

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice President District 9
Samuel DeMarco	-	Council-At-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia "Liv" Bennett	-	District 13

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

April 21, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'd like to call the meeting of Allegheny County council to order. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. We'll now have a moment of silence. Thank you.

Jared, would you please take role?

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

See no proclamations or certificates,
we'll move on.

Public comment on agenda items?

MR. BARKER: We did have two people sign up.
They were both untimely, however.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone have any problems
having those heard?

MEMBER: No.

MEMBER: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll read them.

Jared?

MR. BARKER: Okay. First up is Heather Arnett (phonetic). She lives at 448 Parkview Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In regards to File Number 11481-20 the Paid Sick Days Leave Act, The Women and Girls Foundation wishes to submit its formal comments in support of this legislation and encourage all members of Council, as well as the County Chief Executive, to support this important policy to support the public health and economic security of workers and families in Pennsylvania so that the next time a health crisis occurs in a community or in a family, main street businesses and family-owned businesses are not shut down. Paid leave allows workers to stay home to take care of themselves, or a family member who is ill, without losing their job and needing to file for unemployment. It also helps to protect the public from contagions.

We ask that in reviewing this legislation, Council makes sure to add provisions to eliminate accrual provisions in the case of a public health emergency, include paid safe leave to protect victims of domestic violence and ensure leave wages will appropriately compensate tipped workers at a rate that can sustain a family rather than based on existing minimum tipped wage.

And that's all she had to say.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Nathan Malakowski (phonetic) from 1604 Brighton Road, also in the City of Pittsburgh.

We appreciate the effort being taken by County Council to give all workers in Allegheny County access to paid sick days. We are offering the following suggestions as a comment on the proposal.

One, compensation for tipped workers. County Council should add language to this legislation which sets the compensation rate for tipped workers to the minimum wage plus an average of tips over a given period of time. Many tipped workers make well over the minimum wage and they should be compensated for sick leave at a rate closer to their actual wage.

Two, Front Load Paid Leave. County Council should amend the legislation to include language which requires businesses to front load sick time. During a

public health crisis like this, workers can't wait to accrue paid sick leave to access their benefits.

Three, Paid Safe Leave. County Council should include language in this legislation which also creates a county-wide program for paid safe leave. This would give survivors and their immediate family members the time to heal and attend to their needs.

That's it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Under Approval of Minutes, we actually have three sets of minutes that we're going to approve tonight. Does anyone have a problem making a motion to approve all three?

MEMBER: No.

MEMBER: I make a motion to approve all three.

MEMBER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Jared?

MR. BARKER: The three bills are 11476-20, a Motion to Approve the Minutes of February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council. 11477, the same motion with regard to the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting. And 11478-20, again the same motion with regard to the March 10, 2020 minutes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any public comment?

Hearing no comment, all those in favor, signify by saying ayes.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

Motion carries.

We'll now have a presentation of appointments. 11472-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Stacy M. Brown to the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for term ending December 31, 2022, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review. 11473-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Christine Michaels to the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for term ending on December 31st, 2022 sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review. 11474-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Eunice Nelson to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term ending on December 31st, 2023, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review as well. 11475-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Regina Andrews to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term ending on December 31st, 2023, sponsored also by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Appointment review as well on that one. Unfinished business. Committee on Parks, second reading. 11466-20.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority to install a sanitary sewer line in the County's North Park, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere, anything to add?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, we had a conference call last week and met with affirmative recommendation and I move for approval, please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MEMBER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. A roll call vote, please, Jared?

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yep.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yeah.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: And President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, noes zero. The Bill

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.
Are there any liaison reports this evening?
Hearing none, we'll move on to New Business.

11481-20.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division Five, Health and Sanitation, due to creation of a new Chapter 575, entitled Paid Sick Days Act, in order to improve the public health by granting paid sick time to employees in the county, sponsored by Council Members Catena, Prizio, Hallam, and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. That will go to the Health and Human Service Committee. 11482-20.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance requiring that the Allegheny County Elections Division provide mail-in ballot applications to each individual registered to vote in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Bennett.

