

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Richard Fitzgerald	-	President District 11
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Chuck McCullough	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
Joan Cleary	-	District 6
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

Allegheny County Courthouse  
Fourth Floor, Gold Room  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 - 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services  
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Counsel for County Council  
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services  
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Welcome, everybody, to the Tuesday, January 19th, 2010 regular meeting of the Allegheny County Council. If everybody would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, and remain standing for a moment of silent prayer or reflection. And please keep in your thoughts the victims of the Haitian earthquake and all those who have families in the earthquake.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

(No response)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?

(No response)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Thirteen (13) members present.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: First of all is the quarterly address from the Chief Executive. I see he's not here just yet; I'm sure he's en route. Let's move

ahead until he gets here to Proclamations/Certificates. 5331-09. I don't know if they're here yet, either, Joe. They might be? Well, call them out, and if they're not here, we'll move on.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring the 25th anniversary of The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center's Pediatric Specialty Hospital. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: They are here? Okay. Councilman Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I paid a visit to The Children's Home. I guess it was about a month ago, I believe, I was up there. It's really a fantastic facility. And I won't go into all that it does because I have experts here to tell you about that, but I'd like to read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County serves as the home for exceptional medical facilities, non-profit organizations and individuals that are recognized worldwide for their efforts to better the well-being of infants and children; and

WHEREAS, since 1984, The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center Pediatric Specialty Hospital has offered exceptional service for medically fragile infants and children, by providing a transitional care setting between a hospital and a home for patients; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Pediatric Specialty Hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary. Throughout its history, the hospital has offered a tranquil, home-like environment staffed by multi-disciplinary team that maintains individualized and acute attention for its patients; and

WHEREAS, the 28-bed Pediatric Specialty Hospital has cared for over 3,000 patients since its inception, and the organization's transitional service has allowed children and infants to lead normal lives with their families; and

WHEREAS, The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center helps our region's medically fragile children and infants experience unprecedented care and an unparalleled sense of family that can be found nowhere else.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of

Allegheny County, recognize the 25th anniversary of The Children's Home and Pediatric Specialty Hospital and commend The Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center for offering exceptional medical care to the children and infants of our region. We commend the organization dedicated to strengthening families by providing quality care. And we wish The Children's Home the best of luck in all its future endeavors. This is sponsored by myself and presented this 19th day of January, 2010.

MS. REBLOCK: Hi. I'm Kim Reblock; I'm the hospital director. And I just want to thank everyone for allowing us to provide family center care in our community and to improve the health care of pediatric patients. Thank you.

MR. MUSER: I'm Dan Muser. I'm the development director for The Children's Home. And I'd like to invite all of you to come and visit us, if you're so interested. I'd like to take you on a tour and show you all of the programs that The Children's Home offers. It's a wonderful organization that I'm very happy to be a part of. And thank you, again, for this proclamation, Council. We're on Penn Avenue, 5324 Penn Avenue, in the Friendship neighborhood, right down the street from the new Children's Hospital. Please come visit. We'd be happy to see you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. I see our Chief Executive has arrived. County Executive Onorato, if you would come forward. I appreciate you coming on your --- I guess, quarterly visits we're going to be having at this point. And I guess I'm going to start off with --- I sent a letter over to you, I guess, last week, asking to comment on the Marcellus Shale and some of the opportunities that will be presented here. I think the Marcellus Shale is the greatest economic opportunity I've seen in this region in my lifetime, not just from a royalty standpoint --- because we would get royalties from our own land --- but the jobs and the infrastructure from drilling and infrastructure, and also giving our region a huge competitive advantage in attracting manufacturing and other businesses. So I'd ask you to maybe come and talk about that a little bit, as well as other economic development initiatives that are occurring with the County. So welcome, and the floor is yours.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I sort of brought some --- jotted down some notes and some initiatives that have taken place since I've stood here with the budget address; so maybe a quick update on some items and then, obviously, I'll answer any questions you might have. Since the budget address, we've made significant progress on the Allegheny Green Initiatives, several true green executive orders with the lead certification for future new construction and major renovation of projects. We also have been aggressive with the goals for the reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in our buildings. We even have been very aggressive with the green effect at the County Jail. You all know the previous move that we made with the lighting at the jail. We also have been very environmentally friendly as it relates to the products that we use in cleaning the jail.

We received some State grants for some projects, a \$250,000 State grant for the Kane-Ross facility, to install the first large-scale geothermal cooling system in a County-owned nursing facility. It's a 100 ton system. It will replace the current system at the Kane Regional Center-Ross, and reduce electricity consumption for cooling by 50 percent. This installation will act as a pilot program for the other three Kane facilities. Construction is expected to begin this spring, and the geothermal system could be operational by September.

We also have moved forward with a countywide energy efficiency and conservation program. We issued the RFP for countywide energy efficiency and conservation program that will audit energy usage in municipal buildings throughout the county, with some of the funds that we received from the federal government. Obviously, we've received some dollars in the weatherization program, a \$20 million weatherization program. And this \$20 million will be used to expand weatherization services and increase energy efficiency in 2,900 low income residences during the next 30 months.

County and local utility companies and non-profit organizations, weatherization energy efficient service providers, foundations and public agencies are working together on this particular effort. We also received a \$9.9 million HUD grant to combat homelessness. Again, I want to congratulate the Department of Human Service, who were very aggressive and creative with

programs and willing to try new programs. It gets a lot of national recognition for being, sort of, ahead of the curve on a lot of the issues that face urban areas in this country. The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative received a \$608,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice under the Federal Second Chance Act and Prisoner Reentry Initiative. The Great Allegheny Passage, we were able to open, the 60-foot tunnel. And you should all be proud of the budgets and the suggestions you make during capital improvements of bridges; this particular ramp that you helped fund and now pushing toward to open up the 200-plus acres in Duquesne. We had a request from the Trail organizations, the Allegheny Passage that where that construction site instead of just building an overpass to get over the trains. The abutment that was going to be put for the final ramp, they actually built a tunnel directly in line with the passage, Allegheny Passage. And now it's part of the trail that goes from downtown Pittsburgh to the Washington, D.C. area. And it was a significant improvement to the trail and a permanent improvement to the trail.

I do want to remind everybody that for years, nine miles of that trail in Allegheny County were not completed. We have now basically one mile to complete, and that's sort of dealing with negotiations with Sandcastle, but that will get done. And we've made significant efforts just in a short period of time, considering how long the nine miles were sitting unfinished and how many years. Finally, we established a consensus --- I mean, census sub-committees with 24 chairs. As you know, the 2010 is a complete count for our ten-year census required by the Constitution. And we're going to make sure that we get the best accurate count for Allegheny County, because it has the implications for representation and for Federal and State dollars.

Finally, I'm going to talk about Marcellus Shale the Council President asked about. There is definitely a big potential for Marcellus Shale. There's discussions going out that I'm putting together a committee which will include not only several Council members, but Council would have representation there, something that we all talked about and that is the 6,000-plus acres out at the airport; in effect, they would be potential money for the Airport yet for the County; that we sort of build a committee and build consensus on how the money will be

allocated and what gets brought back in the Airport and what, if anything, is available for counter resources, based on the amount of money the County has put in at the Airport over the last 50 years, from when prior commissioners farmed that land. You know, what is the appropriate formula that the FAA would, obviously, approve. And I want to go back and sense this up front, so that whenever the dollars come out --- is approved, we know what the split's going to be, based on what Council, the County Executive's Office and the Airport Authority all have agreed to upfront; and the FAA, by the way, so that there's no legal problems there. So that's moving forward. There are some opportunities in other lands throughout the county that we're looking at, if there's any potential for Marcellus Shale revenues. And as we do that, we're obviously making sure that there is no environmental issue and that we preserve our parks and our green spaces. And that anything we do would actually compliment them and allow us to bring money back into our system.

That's pretty much a quick overview. I came today at your request, to answer any questions you might have on any issues or elaborate on some of the ones that I talked about. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Thank you for coming in, Dan. I've got a couple of items here. First, I'd like to give some good news. On January 12th at the Parks Foundation meeting, we talked about raising awareness of the Parks Foundation. And thanks to John Weinstein and Janice Jantzy (phonetic), today, right off the presses, this is a flyer that will go out in all the tax bills to 365,000 homes, raising awareness of the Parks Foundation. This is a great opportunity for us to get a free mailing. Basically, it saves us \$48,000 just in the mailing itself.

My second bad news question is, can you comment or update us on the situation at Boyce Park with the ski lodge?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well, I found out today that the State will be in this week to do what they have to do. And then immediately following their inspection, the company who will put the equipment in, has to come in and do a final run. And then it should be open.

