

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President, Council-At-Large
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco III	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Edward Kress	-	District 3
Patrick Catena	-	District 4
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Dr. Charles J. Martoni	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10 (via telephone)
Paul Klein	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12 (via telephone)
Denise Ranalli-Russell	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 - 5:06 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:

William McKain - County Manager  
Jack Cambest - Solicitor  
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and remain standing for silent prayer or reflection.

After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules? Mr.

Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here --- what?

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means? Ms. Means

is here.

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 14 members present at the moment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Proclamation and certificates. 10350-17.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation congratulating the graduates of the Allegheny County Fire Volunteer

Education, Service and Training Scholarship Program, FireVest. Sponsored by Council Members Ellenbogen and Futules.

MR. MACEY: I'd like to be on that, please.

MR. BARKER: And Mr. Macey. Mr. Martoni, Ms. Means, Palmiere, Ranalli-Russell ---.

MR. FUTULES: Do we have recipients here today for the FireVest? All of you?

MR. MACEY: All the graduates, come on.

MR. FUTULES: How many we got here? Two. Stand up here (indicating) with us.

MR. MACEY: Congratulations.

MS. MACHAJEWSKI: Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: Dr. Bullock, would you like to come up with us?

MR. MACEY: He's the president and CEO.

MR. FUTULES: He's the president of the community college.

Welcome.

This evening, we're honoring cadets --- fire cadets, firefighters for their graduation at the community college that was enacted back in, I believe, 2008, the FireVest program.

And just to warn you, I'm going to ask you to give a little speech.

Okay? So you can think about it while I'm talking --- just a thank you, that's all.

But there are several people in this room that don't know where FireVest came from, including council members, new members.

I was elected back in 2007 in December. And it was around March of 2008 a man by the name of Gary Keenan, he was a Churchill Valley firefighter, he had called me up and he had asked me if there was something I could do for the firefighters in his division. And I said what would you like, Gary? And he thought that he wanted to have passes to the swimming pools and ski resorts at community college.

So I had called up the --- Andy Baechle, our director, and I asked him if we had such a thing and he said no, they don't exist. So Bob and I, we had created legislation to just do that, give the firefighters options to come to the parks for free.

I had sat down with Dan Onorato at the time, and he said there's something else we could do, not knowing

that Jim Roddey, our first chief executive, had started to implement the FireVest program. He never got a chance to enact it because of an election that he had lost, but it sat dormant for several years.

And after we did this FireVest --- or I'm sorry, the swimming pools and the ski resorts, Dan Onorato decided that this was a good opportunity to come forward with the FireVest program and that's how it actually got enacted back in 2008.

And ever since then, literally hundreds of students have come through community college, free of charge, for volunteering firefighters. And your only obligation is to be five years in your fire company. What a great opportunity for young ladies and men to get an education and serve their community.

So us at Allegheny County, we thank you for those efforts.

Bob?

MR. MACEY: Sure. Thank you, Nick.

And what's more important, in a sense, is that all of our volunteer fire departments are looking for volunteers, and it's tough. We're not getting the volunteers we once had. There used to be 300,000 volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania. Now we're down to about 50,000. It's a lot of work for such a short group of people, for fundraising, raising money for outfits, bunker gear that can cost as high as \$10,000.

Here's where the taxpayers benefit. We, as volunteers --- and I'm a volunteer fireman. We as firefighters, save the taxpayers in Allegheny County \$64 million through our fundraising and the purchasing of equipment and all the work that we do. So it's important.

And we're there to serve. We're there to protect and we're there to help you in the case of an emergency. So thank you all for being here, and thanks for supporting us. And thank God to our volunteers and community college. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Dr. Bullock, would you like to say a few words?

DR. BULLOCK: Good evening. To our council, it is an honor to be with you tonight and to share in the recognition and the celebration of our 11 graduates, two being represented here tonight.

When you think about the history and the purpose of the community college and the work that we're doing to support the volunteer program and a chance for the volunteers to provide a quality service to their respective community, and in return, enter the college to earn a credential with all the support, tuition and fees covered.

