

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio - President,
Council At-Large
Eileen Wagner - Vice President,
District 4
Dave Fawcett - Council At-Large
Ronald Francis, Jr. - District 1
Jan Rea - District 2
Tom Shumaker - District 3
Vince Gastgeb - District 5
Mike Crossey - District 6
Rick Schwartz - District 7
Charles Martoni - District 8
Richard Olasz, Sr. - District 9
James E. Simms - District 10
Rich Fitzgerald - District 11
Wayne Fontana - District 12
Joe Natoli - District 13

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

Tuesday, November 21, 2000 - 5:04 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

JAMES J. DODARO, ESQ., and
JACOB N. SKEZAS, ESQ., of the law firm of
Dodaro, Kennedy & Cambest, 1001 Ardmore
Boulevard, Suite 100, Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania 15221-5233, appearing on
behalf of the Allegheny County Council.

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Guy A. Tumolo, Chief of Staff
John Mascio, Chief Clerk

- - -

MR. DeFAZIO: The meeting will
come to order. Will you all rise for the
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
(Pledge of Allegiance to the
Flag.)

MR. DeFAZIO: We'll have the
roll call.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?

MR. CROSSEY: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?

MR. FAWCETT: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?

MR. FONTANA: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?

MR. NATOLI: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?

MR. DeFAZIO: He said he'd be a
little bit late, but, you know.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?

MR. SHUMAKER: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?

MR. SIMMS: Present.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?
MS. WAGNER: Here.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Here.
MR. MASCIO: Thirteen members

present.

MR. DeFAZIO: I'd like to have a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on August 23rd, 2000.

MR. MARTONI: I'll move to approve the minutes.

MR. DeFAZIO: Second, Joe?

MR. NATOLI: Second.

MR. DeFAZIO: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Any corrections?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: No? Okay. Thank you. Approved.

We had one Proclamation that was skipped on the agenda. I'll read it.

WHEREAS, in this golden era of magnificent scientific discovery when the great mysteries of the universe are within comprehension and grasp of mankind, it is virtually inconceivable that man would destroy this grand sphere of earth; and men, women and children, both high in authority and those in varied walks of life throughout the world, have crossed oceans and continents in wisdom-provoking discourse, urging world leaders to place aside thoughts of war and conflict in these perilous times, and to seek peace among all peoples; and

WHEREAS, Earl V. Jones, Sr., pursuing this virtuous precept, has committed himself to Peace on Earth, organizing numerous events and activities designed to teach children and the general public the importance of brotherhood and peace; and

WHEREAS, Jones "Peace Through Prayers" campaign will hold a special "Peace Through Prayers" Rally at Point State Park in June, where a diverse group of people together to pray and sing songs of peace in hope that such a public display of prayer and unity will encourage prospects for peace;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Allegheny County Council does hereby commend "Peace on Earth" founder Earl V. Jones, Sr., as well as members of the Peace on Earth Campaign Committee for their tireless efforts on behalf of world peace; and we join them in advocating that peace on earth, indeed, can be achieved through brotherhood and understanding among all peoples.

Sponsored by myself and actually Council.

Earl Jones, will you come up.
(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: (Handing.)

MR. JONES: First of all, I'd like to thank all the Council Members, Council President John DeFazio, all the people involved in the Peace on Earth Campaign. I'd like the Council Members when they go to their constituents to let them know it started here, and I'm honored to have all of you with me.

Here (indicating) is a shirt. This Peace on Earth Campaign's been going for ten years. I gave both Presidential candidates this shirt, so regardless of who wins, they'll have this shirt. Now, Peace on one (indicating) and Pittsburgh's Finest on the other (indicating). And I don't want to get involved with politics, but somebody said they should have a woman run for President. There's your shirt. This is not politics.

(Applause.)

MR. JONES: I'm having a display in the lobby of the City-County Building on December the 4th. This will be enlarged and placed there. The first thing that will be placed on the board will be this.

And if I could say thank you for all the people I'm involved with, and the Council Members, please let your constituents know you started all this up. Thank you very much.

MR. DeFAZIO: Thank you.
(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. We have a Housing Authority 15-minute presentation and report to Council on the activities.

MR. AGGAZIO: Greetings to Council. I'm very honored to be here this evening. My name is Frank Aggazio. I'm Executive Director at the Allegheny County Housing Authority. We have a PowerPoint presentation for the Council today, and I'd like to go through it.

The Allegheny County Housing Authority is fairly funded and regulated by HUD. Some of the important items that we'd like to talk about, and that's in the QHWR Act, the Quality Housing Work Responsibility Act, is the ceiling rents, and those are rents that the Housing Authority sets that help us to keep the working families in public housing. We set a ceiling rent. Thereby they'll be paying less percentage of their income for rent and hopefully stay longer.

The one striking out is very important. It is something that we take very seriously, and strict enforcement of that leads to increased quality of life for our people, our residents.

We're overseen by a five-person Board of Directors. Everything we do at the Housing Authority, planning, modernization, we plan with our residents. We value their opinions, and we listen to what they have to say.

Our budget runs August 1st to September 30th. We have a \$16 million operating budget. There's \$5.2 million in rents, 10 million in HUD subsidy. It looks like there's a deficit there, but there really is not.

We fund much of our Resident Service Department through our Drug Elimination Program. We also are able to tap some development fees and some administrative money in our HOPE VI Program. Our annual Modernization Program is approximately \$7 million, and that's used for capital improvements throughout the County.

Our HOPE VI Program: We have two HOPE VI developments. One is McKees Rocks, a family development in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. There were 288 public housing units there. There will now be approximately 178 units. Seventy-two will be public housing. Approximately 70 will be tax credit. Another 32 will be home ownership. There will be some home ownership up there now. We broke ground in May, and it's ahead of Schedule.

The Public Housing Assessment System: We're evaluated by HUD. The Quality Housing Work Responsibility Act of 1998 mandated that HUD evaluate the Housing Authorities in a different way, by using private-sector management standards.

We're rated on the Public Housing Assessment Program. This has changed. The last rating that meant anything, we received 26 out of 28 A's.