MR. FUTULES: That's great. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen, you're going to follow up on that, and then Mr. Robinson.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. The question I have is, when the old ski slope was there, it's my understanding that the contractor just took the old lift away; just took it. The question I have is --- and I'm familiar with this because when the Parks director retired years ago, that park was put under me. And the thing that bothers me the most about this --- and I would ask you to check with your people --- why didn't anybody go and take the good parts off of that lift which, in my mind, could have been used on the other one. And if they did --- I just can't imagine them just taking everything away like that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well, I will check that out. I don't know what happened to the old lift; I mean, I don't know off the top of my head what happened.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. And I'm just asking you to ask your folks.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I do want to point out, this is not a situation where it's not working. It's not a situation where --- it broke. This is state-of-the-art equipment. This is a situation where the inspections have not been completed and should have been. So I'm not happy with the timing of this. And the real problem I have with it is that we collectively, you and I --- we have put the resources forward to upgrade that facility. And this is a matter of just getting the final approval of the state-of-the-art ski lift assembly that we all paid for so that the taxpayers have something to use. So this is not a situation where it's a rundown piece of equipment and it can't operate. It's a new piece of equipment that hasn't been signed off yet by the State and the locals and should have been by now. But it will be inspected this week.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Was there a breakdown in communication in terms of when they actually asked for the inspection?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'm looking into that.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. The reason I ask that is because I'm very familiar with it in my mind, and I'm --- you know. I appreciate you finding that out. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Mr. Chief Executive, welcome. Mr. President, I forwarded a letter to the Chief Executive, copies of which Mr. Barker has. And after your perusal, I

would like to have permission to share this letter with members of Council. And if I can, then I'll speak about the letter and then reference my question to the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, that's fine. Go ahead, Jared. And you had only sent this to the Chief Executive?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay.

MR. ROBINSON: Do I have your permission to proceed, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes. Proceed, Mr. Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this letter, of course, predates the Chief Executive's arrival here, and I appreciate the presentation, as well as his presence. You and members will find that this letter is not signed by myself. That's because when it was transmitted, it was transmitted electronically. But there is a copy of this letter signed, so that members will know that I did sign this and take full responsibility for the letter. Mr. Barker, if you'll give me a copy, please.

The reason I forwarded this letter is, one; this is consistent with the legislation that requires the Chief Executive's appearance before County Council on a quarterly basis. And it also was an opportunity for me to share with the Chief Executive in advance, some concerns that are important to me and my constituents, as well as issues I believe are very fundamental to what we're attempting to do here in this county, chief among which is to make sure that all residents in our county fully benefit from what we're doing.

These questions fall into three areas, and I'm not going to presume that the Chief Executive is prepared to answer these questions tonight. But I felt by putting them in writing, he could reference them at the appropriate time, because I certainly will be going back to these questions because they're important. Even raising these questions are as important as the answers he might give. The first question relates to the diversity of our county's workforce. This is an issue I've raised since I've been on this Council, as to how we go about systematically making sure we have a diverse workforce. Second, the long-term financial plan that the Executive

feels would best suit the county in the future, the long-range financial plan which is also an issue that I have raised with all my colleagues and, certainly, as chairman of Budget and Finance. I'm on record as indicating we need a strong long-range financial plan. And third but not least, youth development activities. We do operate the Shuman Detention Center. I have made it known on several occasions that this facility is inadequate by any measurement, and that if we're truly concerned about the youth of this county and, particularly, those youth that end up at Shuman, we can do better by them. And we can do better by them, specifically, by building a new facility and making an investment to them, and not simply having a detention center where we hold them, either until they go to trial or we hold them until they return to their parents. But we hold them until we return them into society, but we actually engage in rehabilitation and making sure that these citizens of our county have all the opportunities that are available to them.

Mr. President, I won't read each question. Each member has those questions in front of them. I would like to have the opportunity to have this letter entered into our official record. And if the Chief Executive is prepared to answer those questions or begin to answer them, certainly, I would respect his right to choose how he will want to answer them and to share with us his thoughts. I will say that I will return to these questions at the next opportunity that the Chief Executive is before us. Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Onorato, I don't know if you wish to take the time to do it or ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just a brief response, because I will also respond to all three of those in writing; to respond to the letter and also every member of Council. And as we look at all three points, the County workforce, I'll caution you to look at the hiring since I've been County Executive, because, obviously, we have a workforce that goes back 15, 20, 30 years. With representation, the workforce is the workforce. We're very proud of what's happened since I've been here hiring; race, diversity and ---. So we'll explain that. As it relates to the long-term financial plan, I think we started down this path when I presented the budget. I actually presented the budget and talked about what we were going to do

throughout the year to get ready for this budget coming up. But I think it's actually very good to look at --- one, two, three --- four years down the road, when you look at planning, even though we pass a single year in time. But it doesn't hurt to plan multiple years at a time and talk about it all at once. So we will continue to do that as we go into the budget season; in writing, again. And as it relates to the Shuman Center, obviously, it's a very controversial issue because we're trying to make significant changes out there; the change of the executive director. But we have brought in some outside consultants to take a fresh eye and review of the place and make recommendations, starting with the Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, Estelle Richman, who moved on. But she assigned it to people, and they've made some great recommendations. We'll put that in the report, also, of what they recommended and what our response was to their recommendations. So we will get those to you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Robinson, any more questions?

MR. ROBINSON: Just one last ---. In terms of the Chief Executive, when you respond, if you would be kind enough to address the issue of whether or not we can begin to look at building a new Shuman Center. As you know, the new facility --- detention facility in Philadelphia County costs \$93 million. I am not daunted by that number. I am more concerned about the process that would lead us to having a world-class facility in which we would help to rehabilitate the young people in our county. It's obvious that Shuman Center is overcrowded. And no matter how much juggling we might do and how we count our numbers, I would think most experts would say, a new facility is in order.

And while I recognize that there is sufficient strain on the County's financial resources, I don't believe that should prevent us from starting a process of looking at whether it is feasible to build a new facility. And I would anticipate that that would include the issue of cost. So if you could respond to that in some kind of way, I really would appreciate it.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Okay. Will do.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary, then Councilman Gastgeb?

MS. CLEARY: Thank you. I just want to say that I think the way our whole area here reacted to the Haitian

orphans was really a wonderful thing for Pittsburgh. And it just shows how giving everyone is. And I just wondered if you had any comments on that or how helpful we were; Mr. Chernoff, I understand.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes. Let me thank our workers and our directors; Mark Chernoff but the entire staff of the Department of Human Services; Bruce Dixon and all the workers in the Department of Health. They did an unbelievable job. We were actually ---. They were up around the clock their last 48 hours. We didn't know exactly when the plane would land, and I've instructed the staff ---. I said, we'll do whatever it takes. But once those kids land, we got to help. And Mark Chernoff and Dixon and the great employees of the County, they were just unbelievable. Unbelievable. There was texting going on from 3:00 a.m. in the morning until 10:00, when they touched down today, in conversations. And it was just unbelievable.

The children did touch down today around 5:00, from a few months old to ten years old. And they were bussed over to Children's, where they're all receiving a clean bill of health; no serious problems. My understanding --- and I might have the numbers wrong a little bit --- but out of 53 that showed up in Pittsburgh, 47 of them have already been identified and placed with permanent homes. And they're all over the country. Only one from those 47 will be in the Pittsburgh region. The other 46 are being scattered around the country. So we basically wanted to ---.

We were receiving these orphans that were going to be adopted throughout the United States. The children that have not been adopted, obviously, they're going through the process. And we have the agencies already there with foster care. They've ensured the appropriate care and medical facilities they might need until they are appropriately placed. The unbelievable number of calls that come in from people that want to help --- it just astonishes me. But I want to add, you know, I think as representatives of Allegheny County, I take my hats off and really, really praise the two young ladies from --- the women from Penn Avenue.

They showed everything that's great about this country, about this city, about this county. And I met one of them today. And even at the press conference, she said after this all settles down, she's excited about

going back and continuing to help down there. Her sister might be on the ground now but was coming up on the second plane because one of the orphans was missed on the bus when the plane took off, and they couldn't find him. So the sister stayed back; found him but missed the plane. And now the two of them are coming up together to Pittsburgh. But it was an unbelievable story and an unbelievable response from Allegheny County and the citizens from this region.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Futules, do you wish to follow up on the orphans?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I just want to know if it would be possible if we could actually put a link at the County website for people to find a place to donate to the orphans, to --- like, Haiti itself, like through the American Red Cross Society and things like that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sure. I'll look into that. I know there's been a ---.

MR. FUTULES: Just so the county actually gets involved directly, too.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. And I'll do that, because there are a lot of sites right now, including texting on your phone for \$10 on your bill.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I just want to make sure that people know there are legitimate places to donate, because you hear of so many places that are not and would feel comfortable through the county.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I also want to make sure I thank the County Manager's Office and also the Court. The Court played a key role and were with us around the clock to make sure everything was dealt with until we landed. And I want to thank the Law Department, who teamed up with some immigration lawyers and made sure that all of the Federal rules were followed or at least dealt with, that might've come up in the situation. It really was a comprehensive response by everybody involved so far. It's been moving forward pretty smoothly.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. Good evening, Mr. Onorato. I just have two questions that are, I believe, current matters that are actively in front of this Council. The first one regards revenues that are listed on our operating budget, and it's based on the anticipated pay structure with the non-profit community. This Council has entered into some discussion which I

think you're aware of, because some of your team has been involved with --- we call these Tuesday meetings. And we're trying to identify mutual goals, even through a PILOT program. And I know that your budget address, kind of, even predated these meetings, so I'm just wondering the general consensus. Is this what you have in mind, or do you have some other things in mind on operating budget prospective on the revenue side, regarding this issue?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. When I gave my budget address --- if I can recall the exact number. I think --- I actually identified ---. I was trying to hold \$4 million, that would present to the next year, if you look at my budget address. Is this what I had in mind? There was no specific plan I had in mind. But that's what we'd do, because I knew there would be similar ways to ---. I've seen this --- okay. We took a turn based on what was happening in the City's debate. So that sort of changed the course a little bit, but the goal is still the same, nothing's changed there. And that is to get revenues from the non-profits to help pay for some of these services that we all provide, either municipality or county.

