

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. Defazio	-	President
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Patrick Catena	-	District 4 (Via Telephone)
Sue Means	-	District 5 (Via Telephone)
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Denise Ranalli-Russell	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 - 4:59 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:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services  
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council  
Solicitor  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff  
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting will come to order. Will you all 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: Okay. We'll have the 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. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	I'm here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:	Present.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Pالموسينا?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:	Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 15 members present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11138-19.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation congratulating Mr. JJ Richardson for being named the 2019 Big Brother of the Year. Sponsored by Council Members Baker, DeMarco, Kirk and Klein.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thanks, Mr. President. We're here with just a wonderful human being, JJ Richardson, who is an attorney by trade and a community do-gooder by passion and all the great things that he does in --- in our community.

JJ is being honored today for being the 2019 Big Brother of the Year in Pennsylvania which is amazing out of thousands of Bigs across the --- across the commonwealth. It's really terrific. The neat thing about JJ Richardson is that he's a former Little himself and when you talk about a Big Brothers, Big Sisters success story, I don't know that you get better than going from being a little to going to be a big to being on the recruitment board, to being chair of the recruitment board, to being on the board of directors to being president of the board of directors to being Big of the Year in Pennsylvania. That's pretty incredible.

(Applause.)

Mr. BAKER: That's a pretty incredible, remarkable Big Brothers, Big Sister story. And JJ does so much good, he's a former board chair of Pittsburgh Cares, vice president of PUMP, the Pittsburgh Urban Magna Project, chaired a state-wide young leaders conference that we had back in '06-'07. So just does incredibly good things and his little brother, Jayon is --- and Leon, you've kind of become a big to both of them at this point but Jayon and Leon are just a dynamic duo. And I believe Jayon will be going on a full ride to a college very close to where you went to school. You went to John Carroll and he's going to a school very close by as well. So very proud to --- to honor JJ here today. Council Members Kirk and DeMarco are joining me in this Proclamation, if --- if anybody, Cindy, would want to read it? That's JJ.

MS. KIRK: Oh, yeah.

MR. BAKER: Cindy Kirk.

MS. KIRK: You're just a very big, big guy. Look at this.

MR. BAKER: It's hard to picture him as a Little but he was a Little at one time.

MS. KIRK: Yeah. You were probably little, about this high (indicating), too.

A Proclamation congratulating the 2019 Big Brother of the Year.

WHEREAS, we cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future. This quote by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt not only illustrates responsibility that our society has towards rising generations and the potential they possess, but also the duty that each person who takes on the role of a mentor or a guide welcomes so valiantly and;

WHEREAS, each year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pennsylvania selects a one, deserving big brother who exemplifies the best of the one-to-one mentoring.

WHEREAS, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Pennsylvania has elected Mr. John, otherwise known as JJ Richardson, the 2019 Big Brother of the Year and;

WHEREAS, once a little brother himself, Mr. Richardson has been involved with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Pennsylvania for over 30 years, becoming a Big Brother and establishing himself within the BBBS recruitment board shortly afterwards. Then going on to serve as the chair of the male recruitment advisory board for two years, while also serving on the organization board of directors.

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson eventually served as vice president of the board and in 2016, went on to assume the role of president of the BBBS board of directors for two years.

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson, an attorney with Bernstein-Berkley, P.C. in Pittsburgh, has served his big brother for more than eight years and has been with little brother, Jayon for the past four years and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson and little brother Jayon have enjoyed a variety of fun and worthwhile experiences such as working out, watching sports, talking about school and football training and eating out while creating a lifetime of memories.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Allegheny Council Members Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein, do hereby congratulate Mr. JJ Richardson for being named the 2019 Big Brother of the Year. We commend him for his continued dedication serving as a positive role model, supporting vulnerable children and helping them succeed. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you. Members of Council, thank you very much. I'm honored to receive this Proclamation, this recognition. I think the two things

that mean the most to me about this are, number one, it's a reflection of the hard work and self-discipline that my little brother Jayon displayed over four years. If it weren't for him and his successes and the turnaround that he made in his life, no one would've ever mentioned as a possible Big Brother of the Year. So I'm very proud of him and I accept this on his behalf as well.

The other thing that I'm very pleased about this is the recognition --- is the light that it shines on an organization that it means a lot to me. And I think you can --- I've forgotten half of those positions that I --- that I had apparently with this organization because it's been a long time, but I think it demonstrates that this is an organization that means a lot to me. It's had a major impact on my life. It's an organization that I believe deserves more recognition and more support, both in the city and the County, and that's what I work for very hard, is to help support that organization.