MS. HALLAM: Mr. Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: This is Councilwoman Hallam. As a point of order, I would like to motion to waive the second reading on this.

MEMBER: I would second.

MR. WALTON: --- Point of order.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes, Councilman Walton?

MR. WALTON: While I, in principle, agree that we need to expand and support voting rights of all

residents of Allegheny County, I believe that this ordinance is inappropriate on its face and is better served by the language in 11479-20. And I would urge the members of Council to not --- to not approve 114820 in favor of the former, the latter 11479-20. Again, I believe that it is in all of our interest to expand voting rights to gr --- or support voting rights to the greatest extent possible. I believe that this legislation exceeds the authority of Council by creating an ordinance that is not expressly granted by the state and nor the home rule charter. So while I agree in principle, I think the --- I think the --- the 11479-20 better addresses that issue.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MEMBER: Councilman --- President Catena?

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, Councilman DeMarco?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you for recognizing me. I have to concur with my colleague Councilman Walton. Looking at the Allegheny County Home Rule Charter, if you look at Section 1.4.402, Item A, which is in the first piece, it says, that while we pass ordinances, resolutions, and motions, we cannot, it says, cannot pass anything that's contrary to what else is in that charter. And when you go to Section 1.4.404, that's titled Non-Interference with the Executive Branch. We have the ability to take and get money, or to budget money for different things, but what we don't have the ability to do is to be able to take and tell the Executive Branch what specifically they need to do, whether it be here the division of election or whether it be public works. And the Allegheny County Executive already has administrative power to be able to conduct an election. So he has already announced that they're sending ballot applications out to the registered voters of Allegheny County. So to take and create a law --- I mean, if this was a motion, it'd be one thing, but it's an ordinance. So we're creating a law, which we don't have the authority to do for this particular purpose, and which would be moot because the County Executive already announced that this is being done last Friday. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. WALTON: As a side --- I'm sorry, Member Bennett, but in my final comment is that this language that we're talking about is --- the power lies with the Secretary of State. And if we want --- and it is the Secretary of State that has the ability to approve or

reject the actions that the Executive is prop --- is embarking on. And so, again, that's why I said the language of the motion of Council will better serve my supporting that motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Was there Councilwoman Hallam or Councilwoman Bennett?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. So to respond to two Council Members who just spoke about this, so the biggest thing that I want to point out is the differences between the ordinance and the motion, both of which I agree with. If you all would take a look at the motion that you referenced, that is actually something completely different. That's actually asking the state to authorize everyone to get a mail-in ballot. That is not something that the county has the authority to do. I agree with you, which is why that language is for a motion.

What the ordinance says is that we would send everybody a mail-in ballot application, with prepaid postage, that the County Executive already said that he would do. And then it also states that once they submit the application, when they get their ballot, they will also get prepaid postage, which is something that the County Executive has not outlined in his mandate.

He also --- the other difference in the ordinance is the May 8th deadline that is given to make sure that everybody has appropriate time to get their application back to the county and then to receive their ballot and get those ballots back to the county by election day.

So I think that it's really important to point out those distinctions. I completely agree with the motion that says we would hope that the State would allow us to send everybody a ballot, but that is not what's in our authority. What is within our authority and is not in violation of State Law is that we send everybody the application with prepaid postage and by May 8th and then when they receive their ballot, they will also receive prepaid postage for that.

So it's basically taking care of both steps of voting by mail, which is the application process and the submission of the ballot. So I think that we need to be very clear, and it is incumbent upon us as the legislative branch of council, to say that this is the best way to ensure that no one's votes are lost, no voter is disenfranchised. And with the future regarding COVID-19

uncertain as to how safe it will be for people to go to the actual polls on election day, I think that this ordinance is very necessary, it's very timely, and there's no other way to ensure that we get everyone's equal access to those ballots.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

MS. HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President? President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes, Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes. I would like to add here.