Many of our graduates have completed degrees in the areas of criminal justice, nursing, information technology. Although they did five years volunteerism in the fire service, they are provided the opportunity to further advance their career, many staying on as volunteers, but also entering other careers that, in turn, will provide additional reinforcement within that community.

So on behalf of the college leadership, the board of trustees and the council, we want to personally thank you for your ongoing support. We are very pleased to be in this partnership and look forward to serving many more. And to date in review of the numbers that have completed this task thus far, we have a total over 350 graduates. So that is a great accomplishment over the last eight years, so congratulations to all.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: And with that, cadets, I will read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is home to more than 200 volunteer fire companies; and

WHEREAS, in Allegheny County, volunteer firefighters protect over 910,000 people and save the taxpayers of this county an estimated \$60,000 a year --- \$60 million, I'm sorry. \$60 million, there's a little difference.

WHEREAS, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities, in 2008, the Allegheny County Fire Volunteer Education Service and Training Scholarship Program, FireVest, was established through a partnership between Allegheny County Fire Academy and the Community College of Allegheny County through the CCAC Allegheny County Workforce Allegiance; and

WHEREAS, 200 FireVest scholarship covering tuition fees and books are offered each year, 150 for new recruits in exchange of five years for their volunteer service and 50 for the existing volunteer firefighters, in

exchange for an additional five years of service in Allegheny County.

WHEREAS, FireVest scholarships' recipients have majored in programs such as fire science, administration, criminal justice, criminology, business management, nursing and more.

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, does hereby congratulate the graduates --- graduates, Allegheny County Fire Volunteer Education Service and Training Scholarship Program. We commend you for your dedicated service and sacrifice in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Allegheny County.

And this is sponsored by Jim Ellenbogen, myself and Bob Macey and others here today, on October 24th, 2017.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Now it's your turn.

MR. MACEY: Say your name and what department you ---.

MS. MACHAJEWSKI: My name's Tyler Machajewski and I'm from Millvale Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you to everybody for your support, everybody on council, Allegheny County, my family --- little cheering section over there. Thank you to everybody.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Tell us who you are and where you're from.

MR. TROCKI: I'm Joe Trocki from West Deer One Volunteer Fire Department.

I just want to say thank you to everyone, it was a great privilege, and I really appreciate it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Let's go over there and take your pictures.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 10351-17.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation proclaiming October 2017 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and commending the efforts of the Glimmer of Hope, National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Sponsored by Council Members Kirk, Baker, Catena, DeFazio,

DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Futules, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Means, Palmiere, Ranalli-Russell and Walton.

MS. KIRK: Hi. So we want to recognize the entire council and the woman caucus of the council, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer is a terrible disease causing so much suffering throughout the country and throughout the world, and we have some women here today who represent a couple organizations that have done wonders, not only in the treatment and providing material, but the awareness that's so critical. I --- I've met women lately, who never did a mammogram. And suddenly, they're 70 years old and said I'm going to do one. And that is saving lives and a lot of suffering.

This month is especially sensitive to me because my sister-in-law was just diagnosed last month, and --- but she is very thankful in this process that there are so many resources available to her now because of organizations like the Glimmer of Hope and the Komen --- Komen for the Cure Foundation.

And --- and I think Denise, you had a relative just ---

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: I have a cousin ---

MS. KIRK: --- recently diagnosed.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: --- that was just diagnosed.

MS. KIRK: And we all have, so we wanted to take this moment to just really give thanks and recognize these women and their organizations for all they've done for breast cancer awareness and --- and had --- football players are wearing pink socks.

You know?

So --- so the word is out there. We have our pink on. With that said, if you'd like to read the proclamation, Sue.

MS. MEANS: WHEREAS, organizations across Allegheny County and the United States come together every October to spread the important message of breast cancer awareness; and

WHEREAS, the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was founded in 1985 to promote mammography as a weapon in the fight against breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, despite the considerable progress made in screening, early detection and better treatments, and although mortality rates are steadily decreasing, breast

cancer is still the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in our country; and

WHEREAS, knowing the risk factors for breast cancer, which include family and personal history, obesity, genetic changes and prior exposure to radiation, as well as exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy, balanced diet and body weight, regular diagnostic screening may lower or mitigate the development of breast cancer; and

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: WHEREAS, Allegheny County, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, stands with our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends, and we recognize all who have joined their loved ones in fighting their battle, as well as the advocates, researchers and healthcare providers whose care and hard work gives hope to those living with breast cancer. By educating ourselves and supporting innovative research, we will improve the quality of life for all Americans affected by breast cancer and one day defeat this terrible disease; and

WHEREAS, several local nonprofits are dedicated to standing in solidarity with breast cancer survivors and reaffirm their commitment to raising awareness of this disease and to advancing research efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh-based nonprofit, A Glimmer of Hope Foundation, was established in 1994 by Diana Napper to honor her best friend, and uses a teardrop crystal topped with a pearl to symbolize pain and hope for a cure. A Glimmer of Hope Foundation has donated over \$3 million for breast cancer projects to local hospitals and cancer research centers in Southwestern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, NSABP Foundation, Incorporated, with a location in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a not for profit academic research organization that conducts research studies in breast and colorectal cancer. The NSABP has enrolled more than 110,000 women and men in clinical trials with breast and colorectal cancer.

MS. KIRK: AND WHEREAS, The Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists who fight to save lives, empower people, ensure quality of life for all and energize science to find cures. Since its founding in 1982, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure screen --- has come through --- has funded more than \$800,000 in research and



provided more than \$1.6 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide; and

NOW, THERE IT BE RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby join the nation in proclaiming October 2017 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We commend the efforts of the Glimmer of Hope, National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, NSABP, and The Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and we encourage all citizens to join in activities that will increase awareness of what Americans can do to prevent and control breast cancer.

Sponsored by all the members of the council.

So that said, Diana Napper from Glimmer of Hope is going to say a few words.

(Applause.)

MS. NAPPER: Thank you very much for the honor. I appreciate it and thank you.

MS. KIRK: You could've said a few more words.

MS. NAPPER: That's okay.

MS. KIRK: And Marguerite?

MS. BONAVENTURA: Thank you very much for the honor. I represent the Komen organization at this time.

You ladies summed it up beautifully, I have to say. It is a devastating disease, but we are making strides thanks to all three of the organizations who are named in your proclamation. We appreciate this and thank you very much.

MS. KIRK: And isn't it great that all these organizations work together for a single cause? And that's --- that's grounds for applause right there, that they work together.

(Applause.)

MS. BONAVENTURA: Thank you. Should we get a picture?

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Yeah, go ahead. You might as well start up. We have one additional proclamation that I'd like Mr. Kress to present at this time, provided that there's no objections. That's 10370-17.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation recognizing the efforts of the Alzheimer's Association and its volunteers to help raise funds and promote awareness in the fight against Alzheimer's, and we urge citizens to participate

in the 2017 Pittsburgh Walk to End Alzheimer's. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.

MR. KRESS: How are you doing today? Thank you very much, and this proclamation actually has a personal meaning for myself. I know a lot of people suffer from diseases, but my mom currently suffers from Alzheimer's. For the last ten years, she's had the disease. Also, with my aunt too, and my grandmother died from the disease Alzheimer's.

So that's the reason why I'm presenting this proclamation today because we're also going to have a walk for Alzheimer's, and we want to raise money to help fight the disease.

Alzheimer's is a horrible disease, but there's other horrible diseases also. And --- but it's just one of these diseases that, as our population ages and people live longer, we need to make sure we have the support there for the people who have Alzheimer's. That's the reason why, as a county official, I'm working with the county administration to make sure we have those services available for the people. But I want to read this proclamation

WHEREAS, as many as five million Americans including 270,000 Pennsylvania are now living with Alzheimer's disease, a progressive degenerative disease of the brain causing memory loss and impaired thinking, judgment and behavior; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's, for which there is no cure, is the 6th leading cause of death for older adults in the United States, and is the most common form of dementia; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Pennsylvania Chapter, is active in the battle to eliminate Alzheimer's disease by raising money for the advancement of research, providing care and support for all affected and reducing the risk of dementia through their advocacy and promotion of brain health; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of residents from Allegheny County will come together on Saturday, November 4th at Heinz Field on Pittsburgh's North Side to raise awareness and funds through the 2017 Pittsburgh Walk to End Alzheimer's event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council applauds the efforts of the Alzheimer's Association's volunteers to raise funds and

promote awareness in the fight against Alzheimer's and we urge citizens to participate in the 2017 Pittsburgh Walk to End Alzheimer's, learn more about the disease and become an advocate to move the Alzheimer's Association cause forward.

And this is sponsored by our council and this on October 24th, 2017.

So thank you, now ---.

(Applause.)

MR. KRESS: I have two people here from the Alzheimer's Association, Alyssa Marsico and Adriane Deithorn. Did I get that right? Okay. Good. You can come up and ---.

MS. MARSICO: I just wanted to thank Councilman Kress and thank everybody for having us here today. Our walk is November 4th and we are actually across the street from Heinz Field this year at Stage AE, due to some construction concerns.

So we will hope to see everybody there and I'm proud to report that only two weeks out, we are 67 percent to our goal of over \$500,000.

(Applause.)

MS. MARSICO: Research --- thank you. Thank you.

Those funds raised allow us to provide free programs and services to those affected by the disease, their loved ones and their caregivers. We can perform one on one care consultations where people can learn more about the diagnosis, so I would love to see everybody come out on November 4th, and my goal is to bring a top 30 nationwide walk banner back to Pittsburgh. So here's to hoping.

(Applause.)

MR. KRESS: All right. It's picture time.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10352-17, and the rest of the proclamation will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 10352-17. Proclamation proclaiming Saturday, October 14th, 2017 to be "Adeline O'Laughlin Day" in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10353-17. Proclamation congratulating the Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania for celebrating its 35th anniversary, and the Generations program for

celebrating its 20th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Klein.

10354-17. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Jack William Urso of Boy Scout Troop Four upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Means.

10355-17. Proclamation congratulating the Berkeley Hills Volunteer Fire Company upon the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10356-17. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Adam Richard Kusluch of Boy Scout Troop Four upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Means.

10357-17. Certificate Achievement awarded to Peter Koltas of Boy Scout Troop 323 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

10358-17. Proclamation congratulating Softer Side Seminars for celebrating its 15th anniversary, and Woman to Woman Empowerment Symposiums for celebrating its 10th anniversary on November 4th, 2017. Sponsored by Council Member Walton.

10359-17. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Gia R. Tatone upon the occasion of becoming a finalist for the TAZ Award for her book "Coraopolis". Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10360-17. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Sean Marcoz of Boy Scout Troop 85 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

10361-17. Proclamation honoring the life and legacy of Wendell G. Freeland and proclaiming Saturday, November 4th, 2017 to be "Wendell G. Freeland Day" in Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive and Council Member Walton.

And 10362-17. Proclamation congratulating St. Alexis Parish in McCandless upon the momentous occasion of the congregation taking the initiative to make their vision and dream a reality by opening the new Saint Alexis Parish building on Sunday, October 22nd, 2017. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

MR. FUTULES: Public comment on agenda items, I believe we have none.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

MR. FUTULES: Approval of the minutes, 1066-17.

MR. BARKER: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 12th, 2017 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

MR. FUTULES: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Presentation of appointments, 10363-17.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Sharon Adams to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for South Park for a term to expire on December 2nd, 2019. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Where are we at?

MR. FUTULES: Mr. Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. I just wanted to say that Sharon's been Madam Chairman over there at South Park's Council of Friends for a couple years now, and she's done an excellent job and I'm --- I'm happy and proud to recommend her and I move for approval.

MS. MEANS: Second.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FUTULES: Voice vote?