So any recognition that we, as a --- as an organization receive, whether it's in the form of Proclamations, individual awards or otherwise, is a great help and I thank Council for recognizing us as a group and I appreciate your continued support. Thank you.

(Applause).

(Pictures taken).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11139-19.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation congratulating Ms. Lacey Ecker for being named the 2019 Big Sister of the Year. Sponsored by Council Members Baker, DeMarco, Kirk and Klein.

MR. BAKER: Mr. President, Lacey is in the building and she said the doors are locked, so we're going to find Lacey and she'll be here in just --- just a minute or two, yeah. So were going to --- were going to track her down.

MR. FUTULES: We'll postpone it.

MR. BAKER: Okay. Yeah, that'd be great.

MR. FUTULES: Yep.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. We'll move down to, that the remaining certificate will be read into the record. 11140-19.

MR. BARKER: A Certification of Recognition presented to Katherine Kulik upon the momentous occasion of her 90th birthday. Sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment on agenda items?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Presentation of appointments, 11141-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Representative Sara Innamorato to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority to fill a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 11143-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of the Honorable Randy Vulakovich to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority Board to fill a vacancy for a term effective through December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11144-19.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. For 11143, refer to the Committee on Appointment Review as well?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. BARKER: Thank you. 11144-19. Approving the reappointment of Joseph Serrao to serve as a member of the Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review for a term to expire December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 11145-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Julie Derence to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term effective through December 31st, 2024. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 11146-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Debra L. Romanelli to serve as a member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for a three-year term ending on December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. Okay. 11141-19 (sic).

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Ellen Wright to serve as a member of the Council of Friends

organization for North Park for a term to expire on July 10th, 2021. Sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review.

MR. FUTULES: John, our recipient is here for the ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. You can ---.

MR. BAKER: Okay. Yeah. Thanks, Mr. President. Yeah, so I don't know if --- if the clerk wants to --- do you want to go back to that?

MR. BARKER: I --- at the President's discretion

MR. BAKER: Oh, right.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. BAKER: Okay.

MR. BARKER: That'd be 11139-19. A Proclamation congratulating Ms. Lacey Ecker for being named the 2019 Big Sister of the Year. Sponsored by Council Members Baker, DeMarco, Kirk and Klein.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. All right. Lacey Ecker is in the building and she is here. Lacey Ecker is also absolutely terrific. You got to learn about JJ Richardson a couple minutes ago. Lacey has been a Big Sister with us for a number of years. She is being recognized for being the Big Sister of the Year in Pennsylvania.

I will say part of the vetting process for Lacey and JJ to be Big of the Year in PA is first winning Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, we walk into a room that we put up on board basically 15 to 20 of the names of the nicest human beings you've ever met and to really come out of Pittsburgh as our nominee to go to the state level is --- it's pretty remarkable.

Lacey is a very active Big Sister. I've gotten to know Janiyah as well over the years which --- which has been awesome. She is president of our young professional board which is a group that had a \$35,000 goal of fundraising last year. They reached far past that, have a goal of \$50,000 this year. So she really leads a great group of young professionals through that --- through that effort, and it's been just a pleasure this last decade to work with the group, so Lacey does a great job with that.

She was 40 under 40 last year. She is the chair of the young lawyers' division.

MS. ECKER: Past chair now.

MR. BAKER: Past chair now, okay. That's --- and that is the best role to have as we now, yeah. Okay, past chair. So Lacey we are really proud of you. Congratulations on being the Big of the Year in Pennsylvania and representing Pittsburgh so well.

MS. ECKER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMARCO: Look at that, hey, we're fighting over this.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is fortunate to have a number of teachers, community volunteers and individuals who support the mentoring movement and who work selflessly to improve our children's odds for success and overcoming adversity and;

WHEREAS, each year, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Pennsylvania selects a deserving Big Sister who exemplifies the best of one-to-one mentoring and;

WHEREAS, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Pennsylvania has selected Ms. Lacey Ecker as the 2019 Big Sister of the Year and;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ecker, an attorney once named one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 has served as big sister to little sister Janiyah for six years and;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ecker and little sister Janiyah have enjoyed a variety of fun and worthwhile experiences such as going to the movies, going to baseball and football games, horseback riding, going out to eat and swimming, all while creating a lifetime of memories.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we, Allegheny County Council Members Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk and Paul Klein, do hereby congratulate Ms. Lacey Ecker for being named the 2019 Big Sister of the Year. We commend her for her continued dedication towards serving as a positive role model, supporting vulnerable children and helping them succeed.