One, I'm very, very aware of the differences between the motion that Councilman Duerr has sponsored and the ordinance that Councilwoman Hallam has put up. One is for ballot, one is for application. But --- and I'll have Duerr speak about his motion when that comes up. But, in regards to this particular ordinance, nothing that my colleague has said changes the fact that this violates the min --- excuse me, the Home Rule Charter with the sections that I outlined. And I've spoken to the County Executive. He has already said that he'll pay postage for the ballots, too. So this is all going to come up at our Thursday Board of Elections meeting. Again, the whole point of the ordinance is the ordinance itself lies outside our authority. And I mean, it's clear in the Administrative Code --- excuse me, in the Charter, which is why I took and specifically gave you that language. So that the Solicitor would be able to see that. I think if Mr. Zeppy's (phonetic) here, you can ask him. We can ask for his opinion. But the point is that, again, I understand. Applications will be going out. The County Executor said he will pay for the postage for ballots, too. And this is outside our authority.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. WALTON: Again, I have --- I have to repeat a comment that I made earlier that the authority to approve or reject the voting regulations is vested in the Secretary of State. And while I again --- I support the notion of empowering all of our residents in Allegheny County, and our country, as much as is humanly possible, in this specific ordinance, it's controlled by authority that is beyond Council. And as a result, again, I suggest that we go --- we not approve this ordinance and approve an upcoming motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. At this point ---

MS. HALLAM: I want to point out that --- I would like to point out that the power the lies within the Secretary of State would be mandating mail-in voting, not opening polls on election day. The power that lies with the Secretary of State would be sending everybody a ballot without having received an application first. That is something the lies with the Secretary of State. But saying that we will provide everybody applications with prepaid postage, and then once those people who requested the ballots get one, and we provide prepaid postage with that, that is something that can be decided on a county level.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. At this point in time, I'm calling for a vote on waiving the second reading. So, Jared, please take the vote.

MR. BARKER: On the Motion to waive the second reading, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: No.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No.

The Motion is waived --- the Motion has failed.
We'll send that to Government Reform. 11483-20.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 10-20-OR in order to extend the County Real Estate Tax Face Growth period deadline from May 31st, 2020 to June 30th, 2020, sponsored by Council Member DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, President Catena. Last month in March, we took and passed an extension of the county tax deadline, and we did so because of the Coronavirus outbreak that we had forced us to shut things down. So we initially extended it 30 days for each and took the two percent discount back to April 30th, and took the total growth receipts back to May 30th. But unfortunately, the Coronavirus thing has lasted much longer than all of us had anticipated. And while many of the receipts to be received at the county level were paid by folks who pay their taxes through the escrow account, so their banks paid for them, the folks that have not paid them yet, I believe haven't paid them because they --- you know, they're hurting for money. And right now, with 19 percent --- 19.5 percent unemployment in Pennsylvania, everything is shut down. And I can't tell you the number of people that have reached out to me who have signed up for unemployment, that have not yet started to receive their checks. I think it's a small thing that we can do as a gesture for the citizens of Allegheny County that are struggling to push this back another 30 days to June 30th. And I'd like to ask County Manager McKain if the Administration concurs.

MR. MCKAIN: Yes, we do. We're in support of it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: They are in support of it, Councilman DeMarco, in case you didn't hear that.

MR. DEMARCO: Okay. So what I'd like to do now is to make a motion that we waive the second reading of this particular ordinance so that we can take it past this and get this into law.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's Palmiere, correct, Councilman?

MR. MACEY: Macey.
MR. BARKER: That's Mr. Macey.
PRESIDENT CATENA: Macey. I'm sorry. Okay.
Thank you, Councilman Macey.
Okay. Roll call please, Jared.
MR. BARKER: On the Motion to waive the second
reading, Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?
MS. BENNETT: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?
MR. DUERR: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM: No.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Pamosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio? Mr. Prizio? Mr.
Walton?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: I apologize. Ms. Prizio votes yes.
Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 13, noes 2. The Motion
passes.
PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a Motion to move
this on to Council?
MEMBER: I'd like to make the motion that we
take and move this on to Council and approve this this
evening.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. DUERR: I second, Duerr.

MEMBER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mr. Duerr seconds. Roll call vote, please, Jared.

MR. BARKER: On the Motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: I believe that was a yes from Mr. Klein.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Okay. Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, noes zero. The Bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. New Business 11479-20.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. We have one more ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Oh, did I miss it?

