

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

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

September 14, 2021,

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jack Cembest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff

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

(Pledge of Allegiance Recited.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please remain standing for a moment of silent 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. FUTURLES: 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: We have 15 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll begin with proclamation and certificates. 12005-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Caren Glotfelty upon the occasion of her retirement from the Allegheny County Parks Foundation sponsored by Council

Members Kirk, Palmiere, Prizio, Baker, Bennett, Catena, DeMarco, Duerr, Futules, Hallam, Klein, Macey, Palmosina, Walton and Zavarella.

MS. KIRK: So we have a very special person here who's actually retiring, Caren Glotfelty. And we want to recognize her for all the work she's done for our county parks. She's from the Allegheny County Parks Foundation, which raises a lot of the money and oversees things and makes sure we have some special programs we would never have. I want you to let you know that John Palmiere wishes he could have been here to give you this, because he's Chair of our Parks Commission.

So I'd like to read this, if I could, and then you can say a few words for us.

MS. GLOTFELTY: Okay. I will.

MS. KIRK: Whereas Caren Glotfelty, executive director of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation and long-term Pennsylvania Environmental leader in academia, government and non-profits will retire later this year; whereas Ms. Glotfelty has devoted her career to public service. Over the years, she has led environmental conservation efforts of Pennsylvania University, a/k/a Penn State. Advised on environmental policy and protection at the state level and protection at the state level and utilized her research and expertise to help guide millions of dollars to environmental non-profits.

And whereas, originally from California, Ms. Glotfelty came to Pennsylvania for graduate work for the University of Pennsylvania, and during the course of her career she has held several prestigious positions, such as first deputy secretary for water management that got our chair at forestry and environmental resources, Conservation at Penn State University, and senior program director of the environmental program at the Heinz Endowment. And whereas, in 2014, Ms. Glotfelty was recruited to head the Allegheny County Parks Foundation. As executive director of the foundation, she is dedicated - she was dedicated to the conservation and restoration of nine Allegheny County parks that are visited by - 22 million times a year, or each year, and actually probably a little bit more last year. Whereas at the Parks Foundation she's brought greater visibility to the ecological needs of the nine Allegheny County parks by partnering with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to conduct ecological studies in the parks.

Whereas Ms. Glotfelty partnered with the Autobahn Society of Western Pennsylvania to install 100 chimney swift habitats, towers. If you've gone through the parks, you probably have seen them. They look like a chimney, because we don't have as many chimneys, so they built chimneys for those birds to nest in. They are throughout the nine parks, making it one of the largest concentration of towers in the country, whereas Mrs. Glotfelty is currently overseeing design plans aimed at finding green stormwater solutions to the conversion of the parks asphalt visitor parking lot, and the design of acid mine drainage treatments that will restore aquatic life to the once popular stream.

And whereas, in addition to her work at the Parks Foundation, Ms. Glotfelty founded the Allegheny Green Web, a network of nearly 30 agencies and municipal recreational and environmental organizations in Allegheny County, created for the purpose of building conductivity through trails and open spaces. And whereas Allegheny County is grateful for the service and dedication of Ms. Glotfelty, a/k/a Caren, and her determination to provide a superior experience to every individual that encounters the nine Allegheny parks. And whereas in her retirement, she was looking forward to traveling and volunteering as a docent at the Harwood Acres Sculpture Garden. And that's new and very improved. And I hope you can all get there. You might be there to give you a real good tour and all the details.

So now, therefore be it resolved that we, Allegheny County Council Members; John Palmiere, Cindy Kirk, Anita Prizio, Tom Baker, Olivia Bennett, Pat Catena, Sam DeMarco, Tom Duerr, Nick Futules, Bethany Hallam, Paul Klein, Bob Macy, Bob Palmosina, Dewitt Walton and Paul Zavarella do hereby recognize and congratulate Caren Glotfelty upon the occasion of her retirement from the Allegheny County Parks Foundation, and we commend her on her retirement from the Allegheny County Parks Foundation and we commend her for all that she has done for the county parks. And that's a mouthful for everything you have done.