(Applause.)

MS. ECKER: First off, my apologies for being late. I was locked out. So I'm an attorney but I'm not a litigator so I never come to the courthouse, but I made my way in. Thank you very much for this honor and thank you for the support of the Allegheny County Council. I know it's great for Big Brothers Big Sisters as an organization and volunteers like myself to have the support of you all in this program, so thank you.

(Applause.)



(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Unfinished business, we have none?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison reports? Seeing no hands. Oh, wait a minute. Rep --- oh, want me to go to Tom? Go ahead.

MR. BAKER: Okay. Thanks, Mr. DeFazio. Quick liaison report just from District 1. We are going to have --- bye guys. We're going to have our Fifth Annual District 1 Town Hall Meetings, August 14th in Ross Township, August 19th in North Fayette and it should be wonderful again this year. This will be our fifth --- fifth annual doing and we --- we gather not just elected officials but community leaders, nonprofit leaders that can make a difference and work together. It's all about collaboration and just bringing people together, so it's been a lot of fun these last five years.

We will have our second annual District 1 Difference Makers Award. So if you know anyone that lives in the 14 communities in District 1, please definitely make sure to nominate them. Erin Pittman and Rio are sending out the letters to --- to all the legislators and elected officials and community leaders in District 1. So if you know anyone that lives anywhere from Ross to North Fayette to Finley to Moon to Westview, please definitely let us know.

And I just wanted to mention with relay --- related to the Elections Board, we had a good update, I think from Mr. Cambest at the --- at the last meeting. I've been talking a little bit with Mr. Barker and just wanted to let everyone know, the transcript from our June 7th hearing that Mr. Palmosina, Judge Hens-Greco and I collaborated on which turned out really nicely, that --- that transcript is now available, Mr. Barker, I believe?

MR. BARKER: Yes.

MR. BAKER: Okay. So if anyone wants it or needs access to it we can get it to anyone with the information from June 7th and we'd be happy to do so. That's all, Mr. President.

I will say, I was in Cleveland last night for the homerun derby. It was very good but Pittsburgh did it better in 2006. That's all, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Representative Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President and Members of Council. I just want to acknowledge Councilwoman Prizio and Councilman Catena. I want to thank them very much for partaking in the 4th of July parade up in Brentwood, which happens to be the largest parade in Allegheny County. But we had a hot, very busy day.

I think there was an estimate of 50,000 people up there. I think 20,000 of them were kids. But we have --- we always say in Brentwood, we have two Halloweens, the 4th of July and then a regular Halloween because the kids are all with their bags and they --- my two colleagues were just great and it was a wonderful day. It was hot but it was a wonderful day for everyone in Brentwood and for the country and I thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Rep --- is that Representative, is that you Paul? No, okay. Dewitt?

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm sharing this because we will be on hiatus until August 20th and the event will take place prior to us returning to Council. But on August 10th --- Saturday, August 10th, the Annual African-American Heritage Day Parade will take place in the Manchester neighborhood of Pittsburgh. It will begin at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Brighton Road at 10 o'clock that morning and continue to it's destination point.

This is a great event. It is very collaborative. It includes a wide range of individuals and communities and I'd like to urge my fellow Members of Council to participate if they are going --- if they are available that day. Unfortunately, I'll be on the road and won't be able to attend but I'll be there in spirit. So again, a great event, great activity.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: What time?

MR. WALTON: 10:20 a.m. Right there on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Brighton Road in front of Quik-It.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. WALTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Cindy Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Thank you. I just want to mention we --- I was also at a parade in Leetsdale, not quite as big as Brentwood, but Leetsdale only has like 1,200 people but

people from the whole Sewickley Valley come in there. It's about a little over a mile and a half. But I know a lot were there because I went through a lot of candy and there were a lot of kids and a lot of older people, too, lining the parade route which was pretty nice. But that's always a good parade because it goes right through like the neighborhood so it's people's back yards, front yards. They'll throw you a hamburger and a hotdog as you're marching in the parade, which is sort of a unique --- unique experience to actually get something like that so ---.