MR. BARKER: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry.

MR. BARKER: We missed one ordinance. 11484.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. Okay. 11484-20.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the grants and special accounts budget for 2020, Submission Number 04-20, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Budget and Finance.

Now we have New Business. 11479-20.

MR. BARKER: A Motion of Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council and calling for an expansion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Emergency Declaration to allow the county to send a ballot to every registered voter in Allegheny County so that the June 2nd, 2020 Primary Election may be conducted by mail consistent with the recommendation of the Allegheny County Health Department, sponsored by Council Members Duerr, Bennett, Klein, Walton, and Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member Duerr, do you want to say anything on this one?

MR. DUERR: Yes, I do, President Catena, if I may. Thank you.

So, yeah. So over the past few weeks --- over the next few weeks, months, year, you know, we have a duty to be doing everything we can to protect the health and well-being of our constituents by curbing the spread of COVID-19 wherever we can. With that in mind, we must take a serious look at changing the way we conduct the upcoming June 2nd Primary. And if we conduct the election with a business as usual attitude, it will put thousands of residents at risk when they head to the polls to make their voices heard. What happened recently in Wisconsin was appalling and we cannot follow in their footsteps with the upcoming election. A resident should not have to choose between participating in our democracy and protecting the health and wellbeing of their family. And while the recent measure to mail every applicable voter in the county a request form is a fantastic start, I believe that if we are to preserve the sanctity of our election, we must go the one step further and mail everyone, whether they requested a ballot or not, a ballot for the June 2nd Primary.

Recently County Executive Fitzgerald called for the exact same thing and I thank him for taking the lead

on this issue and trying to do everything he can to protect our election as well as our resident's health at the same time. And I know what the critics will say with this move. That vote by mail is fraught with fraud, that it has overtly helped one party far more than the other. But those things are simply not true. And a recent article by the New York Times they cited a study in 2016 that found, quote, that all forms of voter fraud is rare in the United States. And an actual study in 2016 found few credible allegations of voting fraud. And even the panel that President Trump charged with investigating election fraud in 2016 found no real evidence of fraud before it disbanded in 2018. Additionally, they found that voting fraud in the United States is rare and even more rare is voting by fraud using mail-in ballots. Even the heavily conservative state, Utah, along with five other states now conduct all elections almost entirely by mail. They all report little to no fraud.

Furthermore, in a recent article by CNN, they cited a recent study with the affect of mail-in balloting were studied in regards to the political performance of parties in three key states, California, Utah, and Washington. The results, that voting by mail does not give either party any edge in turnout. Furthermore, there was no discernible affect on election outcome. What voting by mail did seem to do was cause increased voter turnout which would be the point of moving to voting by mail during this pandemic. Plainly put, vote by mail is an incredibly safe and practical option to let our voters voice their views at the ballot box, but also keep our community safe in the midst of a crisis.

I thank my fellow Council colleagues to have signed onto this Motion calling for mail-in ballots being sent to every voter and for our Primary Election to be conducted solely by mail. And I hope the rest of my Council colleagues regardless of party joins us tonight in supporting a measure that would protect both our democracy and our community's health and wellbeing.

And should this measure pass, I hope that I can count on my state representative to County Council District 5, Representative Mihalek, Ortitay, Puskaric, Representative Miller and State Senator Iovino in doing the same. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman DeMarco, I believe you wanted to be recognized?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes, sir, President Catena. Thank you very much. I understand the best wishes of my colleague, Councilman Duerr, and his intent here by trying to ensure that every registered voter has the ability to take a vote during the election. But I would take and caution us and say voting by mail, and voting by sending voters a ballot out automatically, are two different things. I can recite a New York Times article here where they said votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised, and more likely to be contested than those cast at the voting booths, statistics show, New York Times.

I could show you that Former President Jimmy Carter, certainly not a Republican, when he worked on election reform, and former Secretary of State, Jim Baker, said that absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud.