So that goal is still the same goal. If this committee ultimately leads to an arrangement that brings the money in that you put in the budget, then yes, I think it's a great way to do it. But I'm also flexible if there's another way, that you can come up with something that might be services, taxed that can help relieve the expenditures. We can be creative that way, too. But the goal is clear; that is, we need the non-profits, at least, participating, recognize the benefit receiving some of the programs that --- services that we all provide.

MR. GASTGEB: Okay. Thank you. The second question I have, again, is I think a timely issue, regarding prevailing wage legislation. My understanding is, a legislation was introduced in some form over at City, not so much on the building and trades but maybe for service-related sector. And Mayor Ravenstahl decided to veto it and, I guess, offer another version. Do you have an opinion, just in general, about this subject, as we enter into this potentially on the County side?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well, I have not read the bill that was vetoed at the City, and I have not read and was not called or offered to read the bill that was presented after the veto. So I have no comment on bills until I see them. I will say, though, in principal, I don't disagree

with the concept that we're using tax dollars to do projects that ---. Our goal should be that whatever is left behind, that it's a good-paying job that helps sustain middle class America. It was this Council that put the pressure on, and I agree, and I support the concept that we wanted to get away from using tax and credit financing for retail projects, another reason why we don't want to reshuffle retail in the County. The other reason, I think someone brought up, they really weren't long, good-paying, sustainable jobs and didn't really need public subsidies. And if we're going to use public subsidies for brownfields and projects, it would be nice to do them for jobs that are paying a good wage. So I think that regardless of where you are on a particular legislation, I think there's a lot of consensus on --- if you're using tax dollars to promote economic development. Our goal should be to get the biggest impact out of it possible. And that it does create short-term jobs in construction but, hopefully, leaves long-term permanent jobs paying a decent wage. Thank you.

MR. GASTGEB: Because I haven't had any legislation commenting on this point. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President, and my Council members. And thank you, Mr. Onorato, for coming before us to speak and to hear our questions. When I ask these questions and express some concerns, this is not just my own --- a lot of my constituents and your constituents have asked this and also have concerns about this. And it relates to an ordinance that I have on the agenda. You elected, as far as I can see, to continue to run for governor in the State of Pennsylvania. As you know, many of us in Council --- and we're only part time --- have to resign, you know, if you run for another office.

If someone in the civilian sector was running for a statewide office, I'm sure their employer would say, you have to leave or you have to at least take a leave of absence without pay. In addition to that --- and I have concerns about this and many of my constituents, not just when it comes to the County, the Chief Executive or any elected official in the county; it's anybody running for any office. But I can only affect the County, and that's why I'm addressing these questions to you. And you would except, I would think, if anybody on your staff or any of

our people here within --- one of our staff members would run for an office such as you're seeking, you would ask them to take a leave of absence; if not, resign. I would ask you the same questions. You're going to be running for a statewide office. I just ran just for my district, and I spent full time. When you have opposition, you're running. If you do it right, you're doing it full time. And that's what you --- you're going to have strong opposition, sort of like any candidate will. And you're going to be running clear across the state and out the county. At least I was in my venue, you know, within my district, learning more and more about my district and hearing my constituents. And when you run for your reelection, you would be the same.

But this is statewide, and this state is one of the largest land masses in the entire United States. I mean, it takes --- you know, it's 300, 400 miles clear across the state one way and North and South, and whatever. There's going to be a lot of lunches, dinners, that you're going to have to make, and that's 5:00, 4:00. And I'd like to hear your views on this. Are you willing to ---? How are you going to address this? How are you actually going to address this time away? And you're an operating officer in the third --- supposedly --- highest ranking office in the state. But you're different from most elected officials statewide or whatever because you're an operating officer. You're like a mayor of a city. And a mayor of a city, i.e. 911, has to be there when the phone calls and when constituents call and the problems of our constituents. How are you going to address this?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well --- I mean, I'm going to address it like every executive officer, from presidents to governors to mayors to county executives, do every time they run for a different office. And it's our system. It's a system we have in America until the Home Rule Charter is amended that says that you have to resign, which it doesn't do right now. And it was specifically spelled out that way; that Council was set up one way, the executive was another way. And at the time, it had to be the same way, which is why we did it.

But governors run for president; senators run for president; governors run for other items; governors run for reelection. It's part of the democratic system we have. Obviously, I'm not resigning. And I don't think

that anybody that's running for governor right now --- and many of them currently holding elected offices --- are proposing to resign. The last presidential race, you had governors, senators, all running around the country running for president, and they were elected from a smaller area. Again, I would just say; it's the system we have, it's our democracy. You do it every time you run for reelection. You've got to run around. Yes, campaigns are tough. You put in a lot of hours. But you know the jobs that we hold, they're not limited to a certain timeline. While the state might appear big, no matter where I would be in the state at any given time, I can be back in this county within an hour. And I'm only a phone call away to deal with it. I would deal with this the way every other mayor, governor and executives deal with it, they run for office.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you have a comment, Councilman Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. Just because it's the system, doesn't make it right. You know, there were a lot of legislators that thought that, you know, the system was okay to other legislators, what they might have done, but it didn't make it right. It's not ethically right.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I would hope that you wouldn't equate you running for governor with one of these legislators accused of ---.

MR. DROZD: No, sir.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Because if you are, then I would hope that --- I'll step down immediately.

MR. DROZD: This is bipartisan, Mr. Onorato. This is bipartisan. I said that I don't believe anybody running for president or governor or anything that's a paid office should do so, or should take a leave of absence --- and I'm not asking you to resign --- a leave of absence without pay. Do you honestly feel in your heart it's justifiable for you or any elected official to accept a paycheck from their taxpayers, from their constituents, while running for a major office like governor of this state or president? Do you think it's really honestly ---? Can you say in your heart it's honestly justifiable?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I think it's very justifiable to take a paycheck if I'm doing my job as County Executive, and I plan on doing that. I plan on doing it 100 percent. And I would not ask any of my opponents in

this race to step down, and I believe they could do the same thing, like it's been done for 200 years in this country.

MR. DROZD: I strongly disagree as, obviously, you can see.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well, you can run against me, how's that?

MR. DROZD: I don't call this a laughing matter, Mr. Onorato. I call this very serious because it involves our constituents and our day-to-day protection of our citizens, as well as their needs. I don't consider it a laughing matter or joke. I consider it a very serious matter. Lastly, I'll say this. Would you be willing to make your schedule available to Council, your campaign schedule, so we can see --- you know, what time you're serving of your time; and maybe our constituents, maybe it should be public? Would you be willing to do that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'll be willing to do what every candidate is willing to do.

MR. DROZD: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: All I can say is, after having escorted a statewide candidate around for about 11 months, better thee than me. And one bit of advice; whatever your method of conveyance is, make sure your seats are comfortable and padded. My rear end is still sore. So I don't have anything else to say about that, but I have some other questions, Mr. Chief Executive. Remember a couple of years ago, we started to get State gaming money in to take down the obligation the Airport Authority had to the County, \$42 million? Where are we as far as that collection? Have we received the whole \$42 million yet; you know, where are we with that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. The entire \$42 million is in, and we started receiving the rest of it. They started to get a piece of it. Did they get two already?

MS. CLEARY: No, they requested 2.2.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: And then going forward, they get the \$108 million.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Right. And that came in through last year's budget, we don't have any of that money that's going to be reflected in '10?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That's correct, nothing in '10.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Okay. I don't know if you see these, but the controller gives us these little snapshot financial statements every month. And I didn't see one down there for the month of December, but I see one for the month of November. And it has an entry in there that I've been tracking for a number of months --- it's given me some concern --- and that's our unrestricted cash position. And according to this, as of the end of November 2009, we were negative 53 million bucks. I'd like your comment on it; specifically, I'm concerned about it. Do we have a cash problem or are we running short of cash?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Well, we have the same cash issue we have every year. And every, like, three or four years, it's the time we do a tax anticipation in the year because of the timing of it. But we've had a cash issue probably for ten years in this county. Again, I'll just --- in 2004, January, when I took over, the county was running a \$31 million deficit, and there was \$17 million in the General Fund. And our General Fund should be around \$30 million to be healthy, and it's never been close to that for at least ten years. So yes, there's definitely always a tight cash situation. I don't want to mislead anybody. I haven't seen that report, and I'm not sure how they calculated it, but I'm sure it's a timing issue. And we plan on ending 2009 with --- you know, a fund balance that's been consistent for the last six, seven, eight years; not a lot, but consistent, you know, in that \$15 million to \$18 million range. And we'll probably be around there again at the end of '09. But is it cash tight? Absolutely.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yeah. Well, that was my concern. That's why I was waiting for this. I was concerned when I see this. Again, I recognize there's a timing issue, to some extent. It seems to me that we went into the trend late last year, as opposed to earlier this year, which gave me some concern. It raised the issue, where are we going to be with our General Fund balance? If you feel fairly confident right now that we're going to be about where we've been the last several years, we're not going to get caught significantly short.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. And I think we'll be in that range but with the caveat, if something shows up that none of us know right now. But from what --- the end of the year, yes. The only red flag out there is that we're

monitoring Human Service money because of the State's budget. We might receive a little less than we normally get a year-end closing with the State, but that's still being negotiated. I'll have a better feel for that by the end of February.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I've had an over-arching issue since I got here, which I think is the rather stilted means of communication between your branch of government and our branch of government. I think this is wonderful that you come over here like this; I recognize your time is premium. But I've been harping for some time. I think we need some sort of arrangements where we get together. If we have to start calling each other names or letting our hair down or doing whatever else we have to do to have a give and take to solve some of these issues, I think that would be a lot more beneficial. I think while it's good to have you come over here like this, you don't know what's on our minds until we throw it out. I don't have any idea what you're going to say until you say it. I think we need to have a better means of just gunny sacking our ideas and kick a lot of ideas around.

