

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL
JUSTICE REFORM

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, April 18, 2016
1:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
WILLIAM COBB, representative of formerly
incarcerated person
REVEREND ADAN MAIRENA, W. Kensington
Ministry at Norris Square
ANN SCHWARTZMAN, PA Prison Society
KEVIN BETHEL, Philadelphia Police
Department (retired)
WILFREDO ROJAS, Office of Community
Justice and Outreach (retired)
JULIE WERTHEIMER, Managing Director's
Office
JUDGE BENJAMIN LERNER, Deputy Managing
Director

RESOLUTION 160101 - Resolution appointing
members to the "Special Committee on Criminal
Justice Reform," who will conduct public
hearings examining the Philadelphia criminal
justice system for the impact of current
policies, and offer recommended strategies for
reform that are in the best interest of public
safety and the public good.

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COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
afternoon, everyone. We are reconvening
the Special Committee on Criminal Justice
Reform.

Will the Clerk please read the
title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: Resolution 160101,
appointing members of the "Special
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform,"
who will conduct public hearings
examining the Philadelphia criminal
justice system for the impact of current
policies, and offer recommended
strategies for reform that are in the
best interest of public safety and the
public good.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Will the
Clerk also read the first group of
witnesses to testify.

THE CLERK: Michael Pennington,
Director, Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention; Stephanie A.
Bradley, Managing Director,
Evidence-Based Prevention and

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2 Intervention Support Center, EPISCenter;
3 Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, Executive
4 Director, Philadelphia Youth Network.

5 (Witnesses approached witness
6 table.)

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
8 welcome all my panelists that are experts
9 in their respective field.

10 Would any of you like to give
11 an opening statement before we begin
12 today's testimony?

13 MS. SCHWARTZMAN: Sure. I just
14 wanted to say thank you for coming, for
15 attending, and for giving us your best
16 ideas. Criminal justice clearly is an
17 important and vital issue now that the
18 City of Philadelphia needs to look at,
19 and your interest, your input, and your
20 support is critical at this point. So
21 thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: For
23 housekeeping purposes, everything is
24 being transcribed and we're on
25 television. So state your name for the

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2 record so we have that and begin your
3 testimony.

4 MR. PENNINGTON: Okay. Good
5 morning. I am Mike Pennington, Director
6 of the Office of Juvenile Justice and
7 Delinquency Prevention at the Commission
8 on Crime and Delinquency.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you pull
10 that up a little closer.

11 MR. PENNINGTON: Thank you.

12 On behalf of Chairman Josh
13 Shapiro, I would like to thank you for
14 inviting PCCD to be part of this hearing
15 and for the opportunity to share some of
16 PCCD's efforts around delinquency and
17 violence prevention, as well as
18 Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system
19 enhancement strategy.

20 The mission of the Pennsylvania
21 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, or
22 PCCD for short, is to enhance the
23 quality, coordination, and planning
24 within the criminal and juvenile justice
25 systems, to facilitate the delivery of

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2 services to victims of crime, and to
3 increase the safety in our communities.

4 The demand for programs and
5 interventions that are effective in
6 preventing adolescent problem behaviors
7 has never been greater. PCCD has a track
8 record in leading the development and
9 implementation of research-based
10 approaches that have proven successful in
11 preventing youth violence, delinquency,
12 substance abuse, educational failure, and
13 many other problem behaviors. The Center
14 for the Study of Prevention of Violence
15 at the Institute of Behavioral Science,
16 University of Colorado Boulder designed
17 and launched a national youth prevention
18 initiative in 1996, with funding
19 assistance from PCCD, to identify and
20 replicate violence, delinquency, and drug
21 prevention programs that have been
22 demonstrated as effective. This project,
23 initially called Blueprint for Violence
24 Prevention, identified prevention and
25 intervention programs that met a strict

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2 scientific standard of program
3 effectiveness. Today, Blueprints has
4 been rebranded as Blueprints for Healthy
5 Youth Development and funded by the Annie
6 E. Casey Foundation. With funding from
7 the Casey Foundation, outcomes have been
8 expanded to include not only problem
9 behavior, but also education, emotional
10 well-being, physical health, and positive
11 relationships.

12 It is well established that the
13 presence of certain key factors in the
14 life of a child places that child at
15 increased risk of many adolescent problem
16 behaviors. These factors include certain
17 characteristics of individual
18 communities, schools, and families, as
19 well as characteristics, attitude, and
20 behavior and peer relationships of a
21 child. The identification, assessment,
22 and prioritization of these risk factors
23 are a key aspect of the Communities That
24 Care, or CTC for short, risk-focused
25 prevention initiative framework that is

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2 the foundation of PCCD's comprehensive
3 prevention strategy. CTC is a public
4 health approach that seeks community
5 involvement to identify and address a
6 community's local risk factors.

7 The CTC framework uses the
8 Social Development Strategy, which is a
9 research-based model that organizes known
10 protective factors into a guiding
11 framework for building positive futures
12 for children, assesses risk and
13 protective factors, matches risk and
14 protection profiles with tested effective
15 programs, and promotes positive youth
16 development by reducing risk and
17 enhancing protection.

18 The CTC Social Development
19 Strategy helps communities assess and
20 prioritize certain risk factors in
21 communities and utilize effective
22 programs to address those needs. PCCD's
23 nationally recognized Resource Center for
24 Evidence-Based Prevention and
25 Intervention Programs and Practices was

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2 created to support high-quality and
3 effective juvenile justice intervention
4 and delinquency prevention programs. The
5 ongoing work of the Resource Center is a
6 collaborative effort with the Departments
7 of Human Services, Drug and Alcohol
8 Programs, Education, the Juvenile Court
9 Judges' Commission, the Council of Chief
10 Juvenile Probation Officers, and many
11 other stakeholders. The Resource Center
12 has three main focus areas: supporting
13 evidence-based programs, incorporating
14 research-based principles and practices
15 into local programming, and supporting
16 community planning efforts and
17 implementation of effective programs.

18 Collecting and analyzing data
19 is an important part of identifying
20 problem areas to address. PCCD conducts
21 a biennial survey of school students in
22 the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades to
23 learn about their behaviors, attitudes,
24 and knowledge concerning alcohol,
25 tobacco, other drugs, and violence. The

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2 Pennsylvania Youth Survey is sponsored
3 and conducted in the fall of odd numbered
4 years by PCCD. The data gathered in the
5 PAYS serves two primary needs. First,
6 the results provide school
7 administrators, state agency directors,
8 legislators, and others with critical
9 information concerning the changes and
10 patterns of use and abuse of harmful
11 substances and behaviors.

12 Second, the survey assesses
13 risk factors that are related to these
14 behaviors and the protective factors that
15 help guard against them. This
16 information allows community leaders to
17 direct prevention resources to areas
18 where they are likely to have the
19 greatest impact.

20 The 2015 survey was funded by
21 PCCD, Department of Drug and Alcohol
22 Programs, Department of Education, and
23 this funding enabled us to offer this at
24 no charge to any school or district.
25 There are currently 351 school districts

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2 participating in Pennsylvania.

3 PCCD, in partnership with the
4 Department of Human Services, supports
5 the Penn State University's EPISCenter to
6 provide ongoing training and technical
7 assistance and support to jurisdictions
8 around the state to implement
9 evidence-based prevention and
10 intervention programs.

11 PCCD has had a long and
12 successful partnership with the
13 Prevention Research Center at Penn State.
14 Dr. Stephanie Bradley is here today, who
15 is the Managing Director of the
16 EPISCenter, to provide more details on
17 the work of the EPISCenter. The
18 EPISCenter has developed the capacity to
19 estimate the significant return on
20 investment of PCCD's evidence-based
21 programming, based upon the highly
22 regarded approach of the Washington State
23 Institute for Public Policy. The goal is
24 to focus on programs that give us the
25 most confidence in achieving better

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2 statewide outcomes, coupled with a more
3 efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

4 Annually, PCCD provides funding
5 opportunities to support evidence-based
6 programming for children and families.

7 In addition, the Commonwealth
8 continues to aggressively pursue
9 implementation of Pennsylvania's Juvenile
10 Justice System Enhancement Strategy, or
11 JJSES for short. JJSES is a commitment
12 to working in partnership to enhance the
13 capacity of our system to achieve its
14 balanced and restorative justice mission
15 by employing evidence-based practice with
16 fidelity at every stage of the juvenile
17 justice process; collecting and analyzing
18 data necessary to measure the results of
19 these efforts; and, with this knowledge,
20 to continuously improve the quality of
21 our decisions, services, and programs.

22 The Juvenile Court Judges'
23 Commission is coordinating the
24 implementation of this strategy with the
25 assistance of a leadership team of chief

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2 juvenile probation officers, PCCD, and
3 other staff from the Juvenile Court
4 Judges' Commission.

5 Essential to the underlying
6 philosophy of JJSES is the concept that
7 juvenile justice interventions and
8 programs are considered effective when
9 they reduce a juvenile's risk to reoffend
10 and that the application of
11 evidence-based practices will enhance
12 public safety.

13 Equally important as the tenets
14 of JJSES are the concepts of fundamental
15 fairness and structured decision-making
16 as a tool to help system professionals
17 make consistent, appropriate, effective,
18 and fundamentally fair decisions. The
19 Pennsylvania juvenile justice system now
20 utilizes the Youth Level of Service/Case
21 Management Inventory, which is a valid
22 risk assessment instrument that measures
23 42 risk/need factors within the following
24 eight domains. Just a couple of those
25 are prior and current offenses, attitudes

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2 and orientation, personality and
3 behavior, peer relations, family, and a
4 number of others.

5 The YLS is critical in helping
6 develop recommendations to the court
7 based on the YLS results, including the
8 identified risks and needs of each
9 juvenile and the development and
10 implementation of the case plan based on
11 the YLS results, which target services to
12 meet the risks and needs of each
13 juvenile.

14 The availability of YLS scores,
15 as a result of our system enhancement
16 strategy, is becoming increasingly
17 important to judges in crafting,
18 implementing, and monitoring dispositions
19 in juvenile delinquency cases and in
20 complying with both statutory and
21 procedural court rules.

22 The development of statewide
23 and county-specific baseline recidivism
24 rates is a particularly noteworthy
25 accomplishment. Pennsylvania is one of

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2 the few states with the capacity to
3 develop information of this type. For
4 the purposes of this research, recidivism
5 is defined as a subsequent adjudication
6 of delinquency or conviction in criminal
7 court for a misdemeanor or felony offense
8 within two years of case closure.

9 The 18 percent recidivism rate
10 for cases closed in 2011 represents an 18
11 percent reduction from the four-year
12 average recidivism rate of 22 percent for
13 cases closed from 2007 through 2010.

14 This dramatic reduction in the statewide
15 rate for cases closed in 2011 is
16 especially significant because 2011 was
17 really the first year that we could
18 realistically assess the impact of our
19 system enhancement strategy.

20 In order to improve services to
21 youth in the juvenile justice system, we
22 are piloting the Standardized Program
23 Evaluation Protocol, which is SPEP for
24 short. SPEP is a validated, data-driven
25 rating scheme for determining how well an

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2 existing program matches research
3 evidence for the effectiveness of that
4 particular type of intervention for
5 reducing the recidivism of juvenile
6 offenders.

7 The SPEP process includes
8 provider interviews and a review of data
9 from the Juvenile Court Judges'
10 Commission's juvenile case management
11 system database, which has been used to
12 identify statewide utilization rates of
13 delinquency service providers. Probation
14 officers and service providers jointly
15 contribute to the SPEP assessment process
16 and work with consultants at the
17 EPISCenter to create and implement
18 performance improvement plans.
19 Cooperation throughout this process is
20 deepening systemwide understanding of
21 provider programs and services. As a
22 result, judges and probation officers can
23 more easily refer the right kids to the
24 right programs for the right amount of
25 time.

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2 Another important initiative is
3 our Pennsylvania Academic, Career and
4 Technical Training initiative. PACTT is
5 an interagency initiative designed to
6 further develop job readiness, academic,
7 and employability skills for
8 system-involved youth. The PACTT
9 standards are built on the balanced and
10 restorative justice principle of offender
11 competency development. Provider
12 affiliates focus on providing youth with
13 training that will qualify them for jobs
14 in the areas of industry growth that will
15 lead to careers with sustainable wages.
16 This work begins while youth are in
17 placement and continues when they return
18 to their communities.

19 Recent trends regarding
20 juvenile violent crime arrest rates,
21 juvenile delinquency dispositions,
22 juvenile delinquency placements, and
23 detention center admissions all serve to
24 confirm the efficacy of the
25 evidence-based practices that now form

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2 the foundation of Pennsylvania's juvenile
3 justice system.

4 One of our emerging priorities
5 is increasing the role of PCCD in
6 coordinating and implementing a
7 comprehensive delinquency and violence
8 prevention strategy for the Commonwealth.

9 One of our major goals is to make
10 communities safe through collaboration
11 and targeted investments. Moving
12 forward, PCCD will be working
13 collaboratively with our state and local
14 partners to continue to improve the
15 coordination of delinquency and violence
16 prevention-related initiatives across the
17 Commonwealth as well as continued
18 implementation of our juvenile justice
19 system enhancement strategy.

20 PCCD is committed to investing
21 in proven, effective programs to address
22 violence, delinquency, and other problem
23 behaviors. As I mentioned before, PCCD
24 has also invested in a statewide
25 infrastructure through the EPISCenter to

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2 provide training and technical assistance
3 to communities and practitioners.
4 Dr. Bradley will further explain the work
5 of the EPISCenter shortly.

6 Some of the specific funding
7 streams that are available annually to
8 support local initiatives include state
9 Violence Prevention Program funds, state
10 Substance Abuse Education and Demand
11 Reduction funds, federal Title II
12 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
13 Prevention funds, and federal Justice
14 Assistance Grant funds, which we call our
15 JAG funds. Currently, the federal JAG
16 funding announcement is open, and up to
17 \$5.4 million is available to support
18 several objectives. Some of these
19 include:

20 Increase the efficacy of state
21 and local planning efforts through
22 interagency collaboration; provide and
23 support evidence-based programs and
24 practices; promote the appropriate use
25 and measure the effectiveness of

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2 promising approaches and disposition
3 alternatives; promote the implementation
4 of reentry programs and practices; and
5 engage schools, communities, and families
6 in violence prevention and increase the
7 support services provided to those who
8 have been victims of violence.

9 Applications are due June 24th
10 and eligible applicants are local units
11 of government and private non-profit
12 organizations. PCCD expects to fund
13 approximately 25 to 30 grants.

14 Thank you for the opportunity
15 to present here today, and I look forward
16 to our partnership moving forward.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
18 So much for our instructions of
19 abbreviation. We appreciate, however,
20 all of that information.

21 Is it the will of the panel
22 that we wait to hear the first panel
23 testify and then ask questions or we can
24 go in one at a time to begin questioning?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: I

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2 know Mike had to leave.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Oh, you have
4 to leave. So we'll make that exception.
5 I understand he has an important thing to
6 go to. His son's baseball game, is it?

7 MR. PENNINGTON: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: We won't
9 hold you from that.

10 MR. PENNINGTON: That's okay.
11 I have time.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So a couple
13 of things. Number one, I know what PCCD
14 does. I am a member of the body. For
15 people listening at home that don't, how
16 much -- so it's a Governor's commission
17 that deals with crime and juvenile
18 delinquency. I'm glad to hear that you
19 said that we are measuring things for
20 outcome-based accounting and
21 accountability, which I think everybody
22 has moved and evolved towards. So are we
23 measuring what our impact is in
24 particular areas, whether it is witness
25 compensation or juvenile programs? We

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2 are saying, here's what it was before,
3 here is what it is now.

4 MR. PENNINGTON: Yes. And just
5 for those folks that are here, PCCD is
6 really responsible for justice policy
7 planning and coordinating around the
8 Commonwealth. So we administer a number
9 of state and federal funding streams,
10 provide -- facilitate the delivery of
11 services to victims, and work on criminal
12 justice and juvenile justice system
13 improvement efforts, and we also do some
14 research and evaluation.

15 So we are -- that's one of our
16 priorities, is measuring the
17 effectiveness of what we do. We have a
18 limited amount of funds right now. We
19 want to make sure what we support, what
20 is improved by our Commission has an
21 impact out in the communities. So we're
22 measuring systemwide recidivism rates,
23 but we're also -- and I think Dr. Bradley
24 is going to talk a little bit about this,
25 that with our prevention programming,

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2 we've developed standardized program
3 measures, and we're also measuring the
4 impact, the return on investment that we
5 are making. We've done that for a number
6 of years now. So we want that feedback.
7 We want to see how we're doing with
8 communities, and we want to provide
9 technical assistance to communities to
10 help them understand what programs may be
11 effective for addressing particular
12 problems in communities.

13 I mentioned our kind of CTC
14 framework. What I really like about that
15 is, it's unique to every community. It's
16 based on what the community's needs and
17 issues are. It's not just a model that
18 is good for certain things. It is based
19 on what the community's needs are, what
20 those risk and protective factors are for
21 each community. And those are some of
22 the things that we're doing, but we
23 definitely measure the effectiveness of
24 what we do and want to make sure what we
25 fund is having a positive impact out in

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2 the communities.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: So, again,
4 you deal with 66 counties. You deal with
5 a whole spectrum of crime and justice,
6 that you help law enforcement do --
7 update equipment. You help victims
8 receive relief. You help returning
9 citizens try to find their way back into
10 society. You deal with prevention. You
11 deal with all of the things in the
12 continuum of justice. You also do
13 grants.

14 How much is your annual RFP
15 grant allocation that you've been
16 administering from the feds to the state
17 to municipalities around the
18 Commonwealth, roughly?

19 MR. PENNINGTON: Well, I can
20 speak from our Juvenile Justice Office.
21 We receive approximately one and a half
22 million dollars in federal Title II
23 funds. Our violence prevention programs,
24 we recently put out about \$2 million for
25 violence prevention programming. And, as

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2 you said, we have a number of other
3 federal funding streams. I don't have
4 those off the top of my head, but I'd be
5 glad to provide a list of those that
6 might be beneficial to the group.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just
8 wanted to give -- including the youth
9 component, but I wanted everyone on the
10 panel to understand this is a valuable
11 resource that is, in my opinion,
12 underutilized, everybody in the audience
13 too, that you can go after particular
14 grants that deal with that continuum.
15 And I don't know to the degree that
16 Philadelphia has kind of participated in
17 the way that it should considering when
18 you look at the state's crime picture,
19 there's us, there's Pittsburgh, and I
20 think Harrisburg is probably in the
21 middle of the state probably contributing
22 a lot of the criminal justice work.

23 So now with that being said,
24 youth, we have a situation where we have
25 young people literally being what are

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2 called crash dummies, and these older
3 guys are convincing them that if they
4 commit a violent crime, that because
5 they're juveniles, nothing will happen to
6 them, and that if they commit that crime,
7 they'll be let out in two years. This is
8 not true. This is a problem. As we
9 start to codify programs for this summer
10 and beyond to identify ways to intervene,
11 it is through your office again that we
12 submit our RFPs?

13 MR. PENNINGTON: Yes. Well,
14 it's determined by our state advisory
15 group that we have, and depending on the
16 amount of money we have, we set
17 priorities just each year to -- depending
18 on how much funding we do receive, then
19 we decide how much we can put out for
20 competitive opportunities for funding.
21 And we also -- and I do want to mention
22 that we do provide technical assistance
23 and training. A lot of that is through
24 the EPISCenter. So we would be happy to
25 come to Philadelphia to sit down to talk

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2 about some of our strategies and what may
3 be helpful for you moving forward. So
4 that's a critical resource, and that's
5 something that the Commission really
6 does, is try to facilitate training and
7 technical assistance to really -- because
8 we need to hear from you, because we need
9 to make sure what we are funding has
10 targeted the needs of communities. So we
11 have a lot of subcommittees at PCCD
12 because we want local practitioners and
13 experts and folks that are dealing with
14 the issues to give us feedback on what is
15 needed out there so we can direct our
16 money to the areas that need it most.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: There was a
18 day reporting center we visited in
19 Pittsburgh that was a one-stop shop for
20 young people, and they picked the kids up
21 from warring neighborhoods, brought them
22 to the center, worked on their homework,
23 worked on their life issues, took them
24 back home, went and did school visits,
25 went and did all those kinds of little

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2 things, and I just thought if we could
3 replicate that in Philadelphia -- well,
4 we need to replicate it in every
5 neighborhood and if we could -- the way
6 they did it just had so many good
7 outcomes.

8 Are you familiar with what I'm
9 talking about?

10 MR. PENNINGTON: Yes. I'm
11 familiar with day/evening reporting
12 centers. I'm not sure if I'm familiar
13 with the specific one that you were
14 mentioning, but I probably am. I just
15 want to make sure I'm not mixing it up
16 with something else.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you
18 familiar? You seem to have nodded.

19 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: I am
20 familiar --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you pull
22 the mic and say who you are.

23 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Sure.
24 This is Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend. I am
25 the President and CEO of the Philadelphia

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2 Youth Network, and I am familiar with the
3 evening reporting center strategy.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So do we
5 have that in Philly?

6 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: We had
7 two. I don't know how they are
8 performing now, but I know there was a
9 huge movement in partnership with the
10 Department of Human Services to implement
11 two centers locally.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. I'm
13 going to put a pin in that, but that kind
14 of program, where you have case
15 management, where you have intervention,
16 where you have peer counselors that
17 relate to young people and actually can
18 communicate in an effective way is what
19 I'd love to see more of in neighborhoods.
20 And Pittsburgh is not Philly. We have a
21 much more acute problem, in my opinion,
22 but if we could replicate that success,
23 if we have it here, in key hot zones, if
24 you would, for lack of a better
25 terminology, that's the kind of thing

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2 that I think gets down into the weeds, if
3 you would, to try to create prevention.

