145:5	<b>7:30</b> 270:10
<b>100</b> 49:10	111:16,18	114:3,4,4,9	226:21	88:5	59:11,12	155:13	<b>70</b> 131:19,20
150:19,21	112:5	114:15	241:12,20	<b>281</b> 128:14	60:2	156:9,20,21	145:11
227:2	121:19	<b>2,500</b> 140:20	252:15	<b>29</b> 88:5	<b>394</b> 24:9	185:4 200:6	184:19
<b>100,000</b>	145:7	<b>2,527,500</b>	<b>2019</b> 190:10	<b>291</b> 11:1	<hr/>	237:4 297:4	<b>700</b> 81:1
220:10	<b>150</b> 49:13	227:6	252:15	<b>2nd</b> 254:6	<b>4</b>	<b>50,000</b> 11:7	292:16
<b>101</b> 49:13	150:19,21	<b>2,673,805</b>	<b>2021</b> 84:21	<hr/>	<b>4,678</b> 257:10	11:15	<b>700,000</b>
<b>104</b> 188:16	<b>152</b> 63:3 64:5	227:5	<b>2022</b> 2:19	<b>3</b>	<b>4.23</b> 98:22	<b>500,000</b> 30:8	94:13
<b>105,000</b>	65:11	<b>2.1</b> 96:7	<b>2023</b> 2:10	<b>3</b> 3:2	<b>40</b> 5:7 6:1	<b>51</b> 49:10	<b>70s</b> 64:14
166:21	<b>152,588,000</b>	<b>20</b> 84:18	3:10	<b>3,000</b> 12:20	11:7,23	<b>52nd</b> 46:3	<b>743</b> 227:3
<b>108</b> 66:7 67:2	24:24	89:19 99:5	<b>2035</b> 74:10	31:15,15	12:4 60:23	<b>535,000</b> 24:6	<b>75</b> 65:2
<b>10th</b> 125:21	<b>1563-A</b> 3:3	113:5	110:1	<b>30</b> 5:24 12:2	94:14 185:3	<b>54</b> 34:21	140:14
<b>11</b> 27:17	<b>15th</b> 22:3	114:21	<b>20th</b> 223:7,8	35:21	203:6	<b>541,000</b> 96:6	198:8
66:16 89:17	112:6	116:3	<b>21</b> 6:5	116:14	227:16	<b>542,000</b>	271:17
95:9 113:6	<b>16</b> 6:3 24:4	129:13,14	<b>21,399</b> 94:13	144:12	228:18	214:8 215:8	<b>75,000</b> 35:10
209:8 234:4	24:23 42:1	171:13	<b>213.9</b> 124:21	185:3	230:15,20	<b>55</b> 145:7	35:24
<b>11.00</b> 293:9	96:6	189:11,11	<b>21st</b> 211:21	189:13	231:3,10	198:7 204:4	<b>78</b> 65:2
<b>118</b> 63:14	<b>16-inch</b> 86:21	227:15,16	212:5 224:3	225:21	232:5 233:3	<b>56th</b> 22:16	<hr/>
<b>12</b> 9:2 64:5,9	<b>165</b> 8:5 10:18	227:17,17	<b>22</b> 27:16	233:22	234:10,12	<b>57</b> 227:19,20	<b>8</b>
106:2	10:20,22	<b>20-yard</b>	34:23 60:21	234:7,15	235:19	<b>57th</b> 168:11	<b>8,000</b> 246:2
163:22	<b>166</b> 26:17	163:18	99:3 203:24	<b>30-million---</b>	237:14	168:15	<b>8.34</b> 75:18,19
188:15	27:15 70:13	<b>20-year</b> 80:17	<b>22nd</b> 50:10	98:3	246:2 293:5	<b>58</b> 234:6	<b>8:00</b> 273:19
219:16	<b>17</b> 6:4 7:8	96:24	50:10 52:11	<b>30,000</b> 32:10	294:22	<b>5800</b> 199:10	<b>80</b> 185:19
231:3	34:3 35:10	<b>200</b> 94:10	91:7,7	32:11 35:22	<b>400</b> 1:3	<b>58th</b> 86:8,11	227:15
232:22	<b>170</b> 198:15	157:16	<b>23</b> 66:19	36:13	144:19	86:17	267:17
233:10,20	<b>170195</b> 1:19	218:16	<b>23,000</b>	<b>300</b> 98:15,16	227:5 303:1	<b>59</b> 89:13	271:13,15