And with that caveat, I'd like to give two specific examples. Number one is this essential services fee. And you know where I've been coming from with that, and I understand where you've been coming from with that. Where I saw a real problem with the breakdown of this is, the Council took it upon itself to bring that bill out of committee. It had been in committee for a long time. We didn't hide it from anybody, obviously. It was discussed at a --- I believe it was a Budget Committee meeting and it was put on the agenda; it was voted on. It was voted on unanimously by everybody that was there, and you came back into town and you vetoed it.

I think a better way of handling that, specifically since we had a County solicitor in the audience that night and we had the County manager here; if there had been some advance communication from your office. But that was not the way to go. I don't think it looks good when we go through the paces of doing something that significant, passing it unanimously. It obviously got a lot of play, you know, it was a very big issue. And then you turn around and summarily veto it. There has to be a better way, if you see something like this coming down the pike, that you communicate your objections and your concerns to us up front. I think a much better way

would have been for you to say, you know what? I'm going to have an issue with this. Why don't we do this, sort of, group discussions that apparently are going on right now? And I think that's the kind of problem that needs to be addressed. Another issue I want to raise with you is the assessment thing. You know, you fought the fight as long as you did, and I'm not here to second-guess what you did or anything like that. I mean, this is a very difficult issue. I know you believe you were doing what was right. I supported it initially, but I also saw an opportunity to, maybe, brought where I thought this was going to go. And as you know, you and I talked about this when you appeared here in September. I proposed a possible solution to you. You did give me the opportunity to meet with your staff, and I developed an ordinance that I thought would work. It never got started anywhere here because I think everybody was under the impression --- at least I was --- was that the administration was going to continue to fight that and continue to prosecute appeals.

What was troubling to me is, the night before the --- let's say, the development meeting with Judge Wettick, where the County went in and basically offered some kind of a solution. We weren't told that by the County solicitor. I was led to believe that you were going to continue to fight and to continue to appeal it. I think if we would have known that on the front end --- if we had known on the front end that there was a prospect of trying to do something different, I think the ordinance I had proposed to you would have gotten legs. And I'm not going to debate whether it was better than this solution or not, but I believe it was. And again, I think that's a breakdown in communication. And I think we should have had better information, and I think we should have got it more timely than after meeting with your solicitors, going over the next day. All right?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. I do want to just correct something, that we did not go into Judge Wettick's chamber the night after that --- day after that meeting and offer a proposal and quit fighting. This was after the Supreme Court rejected our plan, after Judge Wettick demanded that I give him a plan, and I held off three different times trying to counter it. But the last thing left was, he was going to throw me in jail me in contempt if I didn't put something forward. I'll make it clear; I am in total disagreement, total disagreement, to what we

presented to Judge Wettick, but we have to. I mean, I'm Court ordered to do it. I think it's the worst thing to happen to this county. I do not support the theory and the concept of what's going on, but there's nothing else to fight other than, I can go to jail and make a public statement, I guess. But I will tell you, if we can convince Harrisburg to make changes on a statewide fix, you will never see that January 1st reassessment take place for Allegheny County by itself. But we need State law now. We're down to the point --- it's the last thing left. The only reason that bill --- that piece of legislation is in front of Judge Wettick to do a reassessment, is because the legislature refused to act. If they would have acted on my moratorium, we wouldn't have this problem. We would have stopped it. We wouldn't have had anything until 2013. They would have done a study and seen that those states do what's right. Again, whatever success I can have in Harrisburg either with who's there or the new administration coming in, I will do everything in my power to make sure that that 2012 assessment is dealt with before it gets there. But if nothing changes in Harrisburg ---.

We have a Supreme Court case now and a local judge. I think it's a horrible decision, what happened here. Right now, every single county in Pennsylvania's law is that the way you reassess is, you go find a lawyer and that it's up to a local judge to dictate what the policy is for that particular county. If anybody thinks that's good for Pennsylvania, then we're in disagreement. I think what's happening in Allegheny County is a disgrace. I think what's happening in Allegheny County will be held to a different standard. I fought the battle, and I will continue to fight it politically in Harrisburg.

I look at the fact that we were successful in pushing this off until January 2012. We have 2010 and 2011, 24 months, to try to convince Harrisburg to do something. The good news is, we'll be beyond the gubernatorial race, and there will be elections; however, this year. Hopefully then in '11, they can deal with this issue before that reassessment kicks in.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: All right. Let me address that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No. The reason that you felt like it changed from the meeting before and the next day,

because my staff had to convince me that there was no other option left, because I ---. I didn't want to say anything, but when I realized that it might have been nice for the six o'clock news, it wouldn't have accomplished anything, being carried out of the Courthouse.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: All right. Let me just address that because what I had been told and what we were told was, Judge Wettick had denied you Supersedeas, which would have stayed us.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That's right.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: But that there was going to be an appeal of his denial. And if I would have known that you felt you were under the gun if you didn't come up with something, he was going to cuff you and take you to the Big House, I would have pushed even harder at the time to try to give you an alternative plan. The alternative plan I had would have been a lot better, and I think it would have given ---. Nobody likes this, obviously, but I think it would have been a hell of a lot better than what we got here. Now I want to go on to one other thing.

I'm not going to get into the Braddock situation, you know, you're going to do your thing and I'm going to do mine. But I'll say this; I feel to a large extent, I'm operating in a vacuum, even though I'm a County Councilman-At-Large. I try to communicate where I'm coming from, but if I don't get communication coming back, I'm going to do my thing. Whether it's ultimately the right thing or not, I'm going to do what I think is right. I'm going to try and do something else, and I'm going to be reviewing some documents tomorrow. And while I could say I wish I'd seen these documents sooner --- certainly, they could have been strung out longer. But I had an opportunity to review these documents and if they read the way I think they're going to read, I may be able to have some other idea.

If I do, I'm going to shoot it to you and I'm going to shoot it to the members of County Council. And I'm going to ask for some feedback and I hope that I get some feedback, good, bad or indifferent, because I'll say this; whatever I do doesn't go nearly as well unless I have somebody like you on board. And I want to give you one thing to just take a look at personally. You don't have to comment on it. Jared, I'd like you to give this to the Chief Executive. There were some series --- actually, two articles. And I don't know how much you're

familiar with this, but when I was in college, in Economics we did a case study on the ability of a chief executive --- it's a job on change.

And particularly what that one is about, we saw Jack Kennedy --- through the sheer force of his will, he was able to get big steel to roll back an across-the-board steel price increase. I think it's an interesting study because he had nothing going for him. He had no legal ability to do this, nothing to stand on. But by the power of his voice and the power of his persuasion, he was able to make something happen. And I just want you to keep that in mind. I'm not saying, you either hear that or you don't. But I think it's a good thing for all of us to keep in mind with the leadership positions that we have. And I don't have any other questions. Thank you for your time.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Just a final observation, you know, because this is a concern, I believe, of our constituents about this leave of absence. I just want to make one comment and some for you to ponder. And maybe the question you should answer to other constituents or whoever you wish; a good leader sets a high standard of excellence and never asks his followers or those they represent, especially in elected office, to do anything less than they would do, that they would follow the same thing they would expect of them. And I would venture to say that if any one of our directors, our good directors, our good staff members who serve valiantly the people of Allegheny County, said they were going to run for a statewide office, you would ask them to either resign that office or take a leave of absence without pay. And I don't see there's any other answer to that question, and there's no other solution other than the fact that you should follow that which you describe and you expect your people to follow. And I'll leave with that. And that's something that you have to think in your heart what's ethically right. Thank you, Mr. Onorato.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just so you know, I'm going to follow the Constitution of both the State and Federal government and whatever they've been doing for 200 years. Obviously, it's been proven; you can run for reelection while you hold these offices, and you can run for office while you hold these offices. And obviously, you can take this to the voters and change the Charter. If that's the

case, then we'll follow the different rules. But right now, I just find it interesting that this issue is coming up, because I happen to be the one running. I don't remember hearing this since Council --- when your party was running or when the opposition was running. But I think it's very clear that the Charter separated Council from the Executive Branch and who resigns and who doesn't. There was a reason for that. If you read the history of the Charter and why it was drafted, it particularly did not require the County Executive to resign because it didn't want to put the County Executive in competitive disadvantage with other executives in their region that might be running for offices that could be at a higher level and not put at a disadvantage. So it's why, but you don't see the State Constitution; you don't see the U.S. Constitution; you don't see the Home Rule Charter. This has been out there and obviously has been out there because you're prohibited from doing it. There's a reason they did that. But obviously, you can change it. You can change it and take it to the voters. Can the voters change it? We'll live by the Home Rule Charter. But I don't want to be a hypocrite. I mean, you can't have one person living by one rule and everybody else running for office live by a different rule.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: On a lighter note; as you know, we've had some really brutal weather lately. And you know, somebody who understands snow fighting probably more than most in this room --- I see your Director of Public Works back there. And I wanted to commend him and his department for the stellar job that they did during these brutal ---. And believe me, attending snow --- you know, you get to it; you get it off. But two inches, three times a day, it buries your workforce, it buries your supplies and you don't have other people. And you know, Joe Olczak --- I mean, he did a stellar job. He was out there. In my district, I had some problems with some of the City agreements, because the City wasn't living up to their end. And I was actually stunned that Joe himself called me, that he was out there.