4 Does any other panel members
5 have questions?

6 MR. ROJAS: Yeah, I do.

7 Wilfredo Rojas. I worked in corrections
8 for 24 and a half years and I worked with
9 the juvenile population at the House of
10 Correction.

11 One question I have. You
12 talked about priorities, and we tend to
13 focus a lot on inmates, on juveniles that
14 are already going through the system.
15 When you talk about priorities, what
16 about children who are children of murder
17 victims, who have to -- a lot of the data
18 shows that a lot of them will go out and
19 commit crimes because of what they're
20 going through.

21 MS. BRADLEY: This is Stephanie
22 Bradley from the Prevention Research
23 Center at Penn State. Mike asked me to
24 sort of contribute to this, to the answer
25 here.

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2 There are two programs that are
3 currently funded by PCCD that have strong
4 evidence of effectiveness of working with
5 children who have experienced trauma.

6 One is trauma-focused cognitive
7 behavioral therapy, TFCBT. The other is
8 Family Bereavement Program. Both of
9 these programs work with -- one in
10 particular deals with youth who have lost
11 a parent or both parents, and it's a
12 therapeutic process that they go through
13 with a counselor. Trauma-focused CBT is
14 not specific to death, but requires that
15 the youth has a known experienced trauma,
16 which of course murder of a parent would
17 certainly qualify there.

18 So those are two programs that
19 are currently funded by PCCD that the
20 EPISCenter provides training and
21 technical assistance support for. So
22 communities could pursue grant funding
23 from PCCD and work with us to implement
24 both of those models.

25 MR. ROJAS: What about

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2 communities of diverse cultures?

3 MS. BRADLEY: The programs are
4 relevant for those as well.

5 MR. ROJAS: And it's a priority
6 across the Commonwealth?

7 MS. BRADLEY: I can't speak to
8 the priorities. That's more of a
9 question I think for Mike.

10 MR. PENNINGTON: I mean, it's
11 certainly something that we support
12 through our funding streams. I mean, we
13 have a number of different programs to
14 deal with a number of different areas.
15 So the JAG funding announcement that's
16 out currently right now provides funding
17 for a wide range of initiatives across
18 the spectrum to support a number of
19 different populations across criminal
20 justice, juvenile justice, prevention,
21 reentry, folks that -- solutions for
22 mental illness, substance abuse issues.
23 So there's a number of areas. It's
24 pretty wide to what the funding will
25 support.

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2 MS. BRADLEY: I'd also like to
3 add something else to that, if I could.
4 PCCD over the last couple of years while
5 Mr. Pennington was at the Bureau of
6 Juvenile Justice Services has been
7 working on a number of specific targeted
8 outreach efforts through the EPISCenter
9 to recruit high-risk communities to adopt
10 the communities, the Care Coalition
11 model, which I think also gets to your
12 question about priorities and high-risk
13 areas.

14 MR. ROJAS: With respect to
15 your intervention, therapeutic
16 intervention, do any of your programs
17 utilize the multi-systematic therapy?

18 MS. BRADLEY: Yes, absolutely.
19 MST is a program that's been well
20 supported in the state for a number of
21 years. The EPISCenter provides training
22 and technical assistance support for that
23 program model. We work with about 51 MST
24 teams across the state.

25 MR. ROJAS: Last question.

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2 What has been the effectiveness of any
3 residential or community supervision
4 programs with your juveniles? What's
5 been your experience? What does the data
6 say?

7 MR. PENNINGTON: Well, I can
8 speak to the recidivism rates. I don't
9 have the numbers right here on specific
10 like residential providers or anything
11 like that, but the statewide recidivism
12 rate is 18 percent from cases closed in
13 2011 for -- that's all cases. But I
14 think what you probably will find is kids
15 that are in residential placement, the
16 recidivism rates are a little bit higher,
17 because kids that are more higher risk
18 are the ones that are in out-of-home
19 placement. Or based on the counties that
20 use the YLS risk/need assessment, those
21 kids that are in out-of-home placement
22 should be kids that are higher risk,
23 moderate to high risk.

24 MR. ROJAS: So do I gather then
25 that residential incarceration, it has

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2 not proven to be very effective with
3 juveniles?

4 MR. PENNINGTON: No, I'm not
5 saying that. I think it can be very
6 effective. I'm just saying that the
7 strategy -- let me back up a little bit.

8 From 2007 to 2014, delinquency
9 placements based on a new allegation have
10 decreased over 40 percent. So what we're
11 trying to do is keep kids out of the
12 system that are lower risk, divert them
13 into community-based services, and
14 reserve -- kids that are out-of-home
15 placement would be for higher risk levels
16 of kids.

17 Now, we still -- I'd have to
18 get those recidivism rates, but what I'm
19 saying is, they may not be as low as kids
20 that aren't in like secure residential
21 placement facilities. But we have some
22 very good programs out there, but the
23 recidivism levels may not be as low as
24 other programs for low- to moderate-risk
25 kids.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any other
3 questions?

4 MS. SCHWARTZMAN: I just had
5 one. I'm Ann Schwartzman with the
6 Pennsylvania Prison Society.

7 One of the issues that we've
8 looked at over the years is the impact on
9 children when parents are incarcerated,
10 and I'm just wondering if you're aware of
11 any programs or if there's anything that
12 PCCD might be looking at or the
13 EPISCenter now to really focus on kids
14 who might be at risk whose parents are
15 away.

16 MS. BRADLEY: Well, I would go
17 back to, for one, the trauma-focused CBT,
18 because that's removal of a parent.
19 Incarceration of a parent is also trauma.
20 We have worked in the past with Big
21 Brothers Big Sisters programming that
22 focuses specifically on children of
23 incarcerated parents. Certainly I think
24 that we could be looking into the
25 evidence base around what programs are

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2 out there for youth who are experiencing
3 that specific type of family
4 circumstance, but those are the two that
5 sort of pop into my mind most
6 immediately. And I'd be happy to look
7 further into that and provide feedback to
8 the Council.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: If I may,
10 Amichi, I believe it is.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Amachi.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Amachi.
13 You're familiar with them. They deal
14 with that whole generational issue, and
15 most recently Councilman Johnson and I
16 left Graterford and saw a group of
17 inmates that want to reconnect with their
18 family and their children in particular
19 through teleconferencing with the School
20 District, which is something that they're
21 trying to re-establish contact, begin to
22 be a part of their lives. It's in the
23 beta testing form and very formula, but I
24 do think it may have useful benefit when
25 you start talking about individuals

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2 starting to care and reconnect with their
3 community and beginning to be at least a
4 positive influence on their lives.

5 So two that I know about.

6 REVEREND MAIRENA: I had a
7 question. Reverend Adan Mairena from the
8 West Kensington Ministry.

9 Related to my colleague's
10 question here, do you or is there any
11 evidence-based studying, is there
12 anything related to working with schools
13 where children are attending whose
14 parents are incarcerated? Is there any
15 data? Is there any connection at all
16 whatsoever? Are there any programs? Is
17 there anything where organizations like
18 yourself or any organizations identifies
19 children in schools whose parents are
20 incarcerated and is there any type of
21 relationship?

22 MS. BRADLEY: I'm not entirely
23 sure I understand your question, but it
24 sounds like maybe --

25 REVEREND MAIRENA: Like I have

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2 children whose parents are in jail. They
3 attend our public schools, but it seems
4 like the schools don't know. The
5 counselors don't -- if they have a
6 counselor, they don't know. Is there
7 anything out there that exists that could
8 address that type of situation?

9 MS. BRADLEY: I think there are
10 probably a few things that could. One
11 would be potentially, for one, the
12 Pennsylvania Student Assistant Programs,
13 the SAP teams. I know they operate sort
14 of differently in different schools. So
15 it's not standardized, and I wouldn't
16 necessarily say it's evidence-based, but
17 those teams are designed to help support
18 and intervene with youth who are having
19 all manner of problems. So that's one
20 possible resource.

21 Another could be Communities in
22 Schools, which is a bit like case
23 management within the school system
24 itself. So there's typically a case
25 manager that works within the school and

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2 connects youth with needed resources out
3 in the community. That is something that
4 it's not -- that's something that a
5 school has to decide they want to bring
6 into their system. It's not just a
7 standard part of the PDE or something
8 like that. But those community workers
9 basically connect those youth with needed
10 resources. So I would think they would
11 be a way to identify if there were a
12 parent incarcerated and a youth needing
13 additional support.

14 I had another one, but the
15 sirens are a little distracting. I
16 forgot the third. Sorry.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

18 All right. You're ready for your
19 testimony?

20 MS. BRADLEY: Sure. Thank you.

21 Good afternoon. I'm
22 Dr. Stephanie Bradley. I'm a prevention
23 scientist at the Prevention Research
24 Center at Penn State University, and I'm
25 the Managing Director of the EPISCenter,

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2 which stands for the Evidence-Based
3 Prevention and Intervention Support
4 Center. EPISCenter is funded by PCCD and
5 the Department of Human Services' Office
6 of Children, Youth and Families. It's
7 absolutely my pleasure to be here today
8 and an honor to have the opportunity to
9 provide testimony to the Council this
10 afternoon.

11 For the record, I have
12 previously submitted written testimony.
13 After looking at all of the testimony
14 that was delivered on March 28th -- I
15 didn't look at all of it; I looked at
16 some of it -- after looking at that, I
17 revised my testimony, because I felt like
18 it would be important to focus my part
19 today on talking about prevention. So I
20 am happy to submit my written testimony
21 after the fact. So I apologize you guys
22 don't have it right now.

23 So I'm here today to talk about
24 prevention, because prevention rarely
25 gets enough coverage in testimonies and

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2 in strategic plans, and there is often a
3 scenario where prevention is actually
4 misunderstood. And so I think it's
5 important to talk about these things a
6 little bit this afternoon.

7 Prevention is not about
8 intervening after a problem has occurred.
9 Prevention is about keeping problems from
10 even arising. And at its best, it's a
11 data-driven, planful, upstream approach
12 to protecting youth and communities and
13 promoting their positive development.
14 Prevention programs can actually prevent
15 issues of violence, substance use,
16 depression, truancy, and school drop-out,
17 as Mr. Pennington already highlighted,
18 and PCCD and the EPISCenter work very
19 closely in partnership to promote a
20 public health approach to prevention,
21 which relies on gathering data on risk
22 and protective factors, identifying
23 effective programs and practices to
24 address those issues.

25 So I would like to share one

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2 example that highlights how prevention
3 works. And a key strategy for prevention
4 is through children developing
5 social-emotional competency.

6 Social-emotional competency means that
7 youth are able to interact well with
8 their peers and others and they're able
9 to understand and manage their emotions
10 appropriately. Research has shown that
11 kindergartners who were rated high in
12 social-emotional competence were more
13 likely to earn a high school diploma, get
14 a college degree, and have a full-time
15 job by the time they reached adulthood.
16 In contrast, kindergartners rated low in
17 social-emotional competency are more
18 likely to be arrested in early adulthood,
19 to use marijuana, and to need public
20 housing support.

21 PCCD provides funding for the
22 highest rated and most well-researched
23 social-emotional learning curriculum
24 available, which is PATHS. It stands for
25 Promoting Alternative Thinking

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2 Strategies. PATHS is a school-based
3 program delivered in kindergarten and
4 elementary schools, and it targets
5 multiple risk and protective factors.
6 Youth who participate in PATHS show less
7 aggression, less conduct disorder, lower
8 internalizing, reduced ADHD symptoms, and
9 higher test score proficiency in reading,
10 writing, and math. We estimate that
11 there's a \$24 return on investment for
12 every \$1 spent on PATHS programming.

13 Using CTC as another example of
14 how prevention works and what prevention
15 looks like, I just wanted to add a couple
16 of points about CTC, which Mr. Pennington
17 already briefly discussed.

18 CTC draws its strength and
19 effectiveness from using this public
20 health approach, and in Pennsylvania the
21 CTC process specifically relies on using
22 the Pennsylvania Youth Survey. This is
23 the survey that Mr. Pennington already
24 also described.

25 Research on CTC has shown that

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2 youth in CTC communities fare better than
3 youth in non-CTC communities. They're
4 less likely to be negatively influenced
5 by their peers. They're less likely to
6 be involved in delinquency. They show
7 higher academic achievement and better
8 engagement in school. Recent estimates
9 of CTC suggest a \$10 return on investment
10 for every \$1 invested in CTC.

11 So prevention works by
12 addressing the underlying causes of
13 problem behaviors as opposed to targeting
14 the specific problems themselves. In
15 these examples, both PATHS and CTC are
16 preventative, in that they're not
17 intervening on problems. Rather they're
18 focusing on targeting broad risk and
19 protective factors. Both CTC and PATHS,
20 among others, have demonstrated their
21 effectiveness at preventing multiple
22 problems in rigorous research trials.
23 And this topic leads me to the topic of
24 evidence-based programs.

25 Mr. Pennington described the

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2 Blueprints program. These are the
3 original evidence-based programs that
4 have substantial research evidence behind
5 them that demonstrate their effectiveness
6 in reducing youth problems. One of the
7 things that we're concerned by in more
8 recent years in calls for accountability
9 and push for evidence-based programming
10 is that many program developers are now
11 adopting the term "evidence-based," but
12 not actually meeting the criteria of
13 having been researched and well
14 evaluated. So this does a disservice to
15 all of us, because it diverts limited
16 resources away from programs that are
17 based in sound developmental research and
18 prevention science that have demonstrated
19 short- and long-term impact on youth
20 families and communities and it funnels
21 those resources into programming for
22 which there are no evaluations, no
23 rigorous demonstration of effect and,
24 therefore, offer little to no proof in
25 their ability to actually improve

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2 outcomes.

3 So in the process of doing
4 research, we learn a lot about what we
5 don't know. We find programs that make
6 things worse and not better. We learn
7 about what doesn't work and why. We go
8 back to the drawing board again and
9 again. Often this process is painfully
10 out of step with the problems that are
11 occurring with a number of problems that
12 we want to address and the passion that
13 we have for addressing those problems.
14 So as researchers and prevention
15 scientists, when we find something that
16 does actually work, we want to make sure
17 the policymakers and service providers
18 are aware of those programs that do work,
19 which is why we started using the term
20 "evidence-based" in the first place and
21 why programs like -- program registries
22 like Blueprints for Healthy Youth
23 Development exist.

24 So I'll describe briefly a
25 little bit what we do at the EPISCenter.

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2 A key focus of our work is assisting
3 policymakers and the community service
4 providers and others to understand what
5 works, what doesn't work, how to choose
6 programs, how to run them well in their
7 communities so that you get the results
8 that you're looking for. We provide free
9 training and technical assistance for 18
10 different prevention and intervention
11 programs that have strong research
12 evidence of effectiveness, several of
13 which have been brought up this
14 afternoon.

15 Each year, through the state
16 Violence Prevention Program budget, PCCD
17 provides funding for communities to adopt
18 and implement these programs, and
19 EPISCenter support is included in that
20 funding. We also provide free training
21 and technical assistance for CTC. We
22 provide support to communities in
23 building their readiness to adopt the
24 model, engage key stakeholders and move
25 those stakeholders through the CTC

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2 process. We regularly work with
3 communities who are interested in
4 learning more about developing a
5 coalition in their area, and PCCD
6 regularly provides funding for CTC.

7 EPISCenter also conducts a
8 statewide gap analysis for PCCD using
9 data from the Pennsylvania Youth Survey,
10 juvenile court data, like disposition and
11 recidivism data, and hopefully soon the
12 YLS, Youth Level of Service, data. Using
13 those data, we submit new program
14 recommendations to PCCD.

15 So I will wrap up my testimony
16 with two hopeful calls to action.

17 One, the City could further
18 inform its prevention planning efforts by
19 enrolling in the next administration of
20 the Pennsylvania Youth Survey. The PAYS
21 provides a rich source of information on
22 youth risk and protective factors, which
23 are valuable data for driving prevention
24 decisions. The PAYS provides insight
25 into a wide array of risk and protective

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2 factors related to psychosocial
3 well-being and important youth
4 relationships. These data would also
5 enable our gaps analysis to further
6 account for youth and family needs in
7 Philadelphia.

8 Two, please consider the
9 EPISCenter as a readily available
10 resource to the City of Philadelphia for
11 achieving your prevention goals.

12 Thank you very much for your
13 time and the opportunity to provide
14 testimony today.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I always
16 make reference to the fact that on the
17 Delaware if 200 whales ran ashore and
18 died, every marine biologist from around
19 the world would come and try to figure
20 out why. When young people are killing
21 themselves at the rate that they are, are
22 you the marine biologists that actually
23 kind of evaluate what's working, what's
24 not working, what ways we should kind of
25 tailor our --

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2 MS. BRADLEY: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Finally I
4 get to meet you.

5 MS. BRADLEY: Nice to meet you
6 as well.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: There are
8 some programs that are cookie cutter. I
9 would imagine that can be applied all
10 over the Commonwealth. Some are unique
11 to urban areas and others are unique
12 probably even to neighborhoods. Are you
13 able to codify like which ones work and
14 why?

15 MS. BRADLEY: Yes, absolutely.
16 That's the whole field of prevention
17 science itself and the work that we are
18 involved in, both at the Prevention
19 Research Center and at the EPISCenter.
20 So we have a lot of expertise in terms of
21 understanding programs that do have
22 research and programs that don't. We
23 also very much understand the core
24 principles of change that improve youth
25 relationships, improve youth attitudes,

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2 those kinds of things.

3 So if a program doesn't have
4 that research evidence behind it, that
5 doesn't mean that we can't go in and look
6 at it and develop some reasonable sense
7 of confidence in, This program is well
8 designed and probably would work, and we
9 would recommend an evaluation to wrap
10 around with that. And we're also able to
11 look at program components and say, That
12 may not work and this in fact might be
13 harmful for kids.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the
15 reason I ask that -- and I won't belabor
16 the point, but I'm a product of the House
17 of Umoja, which was a youth-based program
18 for at-risk youth at the time of gang war
19 and conflict.

20 If we could have put it in a
21 bottle and shipped it around, we would
22 have, but we came to the conclusion
23 unfortunately that it was based on Sister
24 Falaka Fattah and David Fattah's personal
25 relationship and connecting with kids,

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2 and you could not kind of make that a

3 McDonald's hamburger and do it that way.

4 So I really am going to want to

5 draw upon your resources to find out

6 things that are unique as a gem and those

7 differently can be applied in different

8 areas. Because if we could replicate

9 success, I want to do that. And I don't

10 want to replicate failures. So that kind

11 of measurement I think is essential.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Absolutely. And

13 I think the core of what you're

14 describing is good mentoring, and there's

15 a lot of research evidence around

16 mentoring being a very effective way to

17 prevent problems and to intervene on

18 problems. So it may not -- we may not be

19 able to replicate the person providing

20 the mentorship, but certainly you can set

21 up enough structure in place to

22 disseminate mentoring in other places.

23 And this connects to something that

24 Mr. Pennington touched on earlier. The

25 Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol

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2 is based on exactly this type of premise,
3 that there are certain generic
4 approaches, if you will. They're not
5 evidence-based. They're not name brand
6 programs, but they're ways of interacting
7 with kids. They're types of services
8 that can be provided that have a
9 tremendous amount of research behind them
10 that we can carry that out and replicate
11 it in other places when --

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if I
13 understand you correctly, we may not to
14 the naked eye be able to understand why
15 this works here, but your framework can
16 take certain ingredients out of it that
17 are common and can at least structure it
18 in a way that has a fighting chance to be
19 successful somewhere else?

20 MS. BRADLEY: Absolutely.
21 That's actually the foundation of the
22 SPEP, the Standardized Program Evaluation
23 Protocol. And that's being piloted in 11
24 counties in Pennsylvania right now.

25 MR. COBB: William Cobb.

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2 Thank you for your testimony
3 today.

4 MS. BRADLEY: You're welcome.
5 Thanks for having me.

6 MR. COBB: So I apologize for
7 publicly snickering the moment that you
8 indicated that "evidence-based" is now a
9 term that is very popular among anyone
10 who is competing for funding to implement
11 any such program. So I wanted to get
12 that out of the way. But then also say
13 that I guess in what you just indicated
14 is that even if a program hasn't been
15 researched and hasn't been deemed
16 evidence-based, it still has the
17 potential to produce the outcomes that we
18 want?

19 MS. BRADLEY: Correct.

20 MR. COBB: And then my next
21 question would be, since evidence-based
22 is popular, we all know that investing in
23 a person going to school, an after-school
24 program, mentoring, we know that these
25 things are far better suited to produce

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2 outcomes that we want in a society rather
3 than locking someone up and throwing away
4 the key and throwing them in solitary
5 confinement and then putting restrictions
6 upon them because they're living with
7 their scarlet letter. So we know this.
8 But just in your terminology, could you
9 name at least three methods,
10 evidence-based methods, that we could
11 readily look to implementing in order to
12 deal with the current -- what can we
13 actually do that will have an impact,
14 whether it's evidence-based or not or
15 based off of evidence-based findings,
16 that we can do, whether it would be
17 mentoring, whether it would be
18 after-school programs, if you have
19 anything like that.

20 MS. BRADLEY: Sure. There are
21 a number of fundamentals of what works in
22 prevention, and I can share a few of
23 those with you, and I actually have some
24 handouts if the Councilmembers are
25 interested around more of the sort of

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2 core tenets of effective programming.