So would you like to - I'll hand you this in our nice little folders. Would you like to say a few things?

MS. GLOTFELTY: Sure. Sure. Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman Kirk, and thanks to all of you who sponsored this proclamation. I'm very honored to receive

this. It's been my great privilege and a pleasure really to lead the Parks Foundation for the past seven years. Some of you, original members of the council will remember that the first few years of the Parks Foundation were a little bit rocky, and I'm proud to have a very positive relationship with you, members of County Council and with the Fitzgerald administration and all of the staff of county parks, public works and facilities management. Together we have accomplished a lot, and the parks are looking better every day.

Over the next few months, in addition to the things that Councilwoman Kirk has listed to you, you will be seeing that years of fundraising and planning in various parks, it's finally resulting in projects coming out of the ground. It takes a long time to get ready to build things. And after seven years of my being at the Parks Foundation, in this last few months of my time there, I'm going to get to see things like the cascades at South Park, the completion of the South Park green parking lot, the completion of the North Park lake trail. The acid mine drainage treatment system at Settler's Cabin Park that may restore a stream to trout stocking quality and create another amenity for the park users. And of course, lots of trails, trees, meadows and other environmental improvements, stormwater management.

And there's more on the horizon that you'll be hearing about in the next few months, so stay tuned for some of the projects that we have just recently received grant money for and will look forward to partnering with County on these projects.

And I have felt so supported by you and I hope and pray that my successor will enjoy the same support you've provided to me. So thank you very much for this great honor, I really appreciate it. It means a lot to me.

(Photographs Taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Go ahead, Councilman Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. Caren, I'm sorry, I couldn't be there today, but I want to congratulate you and I want to thank you for your wonderful service to Allegheny County and to our Allegheny Council. It's been a privilege and honor working with you all these past seven years, and I wish you the best at everything in your retirement. God bless you and thank you so much for all

you do. You're a class person, and you did it with a lot of dignity, and I know we all appreciate that. Thank you so very much. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome. Thank you, Councilman Palmiere.

Now we'll move on to 12006-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the month of September as Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Month and commemorating families and healthcare professionals in the NICU, sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Please, all the staff on the neonatal units of Allegheny County, we're very, very fortunate to have all three neonatal units representative from Magee, from Children's and West Penn.

There's also going to be a new - a new NICU opening in a couple of weeks up in the North Hills at AHN Wexford, and that will be one for babies born a little later, 34 and greater weeks, and they can stay. There will be a four-bed unit, so - so that said, I want to point out, how fortunate we are, to have this kind of level of care. They're saying maybe up to ten percent of kids born need some kind of neonatal care, be it if you're full term, maybe you need a couple days for some antibiotics, maybe - some kids, they might be there a year, especially at Children's. Because if they need surgery or procedures. And when you have a baby that small, think about it, you have parents who are new to all this, right. They're new and not only do they have to take care of this child, they also have to have these parents and guide them and help them learn about the baby, making decisions for a baby. All of the sudden you're planning on having this 7 pound 11 ounce baby, jumping up and down, screaming, and you don't. And these are the people who make it happen.

This is especially important to me. My little granddaughter was born at 26 weeks, a pound and a half. She spent five months in a NICU out of state, and I realize how critical these people are. Because of people like this, my granddaughter is running around now like a little banshee. You know, that's what's so exciting. But they have so much stress upon them. Likewise the people who have babies in the NICU, the stress they're going through, we'll never understand.

I had peek at it as a grandparent, but we will never understand, and the stress they have, it's like a serious rollercoaster with the highs and lows. And one thing that makes this proclamation especially special to all of us is it was written by a NICU mom who happens to work with us in the Council. She has two little babies who have been over four months at West Penn. There was another baby, Baby Ann, she didn't make it. They were triplets, but the other two babies, Bridget and Mary are doing better and better, and she's looking forward to them going home. And hopefully - they've been there over four months, she's hoping - she's hoping, guys, that you can get her out of there, get those two little babies out.