And you know, Joe, I see you sitting there, and you should be commended. The people of Allegheny County need to know the great job you did. You know, it was even more important to me because I had an abscessed tooth. I had to drive down Campbells Run Road. If it wasn't for

your guys in District 2, I might have went over a hill. So thank you to you and your people. And Chief, you know, you got some great guys over there and I appreciate that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you for recognizing the Director and the workers of Public Works because a lot of times they don't get the public credit, and I do want that. So thank you for doing that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary.

MS. CLEARY: Yes. I just wanted to say that I believe whenever we ask information from your office and from the other County offices, that we do get it. And I wanted to thank you for recognizing our legislative body here because we can legislate and, without you telling us, now I'm going veto this bill. I don't think that would be the proper way to do it. There is separation between our legislative body and yours, and that's the way it's supposed to work and I think that it should work. Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. And thanks for being here, Dan. I appreciate that. I also want to say --- just a couple statements here --- that number one; I really think you're right on the assessment issue, and I thank God that you fought it and I wish you would have won. And you stated this fact; it's completely absurd to hold Allegheny County to a different standard than the other 66 counties in the State of Pennsylvania and to put everything into the hands of a judge to dictate how this is going to be. I mean --- I guess, the attorney here that filed this case is going to make a lot of money as he goes around and gets a case from every other --- 66 counties.

I mean, it's just a shame that something like this would happen. I mean, there is a need for reassessment; there's no doubt about that. There's a need for a reassessment in every county but one in Pennsylvania, and there's definitely a need for a reassessment, the counties that surround Allegheny, because they are way out of bounds. And I guess, we are the front person in this fight with the State. And the State should step up and the State should have some system that's uniform for all 67 counties, not just Allegheny County.

I also would like to apologize to you for someone asking you to resign or take a leave of absence and saying it's non-partisan, because there's no doubt, it's partisan. It's a shame something like that has to happen under the disguise of a word that obviously has some sort of non-meaning to somebody whenever they bring something up like this. So I do apologize for that, and I'm glad you're just doing what's been done for 200 years in the United States of America. Thank you.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Don't feel bad. Mike asks me to resign every meeting.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, one more and you're going to be --- one more time; go ahead.

MR. DROZD: This is not only about party politics; it's not. It's the right thing to do. And please note, and I'll accentuate again, that I called upon anybody running for the position of governor should resign, regardless of their party; not resign, take a leave of absence, at least. I didn't ask you to resign. I didn't ask them to resign. I just asked to take a leave of absence. You know, this is trying times in Allegheny County and in our country. The people are paying hard-earned tax dollars for all of us to do what we're supposed to do; their will, their day-to-day needs. And they deserve nothing less, nothing less.

And I don't believe in your heart or anyone here on this Council or anyone, even the comments that were just made, that no one here can tell me honestly, honestly, that they could say that this isn't going to take --- your running, the governor of any of those elected officials running for governor --- isn't going to take valuable time away from our constituents and not be able to do the business at hand of the Council and 7/24. That's what we're about, 7/24. We're public servants. We serve those people out there, and that's what they deserve. And you know, we can talk all we want about what's in the Charter. What's the ethical, right thing to do?

And I don't care what your party is or what office you hold. And I'm not just directing this to you, Mr. Onorato, I'm directing to all those people running for office. It's tiring, and the people are tired of it. The people want what they deserve. They want a return on their hard-earned tax dollars, and we're going to have a trying time in the future. So I don't know. You just

have to ask the question, what's the right thing to do? The right thing to do is to not take dollars, hard-earned tax dollars if you're going to decide to --- you or whoever is going to run for statewide or national office. Thank you, Mr. Onorato, for answering my questions. Thank you for coming before Council. Thank you, Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Rea.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to go back to the Marcellus Shale issue with you and just ---. I guess, initially what I heard you say was, you're going to work with the Airport. Basically, that's the initial area that everyone's going to look at by this commission that's going to be put together. And then after that, you're going to look at other properties around the county. And I wondered what, strategically, you think is a reasonable estimate of a time that you think that we might be ready to drill somewhere. And I did visit some of those drilling sites, but I'm wondering, like, with permitting and with local municipal governments and everything, what you really estimate would be a good time that that might happen for the county.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's going to be totally dependent on the price of the gas. If it keeps going up like it is right now, I think it's reasonable that if we have an agreement with the Airport Authority and Council and my office, that you could have a financial deal in place in the year 2010; and then depending on how quick it would take to drill at the airport. But the last time the Airport tried to do this, the numbers were dropping, drastically so. As long as the numbers keep moving in the direction they're going, it's very reasonable to expect that there could be a financial deal in place sometime in 2010.

MS. REA: And it's my understanding that it's basically --- you put on an RP for someone to come in and do the drilling. Is that what happens? Is that what would happen?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. The idea --- there's two components of the RP that you have to evaluate, the money they give you up front per acre for the right and then a percentage of the royalties that you would get. And that's different all across the board in Pennsylvania, depending on what company is doing it and how to proceed and what's the best way to go forward. And then we would all decide what's better for the county; having a larger

upfront amount or maximizing the royalty long term. And that's something, because you're sort of playing a guessing game, too, of how long the gas will come out. Is it 5 years, 10 years, 30 years; you know, the experts say, if they can guesstimate pretty closely. That's something. But once we get proposals in ---. And my idea would be to let the companies be as creative as possible to give their best proposal to us, and then we evaluate what we think the best combination is for us as a county.

MS. REA: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes. Thank you, President Fitzgerald. Again, let me just make a comment. If we're going to be doing this every quarter, I think it's great. It shows a lot of County government that's probably the most transparent. I think the questions were very timely of substance. I think your answers were, too. With regard to Mr. Drozd, he's always had this as initiative, long before you decided to run. I just think that's how Matt's populist attitude is. I don't think it's a reflection of any political agenda.

And to further back that up, since you talked about the directors, one of the strengths of our county is our directors. Let me compliment you, because if we're doing our job as councilmen and councilwomen and working with our constituents, we need the directors as a working arm and their excellence, whether they're sitting in the back room or they're not here. Let me just tell you, from someone who's been here for 10 years, your directors are the strength of this government. And there's not a problem out there that's a Democratic problem or a Republican problem; it's a problem.

So you know, tonight I thought was a nice start to a quarterly meeting. I don't think it's good for anyone to pre-suppose what someone's motives are. And in the political sense, if I may venture there, I would assume you would want to have all voters think you were attractive, no matter what party they're in, running statewide. So that's your job to do.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I don't care if they think I'm attractive, as long as they vote for me.

MR. GASTGEB: I'm on a roll, Dan. You got me started. But I just want to let you know that I think that doing this, hopefully, and the way we're doing it, is a good thing. So I'm not trying to get in the mind of any

of my colleagues tonight, but I don't want to take a good thing that we're doing tonight and everybody walk out of here and think something was negative because I think it was positive. Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Can we get back on the subject that Matt brought up? Well, this thing's been going on for 100 years, 200 years, whatever. If you want to be honest and fair, you don't go to an individual ---. Say, you have five, six, seven people in a race and you tell the individual, look, you should go take a leave of absence. You have to put a rule, and then it affects everybody. This is to be able to be fair. So you don't go to an individual and ask him to do that. You go get the laws changed. Maybe you're right, but it would have to apply to everybody. You just don't go to one individual and tell him what he should do. Change the law or get someone to change it for you to make it fair and honest for everybody. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Mr. Drozd, we've done this five times.

MR. DROZD: No. It only can affect the County.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I understand.

MR. DROZD: And my fellow Councilmember said this on numerous occasions, you can't affect to say, we can't affect them. I can only affect the County.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. And we have it on the agenda. Mr. Executive, I appreciate you coming forward and answering our questions. Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moving on to 5332-09.

MR. CATANESE: Please let the record show that Councilman Burn and Councilman McCullough are present.

Proclamation declaring January as Mentoring Month in Allegheny County and honoring the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania for increasing mentorship programs in our region. Sponsored by Council member Amanda Green Hawkins.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Green Hawkins.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Good evening. Standing here with me is Colleen Fedor, and I just want to read the proclamation, and Ms. Fedor is invited to say a few words.

WHEREAS, January 2010 marks the celebration of the National Mentoring Month campaign with General Colin L. Powell, a spokesperson for the theme of expand your universe; mentor a child; and

WHEREAS, in honor of National Mentoring Month, the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania is challenging local adults to improve the lives of our youth by volunteering to serve as mentors; and

WHEREAS, the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania creates numerous mentoring programs and improves existing programs, helps recruit and refer mentors to local organizations. And most importantly, connects at-risk youth with quality mentoring programs; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence, while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading a healthy and productive life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, hereby recognizes and commends the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania for their continued commitment to the youth of our community. Furthermore, we declare January 2010 as National Mentoring Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by myself, Council member Amanda Green Hawkins, 19th day of January.

MS. FEDOR: Councilwoman Green Hawkins, thank you so much. This is our fifth year of coming and joining you. We're grateful to Council for recommending that January be recognized in Allegheny County, as it is in State, Local and Federal government throughout the country. Each January, we take that time to thank those who are willing to serve as mentors. In Western Pennsylvania, that's 27,000 adults who care enough about children to give of their most precious commodity, their time. But locally in Western Pennsylvania, this year you may have been familiar with the, Be a 6th Grade Mentor campaign that we launched with the United Way of Allegheny County, with your County Council executive --- County Director, as well as all of your directors of Children and Youth Services, in which 750 adults came forward and volunteered in just a six-week period and said, how can I make a difference?