3 At their core, most effective
4 is using a strengths-based approach,
5 which is to say, which is to not
6 necessarily focus kids on don't do this,
7 don't do that, don't do this other thing,
8 don't get involved in this, but instead
9 have them focus on the things that you do
10 want them to be doing. And that helps
11 developmentally to focus on where I
12 should be going, not on all of the closed
13 doors, point you to the open door that
14 you want them to be going through.

15 So in any evidence-based
16 program that has all of this great
17 research behind it and effective
18 approaches otherwise, they're often based
19 on the strengths-based approach. So that
20 is one, and I would say that's a
21 fundamental.

22 All youth fare better when they
23 have good skills for coping with anxiety,
24 with anger, good skills for negotiating
25 peer pressure, for refusing peer pressure

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2 but keeping their friends. So it's a
3 core component of family-based program
4 that is supported by PCCD that we provide
5 technical assistance for, is that kids
6 need the ability to resist the pressure
7 but without disenfranchising or breaking
8 down their friendships, because
9 friendships are extremely important to
10 young people and they become increasingly
11 important over time. So helping kids
12 develop these very practical skills that
13 are, again, strengths-based, they're
14 focused towards what you want them to be
15 doing and pro social development.

16 I would say that -- I think the
17 last one which you've hit on a couple of
18 times is around mentoring, and we've
19 talked about that quite a bit, that as
20 long as youth have one very positive,
21 truly nurturing relationship with a
22 caring adult, they're going to fare
23 better in the world and have better
24 long-term outcomes than kids who don't
25 have at least that one relationship. It

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2 doesn't have to be a parent, but it needs
3 to be somebody who can help them focus
4 and stay on target.

5 MR. COBB: Thank you.

6 REVEREND MAIRENA: I'm assuming
7 that there have been like aha moments
8 when it comes to research that helps you
9 foretell or spot trends. I'm interested
10 in knowing -- I'm asking you to provide
11 an example where you've seen something --
12 where you've seen a trend going the wrong
13 way, like we don't want to go down this
14 road, based on your research.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Without
16 naming names.

17 MS. BRADLEY: That's not fair.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: You can talk
19 about types of -- I don't want to --

20 MS. BRADLEY: I get you.

21 I'll tell you what, there seems
22 to be a constant trend of a gravitational
23 pull towards certain types of approaches
24 that summarily do not work, and I think
25 the pull is because there's a felt need

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2 to do something. There's an interest in
3 having sort of a grassroots collective
4 community effort to help kids, to
5 intervene on a crisis. The problem is is
6 that while these approaches are
7 well-meaning, they don't have evidence of
8 being effective and in many cases we have
9 demonstrated research over and over again
10 that certain types of approaches can
11 actually increase risk and cause youth to
12 become more delinquent than they were
13 before they participated in the program.
14 Typically this involves scare tactics.
15 So this is the opposite of what I was
16 describing before. So scare tactics is,
17 these are all the things we don't want
18 you to do, you don't want to wind up in
19 jail, you don't want to use drugs, you
20 don't da-da-da-da-da. And what happens
21 is, you're exposing kids to things that
22 maybe are novel to them, that are
23 exciting to them. This doesn't work with
24 their brain development. Youth are --
25 the sort of reasoned logical tempering

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2 part of the brain has not fully developed
3 yet until the early 20's, so what you
4 wind up doing is exposing youth to very
5 novel sort of sensation, risk-seeking
6 type scenarios and potentially piquing
7 their interest in it as opposed to sort
8 of diverting them away from it. So we
9 see this a lot. We are fighting it a
10 lot, and I would say that's the sort of
11 constant trend. And it's tough because
12 it feels like the right thing to do with
13 an adult brain, but it's not actually the
14 right thing to do.

15 MR. COBB: So that's just what
16 we would call the scared straight method?

17 MS. BRADLEY: Correct.

18 MR. COBB: Thank you.

19 MR. ROJAS: Scared straight
20 has -- the data, the research has shown
21 that it doesn't work, it's not effective.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Correct.

23 MR. ROJAS: My question is that
24 I don't think that we can arbitrarily
25 either implement programs or, conversely,

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2 eliminate programs because they are on
3 the list of what works and what doesn't
4 work. My question is, for example, at
5 the Prison System, we had a program where
6 we brought the kids in to see what
7 corrections officials and other people
8 that work in the Prison System do. It
9 was more a shadowing situation for more
10 careers in corrections as opposed to
11 scaring them into not engaging in any
12 kind of negative behavior. But my
13 question would be -- and I appreciate
14 your testimony. You are well-versed in
15 the subject.

16 Is the implementation of a
17 program that has been shown to work --
18 research is, all you do is present the
19 facts. You don't actually go through the
20 implementation. And a lot times it's not
21 the actual theory, but it's the
22 implementer of the program.

23 What do you in your work, what
24 have you seen to work where you take the
25 theory and the research and match it to

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2 the implementation?

3 MS. BRADLEY: Sure. This is
4 exactly what the EPISCenter is funded to
5 do, is to work with community providers
6 from the very beginning of adopting an
7 evidence-based program. So we coordinate
8 with program developers to make sure that
9 we have timely and qualified training
10 within the State of Pennsylvania so that
11 if a community is interested in
12 implementing life skills training, they
13 have access to a life skills training --
14 certified trainer. We ensure that on the
15 ground that the agency that's
16 implementing that program is implementing
17 with what is known as fidelity. This is
18 probably a term that some of you have
19 heard, which is to say that the program
20 is reasonably being delivered according
21 to how it was also actually researched.
22 So the program on the ground is not
23 looking significantly different from how
24 it was in the lab essentially.

25 We build data collection and

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2 evaluation tools that communities use.

3 They're required to use it when they're

4 funded by PCCD. Very simple Excel-based

5 tools that calculate a lot of formulas

6 behind the scenes and enable those

7 implementers to look at what level of

8 fidelity are we delivering with, what

9 level of dosage are we getting, are we

10 getting enough from this program to these

11 kids and families, and they also report

12 short-term outcomes. So did attitudes

13 towards ATOD - alcohol, tobacco, other

14 drugs - reduce, did problem-solving

15 skills improve, those types of things.

16 Lastly, we also work with

17 communities to develop strategies for

18 sustaining that program once the seed

19 funding has ended. And so we're there

20 from start to finish with that free

21 technical assistance and training. We

22 have a whole website that has a

23 tremendous set of resources around

24 implementing the program, evaluating it,

25 sustaining it, as well as what we call

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2 readiness tools, which are just usually
3 like a four-page document or so that if
4 you're interested in that program but
5 you're not entirely sure if it's the
6 right fit, you can look through this
7 document, get a better sense of is this
8 the right fit of our community needs with
9 this program, and it outlines the things
10 that you kind of need to have in place to
11 realistically get that program up and
12 running. So we do a lot from start to
13 finish to support that.

14 MR. ROJAS: Would you have a
15 figure on the amount of resources and
16 taxpayers' money that these
17 evidence-based programs have saved the
18 taxpayers?

19 MS. BRADLEY: Yes. This is
20 what Mr. Pennington was describing
21 earlier around the cost-benefit estimates
22 that we've been developing. So we take
23 the PCCD grants that are awarded to these
24 programs. We look at the cost per youth
25 or per family depending on the program.

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2 So we take the Pennsylvania cost combined
3 with the Washington State Institute of
4 Public Policy benefits and we calculate
5 net benefits basically per person, per
6 youth. So in the last -- in our last
7 analysis of this, we looked at three
8 fiscal years and the return was over \$38
9 million.

10 MR. ROJAS: Back to the
11 taxpayers?

12 MS. BRADLEY: Correct.

13 MR. ROJAS: Great.

14 MR. COBB: I have just one more
15 question.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we're
17 going to jump around so that everybody
18 gets --

19 MS. SCHWARTZMAN: I just wanted
20 to find out, for the Pennsylvania Youth
21 Survey that you mentioned, does that
22 become almost a prerequisite for looking
23 at some of the programs and I guess doing
24 a needs assessment in the community to
25 see what you might suggest or adapt?

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2 MS. BRADLEY: It's required for
3 the CTC process. The Violence Prevention
4 Program funding requires a risk and needs
5 assessment to be done in the last three
6 years. It's not required to use the
7 PAYS, I don't think, for that one. And I
8 think the Substance Abuse Education and
9 Demand Reduction, I don't know if that
10 requires either of those. I'm not
11 certain about that. But the PAYS is a
12 tremendous resource for gathering risk
13 and protective factor data, and it's huge
14 for prevention planning.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Did you have
16 another?

17 MR. COBB: That answered my
18 question.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. So
20 did you give testimony yet?

21 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: No.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Would you
23 like to?

24 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Yes.

25 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

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2 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Good
3 afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of City
4 Council and this esteemed panel. My name
5 is Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend and I'm the
6 President and CEO of the Philadelphia
7 Youth Network. I appreciate the
8 opportunity to appear before you today to
9 discuss the importance of creating
10 opportunities for our city's youth that
11 not only provide productive experiences
12 during the summer months and outside of
13 school, but also help prepare them to
14 become skilled, educated, and engaged
15 citizens in our future workforce.

16 The Philadelphia Youth Network,
17 PYN, is an intermediary organization
18 dedicated to connecting systems and
19 leveraging resources. PYN works to equip
20 young people for academic achievement,
21 economic opportunity, and personal
22 success. To achieve this mission, we
23 coordinate and support large-scale
24 cross-sector initiatives while developing
25 targeted programs to expand access to

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2 services for underserved youth.

3 At PYN we know that when
4 potential meets opportunity, youth will
5 succeed. We believe in the power of
6 partnership and the need for
7 collaboration. We have seen firsthand
8 the scale we can accomplish when we work
9 together. And we are committed to
10 continuing this work until all
11 Philadelphia's young people take their
12 rightful place as full contributing
13 members of a world-class workforce for
14 the region.

15 Since our founding in 1999, PYN
16 has coordinated nearly \$500 million in
17 public and private funds to serve more
18 than 150,000 young people, including \$145
19 million in federal funding leveraged to
20 secure an additional 340 million in local
21 and private funds, and has contracted
22 with over 200 organizations to deliver
23 evidence-based youth programs.

24 Specifically, PYN creates and
25 scales effective service pathways that

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2 lead to greater education and employment
3 outcomes for vulnerable youth. PYN
4 serves as the managing partner for two of
5 the City's most comprehensive campaigns
6 focused on improving the educational and
7 economic outcomes of Philadelphia's young
8 people: Project U-Turn, designed to
9 improve the high school graduation rates
10 of the City's youth, and WorkReady
11 Philadelphia, dedicated to creating
12 systemic approaches to address the skills
13 gap for vulnerable youth.

14 PYN works to advance these
15 campaigns and improve outcomes for
16 Philadelphia's youth by guiding vision
17 and strategy, supporting aligned
18 activities, establishing shared metrics,
19 building public will, mobilizing funding,
20 and advancing policy.

21 WorkReady Philadelphia, as a
22 citywide initiative, is dedicated to
23 improving the economic outcomes of the
24 region's youth by attracting, aligning,
25 and investing resources in coordinated

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2 youth workforce development strategies.

3 The WorkReady Philadelphia campaign is a

4 collaboration of partners, including

5 employers, schools, community-based

6 organizations, advocacy groups, labor

7 unions, and private investors.

8 Programs under the WorkReady

9 campaign provide career exposure and

10 workforce preparation opportunities to

11 thousands of young people annually.

12 Intended to enhance youth understanding

13 and mastery of skills needed to be

14 successful in the 21st century economy,

15 these programs also provide academic

16 enrichment and promote awareness of

17 post-secondary options.

18 WorkReady Philadelphia operates

19 year round and summer programming for

20 youth and young adults between the ages

21 of 12 and 24. Each program is designed

22 to challenge youth to understand the

23 correlation between work experience,

24 skill attainment, and high school

25 completion and how these variables impact

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2 their potential for college and career
3 success.

4 WorkReady summer program models
5 are a set of programs that provide a
6 continuum of research-based and
7 developmentally appropriate programs.

8 There are currently four summer program
9 models that serve youth ages 12 to 21
10 without post-secondary experience.

11 The first of those models is
12 the Career Exposure model, provides
13 opportunities for rising 8th grade youth
14 to explore skills and experiences that
15 careers require and to be introduced to
16 key 21st century skills, specifically
17 focused on introducing long-term and
18 short-term goal-setting and providing
19 opportunities to build their social
20 networks. Career Exposure is the only
21 non-wage-bearing model. However, youth
22 participants receive financial
23 incentives, which are not connected to
24 hours of participation.

25 Service Learning programs

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2 employ teaching and learning strategies
3 designed for youth with an interest in
4 civic service and little or no prior
5 exposure to the world of work. These
6 programs allow youth to collectively
7 address real-world issues, problems, and
8 needs within the local, regional,
9 national or global community.

10 Our Work Experience model
11 program provides a structured work
12 experience for youth with limited
13 exposure to the world of work. These
14 programs provide youth with explicit
15 opportunities to further explore a
16 desired career path as well as practice
17 21st century skills.

18 And the last of the four
19 models, Internships, offers an advanced
20 opportunity for youth with prior
21 employment and/or leadership experience.
22 These experiences provide youth with
23 exposure to professional careers
24 otherwise not accessible to the teenage
25 population, opportunities to develop and

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2 refine targeted 21st century skills, and
3 engagement in ongoing, professional
4 development workshops. In addition,
5 internships provide opportunities for
6 youth to work closely with a trained
7 adult supervisor, who serves in an
8 instructional role throughout the
9 duration of the experience.

10 Last year, PYN contracted with
11 nearly 70 community-based organizations
12 throughout the City to operate one or
13 more of the WorkReady summer program
14 models. Over 1,000 work sites hosted
15 youth throughout Philadelphia. With
16 support from WorkReady, our City achieved
17 our goal of providing 10,000 summer work
18 experiences. Nearly 90 percent, 8,812 of
19 those experiences, were provided through
20 WorkReady.

21 Of the thousands of youth
22 served in summer 2015 through WorkReady,
23 just over half were female, nearly 70
24 percent were high school age between 15
25 and 17 years old, and nearly 90 percent

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2 were youth of color, 76 percent African
3 American, 12 percent Hispanic.

4 Why do summer jobs matter? Our
5 city and our partners collaborate and
6 invest at impressive scale every year to
7 create summer work experiences for young
8 people, because we understand just how
9 important these experiences can be.

10 They provide economic
11 opportunity. Last year, WorkReady
12 participants earned more than \$6 million,
13 which was infused back into the local
14 economy.

15 They provide career awareness.
16 Summer work opportunities help youth gain
17 exposure and experience in our local
18 workforce and growing industries.

19 They provide academic
20 achievement. WorkReady summer models
21 implement project-based learning, and
22 successful participants are eligible to
23 receive an elective credit through the
24 School District of Philadelphia.

25 They provide professional and

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2 adult connections. Summer experiences
3 provide youth with a network of caring
4 adults and helps build the first stages
5 of professional and career connections.

6 However, at PYN, we understand
7 that programming interventions and
8 supports for youth provide critical
9 avenues of support beyond skill-building
10 and workforce preparation.

11 They help to combat poverty and
12 trauma. Nearly all WorkReady
13 participants will self-identify as having
14 household incomes at or below 235 percent
15 of the poverty line.

16 Research has shown that trauma
17 from extreme poverty and violence has
18 serious impact on child development.
19 Seth Pollak from the University of
20 Madison Wisconsin and his colleagues have
21 shown that the human child can learn to
22 accommodate quite a wide variety of
23 circumstances, but that extreme poverty
24 and violence are out of the range of the
25 child's developed capability for coping.

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2 The effect is a dangerous
3 cycle. Living in poverty makes our youth
4 significantly more likely to experience
5 trauma, and the psychological effects of
6 trauma make it harder to overcome the
7 challenges associated with poverty.

8 The critical components of
9 reversing trauma and stress from the type
10 of exposure is connection to caring
11 adults. Harvard University Center on the
12 Developing Child has shown that without
13 caring adults, the unrelenting stress of
14 extreme poverty and other high-stress
15 barriers can actually weaken the
16 architecture of the developing brain,
17 with long-term consequences for learning,
18 behavior, and both physical and mental
19 health.

20 It's also worth noting research
21 from America's Promise Alliance found
22 that supportive relationships with adults
23 in and out of school can reduce the
24 likeliness of leaving school early by as
25 much as 25 percent.

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2 With these realities, we
3 understand how imperative it is that
4 young people not only learn the
5 importance of 21st century skills and
6 work experiences, but also the importance
7 of building a network of support.

8 I am happy to report that in
9 2015, 94 percent, over 9 out of 10, young
10 people who participated in WorkReady
11 summer programs reported having a
12 supportive mentor in their workplace,
13 that their work was valued by adults in
14 the program, and that adults in the
15 program were invested in their success.

16 Preventing incarceration and
17 mortality. In 2015 and this year, in
18 2016, PYN has partnered with Dr. Sarah
19 Heller, a researcher from the University
20 of Pennsylvania, to better understand the
21 larger impact of WorkReady summer
22 programs. Dr. Heller's similar research
23 in Chicago has shown that summer jobs may
24 be a critical component to preventing
25 crime and violence among disadvantaged

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2 youth.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: You think?

4 That's one of those aha moments?

5 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Great.

6 There is no lack of need to
7 understand the severity and importance of
8 these issues. The level of incarceration
9 in the United States has reached
10 unprecedented levels, disproportionately
11 affecting minorities and youth. Data
12 tells us that 1 in 3 black men will spend
13 time in prison in their lives compared to
14 only 1 in 17 white men.

15 The problem is not only
16 offending, but also victimization.
17 Homicide kills more young African
18 American males than the nine other
19 leading causes of death combined.

20 It is critical to note that
21 early incarceration reduces education
22 attainment and employment, as well as
23 increases the likelihood of future
24 incarceration.

25 Research revealed that six- to

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2 eight-week summer jobs in New York and
3 Chicago had considerable impact on
4 violent offending, mortality (largely
5 from homicide), and future incarceration.
6 In Chicago, violent crime arrests dropped
7 by 43 percent over 16 months. In New
8 York, mortality declined by 20 percent
9 over five to seven years. Importantly,
10 the declines occur largely after the
11 program ends, meaning that the effects
12 are not merely a mechanical effect of
13 keeping youth busy during the summer.
14 The research is also showing a change in
15 youth's behavior post-summer.

16 In 2015, PYN partnered with
17 Dr. Heller in a randomized controlled
18 treatment study with 201 youth, and in
19 2016, we plan to expand the study to
20 include minimally 300 young people. This
21 work will not only contribute to the
22 existing research, but will also help our
23 city better understand the impact our
24 work is having locally, especially for
25 vulnerable populations.

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2 Our priorities for moving
3 forward. It is clear that providing
4 summer experiences for young people helps
5 prepare them for academic and career
6 success, builds their network of support,
7 and helps them stay safe.

8 However, of the 16,000 young
9 people who applied to have a WorkReady
10 summer experience last year, nearly 9,000
11 were placed, but over 7,000 were not due
12 to a lack of funded opportunities
13 available.

14 Mayor Kenney spoke last month
15 at a press conference about the
16 importance of summer and early work
17 experience. Our city and our partners
18 play a critical role in making these
19 experiences a reality for young people.

20 And there are several key
21 priorities worth highlighting to ensure
22 continued scale and fidelity of summer
23 programming.

24 Investment - every year we
25 start from zero, and every year we work

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2 to secure funding that will create as
3 many opportunities as possible for young
4 people. A key strategy to increasing the
5 annual number of opportunities will be
6 establishing early and multi-year
7 commitments that create a higher starting
8 point for secured opportunities.

9 We achieve scale through
10 investments from public and private
11 support. Mayor Kenney has championed the
12 importance of this work and just last
13 month joined PYN and the DNC Hosting
14 Committee to announce an investment of
15 \$150,000 from JP Morgan Chase in
16 partnership through the Hosting Committee
17 to support summer experiences this year
18 via WorkReady.

19 Last year, the City of
20 Philadelphia invested nearly 7 million to
21 support summer experiences through
22 WorkReady, including investments from the
23 Department of Human Services,
24 Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. This
25 year, already committed investments from

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2 DHS and Parks and Recs total more than \$6
3 million.

4 At this time, we currently
5 project enough secured funding to support
6 6,000 experiences through WorkReady this
7 summer. There is approximately 7.2
8 million in investment needed to close the
9 gap to achieve 10,000.

10 A WorkReady summer experience
11 costs just \$1,800 to support a young
12 person. We need employers of all sectors
13 and sizes across the City to hire and
14 host young people, but we also know it
15 takes large investments from the private
16 and particularly the public sector to
17 truly attain the scale we aspire to
18 achieve.

19 And research - as I mentioned
20 earlier, another critical priority to
21 truly understanding and scaling the
22 impact of our work is through research.

23 This year, PYN plans to partner
24 again with Dr. Heller and the University
25 of Pennsylvania to expand the research

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2 pilot to include minimally 300 youth this
3 summer. Additionally, PYN is preparing
4 to release a new RFP this year for
5 contracts beginning in 2017, and we have
6 incorporated the research methodology in
7 order to continue scaling the study and
8 build upon our data.

9 Funding and supporting this
10 research is a task PYN has committed to,
11 because it will help define the
12 short-term and long-term impact that
13 summer work experience has for our city's
14 youth, and it will inform our practices
15 and implementation to ensure we are
16 equitably serving our vulnerable
17 populations.

18 This work requires partnership,
19 dedication, and investment to make
20 opportunities possible, but as you can
21 see, members of the Committee, the impact
22 is significant for the youth we serve and
23 for our city and region's future
24 workforce.