But that's also a lot of work to teach them how to take care of the baby and all the special needs. Any baby born real young does. So it was Michelle who wrote this with a lot of passion in her heart and true experience, because until you've done it - as a matter of fact, let me just show you - where did I put them? Just to give you a perspective, a newborn baby that's in the NICU, you can take a man's wedding band and put it up their leg, that's how small they are.

This is actually a diaper for a little bit older kids, not just the pound and a halfers. This is the size diaper. And this is the second size. This is the size of it. And this would probably be big on a lot of your little ones. You know, this is a blood pressure cuff. Look at this. This is a blood pressure cuff. And it probably is too big for some of the kids. So just so you can appreciate - you probably can't see it, but this is a pacifier that those babies use. That is how small these little things are, the little babies. And if you get pictures of them from someone, they look a lot bigger, because it's hard to say.

Even - you know, you always see those Ambu masks on people on the hospital shows and that, this is the size - the total size for the little ones. So not only are they taking care of babies, they're taking care of these little fragile babies who just think they're drawing blood for one of these babies. So they are very, very keen people and I'd just like to give them a round of applause for everything they do.

Every single thing is challenging. Every single thing that we get done to us, like blood drawn or whatever, can you imagine what they are doing with the wee

little stuff. So that said, I want to read this proclamation. Like I said, she's currently a NICU mom who wrote this, and so it's truly from the heart and I'm very thankful that she found - able to be able to put this together due to her situation.

Okay. Whereas hope is being able to see that there's light despite all of the darkness. That quote by Desmond Tutu truly personified the importance of recognizing September as neonatal intensive care awareness month. And whereas around a half a million babies born in the United States are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit, or the NICU, each year. Whereas when the first NICU in the United States opened in October of 1960 at Yale New Haven Hospital, the infant mortality rate was 26 out of a thousand live births. Now, we're looking at five out of a thousand live births thanks to the continued awareness and the support.

Whereas, prematurity is the number one reason why babies are admitted into the NICU. Premature babies, which is considered less than 37 weeks, are unable to transition to the outside environment as full-term babies. They need to stay in an incubator as if they were in their moms. Whereas a NICU can be an isolating and very stressful time for the families, by recognizing September as NICU awareness month, families are given the opportunity to share their stories on their dedicated healthcare professional, Foster Hope and create fellowships with others so families know they're not alone, that something - lesson for all of us, if you know someone in this situation, give them a Starbucks card, give them some money for parking. Those little things isn't just about the money, it's about, hey, we're there for you, we're thinking of you, and I think that goes a long way for families in this situation.

Whereas the emotional strain and daily rollercoaster of the ups and down, parents endure with an infant in the NICU alters from a joyous occasion of childbirth and other accomplishments to one of great angst. And that could be in - that could be within two hours different time period. And whereas with the average daily costs of a stay in the NICU being approximately \$3,000, that's just the base rate, not counting physicians and special procedures and whatnot. And the average stay being between 13 and 46 days, like I said, some babies are celebrating their year birthday in the NICU.

Financial hardships are - often overtake the families of infants in the NICU, whereas Allegheny Health Network and UPMC offer state of the art care to both the infants and their families who specialize programs at their hospitals and it will be Children's, Magee Women's and West Penn Hospital's. And whereas UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is a national leader in the treatment of childhood conditions and diseases, it is home to a level four NICU, which is the highest NICU level, which is designed to care for newborns, with the most complex surgical and medical conditions, including those infants requiring neonatal extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, and that's very serious. Very few places can offer that.

And whereas West Penn and Magee Women's Hospital both have a level three NICU specialized in high level medical care to the smallest and most fragile infants, they are staffed by some of the best Board Certified Neonatologists, doctors who specialize in critical care for newborns, and whereas the essential figure to the NICU are the dedicated healthcare professional, such as a neonatologist, pediatricians, nurses, therapists, social workers and many more. Their dedication and commitment to their patients and their patients family is unparalleled, therefore be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Councilmember Cindy Kirk, do hereby recognize the month of September as neonatal intensive care awareness month, and we commemorate the NICU families and the healthcare professionals. Also may this recognition provide visibility to research the - and improve the quality of life for NICU babies and their patients and their parents.

That said, we can have different groups, if you'd like to say something. Which are you going to present first? He's at Children's and Magee. This is Dr. Diacovo.

DR. DIACOVO: Diacovo.

MS. KIRK: Diacovo. Would you like to say a few words?

DR. DIACOVO: I am Tom Diacovo, I am the chief of UPMC Division of newborn medicines. I oversee both Magee and Children's, as well as hospitals throughout Allegheny County. On behalf of my distinguished colleagues, which there are many, I want to thank them all for the tireless time they spend in the NICU caring for

the patients, families in Allegheny County. It is our honor and privilege to serve. Thank you so much.

DR. JOHSON: Hi, I'm Brian Johnson, I'm the president at West Penn Hospital. I certainly want to say that I'm an internal medicine physician. I take care of adults, and I cannot imagine what these guys do every day. It's really something special, something unique, and I certainly accept this with great pleasure on behalf of all of the NICU teams out there. And when I say team, I truly mean team. It's about the nurses, the nursing assistants, the respiratory therapists, the EVS members, the pharmacists, physicians, everybody, that really provides the care to all of our patients and families. It's truly something special. So thank you so much for this proclamation. It means a lot.

MS. KIRK: Come on up. Let's hear - everyone step up and at least say your name and what you do and anything else.

MS. MAGRONI: Hi, my name is Theresa Magroni, and I'm a nurse specialist in the NICU at Children's, and I think Cindy captured the story of the NICU really quite well, but it is an honor and privilege for our whole team at Children's to be able to provide care to these very fragile infants. And we thank you so much for this recognition.

MS. KIRK: Thank you. Keep it coming. Keep it coming.

DR. KLOESZ: Thank you, Councilwoman Kirk and all of the members of Allegheny - and the entire Council. I'm Dr. Jenn Kloesz, I'm the medical director of Magee's NICU. And you all did such a nice job explaining what all the NICU is all about. If you think just numbers-wise we have 20,000, 25,000 births in Allegheny County each year, so we're looking at 2,000 to 3,000 babies each year that end up in one of our neonatal intensive care units. That's a sizable proportion of our citizens of this county.

This is truly a team effort. This happens to be national neonatal nurses week as well, so we have been celebrating our nurses all week, so this is very timely. But if you think about the numbers of staff members involved in this, we employ hundreds of people who just work with these babies. So we appreciate this recognition. We are very proud of the work that we do, and I'm so happy to work with everybody at my hospital,

and I know the same at West Penn and Children's. Thank you.

MS. COOPER: Hi, my name is Heather Dawn Cooper. I am one of two unit directors at Magee. We are very lucky to work with the best of the best. And I - you've summed it all up in the proclamation from the mom. It means so much when you hear things from our parents. It's truly why we do what we do for them and their babies, but knowing that we make an impact on their lives truly makes it easier going back into work every day, and it's a true honor to be a neonatal nurse, so thank you very much.

MS. DALE: My name is Rebecca Dale, I'm one of the directors at Magee. We'll take this recognition back to the 200 nurses that we have who take care of these babies passionately everyday, so thank you guys.

MS. BONGIORNO: Hi, I'm Paige Bongiorno, I'm one of the nurses that took care of the baby - babies we're talking about and this family. It's just one of the greatest blessings of my job is to be able to watch these babies grow and get better.

MS. KIRK: You're taking good care of them; right?

MS. BONGIORNO: Yes. Yes.

MS. KIRK: They're very important to all of us right here.

MS. BONGIORNO: Thank you very much.

MS. KIRK: Thank you. Thank you. Anyone else want to come up.

MS. DUBAICH: Hi, I'm Mona, I'm the NICU manager at West Penn Hospital, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for recognizing what we do. It's an honor to receive it actually for doing something that we love doing every day. And I'll be proud to take this back to the staff at West Penn and share with them. Thank you very much.

MS. KIRK: And we will actually getting a proclamation once HN Wexford opened at the end of the month. We have a proclamation for them, too, because they'll have a NICU and there will be NICU nurses, too, and I'll just run it up there. I live close to them, so -.

I already toured it. I toured that little NICU last week, but yeah, so they will get one, too, but Erica, I talked to Erica.

Anybody else like to say anything? We're all thanking you, we're very grateful for everything you've

done. And thanks for taking the time to come down, because I know all of you are extremely busy, you're on crazy schedules, so I appreciate it.

(Photographs taken.)

MS. KIRK: So thank you again. Thank you so much. And take good care of those little ones.

Okay. So like I said, that was very important, and think about those poor parents who are so stressed right now, you can't even imagine. You can't even imagine. Especially our staff or Michelle, please. If you can keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

I still have one more.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing September 2021 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Allegheny County, sponsored by Councilmember Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Yes. This is the Cindy Kirk show. I wore my best dress, you know. So we're going to talk about kids a little bit more, and this time it's even more of a serious note, childhood cancer. And wow, I was telling Nancy Verderber from the American Cancer Society, I had a little peek into this when my granddaughter, we were told 95 percent chance she had cancer and it was very grave, probably wouldn't live a few months, and this was in the spring. We were very fortunate after nine and a half days living, like oh, my goodness, it was benign. So she's doing fine, but I just had - just for nine and a half days, I felt I could appreciate a little bit what those people are going through. It is very tragic. And we have all seen the St. Jude; right?

But today, we're here to talk about the little ones in Allegheny County, and they're the ones we're really watching out for right now. So if you don't mind, I'll read this.

Whereas in 2012 President Obama proclaimed the month of September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness month, and whereas in the year 2021, according to the American Cancer Society, more than 10,500 children under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in the United States. Whereas, in the year 2021 more than 1,190 children under the age of 15 are expected to die from cancer, making it the second leading cause of childhood death in the United States behind accidents.

Whereas most cases of childhood cancer require families to travel to regional hospitals to receive treatments and care needed, whereas the average cost of

childhood cancer is \$833,000, which causes one in four families to lose more than 40 percent of their annual household income, and one in three families to either lose their job or be forced to find a new job to take care of their child. Whereas research funding and breakthrough discoveries have led to an 84 percent five year survival rate for childhood cancer, which is an enormous increase from only 58 percent, surviving five years in the 1970s.

Whereas there was a tremendous amount of research and clinical trials done right here in Allegheny County at our leading healthcare facilities. And once again, we're very fortunate to have the facilities we do. Whereas American Cancer Society currently has 46 active multi-year grants totaling more than \$27 million for funding innovative research on childhood cancer, whereas the emotional and physical toll that the child endures, not to mention the emotional and physical toll on the parents and loved ones cannot be underscored enough.

Now, therefore it be resolved that I, Allegheny County Councilwoman Cindy Kirk, do hereby proclaim the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness month in Allegheny County. And I'm presenting this to Nancy Verderber - did I say it right, Verderber?

MS. VERDERBER: Yes.

MS. KIRK: The American Cancer Society.

MS. VERDERBER: Thank you.

MS. KIRK: Would you like to say a few words?

MS. VERDERBER: We do want to thank the Council for making this proclamation, because it is - September is awareness month, and we need to let people know that there is progress happening. When I started at the Cancer Society 30 years ago, if we heard of a child being diagnosed, the odds were not good. We were not going to be able to see that child grow, but now we have more and more kids surviving. And not only do we have kids surviving, but we have kids surviving long term. We used to not be able to research them, and what would happen, you know, down the road because of the treatment they had when they were children. Well, now there's enough kids that are surviving into their 20s, 30s and 40s that we can research that. And that is truly hopeful progress, that, you know, we actually have them and you know, they've survived - and you know, I'm very thrilled when I get to see children that have come and participated with their activities when they were diagnosed when they were 14

months or 2 years or 3 years. And then I get to hear them be annoying to their parents because they made teenageriness.