We're very pleased and very proud of the residents locally who care so much about children. We're extremely pleased to present to you over 130 agencies that currently serve children through mentoring. We trained 1,100 adults last year who wanted to be the best mentors they could be. Thank you so much for your time and for caring enough about the kids of our community. Councilman Robinson, when you talked about Shuman, we know those challenges. We support your interest in making sure that we provide the best for young people who find themselves there. We've had the opportunity to join your staff at Shuman and talk to the kids and find out who they would have turned to, where they wish they would find adults in their path to give them those options. There are so many ways that we seek continuing to grow, so that no child in Western Pennsylvania says, I wish I would have had someone to turn to, to talk to. So thank you on behalf of all of those mentors, all of those children and those yet to come. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5333-09.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring local author, Sharon Flake, for reaching one million in book sales and for releasing her seventh book. Sponsored by Council member Amanda Green Hawkins.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Green Hawkins.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you. And I'm inviting Sharon Flake here to the podium with me, and I'm going to read the proclamation into the record and hope you'll say a few words.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County serves as the home of creative artists whose expressions of a certain medium help to enlighten and to unite our country's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sharon Flake, a Philadelphia native, a University of Pittsburgh alumna and a Stanton Heights resident, has authored seven books and has sold more than one million units throughout her writing career; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Flake's works are widely recognized by the teachers and administrators as the author whose books about youth offer unique stories and important lessons about coming-of-age in an urban environment; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Flake's honest writing portrayed the beauty of urban setting and tells uplifting stories

that cross racial, economical and generational divides;  
and

WHEREAS, her impressive writing career has brought Ms. Flake to American Library Association Coretta Scott King Award and the YWCA Racial Justice Award. Her works have been translated into French and Italian and are required reading in many schools and colleges throughout the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors Ms. Sharon Flake for her impressive career, for releasing her seventh book titled, You Don't Even Know Me, and for reaching book sales of over one million. We commend Ms. Flake for her ability to enlighten the public about the urban lifestyle, and we hope she continues to succeed in the future. Sponsored by myself, Council member Amanda Green Hawkins, 19th day of January.

MS. FLAKE: Thank you all for having me here, and thank you, Councilwoman, for supporting me. If you are a young person living in Homewood or North Philadelphia or, say, the South Side of Chicago, you already know what most people think about you. As an author, I get the chance to say through my work, think again. The young people I write about, the characters I create, are smart and determined. They're intriguing, thoughtful. They struggle like other people. And because they reflect a lot of the young people that live in your district and in the communities that I mentioned, the hundreds of thousands of young people in the country, they have resonated with all kinds of kids, with teachers, with principals, with superintendents of schools.

I thank God every day that I'm a writer, that I get to write about the inner-city experience and that people who look like me and who don't look like me, have embraced those stories and called them their own; and that I can, hopefully, keep on writing for many years to come. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5334-10. I don't believe the Woodland Hills team is here tonight. We're going to skip over that one and go to 5335-10.

MR. CATANESE: Certificates of Achievement honoring the Schenley High School football team for winning the Pittsburgh City League championship. Sponsored by Council Member William Russell Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson, one of many distinguished alum from that great institution of Schenley High School.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. First, let me congratulate the school, Schenley High School. And I congratulate you not only because you produced a championship football team; you did that while operating out of a building that is not Schenley High School. Without fighting that battle all over again --- because I believe that Schenley High School should still be open. But I know how difficult it was for everyone involved who loves Schenley High School, like myself, to make that transition. That hurt. I graduated from Schenley High School on January 19th, 1960. Get your calculators out. That was a few years ago. What is today's date? January 19th, 2010. I don't believe in luck. I honestly do not believe in luck, so I'm glad you're here. So that's the first thank you.

Then I thank the football team, coaches, the administrators, everybody; the water boys --- everybody, for sticking to it to win a championship. That's hard, because I'm sure injuries, disappointments, disagreements, personalities and doubters stood in your way. But you are the champs. And I say this to every team that I have the pleasure of honoring and to every team who comes here. Now that you are the champs, act like champs, because now you have responsibility. When you're old men, and you will probably get there, you'll still be champs. Don't let anyone let anything take that away from you. Wear your jackets proudly, your rings. Accept all the honors and grow from boys to men, because you're still boys. Grow to men who are champions and tell everybody, I am a champion.

And while you're growing into men, respect women. Listen to me; respect women. Because if you're a true champion in the physical sense and the competitive sense against other men, your job is not complete until you show you respect women. Start with your mother, your sister, your teachers, your --- I'm telling you. If you're a real champion, respect women. Now on a lighter note, Councilwoman Green has honored you, also; perhaps, inadvertently. If you noticed her when she walked up here, she had on those scarlet shoes. Everybody knows I call it, scarlet and black. How would she know? I believe because her district gave all in the City of

Pittsburgh, some of you who are affiliated with Schenley High School may be her constituents.

And the perceptive woman that she is, she appropriately dressed understatedly to pay tribute, so let's give her a hand. Scarlet and gray. How about them Buckeyes? You know I was going to say that. Okay. If everyone --- all the players and administrators and family would come up here while I make these comments and tell you how we will proceed, I really would appreciate it. The players can come on this side and go behind me and around here (indicating). Now I'm going to see how disciplined you are. Go behind me and around like this. Teachers, administrators, go all around through here, and I'd appreciate your cooperation. There was a great football player that played at Schenley High School, and I'm probably the only one in this room old enough to remember him.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Larry Brown.

MR. ROBINSON: No, sir, not him. Further back. He was great, but further back. Back in 1950, when I was only eight years of age, a man by the name of Henry Ford led the Schenley Spartans to a championship. And when I was in school, we always thought of Henry Ford because we always believed we'd win another championship. All the time I was at Schenley High School, we didn't come close. I played football at Schenley High School. We didn't even come close, and we had a lot of great players that came through Schenley High School. One was mentioned, Larry Brown. Francis Payne (phonetic); there are others, the guys who went on to the pro ranks. But Henry Ford also went on to the pro ranks. He played for the Detroit Lions; Henry Ford. Remember him, because he's watching you.

You did something --- you're a part of something that Henry Ford did. Back in 1950, he led his team to a championship, and he's an icon, sports icon for all who loves Schenley High School. Check him out sometime, Henry Ford. Just one other thing in terms of paying tribute. First and foremost, I pay tribute to you as athletes, student athletes, because you couldn't play football unless you had some grades; let's call them decent grades. You wouldn't be standing here. Don't drop the ball. Don't drop the ball. Graduate from high school, go on for some other education and training and make something out of yourself. Don't let anybody tell you, all you are is a

football player. Believe me, it won't carry you. It won't carry you far. Do that for yourself. Graduate and make something out of yourself, and take this championship and embrace it. It's yours; you'll always have it. And every time someone sees you and reads your certificate, they're going to measure you. I guarantee it. They'll measure you against this singular accomplishment. There are athletes at the pro level, college level, high school level, that would love to be standing here as champs; not like champs in the City League, but champs. They don't have a ring. They don't have a jacket. They don't have anybody cheerleading for them. They're thinking about that last game when they lost. You don't have to think about that. What you have to think about is next year, because everybody's coming for you. Be a champ next year, too. Step on the field and let them know you're the Schenley Spartans. You're the champions of the City League and you're taking on all comers to beat them again. No excuses and no quitting. Win it next year. I plan to be here. Come back again, so I can smile. Come back again so I can tell my colleagues, this is a football team. Look at these men. These are young men who have grown into fine examples for everybody in this county. Let me move on here and tell you how we're going to do this.

After I read your Certificate of Achievement, I'm going to ask the appropriate people from your high school who are here --- I don't presume who's here --- to come forward, including coaches or administrators, and say something if they will. We have a tradition of identifying every player. I'm going to ask somebody from the high school to identify each and every one of you; each and every one of you because you deserve that recognition. Then if there are players who should speak, captains or others, an opportunity will be given to you to speak. And then we'll get our pictures.

One thing that has been done --- and it's the first time, to my knowledge, it's been done by this Council, so you're number one --- on the back of your certificate is the name of every player who played with you. When you're old men and you go up in the attic and those bones are aching, you can pull this out, and you can look on the back and see all of the people, the administrators, everybody, that helped you get to where you are, the names of all of the guys that played on that

team with you. That's a first. So when you get home, just take this certificate out, turn it on the back and you'll see all those names.

This is a Certificate of Achievement awarded to Schenley High School's 2009-2010 football team. This Certificate of Achievement is awarded to the 2009-2010 Schenley High School football team in recognition of earning the City League championship. We commend and recognize each player and coach whose demonstration resolve led to this achievement. This team has set a positive example of excellence for all of Allegheny County, continuing evidence that this is the County of Champions. This achievement has conferred honor on this county and is an accomplishment in which the entire community can be proud. Sponsored by myself on behalf of all of the members of Allegheny County Council. Give yourself a hand.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Robinson, for those kind words. And I can assure you that these young men will carry on those things that you said, to the fullest of their potential. Our head coach is Jason Bell. My name is Davon (phonetic) Walker, assistant coach; also, Chris Sledge, the assistant coach. Jason Bell couldn't be here this evening because he's under the weather, but he sends regards and wishes he was here. Just to give a little enlightenment on what Mr. Robinson said, as far as what we went through as a football team, Schenley is right now housed in the Reizenstein School. Half is Obama Academy; the other half is Schenley.