But that's not what my objection is here. Let me just talk about Allegheny County for a moment and explain the situation here. When we take and send out a ballot application and a voter takes and completes that application and returns it, we have the ability to look at the information that they put forth on the application to give both signature, drivers' license number, last four numbers of Social Security to confirm that that person is indeed who they say they are. When we talk about sending out just ballots, we're just sending these things out willy-nilly to everybody that's on a list, that I can assure you, that I'm on the Board of Elections, it's not an accurate list.

Now, that's not saying that our folks don't do the very best they can to keep this up to date. But let me explain some things. In January of this year, we took and purged 69,000 inactive voter's names from that list. 69,000. We currently have over 70,000 inactive voters on that list. 70,000 that could be purged next year or later. And we also in this county on average 13,500 people a year die. We have in this county, on average, 127,000 different real estate transactions each year, you know, where people are moving in, people are moving out, people are moving around. We have thousands of people each year, students who graduate from our colleges and universities, and other students who quit, or withdraw, or go back home.

To just send out ballots that would count, to just locations on a list that we know are bad, would be wasting taxpayer dollars and encourage fraud. You know, by sending it out in the mail, these things could be stolen from mailboxes, folks could be subject to voter intimidation, you know, people could --- political bosses could say, hey, bring your ballots in, we'll all fill them out together.

So I support Councilman Duerr's intent to try to ensure that everyone that's eligible to cast a vote can do so, but I believe the County Executive has struck the right balance here, recognizing that sending out ballots would represent a problem, would violate State Law under Act 77 and Senate Bill 422, what was recently updated. Okay.

And by sending out the application, we're doing two things. Everybody that wishes to vote can return their application so that they get their ballot and vote by mail. But it also gives our election personnel the opportunity to review those applications to assure that the people returning them are indeed the folks that they said they are. And even though our folks that manage our list and our condition of elections, they try to do the best they can, we use a service that's provided by the State that takes and reconciles our list against the post office's national change of address list, but it happens once a year.

So all those things that I identified, the people that passed away, the people that moved, the people that graduate from school and leave, and things like that, all of these things are bad. That's why I'm working --- one of the things that I've suggested to our Division of Elections folks, are that the applications should be sent out, that we request return service. So we'll get back the undeliverable ballot application, which will allow us to clean up our list potentially for fall.

So, again, hey, I appreciate what my colleague is trying to do, but I'm just trying to explain to you folks more about the actual problems we have. And this is just in Allegheny County. Multiply that by 57 counties in the state. And now you understand why I won't be able to support my colleague's motion this evening. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena? This is Member Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. Two quick things. First of all, just in regard to prior comments on this Motion. I just want to point out that there's actually no evidence of voter fraud with mail-in voting. Second of all, I just want to implore my fellow Council Members that we didn't sign up to be County Council members to just pass symbolic motions all the time, so I really hope that my fellow members of Council are able, in the very near future, to find the courage to actually pass substantive binding Ordinances like we were elected to do. Thank you.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. Go ahead, Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: In 2018, here in North Carolina, in a nationally known, or nationally watched race, a Republican cheated with mail-in voter fraud, absentee voter fraud. That election was overturned and a new one was --- took place. So there are many examples out there. But again, regardless of whether someone believes, or wants to believe that fraud takes place, and I believe that it does, all of the other things that I told you are absolutely true.

It's been estimated that each piece that we send out, these applications, are going to cost us \$0.50 each. Okay. So to send to a list that's bad, we talk about these ballots, where the people that receive them are not the people for which they're intended and to try to hope that everybody that got them can resist the urge to fill one out and mail them back in, you know, that's not a chance that I want to take. You know, I hear folks talk about, well I don't want any voter to be disenfranchised. I agree. I also don't want any legal votes passed, to be disenfranchised by a fraudulent one. So thank you very much for your time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Councilman.

Councilman Duerr, do you want to make the motion then for this?

MR. DUERR: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to approve this Motion of Council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: I'll second that motion. Ms. Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Roll call vote, please, Jared.

MR. BARKER: On the Motion to Approve. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BAKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 10, nays 5. The Motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. 11482-20.