Currently we're evaluated regarding our physical condition. HUD hires a private contractor to come out, and they look at the physical condition of our developments, and there's about 600 items that they look at. We're evaluated on our financial condition. There's also a resident survey that's done. That's done directly from HUD regarding the services that we provide and the quality of housing that we provide. And our management is also evaluated. The management, the finance and the -- there are 30 points, and the resident survey is 10 points.

The Section 8 Program: We manage almost 4,000 units throughout Allegheny County. We exclude the City of Pittsburgh and McKeesport. The Section 8 Program ensures health and safety of the units.

It's important to note that Section 8 units are on the tax rolls. These are units that pay property taxes. In order to be an eligible unit, the owner, the landlord, must be current with his taxes. Last year we approximately expended \$13.9 million to landlords throughout Allegheny County in the form of housing assistance payments for residents.

Our Public Housing Program: We have approximately 3,500 units in 32 communities in Allegheny County. The rent that the residents pay is based on a calculation, 30 percent of adjusted income. The average rent is approximately \$172 a month. The Housing Authority is able to collect approximately over 98 percent of that.

Again, we value the input that Our Tenant Councils and Resident Advisory Boards have given us. We meet with them regularly and value their opinions.

Our Maintenance Department: Each resident has copies. They have an 800 number when they need service. Usually we have stickers that we put on the resident's refrigerator.

We also have a Preventative Maintenance Inspection Program. We also inspect the units. We have a housekeeping inspection as well as a housing quality

standard inspection. Our Maintenance Department as far as our preventative maintenance, our emergency response and the time it takes us to correct a housing quality standard deficiency has exceeded HUD standards.

Our Protective Services Section: We have contracts with about eight municipalities. We've received a HUD Best Practice Award by our security programs. What we do there is we -- there are about eight municipalities we have contracts with, and the police patrol, and we have substations. We put bar codes in strategic locations in the developments, and the police will have a wand where they patrol a certain part of the development and they hit that bar code and that downloads a report to us that at 10 o'clock in the evening the officer patrolled behind Building 7. We did receive a HUD Best Practice Award on that, and it's worked very well, and it's reduced crime approximately 90 percent since 1994.

There's some photos of some of our developments there. I think the photo on the right is the playground in Hays Manor.

That is a photo of Millvue Acres, which is a development in the Borough of Clairton, and we managed to construct a \$700,000 Community Center there. The development was 130 units. We made the development into 72 units, making the units larger. This housing was built in the '40s and '50s, and up to today's standards, they're not really up to today's standards.

Our premise is that low- and moderate-income people have a choice, and you have to provide a quality product in a safe environment, and that's what we tried to do. Each building had six units in them, and we turned them into four units, and they're very spacious, lovely apartments. That community will be finished in spring of 2001.

The next slide is Sheldon-Park, and it's a community in Harrison Township, 192 town house-type units. The one thing I want to say about Sheldon-Park is its very involved Tenant Council, very productive community. The Tenant Council, in fact, contracts with the Housing Authority to do the grass, cutting the grass and the snow removal, and they do a

fine job, and we've been doing that with them for about four years.

That's the community of Burns Heights. That's in Duquesne. It's 172 town house units. Approximately five years ago the renovations were finished. It was about \$11 million.

This was a new Community Center we just opened up on November 13th. It's \$1.4 million. It's in McKees Rocks. Hays Manor. It has a Knowledge Connection Center, a library, a large room for classes and very state-of-the-art center for the residents.

This was an article, a photo in one of the newspapers about three or four months ago, and it was entitled "A New Face of Public Housing." And oftentimes when you're flying into a community and you look down, you see these three-, three-and-a-half-story low-rise-type structures. What we tried to do there is -- that was a three-and-a-half-story low-rise apartment complex that we turned into town houses, and we were nominated for a HUD Innovation Best Practice Award for design on Mapleview Terrace in Braddock. That also should be finished in spring of 2001.

Caldwell Station in Wilmerding is an example of a mixed-income development. There are 18-units there. There are six public housing units. We have a lot of partnerships there. The Borough of Wilmerding is very involved action housing developer, Pennsylvania Housing & Finance Agency service. That's what you can do when you work together and have partnerships.

(At 5:20 p.m., Mr. Ronald Francis, Jr., arrived at the meeting.)

MR. AGGAZIO: That's a picture of McKees Rocks Terrace. The groundbreaking occurred on May 3rd. It will be in two phases. There will be approximately 172 new homes there, and there are about 40 or 50 finished, and we anticipate housing families before Christmas.

We have approximately 18 high-rise communities throughout Allegheny County for the seniors. We have UPMC involved, and they're in the high-rises and provide a health and wellness clinic. There's food banks. We have Visiting Nurses.

I'm going to show you some

examples of some of our high-rises that are in Allegheny County. Golden Towers, that's in Tarentum. That was built in the late '60s. That's Harrison High-Rise. That's actually a Section 8 new construction built in 1978. Ohio View Tower in Stowe Township. Brackenridge Apartments in Brackenridge. West View Towers. That's actually on the site of the old West View Park. West Mifflin Manor, a very nice building right next to a shopping center. Corbett Apartments in Ross Township.

Public housing is changing throughout the country. It's going to more town house design, scattered-site kind of structures. We're trying to compete with the private market to give families a choice.

Currently, to give you an idea of what we do, we have about \$26 million in construction and modernization under way. Next year we're scheduled to do about \$33 million. Homestead Project alone, we leveraged an additional \$20 million to complete that HOPE VI site in the next two and a half to three years.

Success Through Partnerships: We're looking at creative ways to attract funding to the Housing Authority. We've used tax credits. We've used energy performance contracts. We've used the Pittsburgh Foundation.

(At 5:22 p.m., Mr. Richard Olasz, Sr., arrived at the meeting.)

MR. AGGAZIO: Our Goals and Challenges for the Future: Continue with our progress. Continue with our modernization of housing sites. Complete the HOPE VI. What is that Sanders Consent Decree?

FROM THE FLOOR: What about it?

MR. AGGAZIO: That's certainly a challenge for us, and that would be probably a whole nother presentation, but we're managing to go through that and work within the constraints of that.