I just wanted --- that'll be next year again. And it's like a fundraiser. They held a festival for like four days and that's how they fundraise for their firemen, too, because they have volunteer fireman. So thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Moving along here, we'll go with 11142-19.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2019. Submission number 03-19. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Budget and Finance. 11148-19.

MR. BARKER: A Motion of the Council of Allegheny County in Support of Restore Pennsylvania, a \$4.5 billion Infrastructure Improvement Plan. Sponsored by Council Member Walton.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Walton, do you ---?

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. WALTON: This sense of Council resolution is designed to urge our State Legislature to enact legislation that will generate revenue from the shale industry in Pittsburgh --- I mean, in Pennsylvania, I apologize, in Pennsylvania. This is estimated to be able to generate \$4.5 billion dollars over the next four years.

All of that money will be used for infrastructure and improvements through wireless, climate, remediation of problems that have been generated through flooding and just natural disasters that occurred here in Pennsylvania. So I think that it is an appropriate path for us to urge the legislature to enact legislation to generate those additional revenues to address the natural concerns and issues that affect all Pennsylvania. And I

urge my fellow Members of Council to vote in favor of that sense of Council resolution. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. You want to make a motion on it?

MR. WALTON: Yes, I move --- thank you.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. WALTON: I move that we waive an additional reading and pass the sense of Council resolution tonight.

MR. MACEY: I still second that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Representative ---?

MR. DEMARCO: Who knew I wouldn't have remarks; right?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. DEMARCO: Okay. First of all, I want to correct the record here. What Governor Wolf has proposed with his Restore PA proposal is a \$4.5 billion debt-financed slush fund. The severance tax he wants to pass on the shale industry and on the gas industry won't be raised, the \$4.5 billion, over the next four years.

He wants to issue bonds to generate \$4.5 billion that he can spend in the next four years and that Pennsylvanian's can spend the next 30 years paying back. So what it's going to do it's going to --- he will take and issue bonds. It's like taking a credit card, running up \$4.5 billion on the credit card. He spends it in the next four years and then the Pennsylvania taxpayers spend the next 30 paying it off. And as we all know with interest, you pay more.

Folks who have done the analysis say that it's going to cost \$9 billion to pay this back to spend \$4.5 billion today. It makes no sense. Now, the things that he's listed, he talks --- laid out a laundry list of things that he wants to do with the money. Those are popular, so he hopes to get people to buy in and support this but the problem is, why are we picking on the natural gas industry?

Right now, we are building --- we're in the process of remodel --- or modernizing our terminal at the airport, a \$1.3 billion project. Part of the debt service on the bonds that we're issuing for that \$1.3 billion are going to be paid for with revenue that we get from the drilling on gas that we do at the airport. Those royalties that we get fluctuate with production. So

anything that we take and do that we pass that we're going to take and put an increase in cost on the gas industry is not going to have a positive effect for us.

Another thing, all taxes that you put on anybody, any company, any corporation, they all get passed onto the consumer. Some of the folks who have benefited the most from this fracking and the Marcellus shale are our low-income residents. Their energy costs have been cut in half over previous years. They will only be faced with an increase should this come to pass.

And last, but not least, just on July 5th here in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania has had a very good year, likely an historic one for tax collections earning nearly \$1 billion more than anticipated in the fiscal year that ended June 30th. That boost allowed lawmakers to put \$317 million into the state's so-called rainy day fund, and the rest of the state's \$883 million surplus will fund new initiatives and expansion of existing programs, according to Governor Tom Wolf's office.

So four days ago, the Post-Gazette reports that the state has received \$1 billion more in revenue than they anticipated and then, we want to pass a motion that they take and increase taxes over here for something else. I think there is plenty of money in Harrisburg. I think that they can find a way to spend the money on the things that they need to spend. By doing so, I don't believe that Governor Wolf's Restore PA program is a good proposal that's going to go anywhere, and I don't see how we benefit, as Allegheny County Council, by taking and passing something which is not going to receive any attention whatsoever in the state legislature. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, if I might respond?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. WALTON: While I respect my colleague, I fundamentally disagree with his premise. And I also respect the right of everyone to disagree. And I am not going to get into a ditch and get into an exercise of disrespecting the facts of one's opinion but the reality of it all is, that Pennsylvania, whether you're --- whether you're pro-fracking or anti-fracking. There is no question that Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that doesn't utilize an extraction tax. And if you are anti-fracking, then this does not lessen the challenge

that we have in terms of having them pay their fair share for rehabilitation of roads, water and other infrastructure that they are morally and ethically and should be legally obligated to pay.