We practiced at University Prep. So every day the kids have to get a school bus up to the field, get dressed, have practice. Well, that's all well and fine when it's during the summer months; but once daylight savings time hits, we go from practicing from 4:00 to 5:30, something to 6:00, to 4:00 to zero dark:30, because we've got to come in, hurry up and get it done. And I can honestly say that during that short period of time, these young men took the best opportunity they had to put forth the effort, which is the reason why we're standing here today as 2009-2010 City champions. I'd like to give them a round of applause for that effort. Okay. Right now, I'll ask Coach Sledge to come up and say a few words.

MR. SLEDGE: I would just like to say thank you, again, for this opportunity to have these young men down here to achieve this achievement for the City

championship; but also for this opportunity to come down here to see how this Council is working. I would like to introduce Reggie, who can come up. He will give all the names of the players --- each player. Reggie was our manager. He was our manager as far as he gets everything prepared for us; gets everything together. And he's also our team spokesman.

REGGIE: I am going to start with head coach, Jason Bell. Athletic director, Ken Sable. Principal, Sophia Facaros. Number 1, Jim Adams; Number 2, Ronell Powell; Number 3, Calvin Beck; Number 4, Deandre Black; Number 5, Langston Kenney; Number 7, Jonathan --- Jeron Grayson; Number 8, Livingston Wright; Number 9, Akil Young; Number 10, Darren Jackson; Number 13, Maurice Campbell; Number 13, Isaac Taylor; Number 14, Jasean Murphy; Keenan Summerville; Calvin Fredsley (phonetic); Number 19, Darren Harris; Number 20, Michael Wortham; Number 21, Malik St. Victor; Number 22, Jerome Matthews; Number 23, Miles Catlin; Number 28, Shawn Davis; 29, Kai Roberts; 31, Rashean Green; 32, Jayron Brown; 33, Renurvio Holloman; 34, Virgil McClendon; Number 35, Lamar Thomas; 33, Jackie Young; 38, Taylor Campbell; 39, Marlon Lynch; also Number 39, Keith Ross; Number 50, Jamal Waters; 51, Shaquelle Thomas; 52, Aaron Manker; 55, Andre Irish; Number 56, Chris Oates --- Chris Oden; Number 61, Anton Moorefield; Number 62, Darwin Parker; Number 66, Philip Roberts; 68, Camden Yandel. Tyrique Evans is 64. 65, Terrence Young; 66, Hykeem Moore; 85, Ernest Rivers; 86, Andre Reese.

MR. ROBINSON: You would have rather played in that last game than read this. But we want to thank you and everybody. Just one other thing before we get our picture. Where's Shawn Davis? Shawn Davis, number 28? What position do you play?

SHAUN: Quarterback and linebacker.

MR. ROBINSON: Twenty-eight (28) was my number. I was an offensive end, defensive end. And we played both ways and just flipped over, and our quarterback was the safety. That's when we didn't have this too soft kind of football they have now. Our halfbacks played linebacker, too. I thank all of you gentlemen. I thank the men and women who are affiliated. We have these certificates for you. We'll make sure that your coaches get them. Everybody will get one. If for whatever reason you need more, we'll get that for you. And I want to thank my

colleagues, in particular, for indulging me. I'm at that age. Thank you. Nothing could have pleased me more on an anniversary of my graduation from high school, than to be here with a championship team from Schenley High School. Man, this is great. Thank you very much. What we're going to do now, unless anyone else has something to say, we are going to line up for the pictures right over here (indicating). We'll have our photographer, Margaret, tell us what she wants us to do, so all of you gentlemen are placed in the right place. And Margaret can come and let us know how you want to do it. I'm going to give to the brother here who put in all the time and effort trying to --- or actually read those names, stay right where you are. What I need you to do is hold up this certificate. All right?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5336-10.

MR. CATANESE: The remainder will be read into the record. Proclamation honoring Walter Ostry upon his retirement from Allegheny County Jail. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

5337-10, a Proclamation honoring former Baldwin Councilmember, Marian Joseph, and her service to the community. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

5338-10, a Proclamation honoring former South Park Councilmember, George Smith and his service to the community. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleary.

5339-10, a Proclamation honoring the retirement of Jim Rieland from Allegheny County Probation. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

5340-10, a Certificate of Achievement honoring the Clairton High School Football Team for winning the Class A WPIAL and PIAA championships. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

5341-10, a Certificate of Achievement recognizing Stephen Johnston for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

5342-10, a Certificate of Achievement honoring the West Allegheny High School Football Team for winning the Class A WPIAL and PIAA championships. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

5342-10, a Proclamation honoring former Glen Osborne Borough Councilmember, John Hayes and his service to the community. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

5344-10, a Proclamation honoring the retirement of Joan Rabinowitz from Just Harvest and recognizing her

lifetime of advocacy. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald.

5345-10, a Proclamation honoring the career and lifetime service of former Senator Hardy Williams.

Sponsored by Councilman William Russell Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Approval of Minutes, 5352-10.

MR. CATANESE: A motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on December 15, 2009.

MR. MARTONI: So moved.

MS. CLEARY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes).

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Excuse me, Mr. President. Just mark me for an abstention on that.

PRESIDENT Fitzgerald: Please note that abstention for Mr. McCullough. Presentation of Appointments, 5353-10.

MR. CATANESE: Appointment approving the reappointment of Jennifer Liptak to serve as a member of the Retirement Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire December 31st, 2013. Sponsored by Councilman Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Ms. Liptak always served on the Board of Retirement and her term is up. I just need to reappoint her. It's a matter of rules. I would ask somebody to make that motion.

MR. MARTONI: So moved.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Unfinished Business, none this evening.

Liaison Reports, do we have any this evening? Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I'd just like to point out that also in the tax bill that's being sent out, the property tax, there is also an article that has to do with

homeowners and if you're in danger of losing your home to foreclosure. And that's on the bottom half of the sheet. So it's a service that was brought about by the Treasurer, the Sheriff and the Controller who set up that program. And it's the PCRG. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions, 5346-10.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office to accept a donation of a 2010 Ford Explorer XLT, VIN Number 1FMEU7DE9AUA05292 by the United States Marshall Service subsequent to their purchase of the vehicle with asset forfeiture funding pursuant to the Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000. Sponsored by the Allegheny County Sheriff Department and President Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: As you probably know I sent an e-mail around earlier today so we're going to ask for a waiver of the second reading. This is at no cost to the County. The Sheriff's Department, the Sheriff's Office as we see this vehicle we actually can't use it until we pass this resolution and they can use it in their law enforcement. We have Mary here from the Sheriff's Office if anybody has any questions. But if there aren't any, I would ask for a waiver of the second reading. I know that's unusual, but in this case we want to get this vehicle into service as soon as possible.

MR. DROZD: I'll second that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved. Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: This is on the waiver of the second reading. Any questions on the waiver of the second reading? Seeing none, I'm just going to call for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes).

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The wavier of the second reading having been waived, I'm going to ask for a motion for approval of the resolution.

MR. DROZD: So moved.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move second. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Cleary?  
MS. CLEARY: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
(no response)  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gasteb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, nos, 0, the bill

passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5347-10

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division Two, County Government Operations through the creation of a new Chapter 280 entitled Wages, County and County-subsidized Projects to require contractors who provide building service and food service to Allegheny County to pay prevailing wages to employees employed pursuant to such contracts and to require that building service, food service, grocery and hotel employees employed on projects receiving County subsidies be paid prevailing wages. Sponsored by Councilman William Russell Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. Mr. Robinson, do you wish to comment?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding there will be other cosponsors of this bill and I appreciate their support and effort. I'll allow them to speak for themselves at the appropriate time.

I just wanted to tell Council my rationale for submitting this bill. This bill is consistent with what we've been attempting to do in this County in terms of economic development, diversity. It is also consistent with the comprehensive plan that we approve, the comprehensive plan that we approve for this County. And the expectation of the members of the various task forces that we would do what we could to provide opportunity for everybody in this County to benefit economically from our growth. This bill is not prompted by the actions of any other governmental body or any other elected official. Staff and I have been working on this bill for several months, notwithstanding what has been happening in other jurisdictions.

I would anticipate that this bill now that it's in committee will receive a full airing and hopefully a hearing, maybe two. And that this body will be very deliberative before it reaches any final conclusions. I have no pride of authorship of this bill and therefore, there may be other worthy components that members may choose to submit as amendments. I look forward to the dialog that we will have. I look forward to this Council embracing this issue. Now that this legislation has been introduced, this is our issue. This issue affects our people. And I would hope that we would not be driven or influenced by others outside of this body who are not directly working with us and respect our prerogative, one of which is to introduce legislation that we believe is in the best interest of everybody in this County.

The last comment about the rationale. This is an extension of my concern and the concern of many of my colleagues here and your support for the community benefits approach that I offered two years ago that will require developers to meet certain conditions. And while we did not pass that legislation with the efforts of Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Davin, our economic development department and Mr. Exler we were able to come to an understanding that we needed to one, evaluate all of our TIFs and LERTUS (phonetic), evaluate those programs where we were providing tax incentives to developers to

determine what the results were. And to create a template that we could apply to future developments.