Last January 12th we received a HUD Secretary QHWRA's Commendation in Washington as a successful performer, providing decent, safe and sanitary housing to the citizens of Allegheny County. Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Thank you.
(Applause.)

MS. REA: Can I just say something?

MR. DeFAZIO: Do you have a question?

MS. REA: No. I just wanted to thank Mr. Aggazio, and tell him anytime I've had to deal with you on issues concerning constituents in my District, your department's been very professional and very helpful to residents, so I really appreciate all the hard work you do.

MR. AGGAZIO: Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: We're down to public comment on the agenda. We have Linda Wambaugh. We only have one speaker on that.

MS. WAMBAUGH: My name is Linda Wambaugh. I live at 1114 Stanton Terrace, Pittsburgh 15201, and on behalf of the Western Pennsylvania Living Wage Campaign, I'd like to thank Council and welcome the opportunity to address the County Council, and I'd like to make my comments in addressing Mr. Roddey as well. Actually, because there's no public process for input into the budget that Mr. Roddey presents, I guess you guys have to take the public comment section, but we do welcome this opportunity to talk with you about the budget in relation to the living wage goal in Allegheny County Administrative Code.

We thank those of you on Council who established the living wage goal as part of the County Code, and we think it's an important goal for quality of life for all of the people in our community, but now is the time, obviously, during the budget process for Mr. Roddey and Members of Council to make sure that we currently budget enough money in the 2001 budget to implement the goal, and we're interested in the Comprehensive Living Wage Bill that Councilman Fitzgerald, Councilman Simms, Councilman Martoni and Councilman Crossey are sponsoring, and we want the money budgeted in order to implement that legislation in 2001.

We're very, very happy and commend Mr. Roddey for saying that he was providing living wages for direct County employees, and it's unclear to us at this time whether that covers full-time and part-time or just full-time County employees, so we're interested in knowing whether the part-time County employees are

covered by living wage as well, and we're interested in making sure that the part-time employees are covered.

There are at least 402 part-time employees designated in Mr. Roddey's budget. We're not sure how many of those are below the living wage, but however many are, we're interested in making sure they make at least the living wage and are provided with health insurance.

One of the reasons for that is that as most people know, in the new economy we're creating more and more part-time jobs rather than full-time jobs which is creating a situation where many families are having to string together numerous part-time jobs in order to try to make a full-time job and to try to make a living, and of course, I don't think any of us are interested in promoting that particular trend. So we want to make sure that there's sufficient money in the current budget to cover all the part-time County employees.

Another major consideration in the budget is the County's contribution for the nonprofit service providers in the living wage legislation that's being proposed by Councilmen Fitzgerald, Simms, Crossey and Martoni. And we know that we can't solve the problem of low wages for caregivers and other low-wage workers that are providing important services for our community, but frankly, we think it's very doable and needs to be a priority in this gigantic budget.

We have a \$638 million budget. The total cost of implementing the Comprehensive Living Wage Bill in 2001 is less than \$2 million, and that would be less than one-half of 1 percent of the total County budget, and we think low-wage workers are for that. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: I've been informed that we have -- I guess there's a mistake. Al Condeluci was scheduled to speak, but I don't see it here. Is Al here?

MR. CONDELUCI: Yes, I am.

MR. DeFAZIO: Come on.

(Applause.)

MR. CONDELUCI: Good evening, Council Members, President DeFazio, Members of Council. Good evening, fellow

citizens. My name's Al Condeluci. I'm the Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy here in Pittsburgh. I've been with UCP for 28 years providing services to people with significant disabilities throughout Allegheny County.

I also come before you wearing another hat. I'm the convener of the Forum of United Way Agencies which Represents the 70 United Way Agencies here in Allegheny County, and I come before you around the problem of living wage issues and quality of care to vulnerable fellow citizens here in our County. This issue is obviously not a new one to this Council. You know that we have a serious problem as it relates to wage inequities for folks who provide human services.

It's important for Council to understand the nature of human service agencies much like UCP. Agencies like United Cerebral Palsy -- and by the way, there are over a thousand, President DeFazio, in our County that provide services to vulnerable constituents, elders, children, folks with disabilities, people who are hungry, homeless individuals. The whole myriad are represented when we talk about human services. And human service agencies, by and large, are nonprofit organizations, with very little ability to increase moneys to their budget other than going out and soliciting donations. Most of us are held hostage by the formulas and by the relationships that we have with governmental contractors, the State and the County. Consequently, one of the struggles that we have and we face is knowing that our employees are falling further and further behind. We can't just raise our rates in order to generate the moneys to pay folks a living wage from increasing products because our product is services to vulnerable constituencies. So one of the things that's a concern to us is obviously not just the fact that people who provide human services are falling behind in the funding arena, but the vulnerability to our fellow citizens who have disabilities, who are elder, who are children, who are hungry and who are homeless.

One of the key things I think we have to understand is that the folks that we employ, agencies like UCP and my fellow colleagues who are here from other

agencies in this County, is that as we find it harder and harder to retain people, to find people coming out willing to work for 6.50 or 6.75 an hour, which is the average pay that most nonprofit agencies are paying their frontline workers, the services to the people we care about are really becoming greater and greater jeopardy that somebody is going to get into a serious crises.

Now, obviously the actions on this are to increase salaries. We know that. This is easier said than done. But we know that this Council is willing to take its first steps in two bold ways. One is to address this issue by giving a boost, an initial boost of moneys into the budget to really help agencies like ours to literally raise the wages of our staff. The other issue is the Living Wage Ordinance. If we hold ourself accountable to this, we know that we will be able then to meet you halfway to do what we need to do to make this happen.

My final point, President DeFazio, is that Hubert Humphrey once said that a society is ultimately measured in the way that it cares for its vulnerable citizens. I hope that when history records this moment, they will say that this Council stepped forward and really in a compassionate way addressed this issue for our vulnerable citizens in this community. Thank you very much, President DeFazio.

(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Now we go on to unfinished business. 0160. We have a motion to extend the implementation date for the new assessments resulting from the Countywide reassessment. Sponsored by Councilwoman Wagner.

Eileen.

MR. FONTANA: Mr. President, it went into the Property Assessment Committee. Just to give you a little update here as to how that happened, as the Chairman of the Property Assessment Committee and also as a Realtor, I received numerous phone calls from my constituents in the public about their confusion about how Sabre arrived at the new value of their homes. Also as Chairman, I received, as you know, a petition from State Representative Dermody with about a thousand signatures asking for a delay in the implementation of

Sabre's revaluation. I also received over 250 surveys from Councilman Schwartz asking for a delay. I'm still receiving, by the way, some of those surveys in the mail.

From that, we decided to have two public hearings on the matter, one on the weekend and one on a week night. We had over 50 speakers overwhelmingly asking for a delay in the implementation of the revaluation system. We had a Committee meeting last Wednesday, and from that Committee meeting, we asked that the motion be brought to the Council floor here tonight and have a vote at this time. Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Eileen.

MS. WAGNER: Mr. President, thank you. Over the last two years, the residents of the County of Allegheny have paid Sabre Systems almost \$24 million for fair revaluation of 600,000 properties. From what we have heard from the residents of this County, we have reason to doubt that we have received what we have paid for.

We have heard from constituents in public hearings that there is a need for a delay. As of last week, Sabre Systems reported 68,000 informal hearings. That's without District 5 being sent out. That's also not considering the 20,000 residents of this County who have not yet received their preliminary notices in other Districts.

Municipalities and School Districts at my public hearing were advised by Sabre Systems not to set their 2001 budget on the 5 percent windfall or tax increase because of the many formal appeals that will take place in the year 2001.

Judge Wettick granted Sabre Systems a delay in June sending out the preliminary notice until August the 25th. I'm requesting Council to ask Judge Wettick for an implementation of a delay so that the Allegheny County taxpayers will have fair and equitable taxes. Isn't this what it's all about, fairness? Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Any other comment?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: No? Seeing no other comment, we'll have the vote.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?
MR. CROSSEY: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?
MR. FAWCETT: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?
MR. FITZGERALD: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?
MR. FONTANA: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?
MR. FRANCIS: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?
MR. GASTGEB: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?
MR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?
MR. NATOLI: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?
MR. OLASZ: No.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?
MS. REA: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?
MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?
MR. SHUMAKER: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?
MR. SIMMS: No.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?
MS. WAGNER: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes, six; noes,
nine. Motion fails.

MR. DeFAZIO: Next is 0167.

Communication from Chief Executive Jim Roddey submitting the names of Roy Kraynyk and David Massaro to serve as members of the Allegheny County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Second reading. In Committee on Economic Development.

Wayne, did you want to --

MR. FONTANA: Yes. Thank you,
Mr. President.

We had an Economic Development Committee meeting this afternoon. There was some confusion about the two names on the agenda that was sent to us by Mr. Roddey. Only Roy Kraynyk participated and came to the meeting. He was recommended affirmatively by the Committee. The second name will have to be looked into at a future Committee meeting, but right now we've recommended Roy Kraynyk to be affirmed by this Council. Thank you. We'll take a vote on just the one.

MR. MARTONI: I'll second it.

MR. DeFAZIO: Chuck seconded it, but it doesn't matter. We're going to take the vote on Ron Kraynyk.

MR. FONTANA: Roy.

MR. DeFAZIO: I'm sorry. Roy.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?

MR. CROSSEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?

MR. FAWCETT: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?

MR. FONTANA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?

MR. FRANCIS: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?

MR. NATOLI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?

MR. OLASZ: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?

MR. SHUMAKER: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?

MR. SIMMS: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?

MS. WAGNER: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes, 15; noes, zero. Motion carries.

MR. DeFAZIO: 0172. Resolution authorizing interdepartmental budget transfers 19 through 22. Second reading. Submitted by the County Manager. In Committee on Budget & Finance.

Mr. Simms.

MR. SIMMS: Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee on Budget & Finance met to discuss the interdepartmental transfers, and we would like to recommend that Council act affirmatively on the recommendation. We're transferring funds from two sources to one to meet the County's match. The Pennsylvania Crime and Delinquency Grant, the County is putting money to match that grant. Second is to pay for expenses at the VFW Convention, and the third is to pay an outstanding debt with Penn Valley

Publishers. I'd like to make a motion that those transfers be approved.

MR. FONTANA: Second.

MR. DeFAZIO: Any remarks? Go ahead.

MR. OLASZ: I see Mr. Webb's in the audience. I'm just curious about that Penn. This is almost two years old, Bob. What crack did you find this in?

MR. WEBB: Pardon me?

MR. OLASZ: This Penn Valley Publishers is outstanding since 1998. It was in your recommendation to pay this.

MR. WEBB: I'm sorry. I'm not prepared for that, but I'll get you an answer.

MR. TOROCKIO: Yes, it just wasn't paid, Councilman Olasz, and it's about time we pay it, don't you think?

MR. OLASZ: Well, I agree, but I just wondered what crack it was in for two years.

MR. SIMMS: We had discussed this -- Mr. President.

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. OLASZ: Thank you.

MR. SIMMS: We had discussed this in the Committee, and that item was reviewed, and we're recommending that we affirmatively act on it.

MR. DeFAZIO: It's been moved and seconded. Do you want to call a vote.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?

MR. CROSSEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?

MR. FAWCETT: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?

MR. FONTANA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?

MR. FRANCIS: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?

MR. NATOLI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?

MR. OLASZ: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?

MR. SHUMAKER: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?

MR. SIMMS: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?
MS. WAGNER: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Ayes, 15; noes,
zero. Bill passes.

MR. DeFAZIO: 0173. An Ordinance authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of adjustable rate demand general obligation bonds, Series C-51, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$16,750,000. Second reading. Submitted by the County Manager. In Committee on Budget & Finance.

Mr. Simms.

MR. SIMMS: Mr. President, we'd like to consider both 0173 and 0174 in tandem, if it's all right with you. They're both regarding the same bond issues.

MR. MARTONI: I'll second it.

MR. DeFAZIO: There's a second to go with 0173 and 0174. Seconded. Under remarks?