I respect the right of everyone to have their opinion, but the fact remains that that revenue is needed, it's worthwhile and it's a legitimate business expense that they should pay their fair share. Thank you, sir.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, if I may?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: Number one, while it is true that Pennsylvania doesn't have a severance tax, Pennsylvania is the only state that has an impact fee. And the impact fee here in Pennsylvania has generated in excess of \$2 billion which has been divvied up amongst communities impacted by this since this has taken place.

So repair of roads and infrastructure and everything else already occurs. Allegheny County has been a large recipient of this, receiving over \$13 million here in impact fee payments from 2012 through 2017. So we're already --- they're already paying their money. And this industry is paying more than their fair share, and this industry has generated 300,000 jobs in the State of Pennsylvania. So I'm concerned about singling out a particular industry.

It'd be as if we just picked anyone, cabinet-making companies or whatever. I think the state has plenty of money, as we just indicated here, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette four days ago. They have a billion extra dollars. I don't see the need for us to increase taxes on anybody just so someone else can have a slush fund to be able to spend for the next three years, three plus --- three to four years and have the taxpayers of Pennsylvania pay it off over the next 30. It just doesn't make good fiscal sense, and we would never support this if we were doing this in Allegheny County. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks?

MR. CATENA: Mr. President, can I make a brief comment?

MR. BAKER: Is that Catena?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. CATENA: Thank you, Mr. President. I very much support the ideals of Restore PA. However, my problem with Restore PA is the debt issue. We talk about

all the time about the borrowing of funds and basically not expanding our debt and the problem with Restore PA is it's a quick fix. It gets us --- it gets us money now but we're stuck with paying it over the next 20 to 30 years, which if you followed any of the discussions basically over the past --- over the budget over the past few weeks, everyone was very impressed with what our collection rate was and we are actually going to be able to put some money into the rainy day fund.

Well, that goes against what we're saying because Restore PA actually increases our debt, and I don't believe, at this point in time, we're at the juncture that we want to increase our debt in the State of PA. So even though I'm in favor of all the ideas that Restore PA supports, I can't vote in favor of Restore --- of increasing our debt in PA. So that's why I'll be voting against this. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Seeing no more, let's --- let's take a roll call vote. This is --- actually, this vote is on to see if we can, you know --- this is not on the main motion, this is just on not having the second reading on this.

MR. CAMBEST: We don't need a second reading on a motion.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We don't need it?

MR. CAMBEST: No.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Take the roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: Okay. So we're deeming this on the motion to approve, okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. BARKER: On Mr. Walton's motion to approve his motion.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?  
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Defazio?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 10, nos 5. The motion passes.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Representative  
Prizio, do you want to speak on your issue?  
MS. PRIZIO: I'm going to bring it up at the  
next meeting.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.  
MS. PRIZIO: Thank you.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Notification of  
contracts, 111 --- let me put my glasses on again,  
11141-19 (sic).  
MR. BARKER: A Communication summarizing  
approved Executive actions from June 1st through 30th,  
2019.  
MR. MACEY: Receive and file.  
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Second.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor signify  
by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes.)  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
Public comment, if you want to call?  
MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is  
Aldora T. Watt. Who apparently is not present? Next up  
would be Juliet Zavon.  
MS. ZAVON: I hear County officials and citizens  
worry about changing to paper ballots. When they tell me  
the public will have trouble with it, I tell them no, not  
true. It's the tail wagging the dog to suggest we have to



stay with the same vendor or electronic screens that resemble our current voting machines.

A number of states and jurisdictions have changed voting machines since 2016. Have we heard about massive problems that resulted? No. Yet, that's the kind of trouble the press would scoop up. It didn't happen. If you want further proof, call up these jurisdictions, ask them how the public handled changing voting machines. The public adapts to changing technology constantly. Think of the software updates to your word processor, the changes you master every time you get a new phone. Adapting to changing voting equipment is much easier than either of these.

Americans are constantly adapting to new voting equipment. Forty (40) million Americans move house every year, whether it's to another state or to another County, they often have to use different voting equipment. As a poll worker, I've helped people at the polls and I've lived and voted in different states. It's just not a problem. National experts in election systems and election security testified here to the Board of Elections in June. Each spoke from a different angle, this included hands-on experience running elections in jurisdictions similar to Allegheny County.