MR. BARKER: A Motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding the local high school classes of 2020 and the desire of Council for their academic, athletic, and other achievements to be recognized by suitable ceremonies at the appropriate time, sponsored by Council Members DeMarco, Prizio, and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President. When we started to bring this up here, this is right after Governor Wolf declared that schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year. And one of the things that we were finding out is one of the folks who were feeling it the most were the seniors in the Class of 2020 who didn't realize that the last day that they were together, you know, when school was suspended, would be the last day that they might see each other.

So this brought up a lot of consternation that I was hearing from parents and constituents as well as some students in the area. So what we wanted to do, and what a number of school districts have done to date, is to be able to urge the 43 school districts in Allegheny County to at least announce to these kids through some form of communication, that they will be holding events to recognize their academic and athletic achievements here, you know, allow them to graduate here whenever it's safe to do so, whether that be, you know, later in May, in June or July.

But one of the things that makes this class special, President Catena, is many of these kids were born at, or the aftermath of 9-11. When they first started to go to school, it was in the 2007-2008 Great Recession. And now, here, is seniors before they can go on to college, trade school, or on with their life, now they're dealing with this.

So this is why I had spoken and put something out, communication, and my colleague, Councilman Prizio, I want to thank her. I want to thank Council Member Bennett for joining this as well. We just want to take and, you know, recognize the Class of 2020 and urge the school districts to communicate with them, even though they're not able to tell them today when a prom would be or when a graduation ceremony would be, but at least let them know that there's going to be one. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. MACEY: Macey. I'd like to be a co-sponsor.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President, John Palmiere. I would like to be a co-sponsor also, please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone that objects to being a co-sponsor?

Hearing no one, everyone is a co-sponsor now.

So, Councilman DeMarco, you made the Motion to pass this?

MR. DEMARCO: I'd like to make a Motion we approve this motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MEMBER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT CATENA: All right. All those opposed?

Motion carries.

Notification of Contracts?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. And public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We had four individuals sign up. The first of them was Avery Resnick (phonetic) who signed up several weeks ago and did not provide any written comments. The remaining three, Martina Jacobs of 115 Lang Court within the City of Pittsburgh, April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. I'd had hoped to join environmental organizations in recognizing this momentous anniversary at the April 21st meeting.

It is ironic that the COVID-19 pandemic prevents us from doing so. During this quarantine, we are bombarded and often paralyzed by conflicting information about the virus. Some of this information is meant to benefit those in positions of power and to increase their advantage and wealth. Such information ignores or misrepresents scientific information.

It is my hope that County Council will see through the fog and maintain the best interests of their constituents and their families. The coal and fracking industry have already compromised the health and environment of your constituents. The increase of those operations now amplify the impact the virus and bring further havoc to our lives. Please remember why Earth Day was created and honor its legacy.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Barbara Brandom (phonetic) from 1118 King Avenue, also in the City of Pittsburgh.

Of course, adults want to work to earn money to provide for themselves and their families. However, all

industries, not only the petrol chemical industry, is discussed by Mayfield at all in Natural Sustainability Volume 1122-2 December 2019, and 112 --- oh, on Pages 1122-1131 have external costs. There are costs to the commons which we share. These costs include air pollution, water pollution, use of excessive amounts of water at discount or no cost, destroying trees, polluting rivers and oceans, et cetera.

These costs have not been accounted for in the company spreadsheet. That's why they're called external. The business that acknowledges these externalities in its pricing structure is socially responsible. Lack of social responsibility is stealing from the commons. This cannot continue without destroying our environment and our future.

Of course, people want to go back to work. But they don't want to know what the true cost of that industry is to their children and grandchildren. I didn't either when I was working. I just worked and tried to have a family. Now I must take a broader view. We must always consider what the larger community needs. Now we need to continue wearing masks in public and keep up social distancing. We also need clean air, clean water, and clean sources of energy.

It is very good to see our leaders moving in this direction to protect us in our future. Thank you for your attention.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: And last up is Gabrielle Monroe (phonetic) who lives at 322 Mall Boulevard in Monroeville.

This is my fifth public request to meet with County Council Members since September of 2019. On record, I have been requesting to meet with County Council Members to protect sex trafficking victims and sex workers in Allegheny County.