It also is consistent with the rules that this Council has passed that when developments come before us, those developments, their proposals will meet certain criteria. The aim is to be fair and to be just and to spread economic opportunity to everyone in this County. Eighty-five (85) percent of the people who live in Allegheny County were born here, they were raised here, they went to school here, they go to church here and they're going to die here. We owe them. We owe them. And what we owe them more than anything else is a comfortable life, our best efforts, good services and to make sure that at night we can go to bed saying we did what we believed was in the best interest of everyone in this County. We're in a position to do that.

I do not presume this legislation I have introduced is the only legislation to be considered or that there's any originality of thought that supersedes any other thoughts that may come from my colleagues. If I can help any member in any way understanding my bill or understanding my issues I'm hoping to do that. And I look forward to a very spirited dialog. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'd like to recognize Councilwoman Cleary.

MS. CLEARY: Thank you, Rich. I just want to say Mr. DeFazio and I have been working with labor on some legislation for the prevailing wage issue also. And we're probably going to be introducing that at the next meeting. I would like to talk about all this in committee and get a thorough discussion about the prevailing wage.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'd like to recognize Councilman Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. As Chairman of Economic Development and Housing, we will have at least two committee meetings and two public hearings in regard to this. After the first committee meeting hopefully we can set up a timeline and get to the --- put it on the agenda so that we can seek the facts, the truth and legality of the legislation before voting on it. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'd like to recognize Mr. Martoni.

MR. MARTONI: I'd like to be a cosponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please add Mr. Martoni as a cosponsor to the bill. I'd like to recognize Councilwoman Green-Hawkins.

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: I'd also like to be added as a cosponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please add Ms. Green-Hawkins as a cosponsor.

Moving on to 5348-10.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Article 401 entitled Chief Executive, Section 5-401.11 entitled, Temporary Absence/Disability of the Chief Executive to provide for a leave of absence for any Chief Executive who declares his or her candidacy for other elected office. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilman Drozd, do you wish to comment?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir, just really quickly. Please note that my ordinance is no reflection on the honorable intention of dedication and yearning desire to serve our constituents of our Chief Executive. I believe this applies to anyone who runs for an office. It's outside their venue, their reelection, especially particularly when they're running for a statewide or a national office. It's the only right thing to do is to take a leave of absence for anyone seeking those offices without pay. People are paying, they deserve our undivided attention, 100 percent of our efforts and they need it particularly in Allegheny County and in the state. So I would hope to think we can look at this, and I would hope to think that our Chief Executive will take a look at it himself and see how his time is consumed. I thank you very much for allowing me to put this forth into committee.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5349-10.

MR. CATANESE: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, recognizing the urgency of stabilizing the climate as well as the role that Allegheny County can play in such an endeavor. Sponsored by Councilwoman Amanda Green-Hawkins.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilwoman Green-Hawkins, do you wish to comment?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Yes, I do, Mr. President. In the recent times we've been talking a lot about clean energy, green jobs and things of that nature. One of the things is such a big global issue, there's also questions about what can we do locally to help impact it. And what we can do is looking at the information provided in this resolution. I look forward to the discussion in committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I'd like to cosponsor that, please.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Add Mr. Finnerty as cosponsor. New Business, Motions, 5350-10.

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County requesting that the Allegheny County Treasurer include information regarding the Allegheny County Parks Foundation in the 2010 Allegheny County property tax bill mailings when they are sent to property owners. Sponsored by Councilman Nick Futules.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Futules had to leave. I would ask Ms. Rea to speak to this as a fellow member of the Parks Foundation.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. You all have in front of you a copy of a form that's going to appear on everyone's tax bill that are sent out from the County Treasurer. And on that form they're asking if anyone would like to make that tax deductible contribution to the Allegheny County Parks Foundation. And Mr. Futules told me that this will save the taxpayers, and I think he did say it here also, thousands and thousand of dollars with the mailing for your tax bill. So he asked me to make a motion to approve this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved. Second?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Discussion on this? We'll just call for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes).

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. 5351-10.

MR. CATANESE: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County authorizing the establishment of a dedicated telephone number within the Office of Allegheny County Council in order to manage constituent questions, comments or concerns related to County infrastructure

maintained by the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. Sponsored by Councilmember Vince Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. Just real quick, I realize that the Department of Public Works has a hotline number already. They've had it for just as long as I've been here, which is ten years. The difference, and the reason why I just didn't write a letter and work through the administration is that I think we need to consider at least should Council have a hotline. There's 13 of us that have districts. We drive along the roads, our constituents call us. It may be a matter of getting the word out having more give and take with our constituents, especially if we build our staffs up to be essential to finally this fiscal year. I just think maybe the dedication should reside, at least in part with our office and our ability to house the calls, get it out to the different councilmember. And that's the spirit of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Executive Committee. Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I'd like to cosponsor that also.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please add Mr. Finnerty as a cosponsor.

Public Comment on General Items. Mr. Drozd, do you want to be added as a sponsor?

MR. DROZD: Yes, please.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public Comment on General Items. We have three speakers this evening, beginning with Mr. Lester Ludwig. Mr. Ludwig I see sitting here. Mr. Ludwig, if you'd come to the podium and state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. LUDWIG: My name is Les Ludwig. I live at 6589 Rosemoor Street, 15217. I was away for a week and it was a very interesting experience to read the South Jersey Press in Atlantic City and find that there were many things that I haven't heard of in all these meetings that I've attended. And so I brought back clippings. I'll just mention a few. One, the use of garbage dumps to produce methane gas which is hearts and souls, use of the treadle system in green efforts to literally cover the whole side of a skyscraper, not just a couple of stories. But I think it's Las Vegas. And I have the article if anyone would care to see it. And it's going to cost a lot of money to put it up, but they figure that it's

economically sound so I bring it to your attention because we have our share of buildings that it might be useful for.

Now, I'd like to turn and thank the Chair and this Council, Mr. Onorato, Chief Executive, for bringing up the subject of Haiti. The question from me is when? When 70,000 people die in a catastrophe is our responsibility as a government, and I've already said this in City Council this morning, is it 53 kids? Is it so many dollars? Is it a three-cent program to bring youth to understand the importance of making a contribution. And instead of starting at \$10, we should start maybe at my three cents. And you'll say, ah, he's just looking to enrich his pocket. Well, I said this morning at City Council, whatever the commission might be, how big or how small. I'm living on Social Security, that's next to nothing. So therefore, one-half of whatever would come in I would personally donate so that I would be as much a part of helping the people of Haiti as possible.

I'm sorry, Mr. Robinson, if I've left you down by going out of town but it was a wonderful one-week holiday with the family and the religious observance of the Bar Mitzvah to be frank. And here I am, all out of time. I hope that someone will pick up the lead. We need leadership and we need to do more for Haiti. Our turn may be coming in 2012 as you've already heard.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Ludwig.  
Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I just want to inform you that we do capture our methane from garbage. Waste Management is in Finley Township.

MR. LUDWIG: Okay.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mike Fornear. Is Mr. Fornear with us this evening? I don't see him coming forward. Mr. Nathan Bunn. Mr. Bunn, would you come forward and state your name and address for the record, please?

MR. BUNN: My name is Nathan Bunn, President of the Peoples Movement. My address is 116 9th Street, Braddock, Pennsylvania. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the Council. I hope my face is familiar to most of you as well as an organization, Peoples Movement. First, before I dab into my speech I would like to publicly thank Councilman Drozd for speaking about the

importance of taxpayers and the importance of elected officials to serve them.

Secondly, I would like to make --- I would like to speak on Proclamation 5332-10. The Peoples Movement also has a mentor program. We've been doing it for the past five Saturdays for young men between the ages of 7 and 17 who would like to be a part of the organization you spoke on earlier. A tragedy has befallen Haiti. I beseech you to send our organization to Haiti, to fund our struggle to do God's work helping people in need without profit. The exchange rate is \$20.25 in Haiti to our dollar. We only ask for lodging and food, a week's worth. With the proper coverage and assistance we can have a great fundraiser, 50 percent towards our nonprofit organization's expenses and the other 50 percent towards the poverty stricken Haiti. It would look well upon the Council to help us in the best way possible.

I have 10 to 15 volunteers who are very willing to travel to help those people whose lives have changed instantly. Also, I have 10 to 15 volunteers who would like to help on this end in America as well. I will also type of list of volunteers with their unique signatures to attach and have them delivered or e-mailed in a timely manner. I spoke to Dan yesterday who told me that when they asked for funding, to inform him immediately. This is a great opportunity for our nonprofit organization from the poorest city in Pittsburgh to step up and earn County Council's respect and approval. I hope that I do not fall on deaf ears. Help us to help the people who need it the most.

The plan we talked about is breaking down into groups, one group handles giving out food, one group handles going on a rescue mission, one group would handle taking care of the wounded and one group would speak to people helping them to cope. This is a chance to get involved directly. I took notice to Councilmember District Seven's reference to wanting to get involved directly. Again, no one is looking for a way to make money. We want to show that helping others is very important. I see thousands upon thousands of dollars or rather I hear about it and read about it in newspapers wasted on golf meetings, trash cans and many other things that do not help the poor people. Can we please go to Haiti? We can't afford to go without the help of

Allegheny Council. Thank you for taking the time to hear me out.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Bunn.  
With no further speakers, do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

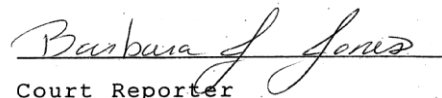
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:06 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

  
Court Reporter