25 Thank you, Committee Chairman

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2 and Councilmembers and esteemed members
3 of the panel for your interest and
4 leadership in this area. I look forward
5 to working with the Council to ensure
6 that all our young people have access to
7 enriching developmental opportunities
8 that they need and that they deserve.

9 I would be pleased to answer
10 any questions you may have.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Other than
12 you and Morgan, we've gotten over that,
13 we've been good, but --

14 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: I
15 appreciate that.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: For at least
17 as many of 10, 15 years, we've had a
18 relationship with PYN and provided young
19 people a summer experience with having a
20 job and exposing them to Washington, DC,
21 Harrisburg. Representative Harris is
22 here.

23 We took them up. They actually
24 sat in your desk, unbeknownst to you. So
25 we've had that experience.

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2 A couple questions. When I
3 know there's a gap, 50 percent of the
4 need is met every year, but those other
5 50 percent, what happens to them?

6 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Well,
7 unfortunately the other 50 percent are
8 not eligible -- are not able to
9 participate in actual work experiences.
10 One thing to note for the Committee, our
11 experience in this entirety is designed
12 to be developmentally appropriate and
13 instructive. So every young person, one
14 has to apply online. Like this mimics
15 the real-world job application process.
16 Every young person has to be able to
17 develop those communication skills and
18 show the responsiveness that builds
19 self-direction and initiative. But those
20 young people are not able to connect to
21 any of the actual employment experiences.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So do you
23 follow what happens to them in your
24 measurements?

25 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: We

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2 currently do not have the funding to do
3 effective follow-up with young people who
4 are not able to experience work.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: That might
6 be an interesting statistic to follow,
7 not that it will be pleasant, but we
8 might want to follow that.

9 The second thing is, can you
10 define for this panel what you call
11 "opportunity youth"?

12 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: So
13 nationally the definition of "opportunity
14 youth" is young people between the ages
15 of 16 to 24 and are out of school and out
16 of work.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: It's a nice
18 way to put it, but is the other term
19 "at-risk" often?

20 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: I think
21 people interchangeably use those, because
22 opportunity risk -- opportunity youth
23 could be also at-risk. I think one of
24 the things that's important for this
25 Committee to know in terms of national

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2 dialogue, the term "opportunity youth"
3 really came out of the White House
4 Community Solutions Task Force, in which
5 they actually surveyed young people, and
6 they did not want to be called drop-outs
7 or at-risk young people. So this was a
8 way of adults sort of showing that they
9 heard what young people wanted and to
10 recognize the asset-based approach that
11 Dr. Stephanie mentioned earlier.

12 And so opportunity youth may be
13 at-risk as well. It was just a response
14 that the young people don't want to be
15 identified by their deficit. They want
16 to be identified by their potential.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: And I can
18 understand if we're in an age of
19 sensitivity, we have to be politically
20 correct about what we call one another.
21 However and nevertheless, statistics do
22 not -- well, they can lie, but they often
23 tell a tale, and at-risk is 17 to 24
24 where in so many different categories
25 you're going to make it or break it right

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2 there, and those experiences that we
3 either give them or don't tell the tale.
4 And so my question becomes, do you have a
5 year-round program?

6 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Yes. We
7 have several. So we operate, first, four
8 E-3 centers that offer year-round
9 programming to opportunity youth
10 specifically, at-risk youth, and they
11 also offer reconnection services to young
12 people who are exposed to the juvenile
13 justice system. That partnership has
14 been a ten-year partnership. They serve
15 about a thousand young people a year.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So one of
17 the things for this Committee to note is
18 that there is such a thing, but not to
19 capacity of what we would need.

20 Compare what you actually do to
21 what the need is, just like you did with
22 the summer youth. You said there were
23 12,000 people who wanted a job; 7,000 or
24 8,000 of them got one. What is this pool
25 of folk that are opportunity youth?

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2 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: There's
3 46,000 young people who are between the
4 ages of 16 and 24 and out of school and
5 out of work in the City of Philadelphia,
6 and I just told you about one
7 intervention that serves about a thousand
8 of them. Under Project U-Turn, there's
9 also a set of accelerated academic
10 options that have about 3,200 seat
11 capacity.

12 I think it's also important for
13 the Committee to understand that a lot of
14 these programs have what we would call
15 revolving entry or they function as
16 drop-out centers. So the capacity of the
17 center is really critical, because if you
18 have young people sort of stay in the
19 seat longer than intended or come in and
20 out, it's harder sometimes to show sort
21 of the return on investment and the
22 efficacy, because it really is about the
23 availability of the intervention and
24 being ready when life has opened up a
25 window for young people to participate

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2 and their participation is not
3 sequential.

4 So oftentimes we look at cost
5 per slot, cost per use or cost over time,
6 and I think it's important for the
7 Committee to understand that the 12-month
8 participation might actually take this
9 kind of young person 18 to 24 months
10 because of the way they are facing life
11 circumstances. So their participation is
12 not synchronized. And I think oftentimes
13 when we look at data, evaluation, and
14 metrics, we forget that their
15 participation just looks different.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So my final
17 question, in one of my schools, which
18 will go nameless, every Monday we do a
19 7:00 a.m. roll call with all of the
20 principals in the neighborhood, and we
21 talk about the week before and what
22 potential problems we can foresee, that
23 this school had an issue with that school
24 and they're coming up after school to
25 take out whatever. And we arrange buses,

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2 we arrange interventions, we get the
3 police out there, we get -- you might get
4 an early dismissal, you may get a later
5 dismissal just so that you don't hit each
6 other. But what we found were and what I
7 would present to you, that out of 600
8 people at this particular school, it was
9 only 20 of them that were the bad actors,
10 that were causing 90 percent of the
11 drama. And I don't want to reward bad
12 behavior, but I do want to give people
13 who need extra attention some of that.
14 And do you go after that particular
15 element?

16 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND:

17 Absolutely. So different -- I mean, we
18 talked a lot about what works, but one of
19 the things that I wanted to add to that
20 conversation was, it's what works for
21 whom. And what you are describing is
22 that some programs or some level of
23 intensity is needed for a specific
24 population, and that doesn't mean that
25 others don't need service. So we are

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2 very intentional about establishing
3 partners that prioritize what we describe
4 as high-priority populations, young
5 people who are parenting, young people
6 who are connected to the juvenile justice
7 system, young people who are connected to
8 foster care. And I have to say, those
9 are some of the top groups that we're
10 talking about, and I have to acknowledge
11 the longstanding partnership. As I
12 mentioned, we've been in relationship
13 with the Department of Human Services for
14 over ten years.

15 And the other thing that I
16 didn't talk about is, we also have nine
17 other programs that operate year-round,
18 and they are connected to schools who
19 have underperforming around their
20 graduation rates. It's for 11th and 12th
21 graders, and those programs help young
22 people to create that bridge towards the
23 high school diploma, serves approximately
24 325 young people. It's not at scale, if
25 you will.

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2 So I think we have a lot of
3 challenges when we have a small pot of
4 money and such a great need, and we're
5 targeting to those schools that are most
6 needy.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So President
8 Clarke has instructed this panel to
9 identify those underserved programs, that
10 if we could match peanut butter to jelly
11 over here, you got PCCD sitting right
12 next to you, and the bigger committee
13 does about 83 million in grants every
14 year to an underserved population that
15 needs to come to scale. The purpose of
16 this is to try to make those kinds of
17 connections.

18 Thank you.

19 We'll start this way this time.

20 MR. COBB: William Cobb again.

21 Thank you for your testimony.

22 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Thank
23 you.

24 MR. COBB: So my question is,
25 why the effort in researching what anyone

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2 knows, academia, a kid, that if you
3 invest in this particular thing, you get
4 this outcome. So is the reason for
5 investing in the research so that you
6 could compel a better argument to solicit
7 more funding? Do we literally have to
8 spend money on finding out that employing
9 young people prevents them from getting
10 in trouble in order to get more money?

11 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: That is
12 such a remarkable question. I just want
13 to thank you for pointing out that
14 tension. So I should have mentioned
15 this, but Dr. Heller actually has not
16 received any money from us in order to do
17 the research.

18 I think there is a need to be
19 able to present yourself as having
20 evidence-based strategies in order to
21 compete in national arenas for funding.
22 So, yes, there is -- part of what we're
23 doing is defining the
24 Philadelphia-specific advantages in
25 competition with other cities who are

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2 doing the same type of work. But it's
3 important to note that this -- engaging
4 in this research has actually not cost
5 our system any opportunities to young
6 people.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Sadly, but
8 you have to do it.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

10 Because your program says you're stopping
11 poverty and trauma and incarceration and
12 mortality. So the question is for
13 researchers, is that happening? I mean,
14 are you targeting -- like if I go up here
15 in North Philly in my most impoverished
16 neighborhood in the City of Philadelphia,
17 how many kids -- can your graph tell me
18 how many kids are being employed in that
19 area?

20 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Yes. So
21 we have a map that -- I don't have all of
22 the zip codes here, but I'm happy to make
23 the map of services available to the
24 Committee.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

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2 Because I think that's where the key is.

3 And the same thing with PCCD and, Doctor,

4 as you describe, when you look at the

5 data -- I mean, there's a great article

6 today about zip codes, right, and if you

7 live in a certain zip code, your life

8 expectancy is, what, 20 years less than

9 someone who lives in a higher -- and we

10 kind of know what they're saying in a

11 different way.

12 Do we ever strategically look

13 at those pockets and say instead of

14 waiting for someone to come, that we're

15 going to go there, that we're going to go

16 191 zip code and go here because we can

17 identify already that it's a challenging

18 neighborhood or pocket?

19 It's open to all of you.

20 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Well,

21 I'll answer first. One of the things

22 that we intentionally do is operate a

23 citywide approach, and I think that with

24 that comes its blessing and comes its

25 challenges, and one of the things we were

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2 able to do was track our data and
3 overlay, not just zip codes but CUA
4 regions, recreation centers, CareerLinks
5 and really look at the distribution of
6 services over poverty levels in
7 communities. So we --

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: And not just
9 employment?

10 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: That's
11 for our employment programs. And then we
12 brought all of our partners together,
13 because, again, we can't do this alone.
14 And so we were very intentional about
15 what does our service footprint look like
16 and what do we want it to be. And we're
17 making some intentional investment
18 decisions based on those statistics;
19 namely, the poverty level and crime
20 rates.

21 REVEREND MAIRENA: Living in
22 Norris Square, the 19122 district, I've
23 benefited from having a few youth work
24 and still have relationships with them.
25 It does take a toll on a small

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2 organization, though, because you do have
3 to -- if you care and you do it right,
4 you have to invest yourself. So that was
5 a challenge. I can no longer do it
6 because I don't want to do it halfway.
7 But there is an organization, the Norris
8 Square Neighborhood Project, that hires
9 multiple youth, and I've seen them
10 change, because we work with the same
11 youth. So I applaud the work you're
12 doing, and we got to close that gap
13 somehow.

14 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Thank
15 you.

16 MS. BRADLEY: I just wanted to
17 add a couple of pieces related to mapping
18 and reaching out for higher risk areas.
19 At the EPISCenter we do have a map of all
20 the previously funded PCCD grants and the
21 different programs that have run in each
22 county. I don't think we really have --
23 we don't have it at the zip code level.
24 I think that is tracked in PCCD's system.
25 Part of what -- I think there's more of a

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2 movement towards understanding all of the
3 programming that's being funded across
4 the different state agencies to get a
5 better sense of where there's saturation
6 and where there's not.

7 MR. PENNINGTON: One of our
8 critical priorities moving forward, as I
9 mentioned in my testimony, of trying to
10 develop a comprehensive strategy around
11 the Commonwealth, because there's
12 different agencies that offer different
13 funding. So we kind of want to get
14 everybody together to look at, okay, what
15 are you funding, what are we funding, is
16 it -- so that we can have a coordinated
17 strategy, and then we'll better serve
18 communities and better use resources out
19 to communities.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
21 take the prerogative of the Chair to help
22 your son get his father to that baseball
23 game and say to you that what this says
24 to me and speaks to me is, we need to
25 have a subcommittee with just them and to

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2 really dive deeper into some of the
3 potential -- I love your mapping, I love
4 your quantitative analysis, and I love
5 your money. I love you all. You're all
6 cute.

7 So what we'd like to do is get
8 you guys together and maybe kind of dig
9 down on how we can do a couple of good
10 things. One, bring good programs that we
11 measure to scale, to invest it and for
12 those that the jury is still out for, get
13 them analyzed to see what -- so just
14 because your program does not have a
15 label, does not fit directly in a box
16 that we know of, we will try to evaluate
17 it to take what is replicable to other
18 places. We will take good programs that
19 exist and bring them to scale. And then
20 to geographically, if I heard everybody,
21 say what exists. I really like that
22 approach of being able to see what our
23 social footprint is so that where we have
24 data-driven neighborhoods that require
25 almost an acute treatment, we can apply

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2 that and say what that treatment should
3 be.

4 So I don't know how we create a
5 subcommittee to look at this and what we
6 should call it, but --

7 MR. ROJAS: Can we motion a
8 subcommittee today or the larger group?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: I
10 think it's in prevention, so I think we
11 already have it.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we have
13 it in prevention. See, we have to find
14 our box. So you're in prevention.

15 And one of the things that we
16 really want to do is try to stop the
17 bleeding. So we have two goals:
18 immediately stop the bleeding coming this
19 summer and to long-term kind of create
20 models of success that we can replicate.

21 So we know all where you are.
22 We're going to reach out to you to tap
23 that wealth of information.

24 Thank you so much for your
25 testimony.

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2 MR. ROJAS: I would be remiss
3 if I didn't follow up on something
4 Councilman Jones said, because there's an
5 old saying, that it's not what people say
6 or how long they take to say it, but it's
7 how it makes people feel. And I'm a
8 product of your program. We had Lincoln
9 High School. Ninety-eight percent of
10 those kids are either in college or
11 working in corrections, and the problem
12 that we found is that we got to get more
13 people that have -- that are stakeholders
14 in Philadelphia, small business
15 community, large business community, to
16 cooperate. I gave up my time, and we
17 need a point person in every City
18 department and agency that's willing to
19 supervise those children. It's not just
20 supervision. It's also counseling. And
21 I'm proud to say that I got -- these kids
22 still call me, and they went through your
23 program, and I really appreciate what you
24 do. And I agree with Councilman Jones,
25 we have to get you guys together, because

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2 that's a miniature program, what CEDA
3 used to do that I went through, and you
4 guys --

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: You're going
6 back now. Did you say CEDA?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: Is
8 the program still open? Can companies
9 that still want to hire a child, can they
10 still apply or is it still --

11 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND:
12 Absolutely.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: So
14 you're on the camera.

15 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: I'm on
16 TV.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:
18 Give me that quick infomercial, very
19 short, about --

20 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND:
21 Absolutely. The quick version here is
22 that \$1,800 really does change the life
23 of a young person, and we will accept
24 donations, you can hire a young person,
25 you can host a young person in your

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2 business by contacting

3 phillysummerjobs.org.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

5 Say it one more time.

6 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND:

7 Phillysummerjobs.org.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: So
9 the listening public as you're sitting in
10 your place and you're looking to support
11 a young person during the summer, I mean,
12 this is a great opportunity for you to
13 give something back to the community. So
14 thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: If it
16 pleases the group, we have Representative
17 Harris here as well. I want to get his
18 comments. He's on the Justice Committee,
19 I believe it is, with the Commonwealth of
20 Pennsylvania. So we may be reaching out
21 to him on some statutory changes. Let's
22 let him have his say, please.

23 Thank you all for your
24 testimony. We really appreciate it.

25 MR. PENNINGTON: Thank you.

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2 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you very
3 much.

4 MS. FULMORE-TOWNSEND: Thank
5 you.

6 (Witness approached witness
7 table.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES:
9 Representative, this is not your first
10 time testifying, but welcome. State your
11 name for the record and give us your
12 thoughts and insights on this thing
13 called criminal justice.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Sure.
15 Jordan Harris, State Representative for
16 the 186th Legislative District, covering
17 parts of South and Southwest
18 Philadelphia. To the Chair, thank you so
19 much for the invitation, and to all of my
20 dear friends here today.

21 Since being elected to the
22 Legislature in 2013, one of the things
23 that I've tried to focus on outside of
24 education was criminal justice reform.
25 Currently, the Department of Correction

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2 spends about \$2.1 billion to house more
3 than 50,000 inmates in our criminal
4 justice system. The Department of
5 Correction is merging with the Department
6 of Probation and Parole, and together
7 that budget then balloons to \$2.6
8 billion, which is roughly 8 percent of
9 our total General Fund budget. And for
10 me, seeing so many folks locked up for an
11 extended period of time but then coming
12 home and having so many collateral
13 consequences and so many barriers to
14 reintegrating into society, I knew that
15 if we were going to make streets safer,
16 if we were going to be smart on crime, it
17 had to start with what do we do with our
18 sons and our daughters when they came
19 home either from being incarcerated
20 and/or some who never went away to any
21 time of incarceration but who now had
22 some type of criminal record.

23 So we were happy that this past
24 February Governor Wolf signed into law
25 Senate Bill 166, which is now Act No. 5

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2 of 2016. Working with democrats and
3 republicans, both in the House and the
4 Senate, we were able to move legislation
5 that deals with misdemeanor 2's and
6 misdemeanor 3's that are of a non-violent
7 nature. After ten years' time, a person
8 will be able to go to court and have that
9 record sealed. That was signed into law
10 on February 16th. It actually takes
11 effect on November 14th of this.

12 In addition to that, just last
13 week, myself and Representative Sheryl
14 Delozier in the House, as well as Senator
15 Scott Wagner and Senator Anthony Williams
16 in the Senate held a press conference to
17 introduce what we're calling Clean Slate
18 legislation. In the House, that will be
19 House Bill 1984. This bill says that a
20 person convicted of any misdemeanor - 1,
21 2 or 3 - as long as it doesn't have
22 anything to do with children, as long as
23 it doesn't have anything to do with being
24 registered on the sex offender registry,
25 that person after ten years would

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2 automatically receive a clean slate and
3 their record would be sealed with regards
4 to becoming gainfully employed.

5 What we understand is that all
6 of the programs in the world will not
7 erase a criminal record, and the fact
8 remains that if a person cannot be
9 gainfully employed, statistics show that
10 many of them will and have recidivated
11 and go back into our criminal justice
12 system. So we have to fix the scarlet
13 letter that is affixed on many of our
14 sons and our daughters when they come
15 home from being incarcerated.

16 The issue is so big that when
17 you look at it from a dollars and cents
18 perspective, if we were able to reduce
19 the Department of Correction's budget by
20 just a third, just a third, we would be
21 able to send 33,000 young people to
22 college for free at one of our 14 state
23 system universities, 33,000. There are
24 only 93,000 young people at all of those
25 universities. Reduce the Department of

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2 Correction by a third, you can afford to
3 pay for a third of the young people in
4 our state system schools right now and
5 send them to school for free.

6 So when we look at a time in
7 Harrisburg where our budget is slim and
8 we don't have money to go around, instead
9 of cutting education, my thought is how
10 do we reform our justice system so that
11 we can spend less to send our folks to be
12 incarcerated. It's not necessarily the
13 easiest thing, but I am encouraged and
14 the reason why I'm here today is because
15 I'm encouraged that there should be -- I
16 don't know if it's another subcommittee
17 or whatnot, but there has to be a
18 partnership between local, state, and
19 federal government on how we address this
20 together. And I know people are
21 oftentimes skeptical of Harrisburg when
22 trying to get anything done.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

24 No?

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Sorry. That

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2 was an emotional --

3 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: I get
4 it. But the reality is this: I believe
5 that out of all of the things that we
6 have been working on in Harrisburg, there
7 is bipartisan support for moving bills
8 that deal with criminal justice reform.
9 I think we are at a place where people
10 understand that we are spending too much
11 money incarcerating folks and that we
12 could have a better use of those dollars.

13 So I would -- I am interested.
14 I would suggest, I would implore that we
15 look at how we deal with this on not just
16 a city -- and I'm very glad to my dear
17 friend for the \$3.5 million grant that is
18 coming to the City of Philadelphia, and
19 congratulations on your work on that
20 effort, but this -- if we're really going
21 to address this, it has to be on all
22 levels of government.

23 For example, look at collateral
24 consequences of what happens. Currently,
25 right now there are municipalities in

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2 Pennsylvania that have laws on the books
3 that says you, by law, cannot rent to a
4 person who has a drug conviction in the
5 last seven years. That is a law on the
6 books in certain places in Pennsylvania.

7 Additionally, by law, by
8 statute actually, right now with certain
9 drug convictions, you can't get certain
10 government grants to go to college. By
11 statute, by regulation, right now certain
12 folks with certain records can't live in
13 public housing. So how is it that you
14 send a person home and many places in
15 Pennsylvania they can't rent a facility
16 because of their record. They can't go
17 to school to better themselves because
18 they can't afford it and we won't give
19 them the government money to do so, like
20 we do everyone else. They can't come
21 home to live with their mother. They
22 can't come home to even live with the
23 mother of their children because they
24 live in public housing.

25 So when we talk about all of

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2 the collateral consequences that affect
3 those who are formerly incarcerated or
4 formerly convicted persons, we have to
5 address it not just from a city level,
6 not just from a state level, but even on
7 a federal level there are issues that we
8 all have to come to the table together to
9 address. If we do not, if we do not,
10 something or someone is going to continue
11 to fall through the cracks and we will
12 continue to see ourselves spinning in a
13 cycle that does nothing but send folks
14 back to prison and stop them from
15 becoming gainfully employed and
16 reintegrating into our society.

17 So I commend you for all the
18 work that you're doing, but I want you to
19 know that you have partners in Harrisburg
20 who are willing to work on these issues
21 together so that we can finally reverse
22 some of the -- I don't know if they're
23 unintended. I think some of them were
24 intended. But I will give folks the
25 benefit of the doubt and say some of the

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2 unintended consequences of certain pieces
3 of legislation that has passed on the
4 federal and on the state level that does
5 nothing but balloons the number of people
6 in our system and then really does
7 nothing to rehabilitate them and help
8 them when they come home.

9 So you have a partner in the
10 state. Our Secretary of Corrections,
11 John Wetzel, I think -- and I will say
12 this publicly -- is probably by far one
13 of the best Secretaries of Corrections we
14 have ever had in the Commonwealth. He
15 gets it. He understands. And if we all
16 can work together, I really believe that
17 we can make a positive impact in the
18 lives of the folks who have found
19 themselves on the wrong side of the law,
20 but have changed and reformed their
21 lives. And they don't want a handout;
22 they just want a hand in to the system.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So it would
25 be inappropriate for the Chair to stand

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2 up and start clapping at this point, but
3 I just want you to know inside I am
4 clapping.

5 Thank you for what you've done
6 in Harrisburg and finding a way to be not
7 a red state or a blue state in
8 philosophy, but come to a state of mind
9 to move things. And people say nothing
10 gets done in Harrisburg, but you're proof
11 positive that it did.

12 The second thing I'd like to
13 take you up on is state and federal
14 subcommittee, if you would, because
15 you're right. There are certain statutes
16 that we might -- if we can't touch a
17 crime here, so it would be in our
18 interest, Judge Lerner, to kind of figure
19 out who we can work with at the state and
20 federal levels.

21 Also I'd like if -- if you have
22 opinion about this or if you want to do
23 some research on this, I'll take either
24 one. It's been my observation the
25 federal ex-offender release program back

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2 into society is very different than the
3 state and the City. And I'm not going to
4 say whose is better. I'm not calling
5 anybody out, but I'll just say the
6 federal government, there's a two-year
7 commitment to these individuals where
8 they provide housing, they provide family
9 unification, they provide -- and they are
10 very strict about what your hourly rate
11 can be, because they have an index that
12 says here's how much you need to be able
13 to make in order to provide a living so
14 that you don't go back to -- it is a very
15 different structure, and I just think it
16 is probably one of the better ones, that
17 we need to have somebody at each of these
18 levels to see what common denominators we
19 can put in place. I don't know if --

20 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: What I
21 will say to that, Councilman, is, I think
22 that's why the collaboration is
23 important. I think sometimes in our
24 legislative bodies, we work kind of in
25 silos. And I don't contend to think I

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2 know what goes on in City Council. I
3 have a great relationship with the two
4 Councilpeople that my district overlaps,
5 Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman
6 Blackwell, and we talk about the issues,
7 but I don't pretend to know everything
8 that goes on in City Council. And I
9 don't contend to know everything that
10 goes on in Congress, but what I do know
11 is that there are experts on each level,
12 and we should be talking more, and we
13 should be talking more with a designed
14 agenda on how at each level we can
15 address these issues.

16 For example, I know that at
17 Graterford, a place that -- I visit
18 Graterford probably once every two or
19 three months. There's a great program
20 called the FACTS Program. Don't ask me
21 what the letters stand for, but it's
22 basically a program where you have
23 fathers who are incarcerated, and they go
24 through several weeks of training, and
25 after completion of their training, they

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2 are reunited with their children. The
3 mom and the child comes up to the prison.
4 The child and the father are able to
5 interact. The child is able to tell the
6 father how they feel about them not being
7 there, about whatever those issues are,
8 and the purpose of the program is so that
9 when the father is released, it's not
10 like, This is your father, who has been
11 absent for the last five to ten years.
12 But it's, Your father is home, and your
13 father has been involved and engaged.
14 And one of the things that they've asked
15 for is a partnership with the School
16 District, because the fathers want to
17 Skype for parent-teacher conferences.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: We just
19 mentioned that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Because
21 they want to be involved in the child's
22 life. They want to find out what's going
23 on in the classroom and see how they
24 could be helpful.

25 So how do we use things like

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2 that to continue to help find out what's
3 the City doing, what's the feds doing,
4 and what can we do collectively. Because
5 I believe that you're going to come up
6 with some things that you think will help
7 that the City can't do, that's going to
8 have to happen on the state level, and
9 then there's going to be things that the
10 federal government can do.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we've
12 decided we're deputizing you to be our
13 rep at the state. But one thing in
14 specific that I think is a good homework
15 assignment, there is a lot of pending
16 decisions at the Supreme Court level
17 about juvenile offenders that were
18 committed. I think it might be 300 of
19 them that are coming right back here that
20 have been incarcerated, some of them at a
21 tender age of 17, 18, been in jail for 40
22 years.

23 JUDGE LERNER: August 63 years.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: 63 years,
25 and are coming home. This is well before

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2 the Internet. This is well -- I mean, so
3 their adjustment to coming back after
4 believing that they never would come back
5 home is becoming a potential reality.
6 What I'd like to know is, what are we
7 doing and putting in place for that
8 reentry? And if you could champion
9 finding that out and providing that to
10 this Committee.

11 MS. WERTHEIMER: We can speak
12 to that as well. Speaking on --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: You got to
14 say your name for the record, though.

15 MS. WERTHEIMER: Julie
16 Wertheimer, Chief of Staff to the Deputy
17 Managing Director for Criminal Justice.

18 On the topic of multi-level
19 collaboration, we actually just began
20 conversations with Secretary Wetzell, who
21 the Representative is absolutely right,
22 he's been a wonderful advocate on these
23 issues. And so while the plans are not
24 set in stone yet, there has been movement
25 and a great amount of leadership from the

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2 state on trying to address this issue.
3 They're keenly aware of the opportunity
4 and challenge Philadelphia will face when
5 these individuals return to their
6 communities, and we welcome the
7 opportunity to continue this conversation
8 and figure out how we can all work
9 together to address this.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So may I
11 take an action by the -- all those in
12 favor of deputizing Representative
13 Harris, signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: All those
16 opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: The ayes
19 have it.

20 You are it. So that's no pay;
21 just more work.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: More
23 work.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I just
25 really think that you raised an important

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2 point, that if we're talking about
3 legislation here, we get superceded by
4 you, you get superseded by the federal
5 law. We should really be thinking about
6 how we can codify what we do in a way.
7 So I'd like really to draw upon your
8 expertise at that.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: I think
10 it's important. I mean, even the
11 judge -- you know, I think one of the
12 things that we lack is sometimes input
13 from the judiciary on some of the folks
14 that they continue to see coming back in
15 front of them and whatnot. So I think
16 this is -- and the people that we're
17 talking about, the ex-offender
18 population, I really believe that this is
19 an all-hands-on-deck type of thing, where
20 we need to be able to sit at the table,
21 all of us, and say, you know, these are
22 the barriers that happen when you come
23 home, you know. These are the barriers
24 that we see in the law. These are the
25 barriers that you see from the bench, and

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2 then come up with some tangible things,
3 whether it's a City ordinance, whether
4 it's a state law, whether it's federal,
5 that we can actually put into play. And,
6 again, I can't commit from Harrisburg
7 that every bill that we put out on
8 criminal justice that's going to get
9 passed. I can't commit to that. But
10 what I can commit to is that if we have
11 sensible legislation, we can get the
12 people around it to actually begin to
13 advocate for things to get done. And I
14 really believe, I really believe that now
15 is the time and that the pieces are in
16 the right place where we can move those
17 things. The thing is what are those
18 things that we really think we should be
19 moving that would positively affect
20 folks.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well --

22 JUDGE LERNER: May I?

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. And
24 we're going to then move to the next
25 panel, because we have two more, Your

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2 Honor.

3 JUDGE LERNER: Thank you. I'm
4 Judge Benjamin Lerner. I'm the Deputy
5 Managing Director for Criminal Justice.

6 First of all, let me say from
7 my perspective in a couple of prior
8 lives, first as Chief Defender and then
9 for a long time as Common Pleas Court
10 judge, I really applaud the Legislature
11 and the Governor for its legislation on
12 criminal records, both the law you passed
13 last February and the Clean Slate law.
14 And I was particularly interested in
15 hearing your reference to the pending
16 bill that would fold the Department of
17 Probation and Parole into the Department
18 of Correction, which I think would have
19 the effect of ultimately saving huge
20 amounts of money and many years of
21 people's lives by having a much more
22 effective, efficient way of, A,
23 determining when people are ready to come
24 home from state prison and, B, making
25 sure that when that determination was

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2 made, it could be efficiently and
3 promptly carried out under conditions
4 that were not only good for the returning
5 citizen but good for the community.

6 I think it's important to point
7 out, though, that we are in the situation
8 that we are in in terms of our criminal
9 justice system largely because of
10 decisions made by former legislators and
11 former governors. During years and years
12 of a now discredited tough-on-crime
13 philosophy, legislators, including,
14 sadly, the one in Harrisburg, raced to
15 pass stricter sentencing laws, mandatory
16 sentencing laws, restrictions on
17 individuals returning from prison. And
18 although anybody involved in the
19 government here in Philadelphia would
20 say, Gee, we'd like to see some money
21 from Harrisburg for some of these
22 programs, but we know that your budget
23 situation isn't so much better than ours.
24 While we're waiting for that to change, I
25 think the most important thing that

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2 you're involved in and your colleagues
3 are involved in is this new philosophy of
4 being smart on crime rather than tough on
5 crime. And if a lot of this older
6 legislation, some of which already has
7 been invalidated, can be removed from the
8 books, we will have a much smoother
9 passage towards the kind of criminal
10 justice system we're all looking for.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: I
12 agree.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES:
14 Representative, keep up the good work,
15 and the lesson for today is, we'll learn
16 to work better together.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Again,
18 thank you so much for allowing me to kind
19 of interrupt the flow just to speak, but
20 I really -- I wholeheartedly believe --
21 and I'm not just saying this, but I
22 wholeheartedly believe that we're doing
23 the right thing and we're protecting and
24 making communities safer by addressing
25 these issues, and the more we address

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2 them together on all levels of
3 government, the more we continue to
4 communicate, the more we continue to come
5 up with a strategic plan on how to
6 address it from a city, state, and a
7 federal level, I think the better off all
8 of our communities will be. The safer
9 our communities will be. I think the
10 less money we'll be spending on
11 incarcerating folks and the more we could
12 see folks being put on to our city rolls
13 as taxpayers and no longer tax burdens.

14 So thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

16 Any other questions?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Seeing none,
19 will the Clerk please read the title of
20 the patient people to testify next.

21 THE CLERK: Terrance Williams,
22 Youth Organizer, Youth Art and
23 Self-Empowerment Project; Joshua Glenn,
24 Youth Organizer, Youth Art and
25 Self-Empowerment Project; Troy Brooks,

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2 President, Troy Brooks Summer Program.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
4 much for your patience. Come on up to
5 the table.

6 (Witnesses approached witness
7 table.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So thank you
9 so much for your patience. I do
10 appreciate it. State your name for the
11 record and begin in any order. Bring the
12 mic close to you.

13 MR. BROOKS: My name is Troy
14 Brooks.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Brooks,
16 welcome.

17 MS. BRYANT: Carolyn Bryant.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome.

19 MR. GLENN: Hi. My name is
20 Joshua Glenn from the Youth Art
21 Self-Empowerment Project.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is
24 Terrance Williams with the Youth Art
25 Self-Empowerment Project.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
3 for coming.

4 MR. BROOKS: I set up a
5 program. Well, a couple programs I set
6 up. The first one is a youth program for
7 summer, and during the summertime, I grab
8 kids at the age of 14 to 18, and during
9 that time, I have them shadow me as I
10 teach them different type -- I'm a little
11 nervous, y'all.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: What
13 happened?

14 MR. BROOKS: I said I'm a
15 little nervous.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Don't be.
17 At least I do, I work for you. You pay
18 taxes?

19 MR. BROOKS: Yeah.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Then I'm
21 your employee. Don't be nervous.

22 MR. BROOKS: Good.

23 So I teach them different
24 trades, and the way I get them is through
25 social media. I usually get mothers

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2 contacting me and asking me if I can get
3 their child to, you know, learn a
4 different trade, the trades that I'm in.
5 I went to school for plumbing,
6 electrical, heating and air condition,
7 carpentry. So many different trades.

8 So what I did this year was, I
9 actually went to friends that also have
10 they own businesses and I get them to get
11 children, about four children a piece,
12 and it's probably -- I have about seven
13 or eight friends, and they also get
14 children and mentor them during the
15 summer, and the children shadow them
16 during the summertime. And the outcome
17 of this -- because I've been doing it
18 personally probably about three or four
19 years, and I'm telling you, I have moms
20 contacting me and telling me how in the
21 beginning, they child was like doing
22 nothing and stagnant and everything, to
23 the child wanted to go to school for
24 electrical or the child wanted to go to
25 school for plumbing and heating.

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2 Now, during the wintertime what
3 I do also is, I have friends or men that
4 ask for employment. So what I do is
5 train a lot of different men. And I have
6 a few men here that I train. And once I
7 train them on a trade, they also take in
8 children and the children shadow them.

9 So my program work during the
10 whole year. Wintertime, I get men, train
11 them, and during the summertime, them men
12 also have children shadowing them and
13 they mentor them pretty much.

14 Now, at the end of the program
15 in August, last year I did 100 men,
16 father and sons dinner. I had -- the way
17 I get the funding is through GoFundMe.
18 This year the owner of Brown's Shop Rite,
19 he's one guy that's helping me.
20 Different people, comedians, whatever.
21 So this year I'm doing 200 men and 200 of
22 their sons. So it's 400, all you can
23 eat, free buffet. So where the fathers
24 get the sons, stepsons, nephews, and they
25 come to have dinner, totally free, and

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2 they get to meet other men from different
3 areas. And we sit down, we network, we
4 talk. We just get to know each other.

5 And I figured that was another way to
6 make the City a better and safer place,
7 where you have men from different areas
8 instead of when they see them in their
9 area being, you know, whatever, wanting

10 to be aggressive, it's a friendly

11 meeting. And I know this to be true

12 because this actually happened. I was

13 somewhere in North Philly. I'm from

14 Southwest. I was somewhere in North

15 Philly and the guy just came up to me and

16 just start shaking my hand. I'm like,

17 Where I know you from? And that's when

18 he said, he said, We was at the father

19 and sons dinner. And that was the aha

20 moment for me. And it just made me feel

21 good, because I did that, you know, and I

22 wanted to do that for other men meeting

23 other men. And that's pretty much my...

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's

25 pretty a lot. And probably somewhere in

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2 some temple way back in ancient Egyptian
3 times, there was a group called masons
4 that probably started just that way, and
5 that kind of brotherhood extended to now.
6 So I appreciate what you're doing.

7 Let me ask a couple of quick
8 questions. How are you funded?

9 MR. BROOKS: I'm funded by
10 GoFundMe, friends, money out of my
11 pocket. Right now that's it. I'm here
12 for help, actually. I'm here to testify
13 for help, because I usually do this, but
14 a lot of times I have to turn moms away
15 because I don't have enough people to
16 take in -- or I don't have enough time to
17 take in so many children. I have so many
18 letters of women just asking, single
19 moms, asking for help, and I just feel so
20 bad that I have to turn them away.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Have you
22 ever filled out an application for
23 funding, RFP for anything, any
24 government?

25 MR. BROOKS: Never.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

3 So do you have within your cadre of
4 resources somebody who knows how to write
5 proposals?

6 MR. BROOKS: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So my
8 suggestion would be that we need to
9 connect you with -- first of all, maybe
10 sit around and try to -- that group that
11 evaluates that just testified, that would
12 be a perfect match for you to say, All
13 right, we don't have a box for you yet,
14 but here's the things that you do, you
15 provide -- I heard what you said --
16 mentorship, you do CTE training, you do
17 fellowship, you do intervention, some
18 counseling. So all of those components,
19 if we could kind of find a box for it, we
20 probably can find funding for it as well.

21 So I'd like to challenge them,
22 and maybe we'll get you after this
23 connected with them, and I'd love to sit
24 in a room and see how that process would
25 work. Because I really want to go and

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2 meet them. If they're beginning to
3 identify diamonds in the rough and
4 providing them the resources to come to
5 scale, this is the kind of program we're
6 talking about.

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. BRYANT: Initially he
9 started out of pocket, and it became a
10 little more than I think --

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you in
12 the program or are you related?

13 MS. BRYANT: No. I'm his
14 support. I'm pretty much why he's here
15 today. I kind of encouraged him to --
16 I'm a DHS social worker and I see a lot,
17 so -- and being a single parent with
18 three sons, you know, I felt that when I
19 read about his program and things of that
20 nature, I contacted him myself and
21 reached out to him, and I offered to help
22 him.

23 In addition to hearing his
24 original story of him funding it, he was
25 supposed to be going in with some

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2 friends, and they backed out, and he
3 didn't want to fail the children, so he
4 continued to do it out of pocket
5 initially. And then it became more
6 children than he could afford of why he
7 had reached out to the other
8 organizations to possibly make donations
9 and things of that nature. So I said to
10 him, because it's a great program and it
11 does not necessarily have to be a father,
12 but a father figure, and to be able to
13 network all of the other fathers sharing
14 their stories and being a support to one
15 another, I thought it was a great idea
16 for him to come and speak with you.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Have you
18 codified -- I mean, have you determined
19 what your budget is?

20 MR. BROOKS: No, I haven't. I
21 haven't, because, honestly, I just was
22 doing it out of the love of the City.
23 You know what I mean? I love
24 Philadelphia. I'm born and raised in
25 Philly. I moved to California. I moved

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2 to Atlanta, but I always miss Philly.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you said
4 you were from Southwest. Is it a
5 citywide program?

6 MR. BROOKS: Yes, anywhere.
7 I'm actually in North Philly now. I live
8 in North Philly. And I'm going to tell
9 you a story about what really inspired me
10 to do this. I don't know if you know
11 18th and Cumberland, any of you are
12 familiar.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: I have heard
14 of 18th and Cumberland.

15 MR. BROOKS: So you know that
16 area. So I live in that area. So I'm
17 coming out every day working back and
18 forth, and a young man on the corner
19 literally came to me and asked me, he
20 said to me, Listen, I got kids, I got a
21 son, I got kids' mom, we live in this
22 apartment, I need your help. If you
23 could just help me. He said, I see you
24 going to work every day, you mind your
25 business, I just need something. And

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2 that just really touched me, that a grown
3 man can come to me, and ever since then,
4 I've just been trying to do what I can.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, God
6 moves us the way he does and inspires us
7 to do what we should. So I just want to
8 try to figure out how to -- see, I don't
9 want to use this term, but I'm going to
10 do it anyway, these thousand points of
11 light. Who used that? Reagan?

12 DR. LERNER: Bush.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Was it Bush?
14 I'm definitely not used to that.

15 JUDGE LERNER: No. 41.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: No. 41 did?

17 JUDGE LERNER: 41.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: So there are
19 these positive things going on in the
20 community and some of them are
21 independent of each other, and we just
22 got to put them kind of in the right
23 place to connect with resources, mostly
24 to bring it to scale. So, again, I
25 described earlier the House of Umoja for

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2 me in my life, but trying to figure out
3 how you do what you do and then to do it
4 in a meaningful way for more young people
5 is the challenge for us.

6 So we'll get together with you
7 offline, if the Clerk will make sure we
8 have his contact information, to figure
9 that out and put you with technical
10 assistance people and some people, quite
11 frankly, with some money and to see if we
12 can't do that.

13 Is anybody else testifying on
14 this panel? Sir.

15 MR. GLENN: How you doing? My
16 name is Joshua Glenn and I work with an
17 organization called the Youth Arts
18 Self-Empowerment Project, and we're a
19 youth-led organization that work with
20 young people and we go into the
21 Philadelphia adult jails and do mentoring
22 for young people through art and poetry,
23 and then we also employ young people as
24 organizers when they leave jail so that
25 we can encourage them to be organizers in

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2 their communities and stand up against
3 the laws, some of the stuff that
4 discriminate them in their communities
5 and police and all of --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Define
7 organizer, because President Obama called
8 himself an organizer. So what do you
9 mean?

10 MR. GLENN: Well, basically
11 we're an organization that works to
12 change the laws and stuff that we think
13 are doing pain and problem to our
14 communities. So that's what we consider
15 organizers.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how many
17 young people have you mentored?

18 MR. GLENN: Well, we go into
19 the Philadelphia adult jails every
20 weekend and we do concurrent workshops,
21 ongoing workshops with young people, art
22 and poetry every weekend, and then we
23 also go into schools and we do workshops
24 with young people about just being locked
25 up and charged as adult and like what it

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2 is, because you --

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: You're
4 talking about on State Road?

5 MR. GLENN: Yeah, on State
6 Road. We work with the young people.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the
8 people that have been adjudicated adults?

9 JUDGE LERNER: I know a little
10 bit about this. These are young men,
11 almost all men -- sometimes there have
12 been women in the program -- who under
13 state law have been charged as adults
14 because of the nature of the offense that
15 they're charged with, and they are in a
16 separate section at PICC, and the Youth
17 Arts Empowerment Project is one of the
18 two, I would say based on my experience,
19 one of the two major programs that
20 operates in the prison for those people
21 while they're awaiting their
22 decertification hearings, which I also
23 know something about.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we've
25 been trying to get people to abbreviate

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2 their testimony. My Co-Chair said you
3 should have read yours. Why don't you do
4 that.

5 MR. GLENN: You said?

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Read your
7 testimony.

8 MR. GLENN: That's what I was
9 going to do. I just wanted to explain --
10 you kind of stopped me.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

12 MR. GLENN: So we work with
13 young people that are locked up and
14 charged as adults, and we do basically
15 peer-to-peer mentoring for young people
16 so that young people can mentor young
17 people to show them how to be mentors,
18 and that's what we do.

19 But when I was younger, I was
20 locked up and I didn't have any -- when I
21 was younger, I didn't have any good role
22 models. So just like youth in low- and
23 poor-income communities, I started
24 hanging around the wrong crowd and I
25 started getting in trouble. The only

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2 reason I was able to change my life is
3 because when I was released, I started
4 working with YASP and I received the
5 proper support I needed to make positive
6 change.

7 Philadelphia should invest in
8 more programs like YASP that focus on the
9 root causes of why young people commit
10 crimes and develop strategies to help
11 young people stay out of trouble by
12 educating them about the criminal justice
13 system and employing them as organizers
14 to help them stand up against the
15 injustice that the criminal justice
16 system creates for them.

17 At the age of 16, I was locked
18 up and charged as an adult and held in an
19 adult jail for a crime I did not commit.
20 I was held pretrial for 18 months because
21 I couldn't afford bail. While I was
22 locked up in an adult jail, it was like
23 being in solitary confinement, because we
24 were housed on two blocks in the
25 Philadelphia House of Correction, a very

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2 old and overcrowded jail. We spent so
3 much time confined to one block or in our
4 cells that it started to feel like I was
5 an animal in a cage. At the end of those
6 18 months, my case was dismissed and
7 thrown out due to lack of evidence.

8 My experience there caused me
9 to develop issues with trust and showing
10 emotions. When I first got out of jail,
11 my family ties were almost non-existent
12 because I was so used to being alone that
13 I didn't feel comfortable being around
14 people. It took a long time for me to
15 learn to let myself be close to people
16 again.

17 The worst part about the whole
18 ordeal is that I didn't get to graduate
19 from high school. I had to struggle to
20 make up for those years and find a way to
21 get my diploma once I was released. And
22 to this day, the adult arrest still comes
23 up when I apply for jobs.

24 At the court date when my case
25 was dismissed, my public defender tried

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2 to make me take a deal by saying I was
3 going to lose the case if we went to
4 trial. It was hard to say no, because I
5 just wanted to go home, but I refused to
6 plead guilty to something I didn't do. I
7 know hundreds of people that go through
8 the same things I did when I was locked
9 up, and many young people do give in to
10 the pressures and accept guilty pleas
11 whether there are guilty or not because
12 they have been held for so long, they
13 just want to get out.

14 In order to make a real change
15 and reduce crime, we have to stop holding
16 thousands of people pretrial, tearing
17 apart families of people who are supposed
18 to be innocent until proven guilty. We
19 have to create more opportunities for
20 young people in poor and low-income
21 communities through education and
22 employment and not put poor people and
23 their families in more debt than they
24 were before they were arrested. We have
25 to end cash bail and stop punishing young

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2 people just for being poor. We have to
3 stop sending young people to adult
4 prisons and jails and invest in resources
5 to better their future instead of decades
6 of incarceration.

7 These laws have been destroying
8 our communities for far too long. We
9 need change now.

10 That was my testimony.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, it was.

12 MR. GLENN: Thanks. But also
13 so basically what I learned through just
14 being locked up and like being somebody
15 that returned to the community and
16 changed my life, the things that really
17 helped me were just actually being able
18 to go somewhere and receive proper
19 education. And the school system for
20 young people, they're not receiving the
21 proper education, especially talking
22 about the system. People don't know
23 what's going on. They don't know that if
24 they get locked up, they could do this
25 amount of time. They don't know how

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2 serious it is, and they don't know how
3 they're really targeting one as a group
4 with locking them up.

5 But basically what we do, we go
6 into the schools and we do art and poetry
7 workshops with young people just to show
8 them how to do positive work, and just we
9 basically mentor them and tell them about
10 our lives and what we went through and
11 tell them, you know, what could happen to
12 them, and it helps them to change. Not a
13 scared straight type of tactic. It's
14 just actually informing them of how the
15 system is.

16 A lot of times when we go into
17 school stuff, I go and tell my story
18 about what happened to me. I was locked
19 up for 18 months, a crime I didn't do, I
20 was under 18, held in adult jail
21 pretrial. After 18 months they dismissed
22 the case due to lack of evidence, but I'm
23 still getting -- basically when I go for
24 a job interview, they still bring up the
25 arrest that I've been charged with, and

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2 it doesn't make sense, and it's just one
3 way that the system is holding people
4 back.

5 But as far as us changing our
6 communities and helping young people
7 become positive people, we have to show
8 them through proof also. You know,
9 people that are doing positive things
10 have to show them how to be positive, and
11 that's the thing that a lot of these
12 organizations lack. They don't have real
13 mentors for young people that are going
14 through the same things they're going
15 through.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: May I ask
17 how old you are.

18 MR. GLENN: I'm 27 now. I was
19 locked up at 16. And due to the
20 organization, I've been working with this
21 organization for ten years. I think
22 actually over ten years.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the young
24 people of your youth when you were 16
25 compared to the young people out there

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2 now, do you see any difference?

3 MR. GLENN: Actually, I don't.

4 It's not really a difference. The only

5 thing is is just that -- it's actually

6 the same. They don't have no mentors.

7 They don't have any mentors and they

8 don't know what's going on in their

9 communities to tap them into being a

10 positive person in the community. People

11 are seeing negativity every day and

12 they're around negative people, and they

13 have no good role models. There's nobody

14 that comes to say, Look, come to this

15 organization, learn about your history,

16 learn how to be a man, you know, and

17 that's what a lot of these other programs

18 lack. They're doing stuff based off of

19 data. They're not doing stuff based off

20 of people to people, you know, mentoring,

21 and it's not really -- it's just

22 ineffective.

23 MR. ROJAS: What year were you

24 at the House of Correction?

25 MR. GLENN: In 2005, I believe.

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2 MR. ROJAS: What kind of
3 support did you get from your social
4 worker that was assigned to the juvenile
5 unit?

6 MR. GLENN: The jail was so
7 overcrowded at the House of Corrections,
8 we barely -- everybody -- you probably
9 see your social worker once a month
10 maybe. So you have no time to build a
11 relationship with the social workers
12 there, because it's so overcrowded that
13 they don't get -- they don't have the
14 proper time to even evaluate you and talk
15 to you.

16 MR. ROJAS: Well, did they do
17 any discharge planning with you while you
18 were incarcerated?

19 MR. GLENN: They don't do
20 nothing. They just released me and then,
21 you know -- I was trying to see whether
22 some type of way I could sue or anything,
23 because it's just -- it took a big part
24 out of my life and nobody helped me
25 regain that. Nobody helped me get back

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2 into society the right way, and I had to
3 do everything through an outside
4 organization that should be getting the
5 same type of funding as the other
6 organization because it actually helps.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any other
8 questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
11 for your testimony.

12 Young man.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening.

14 I'm Terrance Williams. I'm on the
15 leadership team for the Youth Arts
16 Self-Empowerment Project, and just here
17 to give you a little bit of information
18 about myself and tell you how being
19 locked up and charged as adult in the
20 criminal justice system, the impact it
21 had on me.

22 I'm 20. I'm from North Philly.
23 I didn't have nothing made for me growing
24 up. I had a mom who struggled to pay
25 bills and she had just got over a drug

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2 addiction. I completed 22 months in
3 adult and juvenile facilities. I had
4 developed a commitment to serving my
5 peers while being locked up and going --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry.
7 Say that again.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I --

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: You
10 developed?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: A strong
12 commitment to serving my peers and giving
13 youth a helping hand when I joined and
14 started going to the Youth Arts
15 Self-Empowerment Project while being
16 locked up.

17 I was arrested at 17. I got
18 sent to State Road and charged as an
19 adult, and being locked up as a juvenile
20 and charged as adults, you get a set
21 amount of people to visit you. My mom
22 ain't have it, so I wasn't really -- I
23 didn't really have a good relationship
24 with my mom. I ain't have money on my
25 books, and literally to no male, except

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2 for a little girlfriend I had. But it
3 was stressful and it was a hard time. It
4 was the hardest time of my life.

5 While incarcerated, I was 17.
6 I started going to the YASP program.
7 They used to come each and every Saturday
8 to do art and poetry workshops and
9 writing workshops, and that was a time
10 and a place when I was locked up where I
11 could express myself and all the built-up
12 frustration I had to even being
13 incarcerated. I got all of that out
14 going to the Youth Arts Self-Empowerment
15 Project.

16 I got sent to placement from 18
17 months, juvenile placement, and I had
18 took a plea bargain for five years adult
19 probation. When I got to placement, I
20 contacted Sarah from the Youth Arts
21 Self-Empowerment Project and told her I
22 would like to come home and tell my story
23 and just get the targeted teens before it
24 was too late and they probably go down
25 the path I went through.

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2 Locking up youth and charging
3 them as adults has a major impact on our
4 communities. Statistics say that youth
5 who are charged as adults are more likely
6 to come home and commit another crime and
7 be arrested more than youth who stay in
8 the juvenile system. Youth should not be
9 charged as adults and sent to adult jails
10 and prisons. If City Council and the
11 Mayor are serious about providing
12 opportunities and support to support
13 young people and ending the
14 school-to-prison pipeline, they should
15 stop sending young people to adult jails
16 and stop spending so much money on
17 holding people pretrial. The City should
18 not use its money to build prisons, but
19 direct funding to alternatives to
20 prisons, like schools, recreation
21 centers, libraries, and rehabs.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: There's a
23 part in there about what you were
24 arrested. I don't want -- if you don't
25 want to put it out there, all right.

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2 However, you didn't make those connects
3 like that at 17. Did someone older kind
4 of move you in that direction?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: He didn't move
6 me in the direction, but he suggested it
7 and I was going to doing it. It was no
8 type of peer pressure or anything. It
9 was just at the point and time in my life
10 at that time I was down for anything that
11 gets some money.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Let me
13 explain. I was from a gang. I had an
14 old head that had influence on me. What
15 they said was the law. Was it like that
16 for you?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: No. I was my
18 own person. Like it wasn't no peer
19 pressure or nothing. He even asked me
20 more than once was I trying to do what I
21 did, and I'm like, Why you keep asking?
22 I'm with it, like that.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Well,
24 I'm glad you changed, because I read it.
25 So today you realize that that's not the

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2 quick way, that's not the right way,
3 there's a better, more steady way.

4 I grew up with guys that
5 probably are just now coming home based
6 on Obama. I kid you not. So making that
7 decision -- when did you have your aha
8 moment that I needed to do something
9 different? Was it incarceration? You
10 said, this is not for me.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Well,
12 being arrested, I was like this ain't for
13 me. I could have did a lot of time, but
14 I missed it, and I wouldn't even probably
15 been where I'm at today like to have this
16 job that I don't never want to lose,
17 because it's not even a job, it's like
18 more me helping my community become
19 better. And I want to have my daughter.
20 I would still probably be incarcerated if
21 I -- I mean...

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Some of the
23 guys that are just now 30 years later, if
24 you prorate what they made on them
25 streets to an annual salary, they'd have

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2 worked out better at McDonald's. I mean,
3 when you go upstate, you make, what, 16
4 cents an hour or whatever that is. What
5 is the rate? 19 cents. I'm sorry.

6 So, yeah. We have to make
7 better decisions for the long term, for
8 delayed gratification. So I'm very proud
9 of you, in other words, that you're
10 thinking and not just reacting. So I
11 appreciate that.

12 MS. SCHWARTZMAN: I wanted to
13 commend you for the work that you do and
14 the organizations. We all talk about
15 mentoring a lot, but to actually go in
16 and talk to people your own age or close
17 to it and share your experiences, I mean,
18 it takes a lot of courage, but it's also
19 really important. And from doing the
20 work for a long time, I mean, I think
21 that's the only way we're really going to
22 change things. So very, very good.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

24 REVEREND MAIRENA: Way to go.
25 I mean, you're inspiring, all of you.

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2 You're very inspiring.

3 A question I have, though.

4 Most of you are still very closely --
5 you're close in age to the youngsters
6 you're influencing. What is it that you
7 have that others that may go back to jail
8 and get back in that lifestyle, what is
9 it that you have that they don't?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm a leader.
11 That's for one. I think about my future.
12 I think about having a good life, and I
13 don't want to spend my years in jail or
14 incarcerated away from my family.

15 MR. GLENN: I think something
16 that we possess is just experience with
17 like what we've been through and the way
18 that we speak. It's more so -- it's like
19 the generations still are kind of
20 connected with like the age range and it
21 just kind of -- I think we just possess
22 the experience, and when you go through
23 something that somebody else is going
24 through now and you can tell them how you
25 overcame it and how you changed, I think

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2 that's really a clicker and it like
3 really hits home with a lot of the young
4 people, especially because we grow up in
5 the same neighborhoods, you know. We
6 been through the criminal justice system,
7 and we actually changed our life, like
8 really changed our life and are really
9 doing good things in our communities, and
10 I think that's something that we possess
11 to help them become leaders, and they
12 actually like -- they kind of connect
13 with our stories and what we've been
14 through, because they see their family
15 members go through it. They see their
16 friends go through it and they're living
17 it every day.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any other --
19 Your Honor.

20 JUDGE LERNER: Mr. Williams, I
21 just want to tell you how happy I am to
22 see you here and in this room. And I'm
23 not going to go into that in any greater
24 detail, except to point out that the law
25 under which these two young men were

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2 arrested and charged as an adult is a
3 state law, and it's a state law that came
4 from that period of time that I mentioned
5 when the Representative was here, when
6 the state Legislature in Pennsylvania and
7 in many other states were falling all
8 over themselves to show how tough they
9 were on crime. It is, I think, a tribute
10 to people in the criminal justice system
11 here, including district attorneys and
12 defense lawyers, that for Mr. Williams
13 the only option under that state law did
14 not turn out to be a long state court
15 prison system. And I think you're a
16 success story and I'm really happy to see
17 you here, and I wish you well.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Name three
20 things we could do to make more of you,
21 that if you were sitting up here, name
22 three things that you would suggest to us
23 to do to create more people like you.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Give people like
25 me and Josh more job opportunities,

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2 because when I came home, I had a hard
3 time getting a job, and I still have a
4 hard time finding apartments and other
5 things that got to do with criminal
6 background checks.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's one.

8 MR. GLENN: Well, one thing we
9 could do for the young people is that we
10 can stop holding them adult jail
11 pretrial, because it's really affecting
12 our youth in a terrible way. I mean,
13 everybody that -- well, we actually know
14 the facts. I don't know the exact number
15 off the top of the head, but it actually
16 increases the recidivism rate when you
17 put young people in adult prisons
18 pretrial, and it's just because
19 they're --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Why?

21 MR. GLENN: Because I think
22 it's the exposure to -- basically it's
23 kind of like being in solitary
24 confinement and like -- because they only
25 have two blocks out of the whole jail.

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2 It's a jail with probably 14, 15 blocks,
3 and they only have two blocks that's for
4 the young people and it's adult facility,
5 and they don't have the programs and the
6 stuff that young people need in that jail
7 because they don't really have room for
8 them people. They don't have room for
9 young people being held in adult jail.
10 So they're basically neglected and
11 they're not able to receive the proper
12 stuff they need to change.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: So there's a
14 sight and sound rule that they can't --

15 JUDGE LERNER: Well, the
16 situation has changed a lot since Josh
17 was there. The facility is different.
18 It is still a wing. It's a wing of PICC.
19 It's a wing devoted entirely to juveniles
20 who have been charged as adults. It's
21 difficult to keep the adults and the
22 juveniles separated. The Acting
23 Commissioner and the new Commissioner
24 have a plan to actually move all of the
25 juveniles awaiting decertification

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2 hearings into a completely separate
3 facility on the grounds of the county
4 prison.

5 I will say, however, that --
6 and I think it's in the interest of
7 balance, it's important to point this
8 out. There's a school operated there,
9 Pennypack School, small groups,
10 dedicated, certified teachers. Ms. Julie
11 and I were up there, as a matter of fact,
12 as recently as last week and watched some
13 of the classes. I can tell you that the
14 young men in those classes were
15 demonstrating better attendance and I
16 think getting better teaching than they
17 had been before they were locked up.
18 Mayor Kenney visited that school early on
19 and commented on the irony of the fact
20 that for a good deal of our population in
21 order to get them good schooling with
22 controlled classes in a quiet atmosphere,
23 they had to get themselves locked up
24 first, which is obviously not something
25 we want to be proud of. But the school

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2 programs, the Youth Empowerment Program
3 do a lot of good work.

4 REVEREND MAIRENA: Quick
5 question. Did anybody from the
6 faith-based community go visit you and
7 provide any type of encouragement, being
8 a Christian or Muslim or --

9 MR. WILLIAMS: When I was
10 incarcerated?

11 REVEREND MAIRENA: Excuse me?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: When I was
13 incarcerated?

14 REVEREND MAIRENA: Yes.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Not that I know
16 of.

17 REVEREND MAIRENA: So no social
18 worker access and no one from the
19 faith-based community? So YASP is who
20 gave you an outlet?

21 MR. GLENN: Yes. And basically
22 YASP, what we do -- I actually
23 participated in a program when I was
24 locked up too back then, those ten years
25 ago. That's how I met YASP too. And

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2 then we just sat down. We talked about
3 ways that we could help young people stop
4 going to jail, and what we came up with
5 was, one, they need employment or they
6 need something to do positive so that
7 they can change and, two, they need
8 peer-to-peer mentoring. Because as we
9 thought about it, when adults tell young
10 people to do certain stuff, it's totally
11 different, when like your parents tell
12 you, don't go out there or you don't do
13 that than when somebody is at your age
14 and at the same type of mental level as
15 you tell you, you know, this is what we
16 think is cool to do. And I think it's
17 language like when you're dealing with
18 people and those -- like when you're
19 dealing with young people from urban
20 areas, you got to have people from urban
21 areas teaching them how to be positive
22 leaders in their communities. And that's
23 what we do lack. That's what we lack.
24 That's why our organization does that,
25 and it's great, but we need more

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2 organizations like us and we also need
3 support from the City for our
4 organization, because we do get our
5 funding from grants and we do proposals
6 and stuff, but at the same time, the City
7 should be doing that. You know what I'm
8 saying? They should be helping programs
9 like this that develop people into
10 positive leaders that are coming out of
11 the prison system. That's all we have to
12 do. All we have to do is have an
13 opportunity for them to change and people
14 will change. We don't have that, and
15 that's the real problem. So I think
16 that's four things that we could do
17 collectively to change things.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're trying
19 to find all of the pathways out of
20 incarceration we can find. There's no
21 one size fits all. Different things for
22 different people. So some people are
23 arts, some people work with their hands
24 and hammers, some people do other things.
25 So we want to find positive ways to

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2 engage young people so they never, ever,
3 ever, ever have to stay stuck in that
4 process.

5 So, again, we appreciate your
6 testimony. It is duly noted. And you
7 ain't never got to be afraid of people
8 who work for you. All right?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: We appreciate
10 it. Thanks.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
12 (Someone in audience talking.)

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Wait a
14 minute. She can't hear you and it's not
15 on here. So hold up.

16 Will the Clerk please read the
17 names of the next group to testify.

18 THE CLERK: Reginald Carter,
19 Criminal Justice Workshop; Reuben Jones,
20 Frontline Dads; Berto M. Elmore,
21 Attorney.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
25 guys for your patience, but you can see

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2 there's a wealth of information that
3 we're being provided. We don't want to
4 cut anybody off.

5 MR. CARTER: It's a great
6 meeting.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
8 for your patience. Please be seated.
9 Good afternoon. State your name for the
10 record and please begin your testimony.

11 MR. CARTER: My name is
12 Reginald Carter, known also as Abdullah,
13 formerly incarcerated. I did about 11
14 years in the city prison system, former
15 gang member, former gang leader, former
16 Imam in the state correctional system,
17 and Islam certainly played a role in
18 helping me to develop out of a mentality
19 of self-destruction, and I'm here to add
20 whatever I could possibly add to the
21 process of transformation. And one of
22 the things that I am certainly interested
23 in is oversight and accountability and
24 transformation. I'll talk about that in
25 a little bit.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Go ahead.

3 So one at a time unless -- is everybody
4 testifying?

5 MR. CARTER: I was just
6 introducing myself.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Is everybody
8 testifying?

9 MR. ELMORE: I will probably be
10 the shortest, but yes.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Let's go
12 with you first.

13 MR. ELMORE: Good afternoon. I
14 appreciate the opportunity to address
15 this Committee. My name is Bert Elmore.
16 I'm an attorney. I've been practicing
17 here in Philadelphia for approximately 25
18 years. I'm here representing people that
19 cannot be here, and I told them that I
20 would come and speak for them. There is
21 an organization called Real Street Talk,
22 which is an organization in Graterford
23 Prison. They wanted me to come and ask
24 you to consider their expertise. These
25 gentlemen are primarily lifers that have

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2 been incarcerated well over 25, 30, 35,
3 to 40 years, and they created a concept,
4 a program, basically a movement of
5 stopping mass incarceration, stopping
6 young people from coming to jail. They
7 created this -- obviously they had to get
8 themselves together after years and years
9 of reflection, and they decided that they
10 just didn't want to sit and make time go
11 by, let time go by. They wanted to do
12 something to impact the community, and
13 developing a collective leadership among
14 themselves, they created this Real Street
15 Talk.