They spoke from different perspectives, but their recommendations converged. Hand-marked paper ballots scanned at the precinct are the most secure. This is also the recommendation of Vote Allegheny and other national experts who live in our community, know our community and vote in our community. These recommendations and solutions also happen to be the cheapest solution.

How often does it happen that all experts come to the same conclusion about what is the best solution and that recommendation is also the cheapest option? Let's not do what Philadelphia did or what Georgia did. In my experience, it doesn't work to march into the future while trying to stay in the past. Embrace the future. Let's get hand-marked paper ballots and --- that get scanned at each precinct. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Jill Diskin.

MS. DISKIN: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to address County Council tonight. My name is Jill Diskin. I'm an Allegheny County resident living in

Squirrel Hill, an active volunteer with Fair Districts PA, a former human resources manager at Carnegie Mellon and a graduate at CMU Heinz School.

I'm here tonight to talk about the replacement of our voting equipment. I care about this issue because last November on Election Day, I saw with my own eyes how unreliable our current equipment can be. I'll never forget my conversation with one very distraught woman as she left the polling place. She vehemently expressed her frustration to me as she described her unsuccessful effort to vote for the --- for her chosen candidate.

Despite several attempts, the voting equipment she used did not accurately record her vote. Instead, the machine recorded a vote for a different candidate. She told me she finally gave up. I am concerned that this occurrence may not be rare, and that's why I care about the replacement of the County's voting equipment. Here's what I want.

First, I want Allegheny County to have a hand-marked ballot. Second, I want the equipment and process to respect the anonymity of voter's with disabilities. Third, I want a system that will provide the means for a vigorous statistical test to be conducted for every election. Finally, I want to have a more detailed understanding of what the voting equipment search committee members have been doing since they were appointed on March 5th. Have there been meetings? If so, when? What topics were discussed, what decisions were made? What is the committee's work plan for making a decision about what voting equipment to recommend to the Board of Elections? If there haven't been meetings, why not? Are meetings scheduled?

As an Allegheny County resident and taxpayer and consistent with Pennsylvania's open meetings law, I want the sun to shine on this process. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Next?

MR. BARKER: Last up is Harry Liller.

MR. LILLER: I'm wearing this Martin Luther King, Jr. shirt to show what's going on in this County. He's on my side. He's in heaven seeing how corrupt this Council is towards a civilian police review board.

Now you're all lucky the evil Pittsburgh TV stations will not go public with this. You're all lucky Channel 4 will not let Sheldon Ingram do his job. You're

all lucky the evil TV stations will make the black reporters betray the black community for you racist white people that rule this town with an iron fist. My civilian police review board makes the police accountable.

All your proposals are lame and let's them opt out and you all get away with it. It's amazing you can get away with this. So while you have your vacation the rest of the month, we're going to be working hard on signatures just like we had to do 20 years ago. While you're all getting fat and lazy and spending all our money, we're going to be out there working hard. And my proposal says the attorney general, the County sheriff and the County district attorney have to have members on the board and every police jurisdiction has to answer for it.

The black man's report on this Council lets him off the hook. And what he doesn't know is The Courier is going to endorse my plan tomorrow. The Courier, the black newspaper, is going to endorse a white man's proposal and let everybody know how the black man betrays and screws the black community. So we'll do what's right. Just like we did 20 years ago. I am not anti-police. So you can laugh all you want. You laugh at me in front of Jesus, we see what happens.

You see, Doug Shields and Bob O'Connor did everything they could to undermine us. And I warned everybody that Bob O'Connor was going to fire Chief McNeilly, an honest police chief, and that's what he did. And then the next fulltime Pittsburgh police chief went to jail for stealing, just like the eight other police chiefs in Allegheny County that have criminal records. Our last two County sheriffs committing criminal acts. One is the brother of this Council president. And you all don't know why he's been crappy to me for 20 years now. I've never met him before, but his evil brother and an evil constable I caught stealing lie about me.

And if you remember, I even told the police --- I mean, the County sheriff here to look into the corruption. We're going to do our job, and on judgment day, I dare you all to make fun of me like you always do because the evil Pittsburgh media is not going to be there to help you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We're down into adjournment.

MR. DEMARCO: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor signify  
by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes.)

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:43 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.

Dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter