

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

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BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice-President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	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

July 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker --- Director, Legislative Services

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'd like to call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have moment of silence prayer or reflection.

(Moment of Silence.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Please be seated. Jared, please take roll.

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:	Present.
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: There are 14 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll begin with Proclamations and certificates.

11923-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Stacy Smith upon the occasion of his retirement from KDKA-TV,

sponsored by President Catena, all members of Council and Treasurer Weinstein.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mr. Smith, would you like to come up and join me? Treasurer Weinstein would you like to come up and join us?

Whereas the price of success is hard work, dedicated to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. That quote by Vince Lombardi depicts the true essence of Mr. Stacy Smith in his 38 years dedicated to KDKA-TV.

And whereas Stacy is a graduate of Marian College of Minneapolis, he began his broadcast career at WLBC-AM/FM in Muncie, Indiana in December of 1971. Prior to joining KDKA-TV Stacy anchored the evening newscast at WDAF TV in Kansas City, Missouri for six years. Before that he worked at WHAS-AM/FM TV in Louisville and WIFE AM now WIBC in Indianapolis. And whereas Stacy started at KDKA TV in July of 1993 and dove right into covering politics after his arrival. He covered many of the political conversations and became one of the go-to people on election coverage.

And whereas during his years at KDKA-TV Stacy garnered several key awards, including co-anchoring the breaking news coverage of that fateful evening, the crash of Flight 427, which earned KDKA-TV a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award. And whereas in 1991 Stacy anchored the first Pittsburgh newscast to win an Emmy.

He also played a significant role in several Emmy award special reports, including After the Miracle, a report on life after transplantation and Generation X, a report on the 30 and younger age group. Stacy also narrated an Emmy award-winning program for Pittsburgh's PBS station, WQED-TV entitled Maazel, and whereas Stacy also covers stories regarding breakthrough medical technology and innovations, mostly organ transplants and research.

The Associated Press, the United Press International honored Stacy for reports on Alzheimer's disease. And Dr. Thomas Starlz the doctor known as the doctor who pioneered modern transplantation. Additionally Stacy was honored by the AP and nominated for an Emmy in 2006 for a half hour special that he produced, wrote and anchored on the 50th year anniversary of the discovery of the polio vaccine here in Pittsburgh. And whereas Stacy

was also a Golden Quill --- awarded a Golden Quill in 2007 for an hour special on then Pittsburgh Catholic Bishop Donald Wuerl, which he co-produced and anchored.

Whereas Stacy continued his coverage of religious figures when he happened to be one of the few local journalists to speak briefly and meet with John Paul the Second while covering the Pittsburgh Symphony's Historic trip to the Vatican. And whereas Stacy also guided Pittsburgh viewers through many emotional and important events, such as the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, the UPMC and Highmark insurance coverage dispute, and many, many, many elections.

Whereas most recently, Stacy was pivotal in the development, implementation and execution of KDKA's 2020 election coverage plan and footprint. He also created a round the table weekly political segment that became KDKA TV's first original programming staple on the new streaming platform, CBSN Pittsburgh.

And whereas, in addition to the anchoring duty, Stacy interviewed numerous news anchors on the weekly KDPG Sunday edition show. He was also the host of OnQ Magazine from its inception for eight years on WQED. Whereas Stacy was involved in multiple community activities, as well as having served on the Board of Directors of Harmarville Rehabilitation Centers, Three Rivers Council for Independent Living and chairman of the board of directors of Family House of Pittsburgh. In 2007, Stacy was given the title of Chairman Emeritus for the Family House. He has also been involved with the Shriners and was named an honorary ambassador for the Syrian Mosque. He is also a founding member and chaired the Pittsburgh Creche Endowment Committee.

Now, quite a number of accomplishments, Mr. Smith, over the years, now therefore that we, Allegheny County Council Members --- all of Council --- I'm not going to read everyone's name and our Treasurer, Treasurer John Weinstein do hereby recognize and congratulate Stacy Smith upon the occasion of his retirement from KDKA TV, and we commend him for all that he has done during his 50 years in broadcasting.

MR. SMITH: Mr. President, thank you. And all members of Council thank you as well.

I think you left one or two things out, but I'm not sure exactly what those would be. It is --- I'm truly humbled by this proclamation and by all of you recognizing

me. It's been an honor, for 38 years, to be here in Pittsburgh and to report the news and anchor the news and inform the people of Allegheny County and surrounding counties what is happening in their world.

You know, the last time I think I was in this room for a proclamation had to be in the late 1980s. And I was here with Patrice King Brown, and we were given a proclamation for the station on behalf of the county for their work on the Second Chance, which was our major effort to recognize Tom Starzl and the transplantation, and to urge people to sign up for transplantation.

A lot has changed as far as government goes. This room hasn't changed a lot, but government has, and I think it's to the better. At that point giving us the proclamation that day, were Tom Forester, Pete Flaherty and Barbara Hafer. That County Commission government is now gone and now we have this elected Council to govern the county along with the county executive, and I think it's to the better. I just want to say as someone who's covered politics and government for 50-some years, no one thanks you enough for what you do as council members. You're not paid, you take the heat when you have to raise taxes or do something else. And I just think that it's time that you also be recognized.

So this is my proclamation to you. Thank you so much. And John, thank you so much for helping guiding this through.

MR. WEINSTEIN: Mr. President, members of council, it's always a pleasure to be here. I guess the 50 years that Stacy Smith has been in the broadcast industry --- obviously he started when he was about 10 or 12 years old, because he --- he certainly doesn't look his age. But it's that voice, you just heard that voice and it's --- it's been in every home in this region for all of these years at six o'clock while people are having dinner and enjoying their family. They've listened to Stacy Smith, and he's been through so many things from tragedies that have affected us to the weather, to fantastic things that have happened in this region.

But the most important thing is in journalism there are a lot of people that make the news. Stacey has spent his entire life just reporting the news. That is one of the most important things that I've always respected about him. He doesn't generate the news like a lot of these newscasters do today and talk about things and their

own personal beliefs. He just reported the news so that people were informed. And that's what news was all about in journalism, true journalism. But Stacy has made a mark in this region because he has done it with a consummate professionalism from day one. He has never wavered from that. And he's a true gentleman and a gentle man. And he's my friend, and I'm honored to be here and co-sponsor this proclamation, because Allegheny County has become a much better place because an individual with the caliber of Stacy Smith. And he's going to be sorely missed on KDKA and sorely missed in all the homes in this region.

And I just --- he just reminded me that he actually served longer than Bill Burns. Those of you who remember Bill Burns was the face of KDKA for many, many years, Stacy had more time in broadcast journalism than Bill did. So he was our generation of Bill Burns, and it's truly an honor to be here, and I congratulate you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We're going to go up front and do a picture.

MR. SMITH: All right.

(Photos taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11924-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing William Marshall for organizing Western Pennsylvania's Juneteenth celebrations. Sponsored by Council members Bennett, Catena, Duerr, Futules, Hallam, Klein, Macey, Prizio and Kirk.

MR. WLATON: Would you add me to that sponsorship?

MR. BARKER: And Mr. Walton.

MR. ZAVARELLA: And me, too, please.

MR. PALMOSINA: Mr. President, me as well.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Put down everybody.

MS. BENNETT: As recorded this is B. Marshall, William Marshall, the organizer of Juneteenth. B, Council. Council, B.

All right. So this is a proclamation recognizing William Marshall's Juneteenth celebration organizer, whereas William Marshall, B Marshall, founder and CEO of Stop the Violence Pittsburgh, has dedicated his career to community efforts. Through extreme diligence, B. Marshall uses his skillset to help prevent and reduce violence, as he fosters vibrant opportunities for personal spiritual, educational and economic growth.

And whereas since 2013, B. Marshall has organized Juneteenth celebrations throughout the City of Pittsburgh and whereas Juneteenth March, June 19th, 1865, the day union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with news of the emancipation proclamation and slaves there learned they were free and whereas 2021 is the first year, the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County celebrated Juneteenth as an official holiday. And whereas this has --- this was made possible thanks to the lobbying efforts of B Marshall as he urged city and county governments to acknowledge the region's rich history by declaring Juneteenth as a holiday and pay homage to all those who worked hard so that black people's voices could be heard. And whereas B. Marshall optimized his organization, Stop the Violence, Pittsburgh, to host the 2021 Western PA Juneteenth celebration. And whereas Friday, June 18th, 2021 kicked off a Juneteenth celebration unlike any other the 15th day, western PA Juneteenth celebration at Point State Park included a nationally known recording artists and a full slate of events, such as a showcase of African American art, free food and entertainment and the chance for people to create art of their own.

And now, therefore, be it resolved that we, Allegheny County, council members, and as you heard all of us are now cosponsoring this, and I will not read everybody's names, because now this is not accurate, do hereby recognize William Marshall for organizing Western Pennsylvania Juneteenth celebrations for eight years, and we thank him for his dedication to the black community and advocating so that Juneteenth will be declared an official holiday in the region and witness whereof I have hereby caused the seal of Allegheny County to do this on the 6th day of July, 2021.

And on a personal note, I just want to thank the --- my grandson and I participated in many of the events down at Point State Park. It was such a family environment. It was so --- I don't --- I don't care --- I had not heard of any incidents of violence that happened during all of the Juneteenth festivities. And though we started ours here June 18th, he actually had festivities the weekend before that in the Westin and Gala that was at the beginning of the month. So he really did do a wonderful job, making sure June was a month to celebrate black lives and I just want to personally thank you because my grandson had the time of his life on the float

and everything that you allow and organized for Juneteenth. So thank you.

MR. MORRISON: I just want to say thank you to everybody. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: What I'd like to do is personally thank you for your leadership, not just in this event, but over the years. When I arrived in Pittsburgh in 1995, the Juneteenth --- the Juneteenth activities were done through WAMO and that fell --- that fell through the cracks. Immediately upon the cessation of that, you picked up the mantle and you provided leadership and a whole host of activities. Juneteenth, the Martin Delaney celebration, and you've provided real leadership and an opportunity to showcase what we're all about.

And just as importantly Olivia said that you and your leadership made sure that the weekend was more than celebration and recognition of our history, and you provided leadership that has been unmatched and untold, and I thank you personally, sir.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: Let's get a picture.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: The remaining proclamations and certificates will be read into the record.

11925-21.

MR. BARKER: Before proceeding, please let the record reflect that Mr. Klein is now with us via videoconferencing.

11925-21, Certification of recognition presented to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Evelyn Fichera of West Mifflin upon the monumental occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11926-21.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation congratulating Gloria Bennett upon her retirement from North Hills Community Outreach, sponsored by Council Members Kirk and Baker.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11927-21.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation recognizing Mike Heiry, head custodian at North Allegheny Intermediate High School for being named the 2021 Cintas Custodian of the year, sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11928-1.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation recognizing Paige Morningstar, a senior at North Allegheny High School for



being named the 2020-21 MaxPreps Female high School Athlete of the year, sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11929-21.

MR. BARKER: Certificates of achievement presented to the 2020-2021 North Allegheny Girls' Varsity Basketball team for winning their fourth WPIAL Class 6A championship and winning their first PIAA Class 6A championship, sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. BARKER: We have two individuals who signed up timely and two who signed up after the deadline.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone object to hearing them all? Seeing no objections, go ahead.

MR. BARKER: First up, Jay Walker of the City of Pittsburgh. He is here. Excellent.

MR. WALKER: Hello. Hello, my name is Jay Ting Walker, and I'm a community organizer for the statewide environmental non-profit, Clean Air Council. I'm speaking today to encourage County Council to vote in favor of ratifying the air permit fees --- fee increases that were approved by the Allegheny County Health Department.

As a community organizer I worked with Clairton-based community group called Valid Clean Air Now. Every single member of the organization has gut-wrenching stories about the sicknesses and deaths of their loved ones due to air pollution.

As we've already seen numerous times this year, our county's air quality is a national embarrassment. This air permit fee increase is just the first of many needed steps we'll need to finally make air quality a priority in Allegheny County. The new fee does not only bring us in alignment with permit fees across the state, but they also bring desperately needed enforcement funding for our county's health department.

Although we are disappointed that permit fees took so long to go to county council, after being passed in the March Board of Health meeting, we're glad it's finally happening. Having said that we need and deserve much more action from our county government. While, we wait to take action, more and more people die from exposure to air pollution.

Residents of Allegheny County need county council to stop believing the lies of major polluters. Stop buying into efforts by industry groups that show

doubt in what air monitors and countless studies clearly show. Passing today's air permit fees is a good step, attending post-agenda hosted by Council Members Duerr and Prizio is a good next step.

Polluters have been destroying the health of our residence for generations. Allegheny County residents need our county council to stand up and fight for us. No longer can we tolerate these flagrant and repeated violations of minimal federal clean air standards. We need County Council to say to dirty polluters, clean it up or shut it down. Vote yes on the air permit fee increases. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. BARKER: Next up we have Robert Maddock, also the City Pittsburgh, who is not with us, but did submit written comments.

Legislation sponsored by Council Member Bennett, this legislation puts County Council on record as urging the United States Congress to reintroduce the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and discuss and vote on the bill together with the For the People Act, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act and the George Floyd Justice and Policing Act. This is legislations whose time has come.

If this nation is to fulfill its promise and be of and for the people, this is the opportunity to make that wish concrete. This council is a duly elected voice of the people of Allegheny County. This opportunity to speak for this county with the other voices needing for justice cannot be missed.

The other two individuals who submitted comments, the Sam King Smith, also the City of Pittsburgh, motion presented by Council Person Olivia Bennett. Members of Congress should be ashamed to have local County Council's request that they fulfill their duties to the American public. However, since current members have repeatedly put party over country, I'd urge you to support the bills presented to Congress that ultimately is in everyone's best interest. Given all that are eligible the right to vote. The 1965 Voters Rights Act was a step in the right direction.

The key aspect of this legislation has considerably eroded. Please therefore strengthen our democracy by supporting these bills.

And last up is Rachel Filippini. Good evening, my name is Rachel Filippini, I'm the executive director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution.

For more than 50 years we've worked to improve air quality in southwestern Pennsylvania. We are happy to see Allegheny County Health Department's proposal to amend its regulations to be consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection fee structure and hope it is approved, as recommended by both the Air Advisory Committee and Council's Health and Human Services Committee.

Before you vote, we wanted to briefly reiterate that the Clean Air Act requires that the fees imposed on Title 5 sources in Allegheny County be sufficient to cover all reasonable, direct and indirect costs required to develop and to administer to help the Title 5 permit program. Because ACG's Air Quality Program is equipped with funding from Allegheny County itself, that means the fees paid by non-Title 5 sources in the county must also generate sufficient revenue to fund a non-Title 5 side of the program, making these changes absolutely imperative.

As you know, GASP strongly supported the fee schedule changes proposed by the state as well as ACG's Air Quality Program. GASP believes the revisions to the fee schedule are necessary for the Air Quality Program to be able to fulfill its mission of protecting the air quality in Allegheny County.

Today we would like to submit the record a GASP petition signed by 400 residents encouraging Council to vote yes on these scheduled changes. Thank you.

This is the petition. And that's it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We're going to do presentation of appointments. So all new appointments are obviously Friends of the Parks. If there are no objections, I'd like the clerk to consolidate and read these appointments by park. All of these Friends were referred to the Committee on appointment or review.

Group one, South Park, which is 11904-21 through 11915-21.

MR. BARKER: The Friends of South Park we have Carolyn Savikas, sponsored by Council Member Klein. Jason Fincke, sponsored by Council Member Walton. Angela Sue

Zemba, Bernadette Fincke, Edward Eichenlaub, and Heather Wechter, all sponsored by Council Member Duerr. David Buchewicz, James Converse, Thomas Woods, Sharon Adams, Clarence Adams, and Leslie Brueggman, all sponsored by Council Member Palmiere and all of those terms are set to expire on July 6th, 2024.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Group 2, North Park, which is 11916-21.

MR. BARKER: For Friends of North Park, we have Gerard Aufman, Jr., sponsored by Council Member DeMarco. Kenneth Allshouse, sponsored by Council Member Baker. Lawrence Steckel, Michael Carroll, Heidi Fornalczyk, Nancy Furbee and Barbara Gaertner, all sponsored by Council Member Kirk. And all those terms also set to expire on July 6, 2024.

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, unless there's some objections, I'd like to move that we waive the second reading and approve them tonight.

MR. DUERR: I have an objection.

MR. FUTULES: There was no second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hearing no second -.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah, I got a question. Don't they have to go to the appointment review now?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, he was trying to waive the second --- basically trying to waive the second, and there was no second it goes to appointment review.

Unfinished business, Committee on Budget and Finance for the second reading. 11895-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2021, Submission number 06-21, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Mr. President. The Budget and Finance Committee met on July 1st, 2021 and affirmatively recommended its resolution that would amend the 2021 Grants and Special Accounts Budget to accept \$226,485 grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency for use by the Court of Common Pleas to acquire new electronic monitoring devices for expansion of electronic monitored probation and a \$10,800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for use by Economic Development to create affordable housing for non-congregate shelter units and provide

tenant-based rental assistance and more supportive services. I move for approval.

MS. KIRK: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MS. HALLAM: Thank you. So while I want to uphold to reduce the population at Allegheny County Jail ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member Hallam, you're breaking up.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Can you hear me now?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. I can't support expanded funding that will increase the reach of the criminal legal system into peoples' lives and is not guaranteed to reduce the jail population. As we've seen from studies on the outfitting of tasers to police department, there is no evidence that having access to a taser has actually reduced the use of fire.

Police don't use guns less when they have tasers. They just now use tasers, too, in other situations. This holds true in expanded alternative to incarceration. The problem is these alternatives, in this case electronic monitoring, often don't lower the use of the original incarceration. Pennsylvanians face United States highest rate of mass supervision and correctional control. 2,956 per 100,000 people, second only to Georgia. Absent clear and concise guidelines and systems focused intentional approaches to reducing the population of the jail, this expansion will likely just place more people who are currently not on electronic monitoring, but either release through trail on their own recognizance or more onto the electronic monitoring.

The same is true for expansion of the use of electronic monitoring for folks who are currently on probation without electronic monitor. So yes, absolutely, 100 percent let's reduce the jail's population. It's of the utmost urgency. There is no question about that, but I will be voting no on expanding what experts began to refer to as e-carceration, because that's not the answer. We need to respect the presumption of innocence and protect the rights of pre-trial freedom. So I'm asking my colleagues to join me in voting no against this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other comment? Hearing no other comment, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

MR. BAKER: 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: 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. 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 14, noes 1. The Bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Committee on Health and Human Services for the second reading.  
11896-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying Air Quality permit application and permit fee increases approved by the Allegheny County Health Department pursuant to the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Sections 505-16E, 505-17G, 505-23F, 505-25E(2)(c), 505-28A(7), 505-48(4)(b) and 505-49C(8)(h)[6], sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Woman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. The Committee of Health and Human Services met on the 1st of July to review the --- review this resolution. It was Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Program regulation consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection fee structure. After discussion, it was affirmatively recommend it to the full council.

So I move to approve it.

MR. BAKER: Second.

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

Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President. I was out of town --- or I was out of state on vacation last week, so I wasn't able to attend the hearing, so I'm trying to catch up the best I can. I'm amenable to the fee increases. As I understand, they have not been increased in quite a significant amount of time, 15 to 20 years. I do have questions about the permitting promise and what the Health Department is going to do, as far as giving some --- some ability for industry or for labor to weigh in on some of these regulations and some of these things that they put in these permits or what they consider approving as we go forward.

I understand we don't have the opportunity to have that discussion before this meeting. I will vote to approve this, but I do want to have that discussion, because again, you know, you have all kinds of folks that have come out here and talk about how terrible things are. The air quality in the Allegheny County, although not perfect, is light years better than it was a decade ago, and it gets better and better every year.

And yesterday, Allegheny County you had an air alert, and it was because of fireworks, you know, and the lack of wind moving throughout the county. Okay. So you know, I'm not at --- I'm not looking to shut down industry, you know, entirely, family sustaining jobs, you know, for the pursuit of the perfect. So I will be supporting this, but we do need to look at the Health Department and how some of their permits are approved and how the regulations are issued, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, is there any other comment?

MR. DUERR: Mr. President, very quick.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. DUERR: I just wanted to say that I had quite a few constituents in my district reach out in support of this, and I just wanted to say that I appreciated their comments about this issue, and look forward to supporting those measures, so thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else? Hearing no one else, roll call vote, please, Jared.

MR. BAKER: 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:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM:	Yes.
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. 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: The Committee on Public Works, for the second reading.

11894-21.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the



grant of a temporary license agreement to Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership for the purpose of staging a food festival and related activities on the Andy Warhol, 7th Street, Bridge to be known as Picklesburgh, between Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and Monday, August 23, 2021, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Here we have another event that really makes this region stand out, and it's called Picklesburgh. And I believe that, you know, this is not the first --- this is, I think, the eighth Picklesburgh that we've had. And our committee met on Tuesday, September 1st --- excuse me, July 1st, and it was sent to full council for affirmative recommendation. I make a motion to approve.

MR. DUERR: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

Mr. BAKER: Mr. President, I would just encourage my colleagues to go to Picklesburgh. I know when this event started years ago, and some of us were sitting up here and Manager McCain and his team brought the event to us as a possibility. I remember Councilman Ed Kreski was the first one that said this is really a good idea. This sounds like really fun, this would bring people come together and I have gone a couple times, it really does that. It's an incredible opportunity for people to come together. You don't have to like pickles, I.E. myself, to enjoy the event. So I would just encourage my colleagues, if you want to go as a group, that would be fun. So go and enjoy Picklesburgh.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, tongue in cheek, we may want to rename this ordinance the Ed Kreski ordinance.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Seriously, Picklesburgh, every year it gets better and bigger, and I believe two years ago, they actually had to cut traffic off on the bridge, because it was so widely attended and so crowded. And so I'm looking forward to --- after obviously, having to take a year off due to COVID, I'm looking forward to getting back to Picklesburgh.

So on that note ---.

MR. PALMOSINA: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. PALMOSINA: Just a question. I do agree with this, and I'm for it, but I'm just thinking, how is

this going to affect the Steeler game that night, with those bridges being closed? It just dawned on me. I think there's a Steeler game that night.

MR. FUTULES: It's closed for the Steelers games now.

MR. PALMOSINA: Are they all closed during that?

MS. PRIZIO: No, just the one.

PRESIDENT CATENA: No, just the one bridge.

MR. DUERR: Is that a preseason game?

MR. PALMOSINA: I think I remember seeing a game that night, maybe I'm wrong. I was just --- you know, is that going to impact that game and traffic and all that, or is that just ---.

MR. DUERR: Good point.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Picklesburgh trumps the Steelers game.

MR. PALMOSINA: No, I'm just asking a question.

PRESIDENT CATENA: It's a preseason --- it's a preseason game.

MR. PALMOSINA: I'm just asking, people haven't been to games, you know, for over a year. Is this going to impact --- I'm just asking a question.

MR. BAKER: Councilman Palmosina is right. It's the 21st at 7:30, Detroit Lions at the Steelers.

MR. PALMOSINA: I remember seeing the --- I'm just asking. I remember seeing that on my end.

MS. BENNETT: As a person who was raised on the Northside near the Three Rivers --- what used to be the Three Rivers Stadium now Heinz Field, no one --- everybody finds their way there, no worries. Like, the bridge will be closed, the Andy Warhol Bridge will be closed, and we have 900 other bridges, and they will make it there. Trust me.

MR. PALMOSINA: I'm just saying, it's going to be hectic. Steelers are opening up, all the games --- it's just dawned on me, that's all. I'm all for it, I mean. I'll probably be there, to be honest with you. I'm just saying it's going to impact the flow of traffic.

MR. WALTON: Are you going to drink some pickle juice?

MR. PALMOSINA: No, I won't do that.

MS. BENNETT: They can visit Picklesburgh before they go to the game, two for.

MR. PALMOSINA: That's true, too.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah, you can enjoy two for the price of one.

MR. PALMOSINA: I guess I shouldn't have asked that question.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Jared, role.

MR. BAKER: 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: Yes. Pickles.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

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. 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 14, no zero. The Bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Are there any Liaison Reports this evening? Councilman Baker?

MR. BAKER: I promise it will be interesting and also a couple of invites come along with it.

A couple good things going on, though. Moon had an incredible July celebration for Independence Day on the 4th of July, an incredible huge crowd. I want to give a couple shout outs to Manager McCain and the administration and the entire team. The summer concert series is going

well. I haven't been to one in a while or haven't been to one ever. I was at Indigo Girls last Sunday night on the 27th. It was a huge crowd. The county executive and I hung out, because I went to my first concert ever by myself, which is an okay thing. I've never tried it. I came and the county executive became my friend to hang out at the event, but it was great.

So I made sure --- you know, made sure to go to --- I always tell a friend, you know, our taxpayers --- our taxpayer dollars pay for these events to take place, it's free to go, so make sure to go and check out all the amazing concerts going on. The Spin Doctors is coming later this summer as well, too. Hartwood Acres and then out in South Park are two spots, and they are putting lots of food, drinks all kinds of good stuff.

I do want to mention, the pools are operating at really high levels as well. We are a family that happened to be there yesterday. It almost looked like 2019. High levels of people there. I know a lot of pools across the county, not county pools, aren't able to open right now. So you know, congrats to the administration on the good work that's being done there.

Here come the invites. I will say that this Thursday will likely be my last time ever as a mixer with shaker for the Pittsburgh Chamber event. I know some of you have been to airport chamber events over the years. It's a wonderful event. I'll be shaking the community cocktails. So I do have extra tickets left, they're my treat, if anybody wants to come and spend the night and enjoy that event. But it's a good community gathering.

And I'll just mention, my seventh and final District 1 town hall will be on September 1st at Monticellos and Ross, and we are now taking nominations for the fourth annual District 1 difference makers for people that live, work and serve in the 14 communities of District 1. All 15 of us probably know somebody that lives, works or serves in somewhere --- somewhere in District 1, so please send those nominations over.

MR. DUERR: Tom, since you're leaving, you know, you might want to think about giving yourself one of those, since you've done such a good job.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton?

MR. WALTON: I'd like to start by thanking the Executive for its continued leadership in supporting Earn and Learn for high school students to intern with

organizations across Allegheny County and earn additional earnings opportunity and gain additional experience ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Can you please mute your phones out there? Can you please mute your phones?

Go ahead, Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: Additionally, I want to ask if Council would be interested in --- or willing to support a motion to our legislative leaders across the State of Pennsylvania to not continue to try to pass voter suppression legislation. The government just vetoed last week legislation that is designed to present --- to suppress the voting rights of significant members of individuals across the State of Pennsylvania.

We are seeing continued efforts across this country and demonstrated, again, here in Pennsylvania about suppressing voter rights and voter opportunities. That kind of legislation was defeated and overturned by the Courts less than ten years ago. And we need to --- we need to not continue along that path. We should be engaging in activities that expand voting rights and not suppress voting rights. Thank you.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you. Along those lines, I wish the folks who are weighing in and making comments about House Bill 1300 would actually read it, because it's a well-written bill. It has something in it for everyone. So the folks who wanted more access it codified and left in place, no excuse mail in absentee ballots. It provided actual early voting at the polls. It took and provided for drop boxes and put those in the statute, things that aren't in statute today.

For Republicans who were concerned about electoral integrity and security, it asked for voter ID and for signature verification. For the county administrator's across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it did a number of things, by taking and giving a reasonable amount of time in order to take and process new request for voter registration, in order to take and actually process and be able to be given the time, 7 days to 15 days, applications or mail-in absentee ballots, to make it possible for them to process and actually get it out to the voter so that they can then return it before the election.

And it also took and allowed for pre-canvassing. So there was something in the Bill for everyone and for the folks who claim voter suppression, I would argue that's a big lie. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Any other Liaison reports this evening? Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah, on the lighter side, I want to say how wonderful the fireworks display in the City of Pittsburgh was, again, this year. And for those of you who had a chance to see it --- I think we take it for granted, us that live here. My daughter has acquired nine new friends from UPMC, seven of them are from other states, two of them are from other countries. She took them all to the North Shore for the display, and they were so overwhelmed by how wonderful it was, one of the persons from the other countries said he rated that day as one of the best days of his life to see that display.

How wonderful. So we do a great job here in Pittsburgh with our fireworks and I just want to commend those people that do put it on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else?

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Seeing no one else --- go ahead.

MR. PALMIERE: I'm sorry, I didn't get a chance to put my Picklesburgh thing --- I got cut off here. I vote yes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll add you to the vote for Picklesburgh, Councilman Palmiere, because I know you don't want to miss out on that.

MR. PALMIERE: I know that's not the biggest deal in town, but I just wanted to get it done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome. New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions.  
11930-21.

MR. BARKER: It's a motion to Council of Allegheny County encouraging the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to finalize a strong methane rule that closes the existing loophole for low-producing wells, sponsored by Council Members Hallam, Prizio and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena. I'm going to keep it short and sweet because I think this is

something that all of my colleagues will be very excited to support. It's exactly as Jared described it. It goes and is encouraging the Pennsylvania DEP to close the loopholes regarding methane regulations for low-producing wells. Pennsylvania is actually the second largest natural gas producing state in the entire United States. I believe that us approving this motion sends a message to the Commonwealth that we need to step up and protect the residents of Allegheny County and the entire Commonwealth from the dangerous methane and air pollution that we're experiencing in our region, because they're a great step. Just do it, so I would ask that everyone votes yes to approve this motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there a second?

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, Jared, would you please take a roll call vote?

MR. BAKER: On the motion to approve. 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:	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:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Pamosina?
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 12, noes 3. The motion

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11931-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the United States Congress to undertake action on a number of legislative items with all deliberate speed, sponsored by Council Members Bennett, Duerr and Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena. So this motion is pretty self-explanatory. It's basically asking U.S. Congress to --- now that they've made Juneteenth a federal holiday to now pass legislation that has been sitting or has been introduced in the Federal U.S. Congress that would actually help to move along the lives of black people specifically. So those bills include the John Lewis Voting Act, the We The People Act, the Anti-Lynching Act and Justice and Policing, and so basically, this motion is to encourage U.S. Congress to pass those bills through our country, so that we can actually see lives and impact through policy for specifically black lives.

And I make a motion to pass this.

MR. DUERR: I'll second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Again, I was out last week. Trying to review this today, I saw there was a number of references to bills such as HR 1, and I believe that's one of those un-American bills that will be presented to Congress. It would cease the authority of states to regulate voter registration and the voting process by forcing states to implement early voting, automatic voter registration, same-day registration, online voter registration to no fault absentee voting ballot.

It would take these taxpayer dollars to fund political campaigns. I believe it would hurt voter turnout to 15 days of mandated early voting, by the --- due to the intensity of the get out to vote efforts and potentially raise the cost of campaigns. I believe it



would degrade the accuracy and registration list by requiring states to automatically register all individuals from state and federal databases such as State Department of Motor Vehicles, Corrections and Welfare offices, which would inadvertently register large numbers of ineligible voters. It would constitute a recipe for massive voter registration fraud for hackers and cyber criminals through online voter registration. It would require states to count ballots cast by voters of --- that are signed precincts. I mean, I can go on and on. For this reason, I will not be voting in support of this motion. Thank you.

MR. DUERR: Mr. President, may I? What I'm hearing from my Councilman --- what I'm hearing from my colleague right now is bits and pieces of the big lie being perpetuated here in Council tonight, and I just want to say that automatic voter registration, many things listed in HR 1 is done. Two, expand the right of this country to vote, there was no voter fraud in the last election, there was no widespread voter fraud here or anywhere else, and to insinuate otherwise is to disparage the hard work of all of the election workers in this county and across this great country. So I supported this Bill and co-sponsored it, because --- and Jared, if you would please correct me if I'm wrong, the motion simply urges them to take up voting on this, not support it one way or the other; correct?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

MR. DUERR: Okay. So in that regard, to my colleagues, I would say this is not taking a stance one way or the other on these bills, this is simply stating these bills have been sitting, languishing in congress for too long. I believe that it is past --- long past time that all these bills are given their fair shake in the sun. If it's for or against, and if they fail in Congress, then Congress can go back to the drawing board and try and come up with more amicable solutions. So that's why I supported it. It was not a for or against type thing. It was more --- mostly saying, listen, this was an urge --- an us urging them to say, listen, these things have been sitting there too long, it's time to bring them to the floor for full votes, but unfortunately, as we know, given the nature of the filibuster, it's most likely never going to happen, a majority of these bills, but still, might as well take a shot. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton? I'm sorry.

MR. WALTON: Thank you. I respectfully disagree with my colleague as well. There's been a plethora of legislative actions that have been taken across the country to suppress voting rights of Americans. If I remember correctly, it's --- over 30 states had introduced legislation in the last eight months to restrict voting rights. Additionally, it is long past time that we fix what judicial action has been taken suppress and reduce the power of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, whether it was Section 2 or whether it was Section 5, all designed to disembowel that legislation that empowered everyday Americans.

We should not be engaged in practices in establishing policies that restrict voters --- people the right to vote. We should empower people and expand the opportunity for folks to make decisions and be --- and continue to be engaged, whether we like the outcome of a vote or not. This country was founded on principals that really restricted people's right to vote, whether you were a white man that owned property and has continued throughout its history. We should not continue those restrictive practices. We should empower all Americans and encourage people to participate in the process to make sure every voice is heard. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening? Seeing no one else, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

MR. BAKER: On the motion to approve. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: I'll abstain. Lack of knowledge on the issue.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: 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: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: An emphatic yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 11, noes 3 with 1 abstention.

The motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: There's none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We had only one individual signed up, Thomas Rogers, of the City of Pittsburgh who does not appear to be with us. The extent of his comment is that the Allegheny County's Public Defenders office does not return phone calls for multiple months.

MR. DUERR: Mr. President, that individual is from my district. I just wanted to mention that I did have Ken reach out and resolved that issue.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MS. BENNET: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. (Chorus of ayes.)

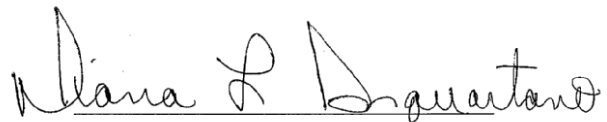
PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion carries. Thank you, everyone. Have a blessed evening.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:00 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 day of September, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana L. Inquartano". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Court Reporter

Diana L. Inquartano