16 Now, it's impossible for me to
17 go over all of what they do and so forth
18 in this amount of time. What I'm here to
19 ask is that this Committee accept, look
20 for, and get with them. Obviously they
21 cannot be here. They're incarcerated.
22 What they bring is an expertise that's
23 rare, that normally does not have an
24 opportunity to come to these type of
25 things, and that's why I'm here. I would

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2 suggest that, if possible, because what
3 they do is so unique and so powerful,
4 that this Committee would either go to
5 Graterford, because Graterford is one of
6 our largest prisons, it's one of the
7 largest in the country, and I think to go
8 there and it would show -- and I practice
9 criminal law, and in jail there is a
10 hierarchy, and what you have is, you got
11 the guys coming in two to four, three to
12 four, but in jail, the ones that command
13 respect and get it are the lifers, and
14 they have something to give, they have
15 something to share, and they're willing
16 to do that. And I think that it would
17 really impact -- see, in prison -- and I
18 don't know how they do it, but in prison
19 they know what goes on in the streets.
20 They really do. And they have the
21 ability to pass that to people that are
22 not here, you know. And the criminal
23 justice reform is a big issue,
24 particularly in the people of color
25 communities. But these halls are not

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2 packed. A lot of it is because people
3 don't believe that, well, is this for
4 real. But I think the Real Street Talk
5 can show you how to impact and help
6 legitimize and let everybody know that --
7 see, the people that you really want to
8 deal with, they deal with every day.
9 Everybody that goes to state prison goes
10 through Graterford, and their program is
11 designed to talk to and reach every
12 inmate that goes through the prison
13 system. A lot of them are from
14 Philadelphia. We all know that. And a
15 lot of them are going to return home to
16 Philadelphia. Most of the founders are
17 from Philadelphia.

18 So I think that they have this
19 uniqueness about them that would allow a
20 lot of credibility. If you go to talk to
21 them, I think that word would spread that
22 this is just not another talk committee,
23 that you guys really seriously want to
24 understand the problems and solve the
25 problems, and it will spread through the

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2 ex-offender community, because we have a
3 community here of well over 250,000
4 ex-offenders. Not only are they going --
5 they're not going anywhere. They need to
6 be talked to, and these individuals that
7 I've talked to and met and participated
8 with have already collected the data on
9 these individuals, and they have many,
10 many people involved in their database.
11 So they can help with this actual reform,
12 tell people about these type of meetings,
13 tell people to participate, and, again,
14 they have credibility.

15 I cannot emphasize enough --
16 myself and another group of attorneys,
17 there's about eight or nine attorneys
18 that they have been able to pull together
19 to support their efforts, and I just
20 think that it would really be -- I'm
21 requesting -- they have programs. I'm
22 requesting even though they cannot be
23 here, you know, they just can't, but you
24 guys can review what they have.

25 They've written two books.

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2 They have an extensive program. One of
3 the things that I wrote down, they said
4 to me, Bert, you can't talk about reentry
5 without money. You have to have the
6 ability to -- you can't talk about
7 criminal justice reform without money in
8 play. This is them talking.

9 I'm just asking this Committee
10 is it possible to develop some type of
11 video conference or either go there and
12 review Real Street Talk. It is a
13 positive program.

14 And with that, like I said, I
15 have -- they sent me almost a hundred
16 pages to read and I just didn't have
17 enough time to read and explain it all.
18 I wouldn't dare try to do that. But they
19 have already got it in place. It's
20 something that will work, and they're the
21 experts.

22 I asked one of them, I said,
23 How long would it take you to talk to
24 someone that's coming in the prison
25 system to know if they're going to

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2 return?

3 He said, I've been here 37
4 years. It takes me two to three minutes.
5 I can tell you exactly -- he can tell
6 you, He'll be back. That's what type of
7 expertise you have there.

8 So I would appreciate it if you
9 would look at the information we're going
10 to submit to the Committee. And I'm
11 going to apologize. Shaka Johnson, who
12 is one of the other attorneys that's
13 involved with Real Street Talk, is on the
14 list, but he got tied up in court and
15 couldn't make it.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

18 And watch this: Yes. So one word: Yes.

19 So couple of things.

20 Councilman Johnson and I just came back
21 from Graterford three weeks ago, met with
22 the coalition of lifers and other
23 organizations, because there's about half
24 a dozen of them, and they've done
25 something unprecedented. They stopped

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2 being in silos. They started working
3 together to talk about the reentry
4 process from inside to outside, with an
5 eye towards cutting down recidivism.

6 Julie has also talked about us
7 doing an actual hearing up on State Road,
8 but one of the things that we would like
9 to consider is doing a teleconferencing
10 with the -- some of us will go up, but
11 all of us based on time constraints might
12 not be able to go up, but we can set up
13 teleconferencing so it's a live feed so
14 that the discussion can happen in two
15 places, one up there and one down here.

16 So the simple answer to your
17 question and request is yes.

18 MR. ELMORE: Thank you.
19 Appreciate that.

20 MR. COBB: William Cobb.

21 I just want you to offer back
22 to the brothers in Graterford that a
23 person who has done time in Graterford,
24 who was mentored by the lifers who were
25 there, so many that I don't want to

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2 neglect mentioning some of them, that
3 helped me navigate through corrections in
4 the beginning of my incarceration all the
5 way through to the end. So let them know
6 that someone is here who has experienced
7 what they are currently experiencing and
8 they are very correct in regards to
9 mentioning money. It ultimately is going
10 to come down to money. The City of
11 Philadelphia alone spends approximately
12 300 million on State Road every year.
13 Our only reentry program that the City
14 had was folded into the Prison System
15 with a budget of only \$700,000. We know
16 that there are estimated 30,000 people
17 returning from federal, state, and local
18 prisons to the City of Philadelphia each
19 year. You underestimated the number of
20 people who have been in conflict with the
21 criminal justice system by about 150,000.
22 So there are about 400,000 of us who have
23 been in touch with the criminal justice
24 system.

25 Please let the brothers know

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2 that I am here, and as a result of me
3 being here, they are also here.

4 MR. ELMORE: I certainly
5 appreciate those words, and I will
6 definitely let them know that, that their
7 voice is going to be heard and a part of
8 this procedure.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. SCHWARTZMAN: I want to
11 echo that too. I'm with the Pennsylvania
12 Prison Society. We've worked with lifers
13 through the years. It's important to
14 have that voice, and without it, I don't
15 think this Committee could really be
16 complete. So I'm glad you brought it up,
17 because otherwise I was going to.

18 MR. ELMORE: All right.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So really
20 just to echo what they said, this is in
21 part about them. And many of them I had
22 an opportunity to talk to realized up
23 there what it was all about and want to
24 dedicate themselves to preventing anybody
25 else from coming. And I could name ten

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2 or so things that they have done and been
3 engaged in in a positive way that have
4 helped us out here already. So yes.

5 MR. ELMORE: I will give that
6 information to them. I'm sure they'd be
7 pleased. I certainly am pleased that
8 this Committee will integrate their
9 discussion and programs into this great
10 effort that -- you know, which is really
11 overdue. And as a criminal defense
12 attorney, like I said, I appreciate it.
13 I hope that while some of us that
14 practice law -- I'm just going to say
15 this. There are a lot of people that
16 have an interest in continuing mass
17 incarceration, financial interest, and I
18 just happen to be a part. Some of them
19 don't want to be in, but I'm not one of
20 those. I hope --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
22 for your help. Thank you for your
23 testimony, sincerely.

24 MR. ELMORE: Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay,

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2 gentlemen. Bring us home.

3 MR. JONES: So good afternoon,
4 Council and Commission members. My name
5 is Reuben Jones. And I just want to
6 share two points with you. I have a lot
7 of talk about -- I don't know about our
8 time situation, so I'll be as brief as
9 possible.

10 I have two asks that I'm going
11 to present to the Commission today, and
12 not necessarily the ask on behalf of
13 Frontline Dads, which is the program that
14 I represent, and one of the things that
15 we do is mentor young people, which you
16 heard a lot of talk about mentoring, but
17 the project that is most relevant to this
18 discussion is the peacemaking project
19 that we engage in in which we have a
20 traveling workshop, if you will, to teach
21 young people conflict resolution skills.
22 And we've done this at -- I actually have
23 one coming up at Ben Franklin High
24 School. We've done it at Temple
25 University, Arcadia, the Friends Center,

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2 Sankofa, Harambee Institute. I mean,
3 there's a long list of interventions that
4 we conducted, along with the proposition
5 of teaching young people how to
6 peacefully negotiate and resolve conflict
7 as a measure of violence prevention.

8 Some of the folks who have
9 participated in some of our workshops
10 include Dorothy Johnson-Speight, George
11 Mosee, Judge Lori Dumas, Calvin Anderson,
12 and the list goes on and on, who brought
13 their expertise to the table to conduct,
14 facilitate a workshop or serve on the
15 panel to share with young people their
16 insights and experiences to help move
17 them to a place of being change agents in
18 their communities, in their schools, in
19 their families.

20 One thing I really want to kind
21 of present since we're talking about the
22 summer, we're talking about following
23 prevention measures to help curtail some
24 of what we see. When we look at the
25 media, when we look at the news, there's

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2 another horror story every day. There's
3 another tragedy every day, and, you know,
4 sometimes it's unsettling when I have to
5 explain to my 6-year-old, you know,
6 what's on the news and what's happening
7 in the world, to the point that I try to
8 catch the news every morning before I
9 leave the house, and we've come to the
10 point that he doesn't want me to watch
11 the news in the morning because it's
12 so -- it's just so disheartening and so
13 painful.

14 So the proposition I want to
15 come to -- and I'll come back to talk
16 about our program, because I don't want
17 to come in here and sell our program.
18 What I want to do is propose two things.
19 A, we know that in this city about 80
20 percent of the homicides that occur
21 happen to African American males, and
22 unfortunately in most cases the
23 perpetrator is an African American male.
24 So I want to solicit this Commission
25 to -- I don't even know what the process

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2 would be, but somehow get the Mayor
3 involved to declare homicide in
4 Philadelphia a public health crisis,
5 specifically gun violence a public health
6 crisis. I think that if we don't move
7 with some urgency at this moment in time,
8 then we're going to see a continued
9 escalation and we're going to --
10 sometimes, you know, I feel like we're
11 living in the movie New Jack City when
12 you see some of the things that are
13 happening, the atrocities and the
14 numbers. And I don't know if we reached
15 that tipping point. It's the point of no
16 return for us. I don't know that. But
17 what I do know is that if we declare gun
18 violence a public health crisis and with
19 all the resources and attention that
20 comes with addressing it, I think we have
21 a much better focus in terms of
22 prevention. So that's number one.

23 Number two, as unpopular as it
24 may be, there's a lot of talk in the City
25 around the sugary drink tax. And I'm not

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2 here to endorse the sugary drink tax, but
3 I do want to submit that none of the talk
4 I've heard about the funding to be
5 generated from the sugary drink tax, none
6 of it has identified violence,
7 specifically violence prevention, as a
8 focal point.

9 So my suggestion is, if we
10 could somehow solicit some of that
11 resource to be generated from the sugary
12 drink -- I'm supportive of community
13 schools. I serve on the Universal Pre-K
14 Commission. All those things are great,
15 but when we talk about what should be the
16 number one priority in terms of public
17 safety for the citizens of this city, I
18 think we have to pay some attention to --
19 and attention means not just dialogue,
20 but also financial resources, boots on
21 the ground, community-based intervention
22 to identify and address particularly gun
23 violence.

24 So we talked a lot about some
25 of the other interventions that are

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2 represented here today, and we know that
3 Philadelphia is often quoted as being the
4 city of neighborhoods, right? The
5 problem is, a lot of these neighborhood
6 conflicts are intergenerational. They go
7 back for two and three generations. My
8 grandfather was at war with your
9 grandfather; therefore, you better not
10 cross that line.

11 So I do think that the
12 mentoring helps. Like I said, I run a
13 mentoring program. I do think jobs help.
14 I do think that basketball helps, but if
15 we limit ourselves to the low-hanging
16 fruit of jobs, of basketball, of
17 mentoring, then I think we're going to
18 miss the mark, and we got to get down to
19 the ground level and start creating the
20 opportunity for these people who are in
21 conflict with each other to resolve it,
22 because most of the time we don't even
23 know -- well, they don't even know what
24 the root of it is. It's just this is the
25 code of the street that we follow, and if

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2 you violate, this is the consequence.

3 So at some point we have to be
4 the courageous leaders to step forward
5 and put those two opposing sides in the
6 same room together at the same time with
7 the same agenda. They've done conflict
8 resolution in South Africa. They've done
9 it in even Afghanistan. They've done it
10 in Israel. They've done it in Ireland.
11 And all over the world it works when you
12 bring folks together to resolve a
13 conflict peacefully, when you identify an
14 end game. And I don't know why we
15 believe in Philadelphia this is the only
16 place on the planet that it can't work.

17 But my proposition to this
18 Commission is to engage in some effort
19 through the sugary drink tax to get it
20 funded so that we can address some of
21 these conflicts at the ground level,
22 which includes mental health treatment,
23 of course. Some of the outrageous
24 incidents that we've seen is obviously
25 acts of violence that's caused by some

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2 challenges that haven't been addressed.

3 So I think I'm going to wrap up
4 my testimony at that point. Again, I'm
5 open to talk about the peacemakers that
6 we are engaging in over the summer to --
7 we identified 12 locations over the
8 summer so that every week, from the time
9 school is out to the time the school
10 returns, that we'll be able to do an
11 intervention in a different neighborhood
12 in the City to really take the tools to
13 the community that needs it the most to
14 really bring it directly to the people,
15 not ask them to come to us, and really
16 teach young people how to be at the
17 forefront of changing the face of
18 Philadelphia, how to be at the forefront
19 to become a change agent, to de-escalate
20 situations. We know that at the heart of
21 a lot of these situations is social
22 media, and as soon as there's -- not even
23 a fight. As soon as somebody exchanging
24 words or glass, everybody have their
25 phone out taking a video, a selfie, a

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2 picture and posting it on social media,
3 and we see it just kind of take off from
4 there. So we want to help teach these
5 young people how to step away from that
6 and be actually intervening, because
7 nobody has greater influence -- the young
8 man already said it. Nobody has greater
9 influence on the young person than
10 another young person. "Yo, man, chill,
11 it ain't even worth it, cool out" will go
12 a lot further than even the judge saying
13 something, because at the end of the day,
14 they're not afraid of going to jail.
15 They're not afraid of even dying, but we
16 have to make them or teach them to
17 respect life, to value life, and to value
18 each other and learn to be a part of the
19 solution and not the problem.

20 So that's what I offer to this
21 Commission. I'm available for questions,
22 if you have any.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: So first of
24 all, thank you for what you do. On your
25 initial request about whether or not we

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2 should treat it as a health crisis, if
3 you just look up Broad Street, Temple
4 University teaches now first responder
5 for people just walking down the street.
6 We're at a point where they have to know
7 first aid and trauma relief just to be a
8 friend to someone. And so that speaks to
9 the nature of the heightened sense of
10 violence in some zip codes.

11 Today, they put out a zip code
12 list of mortality rates by zip code. So
13 if you live in this zip code versus that
14 zip code, you might live three years
15 longer on average. There is a disparity
16 of 20 years in some parts of Philly to
17 the other part of it. And it ain't the
18 Schuylkill punch that's making it
19 different.

20 So, yes, it has to be treated,
21 in effect, like a health crisis.

22 By way of conflict resolution
23 and bringing people together, I know it
24 works, because back in my day, Sister
25 Falaka brought different warring groups

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2 together, and some of them are my best
3 friends now. Some of their kids play
4 with my kids. And imagine how that would
5 be if it didn't go that way.

6 So it can be done. The
7 question is for Philadelphia, what do you
8 prioritize, not with your verbalization
9 but with your budget. So a lot of these
10 things that you do are there, you exist,
11 but how do you bring it to scale so that
12 it has an impact on neighborhoods, and
13 that's what we're trying to -- there's a
14 lot of good out there, but what we're
15 trying to determine is how much does good
16 cost and how long does good take to kick
17 in.

18 Julie.

19 MS. WERTHEIMER: Thank you,
20 Councilman.

21 Thank you for your testimony,
22 Mr. Jones. The one thing to your point
23 on it being a public health crisis, I
24 think in addition to the program that the
25 Councilman mentioned about that's going

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2 on with the trauma centers at Temple, we
3 are seeing other programs that have taken
4 that bench as it's appropriate to do,
5 such as CeaseFire, which is the cure
6 violence model out of Chicago, which is
7 also run out of Temple out of their med
8 school. In addition, we have doctors
9 from Drexel who run a program called
10 Healing Hurt People. And so this idea of
11 the trauma not only to the body but to
12 the mind of what violence does to our
13 communities I think has been emerging for
14 quite some time and will continue to make
15 an impact on how we deal with this issue.

16 MR. COBB: William Cobb.

17 Mr. Jones, thank you for your
18 testimony. You indicated that you run a
19 program and you didn't want to sell it.
20 Well, if this Commission is successful,
21 at some point in time we will garnish
22 resources and then we will be looking for
23 organizations that have definitive
24 measurable impacts and, as Councilman
25 indicated, the timeframe. So I actually

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2 want to push back a little bit and have
3 you tell us some things about your
4 program, but specifically the number of
5 young people that you are able to touch
6 with your current funding and what your
7 potential is if you were fully funded.

8 MR. JONES: Yeah. Thank you
9 for asking. Let me just address a couple
10 things before I even get to that.

11 When I talk about the public
12 health crisis, I'm talking about
13 something very specific, because we like
14 to talk about PTSD, and the reality is
15 the youth that I know, the youth that I
16 grew up in the 32 zip, so the people that
17 I grew up with, the people that I've seen
18 die. I spent 15 years in prison myself.
19 So the PTSD is kind of the thing -- it's
20 kind of an academic approach. Our
21 children live in sustained traumatic
22 experiences. They relive it over and
23 over again. They don't exit from it.
24 They're re-traumatized over and over
25 again. And I have tremendous respect for

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2 Drexel and Healing Hurt People. I
3 participate with their citywide effort.
4 Temple, we take our youth to Scott
5 Charles' Cradle to the Grave program.
6 I'm very familiar with Wayne Jacobs and
7 the whole bringing the war zone triage
8 kind of practice to the streets. Very
9 familiar. But I'm talking about
10 something completely different.

11 Our children do not have an
12 opportunity to return home from war to a
13 safety zone. Our children are not only
14 born into these war zones, but they're
15 socialized into a war zone that tells
16 them that violence is the way that you
17 resolve conflict, and it takes a lot to
18 break through that. And I don't minimize
19 any effort by any program or any person
20 that's ever happened, but I will say --
21 you asked -- someone asked Chekemma about
22 what about the kids who don't get the
23 jobs, right? I thought that was probably
24 the most profound question of the day.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: That was my

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2 question, for the record.

3 MR. JONES: Okay. So let me
4 give you an answer to that question. So
5 what happens to them are, if you tracked
6 it, would be the same kids who drop out
7 of school; would be the same kids whose
8 father, grandfather, uncle upstate; would
9 be the same kids who were bullied; would
10 be the same kids who end up at the Youth
11 Study Center; who will be the same kids
12 who transition over to PICC; who will be
13 the same kids who matriculate to SCI
14 Graterford. So we already know what
15 happens to those kids, because those kids
16 know nobody cares about them. It doesn't
17 matter how many speeches are made. They
18 know, they see it when the investment
19 isn't made in their communities.

20 Let me go and say it further,
21 because I went to the Villanova
22 celebration last week, the other week,
23 but when I go back to the community, you
24 know what they say? They don't care
25 about us. They spent money for Villanova

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2 and I can't get this vacant lot on my
3 block cleaned up. So that's what they
4 see. So they hear the words, but what
5 they see is they're not prioritized. So
6 beautiful word that you used.

7 So if we don't take this whole
8 approach in the context of prioritizing
9 all of the citizens of this city and
10 making them feel like an equitable
11 partner, then what you'll have is people
12 who feel disenfranchised, feel
13 disconnect, and they're create this whole
14 kind of underworld, this whole other
15 existence that unfortunately most people
16 don't even see until the police comes in
17 to put the cuffs on because they violated
18 someone. And that's the sad part of it,
19 that there are a lot of opportunities
20 along the way that we can intervene and
21 prevent that.

22 So to your question, Mr. Cobb,
23 so here's two proud moments I'll give you
24 about the children we impact. We took 54
25 young people to President Obama's

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2 inauguration. No funding, no grants, no
3 anything. Just hustle from the muscle.
4 So we got kids selling candy bars. We
5 accepted donations, all these other
6 things to come up with alternative ways
7 to pay for what our vision is. And my
8 belief system is that whatever you
9 believe in, whatever you spazzing about,
10 you figure it out, because it's not
11 somebody's obligation to do that.

12 So I hear what you saying, but
13 the struggles and the commitment that we
14 made to the young people over the years
15 didn't come from the desire or the need
16 for a grant. It came from people, all
17 volunteer staff. Nobody gets paid,
18 right? People who are committed to
19 transforming the lives of young people,
20 because they transformed their lives
21 themselves. So what could the capacity
22 be if it was funded? I don't know. I
23 just don't. I can't even answer that.
24 All I know is the work that we do is from
25 the heart based on the commitment we have

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2 to the young people.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Just so you
4 know, Mr. Jones, I'm not here talking
5 about building a statue to Villanova.
6 I'm talking about saving them babies so
7 that maybe they can get to Villanova on a
8 scholarship. But let me just say this --

9 MR. JONES: We all want the
10 same things. I'm just giving you the
11 sentiment of the community.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: And I agree
13 with the community. We don't
14 prioritize -- I could point out out the
15 window where we put all that money into
16 that plaza. That's about, what, 40
17 million? We gave 20 more million to the
18 W Hotel down the street that's getting
19 built and then we're getting ready to do
20 the parking -- Love Park. That's a
21 hundred million in between three blocks.
22 You know what our poverty commitment is
23 from the federal government to here? 43
24 million. So if you love what you love,
25 you'll fund it. And that's why we're

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2 here.