MR. SIMMS: Just a couple of comments.

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. SIMMS: This is a bond issue that will allow the County to meet the Financial Plan as submitted by the Budget Director. It funds the Capital Budget. It will level out the debt service for the next two years if we're able to go forward with this. We recommend that we act affirmatively on this, Mr. President.

MR. DeFAZIO: Seeing no remarks, would you take the vote.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?

MR. CROSSEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?

MR. FAWCETT: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?

MR. FONTANA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?

MR. FRANCIS: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?

MR. NATOLI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?
MR. OLASZ: Aye.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?
MS. REA: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?
MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?
MR. SHUMAKER: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?
MR. SIMMS: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?
MS. WAGNER: Yes.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes, 15; noes,
zero. Bills pass.

MR. DeFAZIO: 0176. Motion
Expressing Sense of Allegheny County
Council by requesting that the County
Manager add to the Official Allegheny
County Web site to include budgetary
information to compare and explain the
collection and spending of property taxes
along with the rights of the taxpayer.
Sponsored by Council Member Shumaker. In
Committee on Property Assessment.

Wayne.

MR. FONTANA: Mr. Chairman, the
motion was talked about in our Committee.
We agreed to let it come to the Council
body here tonight for a vote. Thank you.

MR. SHUMAKER: Mr. President,
when I first introduced this, it was for
the purpose of including the information
in the 2001 tax bill, but as the matter
proceeded, it became clear that we're
going to have a hard enough time as it is
with this year's tax bills, there's no
need to add anything to the mix. However,
for the 2002 tax bills, I think that this
is exactly the kind of information that
should be included, and in fact, this
information was included approximately
five years ago when the taxpayers received
their tax bills.

So the purpose of this
particular motion, the reason that I'd
like to see it put on the Web is
essentially as a pilot project to see what
kind of feedback we can get, because as
we've struggled with this budget, I think
we all would agree it's hard to really
conceptualize. So I think that
summarizing the information and making it
available in concise format is, I think,
in the best interest of the taxpayers

because it keeps them better informed as to where their tax dollars are being spent. So for those reasons, I would ask Council's consideration of my motion.

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Crossey.

MR. CROSSEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. DeFazio.

I agree with Mr. Shumaker that, you know, this is really too much to do right now. We've got so many other things going on. And while I think there's some good information in your ideas, what I would ask you to do is if you'd be willing to withdraw this until next year when we get to that point, otherwise, I'm going to have to vote against it because I just think there's too much going right now to throw something on that's a test case.

Mr. Webb said that much of this information, I believe two weeks ago, is already on the Web. I know some of this information is included in the bills that Mr. Weinstein puts out. I would just as soon go through this first budget process and then see where we need to fill in the gaps to further educate the taxpayers and then go with it from there.

MR. SHUMAKER: I appreciate the suggestion. I'm going to decline. I think that, again, we're not talking about anything that's going to take more than an hour or two of some programmer's time to put it up on the Web. It's not going to cost any money or be overly burdensome. And if Mr. Webb would like, he could perhaps discuss the physical details of what would be required and how this proposal differs from what the County presently does. Would that be all right with you, Mr. President?

MR. DeFAZIO: Well, it's up to you. I mean, he's asking you to do one thing. You don't want to agree, so it's up to you. You just want to push it through, you're saying. It's going to be up to the rest of the people here.

Does anybody else have any remarks? Bob, go ahead.

MR. WEBB: My name is Bob Webb, County Manager.

Mr. President, Members of Council, it's been our goal to get as much information on the Web site as we possibly can. Councilman Shumaker has requested that we consider putting the information on in a somewhat different format and to add additional ways in which we display

it.

As I've indicated to him, to the extent that we have the available programming time, we would certainly be willing to do so. It's simply taking public information and displaying it in ways that are currently not available. It is, as Councilman Crossey has indicated, to a certain extent dependent upon our available time given the constraints that we have, but we would certainly take it into consideration and do support putting as much information forward as rapidly as we can.

MR. SHUMAKER: Mr. President.

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. SHUMAKER: Thank you. This is a nonbinding Spirit of Council Resolution. It would be up to the County Manager to implement it when and how he best sees fit.

MR. MARTONI: Can I speak?

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Martoni.

MR. MARTONI: Tom, if I understood your motion, it was for the year 2000 -- it was for next year; right? Not for this year?

MR. SHUMAKER: No.

MR. MARTONI: Okay. That's what I want to understand.

MR. SHUMAKER: Okay. I want you to understand where I'm heading with this. I think that in January of 2002, when we send out the tax bills, or I should say perhaps when the Treasurer mails out the tax bills, that included in those bills should be some additional information that's not presently included. The purpose of putting it out on the Web right now would be simply to get feedback from the taxpayers to see, "Well, you know, this format, we like it. We don't like it. It's confusing. It helps." I think it simply allows, instead of us jumping into this right now, to make sure that when we do -- that when I do go forward with it a year from now, that it's well thought out and it's a smooth transition.

MR. MARTONI: Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Schwartz.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Mr. Webb, I'm trying to think. Last meeting didn't you say this information was already on the Web?

MR. WEBB: As I just mentioned, Mr. Schwartz, the basic information is

available. It's the way in which it's displayed. There are a number of different ways in which one can display this information, and so although all of it is available, it's the way in which one looks at it that I believe is the Sense of the Councilman's proposal.

MR. FONTANA: John.

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Fontana.

MR. FONTANA: Mr. Webb, the change that you're talking about, is that a cost factor there, or is it just --

MR. WEBB: No, there would be no major cost factor. The only consideration at this point is to have the staff with the available time to go at the project.

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. GASTGEB: If I could just comment, again, this is a Sense of Council, and we're using words like "consideration" here, and another word I'll throw in that begins with the letter C is cooperation, and I think Council wants to cooperate on something that is basically harmless and maybe allows for a different mind-set or a different thought. So I'll just leave it at that. Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: No other remarks?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Take a vote.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Crossey?

MR. CROSSEY: No.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fawcett?

MR. FAWCETT: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fontana?

MR. FONTANA: No.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Francis?

MR. FRANCIS: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Natoli?

MR. NATOLI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Olasz?

MR. OLASZ: No.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ: No.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Shumaker?

MR. SHUMAKER: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Simms?
MR. SIMMS: No.
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Wagner?
MS. WAGNER: No.
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio,

President?

MR. DeFAZIO: No.
MR. MASCIO: Ayes, eight; noes,
seven. Motion carries.

MR. DeFAZIO: 0185. New
Business. Ordinance of the County of
Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
granting a license to South Park Township,
for the purpose of installing and
maintaining traffic signal facilities on
County-owned land located at the
intersection of Brownsville Road (County
No. 5050 northward and SR 3013 southward)
and McCorkle Road (County No. 5195) in
South Park Township. First reading.
Submitted by the County Manager. Refer to
Committee on Public Works.

0186. Ordinance of the County
of Allegheny, Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, authorizing the grant of
one (1) right-of-way agreement to Duquesne
Light Company over, under and across
County-owned property leased to the
Allegheny County Airport Authority at
Pittsburgh International Airport for the
purpose of providing electrical service to
the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a
sublessee of the Authority. Submitted by
the County Manager. Refer to Committee on
Public Works. It's the first reading
also.

0187. Ordinance of the County
of Allegheny, Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, authorizing the grant of
one (1) right-of-way agreement to Duquesne
Light Company over, under and across
County-owned property leased to the
Allegheny County Airport Authority at
Pittsburgh International Airport for the
purpose of providing electrical service to
Aviation Facilities Company Inc. (AFCO), a
sublessee of the Authority. First
reading. Submitted by the County Manager.
Refer to Committee on Public Works.

0188. Communication from Chief
Executive Jim Roddey submitting the name
of Kate Buckley to serve as a member of
the Personnel Board. First reading.
Refer to Committee on Personnel & Labor
Relations.

0189. Resolution setting forth
the appropriations to pay the expenses of

conducting the public business of Allegheny County, for meeting debt charges, and for capital expenditures for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2001, and ending December 31, 2001, by adopting an Operating Budget and a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County. First reading. Sponsored by Council Member Simms. Refer to Committee on Budget & Finance.

MR. OLASZ: Mr. Chairman.

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead, Mr. Olasz.

MR. OLASZ: I think you're all in receipt of a letter today from Treasurer Weinstein. I notice he's in the audience this evening. I wonder if he would step forward. I have a couple questions regarding this letter today, Mr. Weinstein.

MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes.

MR. OLASZ: Treasurer Weinstein, per your letter today that I received today, you have indicated because of the auction bidding that you have anticipated additional earnings of approximately \$31,000 for one month.

MR. WEINSTEIN: Correct.

MR. OLASZ: Is this anticipated to carry throughout the whole year?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Well, it's certainly our hope that it would carry throughout the whole year, but this was the first month that we performed the auction, and it's my hope to at least average anywhere between \$20,000 to \$30,000 a month additional revenue.

MR. OLASZ: So it's a safe assumption, then, that we could receive approximately 250,000 additional income that we did not consider?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes.

MR. OLASZ: I hope all Members of the Council take that into consideration.

Furthermore, a question I have, currently there's the \$300,000 budget item for the Assessment Bureau. Now, when this all closes down and that paper's shuffled back, that all becomes your responsibility, doesn't it?

MR. WEINSTEIN: That's correct, yes.

MR. OLASZ: How do you anticipate covering that additional cost?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Well, I had anticipated that in my original budget request to Council, and at the budget hearing, I expressed that, because it's a two-step process. After the Assessment Office processes all the paperwork, it all comes to me. I either have to issue refund checks to the taxpayers, or I have to process new bills to the taxpayers. And I have anticipated that into my budget, which was the reason that I asked for the additional \$300,000 for the positions and the other items that I've identified.

MR. OLASZ: Does Council have any additional questions for him? I'm sure we'll discuss this at another budget hearing.

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Francis.

MR. FRANCIS: I'm sorry, Mr. Weinstein. I didn't see the letter regarding the auction, but what was being auctioned?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Certificates of deposit for investment purposes. We put it on the Internet.

MR. FRANCIS: Okay. And the banks pay on the rate?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Correct.

MR. FRANCIS: Okay. They pay on the rate.

MR. WEINSTEIN: By creating competition, we were able to drive the rate up.

MR. FRANCIS: Right. Like the PNC auction --

MR. WEINSTEIN: Pardon me?

MR. FRANCIS: The PNC has an auction site where they do that?

MR. WEINSTEIN: Well, it's our own auction site --

MR. FRANCIS: Okay.

MR. WEINSTEIN: -- for the County.

MR. FRANCIS: Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Do you have any further questions of him?

MR. OLASZ: Thank you, John.

MR. WEINSTEIN: Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Mr. Simms? Anybody?

MR. SIMMS: We'll discuss this in Committee, Mr. President.

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. 0190. Ordinance establishing the tax levy upon all real property, subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County.

First reading. Sponsored by Council Member Simms. Refer to Committee on Budget & Finance.

0191. Motion Expressing Sense of Allegheny County Council by supporting the initiatives and goals set forth by the Neighbors (NITS) in the Strip and to encourage improvements in the Strip District. Sponsored by Council Member Natoli.

Joe, do you have it?

MR. NATOLI: Yes.

Mr. Chairman, the Neighbors in the Strip, headed by Joe Lagana, is an initiative that is currently seeking State financial support for economic and corridor improvements to the Strip District.

Started in 1999, Neighbors in the Strip seeks Council support for the community revitalization request that will be sent to Governor Tom Ridge.

The Strip District has a rich history and a bright future. I would ask the Members of this Council to support this Sense of Council Motion presented before us.

And also, Joe Lagana's in the audience. I'd like Joe to come up and explain a few things about down in the Strip, the NITS.

MR. LAGANA: Thank you, Councilman Natoli. I'm Joe Lagana. I would like to defer any questions or comments to the person who's going to direct that project if it's funded. That's Becky Rogers.

I appreciate the Committee that heard our presentation a couple weeks ago, and when we were in Harrisburg, a number of Council people were there and saw that we were trying to make our project known at the State level before we actually put the proposal together. The proposal now is in the hand of the Governor, and your support with today's motion would add some reinforcement to that. And I do want to add that there's actually no commitment on your part for any money in this. It's just a matter to show general support. So, Becky, would you want to say anything to that?

MS. ROGERS: Hi. I'm Becky Rogers. Good evening. And I hope you will support this motion.

A little bit about Neighbors in the Strip. Our mission is to preserve and promote the Strip District. It has a rich

history, and it's very important to the region in Pittsburgh. Many of our parents shopped there or visited there, and it's a strong place for economic development in the County.

Are there any questions that I might address?

(No response.)

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, and thank you for your support.

MR. DeFAZIO: Thank you.

MR. MARTONI: I'll second Joe's motion.

MR. DeFAZIO: There's a second. Anything more under remarks?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Let's try to take a voice vote first. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: The ayes have it.

MR. LAGANA: Thank you.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: 0192. Ordinance conveying the Health Department request for County Council's approval to accept the recommendations made by the Board of Health at their September 6, 2000, meeting to approve amendments to Article XXI and adopt the same as an amendment to County Ordinance No. 16782 and approve the proposed addition to the State Implementation Plan. First reading. Submitted by the County Manager. Refer to Committee on Health & Environmental Safety.

MR. FRANCIS: Mr. President, I will have Kate indicate to all of you when we'll have the Committee meeting to consider this. Just please keep in mind that these bills that come from the Health Department cannot be amended. They either have to be voted up or down. To the extent that we'd want to amend them, we'd have to vote it down and send it back to the Health Department bureaucracy for approval. So to the extent that you have any interest in the subject, I urge you to come to the Committee meeting that will be scheduled.

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. 0193. An Ordinance implementing a strict and enforceable system to prevent the illegal sale of cigarettes and other tobacco

products to any individual under the age of eighteen (18). First reading. Submitted by the County Manager. Refer to Committee on Health & Environmental Safety.

MR. GASTGEB: Mr. President, if I could comment on this for the same reasons that my colleague Mr. Francis just outlined, for those of my colleagues that cannot make this Committee meeting, I believe this bill is terribly flawed, and hopefully the Committee structure will show that. Much like Mr. Olasz showed us back in February when the Health Department Bill came here, it really kind of masked what it was trying to do at the expense of business, and this one does the same thing. Before, that was with regard to air quality. This is with regard to tobacco and food. And while I support the concept of it, I'll just tell you that the bill has a long way to go I think to have some soundness. So I look forward to Mr. Francis's Committee meetings. Thank you.

MR. OLASZ: Mr. Chairman, I have to thank my Republican colleague because he does pay attention. That's been seven months ago.

MR. GASTGEB: I'll tell you respectfully, Mr. Olasz, it's hard not to pay attention to you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. 0194. An Ordinance authorizing change in purpose and the use of proceeds of the \$16,755,000 Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority Guaranteed Lease Revenue Bonds (Allegheny County Office Building Project) Series of 1999. First reading. Submitted by the County Manager. Refer to Committee on Budget & Finance.

We now have public comment on non-agenda items, and before I call the first speaker, I want to announce real quick before I do that, as far as the Committee I said I would have here -- this is for the Ethics Committee who will be reporting back to us. I told you that the Chairman would be Jack Daugherty, a member would be John Weinstein, a member would be Jack Shea, David Armstrong, Sue Hamilton, John Amori and Jim Simms. We plan to have these people get started as quick as possible. I hope to have them come back to us and have at least one public hearing, and we will go from there on that.

We will now have --

MR. CROSSEY: Can I make a statement --

MR. DeFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CROSSEY: -- to all of our folks here for supporting living wages before you move to the non-agenda comments? Yes?

MR. DeFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. CROSSEY: Okay. I'd just like to thank everybody that's here in support of living wages. I believe that you have taken a true leadership position here in Allegheny County.

Many people stand by and wait for something to happen. You have not done that. You've shown your commitment to those in our society who really need our help the most, and as individuals and as a group, you have challenged us as elected officials, and I believe that the majority of us here will rise to that challenge. I believe that we as a County Council will put a significant dollar amount into this County budget so that all of our full-time and part-time workers can move to that living wage.

The numbers are changing at times, but I believe that as we reclassify employees and do the things that are necessary, all of our full-time and part-time employees will move to that living wage this year. And we certainly, I believe, have the Sense of Council that we will work with the State legislators and the federal government to get the money that we need to start bringing in the contracted employees. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. For the non-agenda items, we have Harry Liller.

MR. LILLER: I want to voice my opinion against Pennsylvania House Bill 187 which is the Policemen's Bill of Rights. I also want this on public record, that this past year nine Pennsylvania lawmakers were convicted of criminal acts of breaking the law. Here's another one of their cheap laws that will make police above the law. You're not allowed to sue. You're not allowed to do anything. This is wrong.

My sister was brutalized by a Pittsburgh policewoman that the City police always calls to. When she was frisked, she pulls up my sister's shirt, shows her breast to the other police and

they laugh and have a good time. Then the policewoman used a blackjack on my sister's face. This is what goes on. She's part of the lawsuit. Five years now. Where is justice? You always start this meeting with your hand over your heart "with liberty and justice for all." That is a joke in this town.

In this past month the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Panel recommends right to sue to control police minority abuse. Justice has a role when police can be sued for excessive force.

Here in Pittsburgh jury finds Pittsburgh police officer used excessive force, but they only give him a thousand dollars for his health care.

Three convicted, one cleared, in L.A. Police corruption. That's what goes on out in the L.A. Police Department.

Here in Pittsburgh Dravo's Mayor and police officers face trial in corruption charges. Earlier this year four Wilkinsburg police officers kept their cameras turned off while a North Versailles police officer shoots an unarmed African-American to death. Three South Hills Judges have been committing criminal acts fixing cases.

This is the most corrupt county, the most corrupt state in the whole country, and the Pittsburgh FOP is so arrogant, last year -- I'm going to quote this from Fraternal Order of Police Member Jack Linn: During this Lent season it is no secret that County Coroner Cyril Wecht and District Attorney Stephen Zappala have given the news media and selective community groups a police officer instead of Barabbas.

Now, excuse me. This is blasphemy. They're comparing the son of God to a corrupt police officer. Reverend Simms, you can let everybody know what's going to happen to people who commit blasphemy on Judgment Day.

MR. SIMMS: I'm on your side, Harry.

MR. LILLER: I am against this bill, and Jane Orie will not debate me on this. So all you Republicans, go run to the North Side -- North Hills and tell her to quit hiding behind her sister judges' robes and debate the public on this corrupt act.

(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Myron Arnowitt.

MR. ARNOWITT: Good evening, everybody. On behalf of Clean Water Action, I would just like to share a brief comment concerning Mr. Roddey's nominations to the Board of Health. I had thought that perhaps it was going to be on the agenda tonight, but I'm sure it will be before you soon. I just have a few comments concerning them.

While not being critical of the current nominees, Clean Water Action is concerned about the resulting makeup of the Board of Health if these nominations are approved.

As you're aware, the Board of Health oversees critical environmental issues for the County, especially regarding air pollution permits, regulations and enforcement of those regulations. As the Board of Health is the primary body whose mission it is to protect the public's health, Clean Water Action has advocated that at least one member of the Board be an environmental or environmental health advocate with a public interest background. While the current nominees have excellent credentials, if the current nominations are approved, the Board of Health will not have a public interest advocate on environmental issues.

Mr. Paul King, one of the nominees, does bring extensive environmental experience to the Board, which we are sure will be valuable. However, his experience is mainly from the industry side.

We do not mean this as a criticism of Mr. King or as a prejudgment of his views, nor -- and I want to be clear, nor are we calling for his nomination to be rejected. However, we are concerned that with his appointment and the departure at the same time of Art Feiser from the Board, that the only Board member with environmental experience will be from an industry background.

We urge County Council to communicate to Mr. Roddey its desire that he rethink the nominations to the Board of Health and that someone with a public interest background in environmental issues and/or environmental health be included in his list of nominees.

We understand that the Board of Health must deal with a variety of complex issues and that a diversity of experience

is needed. However, we do not feel that the inclusion of at least one environmental advocate is burdensome. In fact, just as the State PUC has a consumer advocate on it, this kind of nomination would provide a benefit to the people of Allegheny County in ensuring that the public health and environment has a clear voice on the Board of Health. Thank you.

I also just want to briefly comment since it did come up for first reading today concerning the proposed changes to Article XXI, the air pollution regulations of the Allegheny County Health Department. I would urge Council Members to approve these regulations as speedily as possible. These are changes that are necessary to get Allegheny County's Operating Permit Program up and running. This has been much long delayed and something which I hope Council can act quickly on.

Clean Water Action supports the proposed changes. We do not support every last sentence, but as Mr. Francis indicated, it's all or nothing at this point, and we certainly support passage of the proposed changes to Article XXI. Thank you.

MR. DeFAZIO: Thank you.
(Applause.)

MR. DeFAZIO: We have one more speaker, but I think you were already up here. Earl, you were already --

MR. JONES: Yes.

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. We have no more business. Would someone like to -- hold it.

MR. OLASZ: Mr. Chairman, this is a point of personal privilege that I've asked for. Unfortunately, I don't see my friend from the Post-Gazette here this evening, and --

MR. NATOLI: He's here.

MR. OLASZ: Oh, there he is. I'll bet you a turkey this isn't in print.

FROM THE FLOOR: We write nice stuff about you.

MR. OLASZ: Approximately 35 years ago when I first entered politics, I ran as the taxpayers' watchdog, and I'm barking tonight, woof, woof. Some time ago the Transportation Committee, under the Chairman of Miss Wagner, we challenged Port Authority for proposing a \$400 million tunnel under

the Allegheny River to service the stadiums. I'll leave that up to you whether you think the taxpayers of Allegheny County are getting their fair share out of that stadium deal. But when you start talking about a tunnel -- I was Chairman of the State Transportation Committee when I was in the legislature, and we have a Turnpike member here this evening. Tunnels are very high maintenance items, so much so that the Turnpike has eliminated them and are undergoing a study to eliminate the Allegheny Tunnel. The Big Dig in Boston is \$2.2 billion over, over budget with only 60 percent of that completed. Now, bear with me. I'll let you know what I'm getting to.

Some months ago we had bids for the demolition of the stadium. In all my years of political life, the bid was always awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Aha, not in this one, baby. One of the former Commissioners happened to have a connection with one of the construction companies that was awarded the highest bid. Who's picking up the tab for that?

We're nickel-diming different items in these budgets, but that's something else. But now here's another classic by the Port Authority. I have a bid sheet here regarding light-rail and other items for the East Busway. Initially the lowest bidder came out, and that wasn't good enough for the powers that be over there to spend your tax dollars. They had another bidding procedure. They then awarded it to another bidder at approximately \$324,000 higher than the previous lower bidder.

Now we come to the LRT. They're in the process of going to reject the lowest bidder again. This lowest bidder, I might add, is approximately \$1 million lower than anyone else. Now, you don't have to be a mathematical genius to follow if the same mathematical progression follows, you will be paying \$5 million more out of the Port Authority budget for an LRT extension, and we're not talking about chump change, ladies and gentlemen, believe me.

I'm asking and I'm going to have a letter written -- I don't care if any of you show up, but I will be there, and I hope the Transportation Chairman is

there -- to the Port Authority to come in and justify all these rebids and the amount of money that they are subsequently going to charge the taxpayers of Allegheny County with. So when that meeting is set up, I hope you all come and attend it and ask them if they are really spending your tax dollar wisely. Think about it.

MR. DeFAZIO: Okay. All business being concluded, do we have a motion to adjourn?

MR. MARTONI: I so move.

MR. DeFAZIO: Second?

MR. FITZGERALD: Second.

MR. DeFAZIO: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. DeFAZIO: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. DeFAZIO: The ayes have it.

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(At 6:15 p.m. the meeting was concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me at the hearing of the within cause and that this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

PATRICIA V. MELLOR
Registered Professional Reporter

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