MS. MEANS: Yeah.

MR. FUTULES: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. What are we on? We're down to 10358 ---.

MR. FUTULES: 64 --- 64-17. 10364-17. That's where we're at.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here, read that one off Nick, please.

MR. FUTULES: Go ahead, Jared. Read it.

MR. BARKER: 10364-17. Approving the reappointment of James W. Converse to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for South Park for a term to expire on December 2nd, 2019. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Councilman Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. I --- again, Jim has been a member of --- of the Friends for quite a while now and does an excellent job and I'm proud to --- I'm proud to recommend him and move for approval.

MS. MEANS: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
10365-17.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Kenneth Allhouse to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization of North Park for a term to expire on October 25th, 2019. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kirk?

MS. KIRK: I'd like to recommend --- (adjusts microphone) --- I'd like to recommend Ken Allhouse. He'll be a great asset to the Friends of North Park. He's been a volunteer with the organization for many years. He has a degree in science, forest science, from Penn State, also enjoys being in the park a lot for recreation, so he has a nice balance. So I move to approve his appointment.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
Unfinished business, 10341-17.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017, Submission 09-17. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein, do you have any ---?

MR. KLEIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. At its meeting on October 18th, the Committee on Budget and Finance, after due consideration, did affirmatively recommend that this Council approve this resolution submitted by the Chief Executive. And at this time, I ask for Council to approve that resolution.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll have the roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?  
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, nos zero. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison reports, anybody --- Representative Means.

MS. MEANS: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. President.

I wanted to thank the administration and the county executive for hosting a tour of Bethel Park --- I'm sorry, Mount Lebanon Township on October the 17th. It was a wonderful event. It was just wonderful to tour Mount Lebanon and see the projects that have been completed that the county helped with and some ideas for future projects. And it was just a wonderful event, and I wanted to thank Mr. McKain and the administration for organizing that.

I also had --- with Councilman Pat Catena, I had the pleasure of attending on Saturday the grand opening of the new off-leash dog park in South Park, and it just was absolutely wonderful. We --- there was a lot of in-house work done.

And I was just --- and --- and for anyone that's concerned, there is a --- there's two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs. And I was amazed at how --- how many dogs there are in Allegheny County. I think they were all there at the park.

But it was a wonderful event and the county and the county workers should all be very proud of the work they did, and it was a wonderful and well thought out. The signage is great. There's water and it's --- and there was even bags so that you can clean up after yourself. So come and see it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Baker?

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Mr. President. Just a couple quick updates from District One. Last night we had a state of Ross Township event at the community center that was really good, followed by the first ever Ross and West View trivia night, which I hosted. It was very fun, a lot of good information.

Cindy Kirk --- Councilwoman Kirk, I think you'd be a frontrunner to win next year, but --- okay.

But it was --- it was a fun event and I think something that could be good in other districts. It was a great way to build awareness and --- of all the interesting things that are going on in --- in all of our communities.

I was happy to have Councilman Catena join me at our legislative breakfast at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden which is in both --- both of our districts. That was a great event last Monday. The county executive was there, Representative Kulik, and legislative leaders from throughout our --- both of our districts, and that was a big success. We're appreciative to everyone that was there for that.

Thanks to the Ross Economic Development Group for having me as their speaker last week. And Aaron Pittman, I know, has been on the Senior Fair Tour, so we've had some good senior fairs throughout the district. Representative Don Costa had a great one, and then Aaron was at --- Representative Mustio and Senator Reschenthaler's last Friday, as well.

And we filmed our 7th episode of get involved, Moon Township, a little public access show that I host in the district in Moon Township and that was last week and we had the --- the next Mayor of Coraopolis was on the show, a student from --- from Robert Morris who heads up the Never Forget 9/11 project there. We had somebody from the Airport Chamber. And then Gwen Ogle, who I think Sam knows and a few of you might know, who helped start the Lifespan Senior Center in North Fayette.