3 So you're right, and we want to
4 try to get better at that, so to let them
5 know that we do care. And you're so
6 right. There's a disconnect between the
7 day-to-day life of a kid at 16th and
8 Cumberland and what we think 50,000 feet
9 up in the air is good. And so we got to
10 get a little closer on making it relevant
11 to them, and that's why we're here.

12 MR. JONES: And I appreciate
13 that. I think most of the -- when we
14 talk about grassroots community
15 organizations, I could probably name 20
16 just off the top of my head. They're all
17 funded out of pocket. I mean, the
18 brother says he teaches them the skills,
19 the trades, you know. They fund these
20 programs out of pocket because they care
21 about their communities. And if there
22 was one umbrella opportunity to support
23 the grassroots and connect the grassroots
24 to resources, I think we'll see a
25 tremendous difference in the City of

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2 Philadelphia.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, we
4 want you to keep doing what you're doing.
5 We're going to keep doing what we're
6 doing. We'll meet on Broad Street and
7 celebrate life for the kids that probably
8 wouldn't have had that but for what we're
9 doing.

10 MR. JONES: Absolutely.

11 MR. COBB: And hopefully with a
12 check so you can continue to do your
13 effort too.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Get the
15 money.

16 MR. CARTER: Reginald Abdullah
17 again. Thanks again for this
18 opportunity.

19 When our brother was talking
20 about the crisis of our young people
21 killing each other, the thing that I
22 immediately thought of is that why are
23 our young people actually killing each
24 other. Why are black people more prone
25 to death than other people. And the

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2 answer is racism. It's racism. The
3 death and destruction in our communities
4 is a deliberate act.

5 When we talk about the
6 collateral consequences, there are some
7 people that work within the system that
8 mean to hurt us, and they do it, and they
9 make money doing these things.

10 With the Philadelphia Black
11 Political Summit Coalition, the Criminal
12 Justice Workshop came up with a concept
13 of creating an oversight and
14 accountability initiative to look at all
15 facets of criminal justice and to have
16 oversight, accountability, and
17 transformation.

18 I was listening to a lot of the
19 people, the presenters here today and
20 with all of the great questions, and
21 we're talking about a massive amount of
22 money being spent on a lot of things that
23 aren't working. We're talking about
24 people who are duplicating things and
25 making it sound rosy and cheery so that

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2 they could keep duplicating things.

3 One of the points that you
4 made, Brother Curtis Jones, was that
5 Sister Falaka Fattah and her family,
6 people in the community, got out and did
7 things, and people knew they were from
8 the community. There's a difference when
9 you can feel and sense something.

10 When I went to prison at 18
11 years of age as a former gang leader, I
12 received education behind the wall from a
13 lot of brothers that had life sentences.
14 At that time, some of them were former
15 Black Panthers and the guys that were the
16 nation of Islam and some Muslims, and I
17 was still into a mode of ignorance, and
18 they were saying, Man, come here, let me
19 tell you something, because I'm going to
20 share this -- it's kind of embarrassing.
21 I was in a cell at Dallas in the hole and
22 I was talking to a brother named Jeff
23 Mimms, and we talking. I said, Yeah,
24 man, the good hair, the good hair.

25 He said, Wait a minute. Where

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2 did you get that good hair stuff from?

3 He said, You got that from the white man,
4 didn't you?

5 And I began to become educated
6 about the effects of racism. And we know
7 that mass incarceration today, it stems
8 all the way back to slavery. So we're
9 going to be educating our young children.
10 We have to set up an educational model
11 that tells them exactly why they're doing
12 what they're doing as a means to try to
13 help prevent some of those things from
14 happening.

15 We know that we need economic
16 infusion. You mentioned all of this
17 money going to things, it makes things
18 pretty, it's good for people visiting
19 Philadelphia, but it doesn't really help
20 the community that needs to be helped,
21 the at-risk community. And I like that
22 term because it's a reality.

23 So people that are doing --
24 that are engaged in criminal justice
25 preventions, they need to be watched on

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2 all levels - county, state, and federal,
3 and they need to be watched by us as a
4 group of people, not just by elected
5 officials. One of the problems I have
6 with elected officials, no offense, in
7 doing a whole lot of things is that they
8 tend to be political and some things
9 become a political football. They can
10 actually work, but people say, Hey, I
11 don't want you because you were -- the
12 last Administration put this together and
13 I'm going to stop this because that's not
14 what we want to do and I have a conflict
15 with you. So now I'm a political
16 football where I could have been getting
17 some help. Now that help is not there.

18 So we're talking about
19 transformative efforts. We're talking
20 about wrapping -- doing what other people
21 have been doing for the black community,
22 using us, having a parasitic relationship
23 with us. We need to start wrapping
24 people around our needs. Our needs
25 outweigh their relationships with us in

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2 terms of just being exploitive. We have
3 to take a very close look at all of the
4 service providers to make sure that
5 they're following their 501(c)(3)'s,
6 number one, and that they're being
7 effective.

8 We have to have a committee of
9 people of oversight and accountability
10 that can go into those prisons and be
11 watching people -- people tend to act
12 different when you're watching them. "I
13 can't do that, so-and-so is over there.
14 Here come the Imam, stop what you're
15 doing, you know." I had that experience
16 in prison. I was an Imam for a
17 particular point in time. The guy told
18 me, he said, Man, when you showed up, we
19 used to have to straighten up.

20 So we all need to be watched
21 and we need to watch each other so that
22 we can have a better development.

23 Any questions, please.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any
25 questions for this panel?

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2 And the reason I'm rushing is
3 because our stenographer needs a break.
4 So we're going to -- it's real. So we're
5 going to take a ten-minute recess and
6 then reconvene afterwards.

7 MR. CARTER: Let me say this
8 before you go, Brother. If we can do a
9 subcommittee on accountability, oversight
10 and accountability, that would be great.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.
12 We're coming back.

13 MR. CARTER: Okay. I'll be
14 here.

15 (Short recess.)

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: We are about
17 to reconvene the hearing on criminal
18 justice reforms.

19 Will the Clerk please read the
20 next group of witnesses to testify.

21 THE CLERK: Shahmar Beasley,
22 John Anderson, Jonathan Wrenn.

23 (Witnesses approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Will you

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2 please come up to the -- we're going to
3 try to get everybody that's going to
4 testify in. We want you a part of the
5 record.

6 Thank you for your patience.
7 We're going to begin with this young man
8 right here. He had to look away. You.
9 You're the only young man. The gentleman
10 to our right.

11 MR. BEASLEY: So I can begin?

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Say
13 your name.

14 MR. BEASLEY: My name is
15 Shahmar Beasley.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Pull the
17 microphone closer, please.

18 MR. BEASLEY: Got you.

19 So my name is Shahmar Beasley.
20 I'm a sophomore over at Drexel University
21 studying political science. While at
22 Drexel, I serve as President of Drexel
23 Black Action Committee, the President of
24 the Drexel Rotary Club, the Vice
25 President of the Drexel Democrats, and

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2 Vice President of Real Street Talk
3 Organization that has at least 30,000
4 members inside of the organization.

5 So through all of my positions
6 and schooling, I've learned some very
7 important information regarding the
8 criminal justice system, as well as the
9 politics behind it. One thing that is
10 absolutely obvious to myself, the people
11 in this room, President Darrell Clarke,
12 and almost everyone in the United States
13 is that our city is locking people up at
14 an alarming rate while seeing literally
15 no difference in our criminal rate.

16 As Mark Holden said on Friday's
17 meeting, it costs \$35,000 to \$40,000 per
18 year to incarcerate someone in
19 Philadelphia. This is an astronomical
20 amount of money, considering that we have
21 9,400 men and women in prison in this
22 city today.

23 To put those numbers together,
24 it says that we spend roughly \$329
25 million a year that is only going towards

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2 the housing of the inmates, literally
3 just the housing. Not even mentioning
4 the amount it costs for paying the
5 salaries to have more cops on the
6 streets, not even taking into
7 consideration the amount of money it
8 costs for more prison guards, and
9 definitely not taking into consideration
10 the amount of money it costs for more
11 prosecutors to arrest these people.

12 This is a problem that I am
13 very happy to hear being addressed by
14 this Council today. And just as
15 Representative Harris said earlier, this
16 mass incarceration system that we have
17 creates a huge cacophony of problems for
18 post-release, some of which includes
19 denial of public housing, denial of
20 public loans, and extreme difficulty
21 finding a job after one is released.
22 These are problems that are easily found
23 through a small amount of research.
24 What's difficult to find is solutions to
25 these problems.

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2 One of the main problems of the
3 current criminal justice reform talks
4 that we have in the United States is that
5 it still treats those arrested as if they
6 are a menace to their environment and
7 they need to be dealt with. It's not
8 addressing individuals that were
9 wrongfully accused, like Josh of the
10 third panel earlier, or even those
11 individuals that are coerced into guilty
12 pleas. My solution would address the
13 fact that implicit bias is a problem for
14 literally every part of our criminal
15 justice system.

16 I would like to suggest that a
17 preventative approach to the criminal
18 justice reform system would be very
19 warranted and necessary. That's why I
20 would propose that implicit bias training
21 become mandatory for all cops, judges,
22 jurors, and prosecuting attorneys. It
23 would give our justice system a
24 much-needed boost of fairness that is
25 long overdue.

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2 The Harvard Law Review through
3 Cass Sunstein and Christine Jolls in an
4 article named "The Law of Implicit Bias"
5 addresses how implicit biases are present
6 in almost all Americans and how trainings
7 of these implicit biases will help to
8 identify these issues and ultimately
9 solve them.

10 In Philadelphia, we could be
11 the first to lead this movement of ending
12 modern-day slavery or mass incarceration,
13 as we all are more comfortable saying.

14 Secondly, an organization I got
15 involved with earlier this year through
16 Mr. Berto Elmore back there called Real
17 Street Talk strongly suggests that this
18 city stop the hold on individuals
19 regarding employment. Many black and
20 Latino Philadelphians being released from
21 prison have little to no way to go back
22 to a normal lifestyle because of the lack
23 of money.

24 Berto Elmore, Esquire, stated
25 earlier that we have written -- that Real

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2 Street Talk has written a book on how to
3 get people to address their wrongdoings,
4 their wrong lifestyles, and ways to start
5 legal entrepreneurship. So just as
6 Mr. Bert said, I would encourage you guys
7 once again to go out and speak to these
8 individuals. Just as they sent him out
9 an 80-page proposal, they sent me out a
10 26-page proposal that due to my schooling
11 and all the clubs I run, I didn't
12 necessarily have enough time to truly
13 present it before you. It's a lot of
14 information in there, trust me.

15 So ultimately what I suggest is
16 that we end this war on drugs and we
17 suggest that people get second-chance
18 programs rather than incarceration or
19 prison time for non-violent drug
20 offenses.

21 So that being said, I want to
22 once again thank you all for your time.
23 Thank you, Ms. Graham, for putting me on
24 the agenda for today, although it was a
25 little bit late, and thank you guys for

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2 starting this criminal justice reforms
3 program and dedicating all your time to
4 it.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Other than
6 wanting to run over there and hug you and
7 say -- give you a bro hug. Where are you
8 from?

9 MR. BEASLEY: West
10 Philadelphia, 59th and Christian.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where?

12 MR. BEASLEY: 59th and
13 Christian, up by the Cobbs Creek area.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: I know where
15 it is. It's not my district, but I do
16 know where it is.

17 And so have you ever gotten in
18 any trouble?

19 MR. BEASLEY: No, but I have
20 had a lot of friends that unfortunately
21 have been.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if you
23 don't mind me asking, what was the
24 difference in your life that made you
25 different than your friends?

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2 MR. BEASLEY: Certainly. So, I
3 mean, given the fact that we all grew up
4 in the same area, we did have to go
5 through very similar problems, such as
6 losing close friends of ours to either
7 incarceration for long time periods or
8 even unfortunately death before the age
9 of 18 through like unfortunate shootings
10 and whatnot. So to say the very least,
11 we pretty much had the same type of
12 mindset. The one thing that kind of led
13 me to a different path, I guess, was an
14 organization I got involved with called
15 Summer Search Philadelphia. So they sent
16 me first to Colorado for -- it was like
17 an expedition program in which I got to
18 hike through the mountains. I got to
19 live in the Southern Rockies for an
20 entire week, and I even climbed a
21 mountain called Rolling Mountain in the
22 Southern Rockies. Through that
23 experience, it made me see that the world
24 is bigger than just Philadelphia, that
25 there's different mindsets that are out

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2 there, that the things that we value as
3 like Philadelphia and people from lower
4 socioeconomic backgrounds is a little bit
5 different than I guess the rest of the
6 world, and it made me start exploring
7 more options and looking into other
8 things from there.

9 It also led me -- well, Summer
10 Search also sent me to Nicaragua for my
11 second year as part of the program,
12 completely for free, in which once again
13 it just completely expanded my horizons
14 beyond anything imaginable and ultimately
15 led to me getting a full scholarship to
16 Drexel.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So now
18 millennial -- are you a millennial? I'm
19 not even sure what --

20 MR. BEASLEY: Yes. I'm 20
21 years old.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: I get
23 confused.

24 So many successful people that
25 wind up navigating inner cities and

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2 getting out don't look back. Once they
3 get out, they see the Rocky Mountains,
4 they don't look back. What made you come
5 back and give back?

6 MR. BEASLEY: So just as I was
7 saying, like many of my friends are still
8 affected by this today because they
9 weren't given the same opportunities.
10 They weren't given the type of funding
11 that I received. I received like up to,
12 what was it, about \$30,000, \$40,000.
13 Literally the amount that we take to
14 incarcerate a person for a year is what
15 took me to actually go ahead and get this
16 life-changing experience and led to a
17 full scholarship to Drexel.

18 So that was one of the main
19 things. Like whenever I would speak to
20 them and they would say like, Another one
21 of our friends got killed, or I would
22 speak to them and see the mindset that
23 they had, where it was just, you know,
24 retaliation rather than anything else and
25 more so them being criminalistic in their

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2 mindset that led me to say like something
3 has to be done, something has to
4 actually -- like someone has to actually
5 step up to the plate and try to call some
6 type of change in these environments that
7 aren't necessarily being brought to the
8 forefront.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Does anybody
10 on the Commission have any other
11 questions?

12 MR. COBB: Thank you for your
13 open and honest testimony. I want to hug
14 you too, brother. We really appreciate
15 that you are young, articulate, well
16 spoken, thoughtful, and so generous of
17 your time. And you still don't have to
18 be compassionate, you still don't have to
19 have empathy, but you do.

20 But I do want to take a little
21 something back from you. I know lots of
22 people will consider you exceptional, but
23 what you stated, the experiences that
24 were lended to you -- well, good. So you
25 agree with me. I always say that there

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2 are no exceptional people, just people
3 who have been given extraordinary
4 opportunities. And so thank you for
5 taking advantage of the exceptional
6 opportunity that you were provided. You
7 made us feel good today. This stuff is
8 heavy and you really lightened the room
9 today. So thank you for your testimony.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: It's not all
11 doom and gloom when we see you. All
12 right.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:
14 Just so you're aware -- you may not be
15 aware, but other than the MacArthur
16 grant, implicit and explicit bias is
17 going to be trained. It's going to go
18 across all of the entire criminal justice
19 system. Everyone is going to go through
20 implicit and explicit bias training as
21 part of the model, and that was actually
22 factored into -- and Julie wants to
23 expound on that -- into the grant.
24 Excellent.

25 MS. WERTHEIMER: Yes. It was

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2 actually addressing racial, ethnic, and
3 economic-based disparities, was its own
4 standalone strategy within the grant.

5 Not only the implicit/explicit bias
6 training, which is for all of the
7 criminal justice agencies from the ground
8 up, but also doing basically what amounts
9 to an audit of our system to figure out
10 where the disparities start and where
11 they persist and then figure out how best
12 to address them. Anecdotally I think we
13 might know the answers to some of those
14 questions, but it's important to back
15 them up with data.

16 MR. BEASLEY: I was going to
17 say a good starting point for that
18 research would be the Daniel Moynihan
19 Report of 1965, in which they found that
20 one of the main issues of the black
21 community has nothing to do with economic
22 issues, nothing to do with the fact that
23 we're not getting enough money, nothing
24 to do with the fact that segregation was
25 happening, but rather the black coacher

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2 was to blame for all the problems that
3 was going on. This is the mindset that
4 many people hold. It dates back to the
5 eugenics movement in which they were
6 trying to say black people are different
7 slightly than everyone else, as well as
8 like every other racist out there.

9 So, I mean, I would definitely
10 encourage -- unless you have already. I
11 don't know. I'm not really familiar with
12 the research that you've done, but --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: What is your
14 major?

15 MR. BEASLEY: Political
16 science.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: No doubt.
18 All right.

19 MS. WERTHEIMER: Well, thank
20 you also for your testimony. We
21 appreciate you being here.

22 MR. BEASLEY: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Gentlemen,
24 you shouldn't have went after him.
25 Somebody got to follow him.

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2 MR. LOCKETT: You really want
3 me to go? No. Let me go, because I'm
4 not going to take long.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
6 name for the record, sir.

7 MR. LOCKETT: My name is Phil
8 Lockett. And since I'm on TV, my life is
9 in danger now. But anyway, because I'm a
10 block captain. Block captains -- I've
11 been a block captain for 45 years. You
12 know, we targets all over the place. But
13 I want to thank the board for having
14 this, because I didn't think it was going
15 to be this good. This is outstanding. I
16 really commend you people for doing what
17 you're doing today. You blew my mind.

18 But Pennsylvania Senator
19 Williams almost talked about it when he
20 was talking about the schools here in
21 Pennsylvania. There's a back door of no
22 return in every school where the children
23 can emancipate themselves at the age of
24 16 and they hit the street with no
25 diploma, no work experience, no sponsors

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2 for anything, and the drug dealers pick
3 them right up. And you wonder where the
4 manpower is coming from when -- now, I
5 have a drug cartel on my block. For 45
6 years we've been dancing. And they got a
7 hold of one of my young boys, because he
8 cleaned up the area and they gave him the
9 money. And next thing I know, the boy is
10 working against us now. Now he's
11 trashing up the block. He's belligerent,
12 messing with my car, stuff like that. So
13 I told his mom. He's in big-time danger
14 because his head done got spinned around.

15 What they do in my community,
16 they give him money, drugs, guns, and
17 sex. And them boys don't go home no
18 more. By the time he's 12 years old,
19 he'll be in the Police Department. And
20 when he turns 16, he's going to already
21 be dropping out of school, and you going
22 to wonder why the pipeline is still
23 active from school.

24 We need to shut that back door
25 of emancipation of the students that can

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2 drop out of school at will. You got more
3 going out the back door than children
4 graduating. And if we can modify it --
5 let's say you want to drop out. They
6 must have a job. They must have a
7 sponsorship for something else other than
8 just hitting the street to become part of
9 the bad side of society.

10 And that's all I got to say,
11 and I appreciate you giving me your time,
12 especially that young lady up there who
13 kind of gave me a hard way to go, but I'm
14 used to it because I'm old school. I've
15 been a warrior since --

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Don't feel
17 bad. She gives me a hard way to go.

18 MR. LOCKETT: Yeah, yeah.
19 We're going to take her out to lunch, you
20 know.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: It ain't
22 just you.

23 MR. LOCKETT: I really
24 appreciate you, Curtis. Man, I'm going
25 to get you on Facebook, you know, because

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2 you doing a heck of a job.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
4 much.

5 MR. LOCKETT: You renewed my
6 faith in City Council.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Wow.

8 MR. LOCKETT: And I'm backing
9 up.

10 MR. COBB: I ain't there yet,
11 but that's good.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: You're a
13 work in progress.

14 Sir, bring the mic to you.

15 MR. ANDERSON: My name is John
16 Anderson. I'm a member of the Third
17 Regiment Infantry, United States Colored
18 Troops, which is a reenactment group here
19 in Philadelphia, and we represent the
20 11,000 soldiers that was trained up here
21 at Camp William Penn just up Broad Street
22 here, which many of you don't know about,
23 I'm sure.

24 Anyway, we try to be a
25 mentoring bunch of guys, and we're having

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2 difficulty doing that, and the difficulty

3 is that when these young boys come --

4 leave home, they've already come out of

5 homes with a negative attitude because

6 they had a negative attitude in home.

7 They're not encouraged because the people

8 that they live with don't have any

9 encouragement to give them. And what we

10 found out about them was that the same

11 thing holds true with the most of them.

12 (Pause.)

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you

14 done?

15 MR. ANDERSON: No, I'm not,

16 but --

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Go ahead.

18 MR. ANDERSON: If you want to

19 go, we can go.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, no, no.

21 We waited. We'll wait. You were

22 patient. We're patient.

23 MR. ANDERSON: Well, I want to

24 be heard too, you know.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's what

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2 I'm saying. Go ahead.

3 MR. ANDERSON: Everybody left.

4 So I'll hold this for another time then.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. You
6 can submit it in writing. And we
7 appreciate you being patient.

8 Are there any other witnesses
9 to testify on this hearing?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Then if not,
12 this concludes our hearing of the
13 Criminal Justice Reform Committee. Thank
14 you all for your attendance. Held at the
15 call of the Chair.

16 (Special Committee on Criminal
17 Justice Reform concluded at 4:55 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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