234:3,14	2:4,8	227:5	263:20	109:1 131:6	107:5	<b>500</b> 109:1	271:17
<b>12-month</b>	<b>170196</b> 1:19	269:22	270:7	277:5	<b>31</b> 241:20	227:6	<b>800</b> 66:7,8,13
65:7	2:4,11	<b>200,000</b>	276:12	<b>31</b> 241:20	<b>43</b> 227:19,19	<hr/>	69:6
<b>12,531,554</b>	<b>170197</b> 1:19	220:2	<b>24</b> 6:9 145:7	<b>31st</b> 15:20,21	238:14	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b> 26:18,23
226:23	2:4,13	<b>2006</b> 38:12	237:15	<b>32</b> 234:15	<b>45</b> 145:12	<b>6:00</b> 270:9	<b>84</b> 34:3
<b>12.00</b> 49:16	<b>170213</b> 1:20	<b>2011</b> 259:5	293:20	<b>33</b> 234:5	263:13,14	273:18,18	<b>87</b> 143:4
<b>120</b> 6:20	2:5,15	<b>2012</b> 204:7	<b>24-month</b>	238:13,15	263:23	<b>60</b> 41:23 42:1	<b>89</b> 65:7
<b>13</b> 43:17	<b>17th</b> 279:11	<b>2013</b> 250:16	228:12	<b>338,00</b>	269:17,19	42:2 69:21	<hr/>
163:20	<b>18</b> 7:7 24:8	281:17	237:23	269:22	275:18	96:19 97:4	<b>9</b>
<b>130</b> 141:18	32:9 35:10	<b>2014</b> 154:21	293:9	<b>338,000</b>	<b>45,000</b> 35:11	116:14	<b>9,294,525</b>
141:20	66:16 90:2	208:9	<b>241,832</b>	263:15,23	<b>46</b> 98:7	253:5	227:4
<b>131</b> 126:9	241:10,11	<b>2015</b> 38:14	125:15	269:23	<b>46,660,211</b>	275:10	<b>9:30</b> 271:21
127:2 141:7	301:19	113:1	<b>25</b> 26:5 65:12	271:6	227:2	299:23	<b>90</b> 96:19 97:4
184:20	<b>18,000</b>	<b>2016</b> 4:23	70:15	275:24	<b>47</b> 238:14,15	<b>60,000</b> 12:1	116:14
198:10	263:20	5:19,22,22	108:21	<b>33rd</b> 243:22	<b>480,000</b> 12:9	32:8 35:21	251:13
251:15	276:15	89:18 94:12	114:21	243:23	<hr/>	<b>600</b> 236:3	271:17
<b>136,000</b> 27:4	<b>18.6</b> 7:6	219:16	116:3,4,4	247:12	<b>5</b>	<b>61,000</b> 27:1,6	<b>90-member</b>
<b>137,107,424</b>	<b>19</b> 99:4	220:1	165:14,24	<b>34</b> 63:13	<b>5,000</b> 263:18	<b>61,156,041</b>	208:20
124:20	<b>1980</b> 47:8	252:13	166:2	<b>35</b> 98:9 99:3	263:21	226:23	<b>903,547</b>
<b>138</b> 157:14	<b>1986</b> 26:23	287:17	187:22	145:6	270:5	<b>66</b> 121:23	227:1
<b>14</b> 145:6	<b>1992</b> 3:2	<b>2017</b> 1:4 2:21	<b>25-year</b> 73:16	161:20	275:20	<b>680</b> 24:6	<b>92</b> 234:4
<b>14.35</b> 142:23	<b>1st</b> 36:20,23	5:24 252:14	<b>250,000</b> 6:3,6	162:2,7,9	276:13	62:20 63:13	<b>95</b> 24:16 32:5
	48:24 96:11	302:24	<b>255</b> 25:5,7	166:1,3	<b>5:21</b> 303:2	64:5,5	62:23 63:12
		<b>2018</b> 2:10,12		187:21	<b>50</b> 10:14,20	65:10,11	63:21 64:2

64:20 159:17 220:4							
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