So the show's always a good time. It's free for everyone to watch on --- on MCA TV and we always have a good time on the show. I think Sam, out of this crew, he's the only one that's been joining me on the show. But we'd love to have any of you, if you ever want to come on the public access show. So thanks, Mr. President. That's all for tonight.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No --- seeing no more on liaison reports, we'll move on to 10367-17.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance authorizing Department of Public Works to take certain actions on behalf of County Council with respect to the issuance of highway occupancy permits, the grant of certain licenses, rights of entry and easements, and the amicable acquisition of certain real estate affecting County public works projects and other matters for calendar years 2018 and 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to Public Works Committee. 10368-17.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying a new regulation of the Allegheny County Health Department promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to county departments of health under the Pennsylvania Local Health Administration Law. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. 10369-17.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be --- also be referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

New business motions --- seeing none, notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: None. Public comment on general items. Do you want to read ---?

MR. BARKER: We have three. The order has changed, however. Ms. Janet Thomas will be first.

MS. THOMAS: Do you all get copies (indicating)? I made one for each one of you, and there's one extra, too, for you.

Can you all hear me? Oh, they're (indicating) just standing up to support me. Thank heavens.

Okay. Good evening. My name's Janet Thomas and I'm here to ask you to approve the resolution to support redistricting reform in Pennsylvania. Thanks for hearing me out, and thanks to the three council members who voted on October 10th to support this resolution.

I recently moved back to the area and currently live in the Hill District. When I returned to Pittsburgh, I joined Fair Districts PA. FDPA is a group of citizens who want Pennsylvania to reform its redistricting rules to allow competitive elections and partisan fairness so that our government truly is of, by, and for the people.

In my life, I've been a republican, an independent, a green and a democrat, not necessarily in that order. I look at issues from many different sides and conclude that damage from gerrymandering is a nonpartisan issue. It affects us all.

So many good policies have overwhelming support from people of all parties, but too many times, our elected representatives vote in the exact opposite direction from what their constituents want.

For example, Medicare --- 84 percent of republicans, 92 percent of democrats, per a poll, favor either maintaining or increasing Medicare funding. Yet the proposed 2018 federal budget includes \$470 billion in cuts to Medicare.

Another example, a mere 12 percent of Americans believe that the wealthy need additional tax cuts. Sixty-two (62) percent of us think that they should pay more. That's Wall Street Journal, NBC poll. Yet in the current tax reform proposal, 80 percent of tax cut dollars will go to the wealthiest among us.

Our elected officials aren't listening to us much anymore because sitting in safe districts, gerrymandered districts, they don't have to. Instead, they get their marching orders from their party bosses and wealthy donors, and we all pay the price.

Gridlock worsens in Harrisburg and --- in Pennsylvania and in Washington, DC. And just moving back into the state, it's pretty dire, it seems, in Harrisburg. People feel powerless and voter turnout continues to go down and the will of the people is ignored.

We can do better than this and we have to do better than this if we want to reclaim our country as a

democratic republic. So please approve the resolution to support redistricting reform in Pennsylvania. And thanks to the following who signed up on October 10th, Paul Klein, John Palmiere and Bob Macey. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. BARKER: Next is Lydia Balogh.

MS. BALOGH: Can you hear me?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. BALOGH: Thank you. My name is Lydia Balogh. I live in Mount Lebanon and I'm a registered republican.

I want to speak to the issue of redistricting, also known as gerrymandering. By now, I'm sure you've seen the map of Pennsylvania US Congressional District Number Seven, also known as Goofy kicking Donald Duck.

Have you seen it? For your viewing pleasure --- pass it around.

If you haven't seen it, here it is along with the 18th, which is my district. That would be parts of Allegheny, Green, Westmoreland and Washington Counties. There are four counties in the 18th District. We're getting to look like Goofy.

When I saw the image of the 7th, my first thought was obscene. The second word that came to mind was bastardization of what it means to redistrict. My third thought was I need to know more. What was a simple process of redistricting for population distribution has now become a process of politicians picking and packing voters based on party affiliation, a lot of Ps.