How exactly does one go about scheduling a meeting with County Council Members? Emails go ignored. Public requests go ignored. Yeah, we get it. Most of you all don't like sex workers. This isn't a popularity contest. We are not asking you to like us, we are asking you to protect us. Each member of County Council took your seats to protect Allegheny County residents, whores are residents of Allegheny County. Will you protect us yet?

Currently in Allegheny County, there were two sex workers being extorted and sexually assaulted by their landlord. Sex workers have no rights, resources or protections in Allegheny County. They cannot report. Another sex worker was physically assaulted by her landlord. She could not report. There was another sex worker that was sexually assaulted and robbed. They could not report. Again, this sex worker lacked rights, resources, protections under the law. They cannot report.

All people in Allegheny County deserves rights, resources, and protection. It's time to put your morals aside and center sex trafficking victims and sex workers in Allegheny County. All people in Allegheny County deserves rights, resources, and protections. Again, I'm requesting that Allegheny County become a sanctuary for sex trafficking victims, sex workers and substance users and create an Allegheny County sex --- or Allegheny County amnesty for sex trafficking victims, sex workers, and substance users, investigation of law enforcement and prison officials for sexual misconduct, investigation of the Pride Core Program and the independently owned Pride Program Reparations Fund for sex trafficking victims and sex workers assaulted by governmental officials.

A proclamation request for International Whores Day on June 2nd. Ban conversion therapy for sex trafficking victims and sex workers. County-owned building leased for \$69 a year to open a drop-in resource center for sex trafficking victims and those at higher risk of sex trafficking. Release all sex workers, sex trafficking victims and substance users from the ACJ. Moral crimes do not fit the definition of what a crime is.

A county-wide moratorium to stop arresting and charging victimless, non-violent crimes, such as prostitution or substance-related offenses during the pandemic.

An older request that I have not had time to get to. I'll work on it before the next County Council meeting. I'd like to request County Council Members attend a Zoom meeting to protect sex trafficking victims, sex workers and substance users in Allegheny County. I will set up several meeting times and email each County Council Member and invite them to attend. Ignoring folks being abused in Allegheny County is not acceptable from our public servants. Your job is to protect people. All people. Not just some people. Not just when it's

convenient. Not just when it will benefit County Council Members personally. Always it is your job to protect folks in Allegheny County. Always. Period. Will you stand up to protect some of the most vulnerable communities in Allegheny County yet? Are whores allowed to be people yet? Thank you for your time.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Is there a Motion to Adjourn?

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, real quick for a personal privilege?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. I was just wondering if we could, for the record, just say if there is a person or organization that wants to schedule a meeting with Council, how exactly --- what's the proper procedure for getting that to happen? Is that something that we have to call for? Is it something a Committee Chair would call for? What is the procedure for that?

PRESIDENT CATENA: What is the procedure for what? If an individual wants to meet with Council or ---?

MS. HALLAM: Correct. And if it's an individual or organization and if they want to meet with all Council, what is the proper procedure to be followed to get that meeting scheduled?

PRESIDENT CATENA: They would need to contact our --- Ken Varhola (phonetic).

MR. HALLAM: Okay. And just for request --- he sends out a request to all Members of Council?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, then we'd need to schedule a meeting. But, of course, if you require all Members of Council there, that's a Quorum of Council, obviously. So that meeting would need to be advertised.

MR. HALLAM: So if it wasn't a quorum, it's something that could just be scheduled with Ken?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Correct.

MR. HALLAM: Okay. Thank you very much, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Is there a Motion to Adjourn?

MR. MACEY: Motion to Adjourn.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Second?

MEMBER: Second.

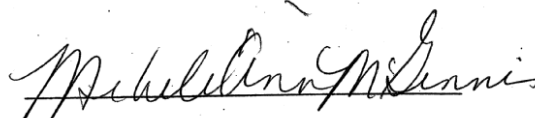
PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion is made and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

AYES RESPOND

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion carries. Thank you,
everyone. Stay safe.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was transcribed from the recorded audio on 07/30/2020 and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding to the best of my ability.


Michelle Ann McQuinn
Court Reporter