I'd like to know why we, the people, should be tolerating such disparity and incongruity in our districts. Mount Pleasant is very different from Mount Lebanon. Gerrymandering pushes candidates into hardened political positions.

I want you to think about pro and anti-gun, pro and anti-abortion, pro and anti-anything. It's easy because the messages tend to be simple and they're bold.

Gerrymandering means that there is little need for transparency to actually legislate or to compromise. Gerrymandering districts become safe places for reelection and fundraising. Gerrymandering's lack of need for compromise results in gridlock. A fine example today is

our majority rule general assembly's inability to pass a budget --- party gridlock.

Ultimately, this gridlock will affect Allegheny County's ability to count on state funding and effectively govern. Pennsylvania General Assembly has been unable to pass a budget. How can we trust them to effectively redistrict? I believe there are general assembly members right now who would prefer the districts to remain as is.

Power seems to be more important than we, the people. Is party power more important than doing the right thing? I sincerely question the patriotism of those who prefer the status quo of the reform of Pennsylvania redistricting.

Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have caught the eye of the nation and it is hard work of people like yourselves with working with businesses, foundations, schools, the city and the neighborhoods to make this happen. I believe you're all invested in the true interests of our county and our Commonwealth and our country, and you will do the right thing and support the resolution.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Larry Wolfson.

MS. BALOGH: You can keep the map.

MR. BARKER: Larry Wolfson?

MR. WOLFSON: Hi, my name is Larry Wolfson. I'm from Shaler.

Redistricting legislation that we've been talking about is now in the General Assembly, as Senate Bill SB22 and House Bill HR722. These bills seek to establish a process to remove partisan politics from redistricting and have district lines that allow fair elections in every district.

Currently in Pennsylvania, US Congressional Districts are defined by the majority party in Harrisburg. The State House and Senate Districts are defined by a five member commission consisting of the majority and minority leaders of the house and senate and a fifth person chosen by those four. How has that worked out?

Typically, in more than half of the state, senate and house races, there's only one major party candidate, so there's no choice in the general election.

Despite high dissatisfaction, voters can't vote for alternatives. So increasingly, they don't vote.

SB22 and HR722 change that. These bills propose both a federal and state districts be drawn by a single commission consisting of 11 members, four registered with the largest political party, four registered with the second largest political party and three --- not registered with either of those parties.

Qualifications for membership on the commission look back three or five years and include continuous registrations with the same political party or being unaffiliated, voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections, not held elective public office or been nominated, not been a paid staff member or paid consultant to government or a politically active group, not registered as a federal or state lobbyist. And some of these qualifications apply to spouses and family members as well.

Selection of the commission members is largely randomized, including some possible preemptive eliminations by the politicians and must reasonably reflect the racial, geographic and gender diversity of Pennsylvania.

In drawing district boundaries, the commission cannot consider prior election results, party affiliation of registered voters or addresses of incumbents. Commission meetings are open to the public. At least four public hearings must be conducted in different geographic regions. Commission approval of the final map requires at least seven yes votes, including at least one yes vote from each of the three groups comprising the commission.

Following service on the commission members and in some cases, spouses, are ineligible for some of the same offices and employment restricted in the qualifications.

Ben Franklin said that we have a republic and challenged us to keep it. We are not meeting his challenge, partly because gerrymandering is endemic in our politics and complacently accepted as the norm. This legislation must be --- must be done to restore fair, largely nonpartisan district lines.

Passing of this resolution --- passing resolution in support of this legislation is a significant step. We urge the council to take that step. We will thank you. All of Pennsylvania will thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein.

MR. KLEIN: Just a couple of words as --- as one of what might now appear to be eight sponsors of this, you --- you got our attention. And I thank all of you for coming out and standing as one and we --- we certainly hear you, and --- and thank you for your interest in your engagement. It's important to know that there are people out there who really care. So thank you again.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make a motion to adjourn?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. KRESS: Seconded.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:53 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.

Valerie Gregory  
Court Reporter

Valerie Gregory