And that is happening. And the more money that we can put into research, the more progress we are going to have. And there were so many fascinating research projects going on that don't have anything to do with drugs or treatment or things like that, but just something as simple as using virtual reality while they're having their treatment to help the children get through the treatment better. If they can have less pain drugs, because they're focused on a virtual reality, that they don't have to - they can ignore the hospital, they can ignore all the things going into their body, and they can just focus on whichever monster they're trying to kill or which Minecraft game they're trying to play.

There is actual research that does prove to be very helpful, so as you consider, you know, donations this month and you're contributing to, you know, pediatric cancer it is making a difference, so I want to thank you guys for recognizing that. And I ask you to share the word to everybody that you know that kids are surviving cancer, it's not always a death sentence anymore, and we can be very proud of that. So thank you.

MS. KIRK: Thank you.

(Photographs Were Taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina I'd to take a moment of his time, because I believe we had a proclamation that was read into the record at our last meeting, 11979-21.

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to make a motion to amend the agenda for tonight so I can read the proclamation.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of Ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? The motion carries. Go ahead.

And by the way, this is 11979-21. Do you want to read it?

MR. BARKER: Sure. That's a proclamation congratulating Felipe Crespo upon his outstanding

achievement of opening the first Puerto Rican food truck in the City of Pittsburgh.

MR. PALMOSINA: Wow, that's a pretty nice round of applause. Before I read the proclamation, I'm glad you could finally come down. I know you've been busy. I want to invite everybody on Monday. Felipe is going to have a soft opening on Monday. I'll get you all the information. If you can make it, I'd really appreciate it. I want to first personally congratulate you. You should be very proud of yourself, all the hard work and we look forward with working with you. And I will see you on Monday with my family and some other folks.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hey, Councilman Palmosina, where are we all going on Monday?

MR. PALMOSINA: Well, if you're buying, you're all allowed to come. I'll make a bet, you guys all come, I'll pay, all right?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. PALMOSINA: We have witnesses. He has too many friends. Please don't run against me.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's on the record, you know.

MR. PALMOSINA: That's okay. I've been in trouble before.

Whereas to honor Puerto Rican heritage on March 1st, 2021, Felipe Crespo opened Secretos De Mis Abuelos. How was that?

MR. CRESPO: It's all right.

MR. PALMOSINA: I've been working on that. Which translates from Spanish to secrets from my grandparents. And whereas to further diversify our beautiful City of Pittsburgh, Felipe uses the secrets he has learned from his grandparents to prepare authentic Latin X meals in the city's first Puerto Rican food truck. And whereas from starting as a small catering business to now a full-time restaurant, Felipe demonstrates what it means to have an exemplary work ethic by doing all of this while earning a Master's degree from Duquesne University with ambitions of going to medical school. How about a round of that?

And whereas to further better his community, Felipe, along with the help of his family launched a non-profit alongside the restaurant to fund other non-profits that are aimed to respond to major crisis, and whereas while honoring its roots, Felipe keeps an eye on

the future by employing his family and plans to eventually pass the business on to them so they can experience the dream of owning and operating a restaurant.

Whereas, in addition to serving authentic Latin X meal, Felipe uses business to spread awareness of Puerto Rican culture to areas that lack cultural diversity by sharing to the public traditions found in Latin America.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Councilmember Robert Palmosina, do hereby recognize and congratulate Felipe Crespo upon his outstanding achievement of opening the first Puerto Rican food truck in the City of Pittsburgh. Here witness whereof I here unto cause the seal of Allegheny County to be affixed this 31st day of August 2021. Congratulations.

MR. CRESPO: Yeah, if you would have told younger me that I would have been in the courthouse for something that's not a traffic violation, I don't think I would have -.

Truly, it's an honor, it's a blessing to be up here. When I moved here to Pittsburgh, it took me in with open arms, and I saw the work that had to be done and I got to work right away. So a special thank you to my mother for taking care of me, for my grandparents for showing me their ways, for my family out here in Pittsburgh, my children's family all came here. For everybody that's tuned in at home (speaks Spanish) for the people in Puerto Rico, we are here, this is for us and keep going forward always. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So I hate to keep pressing you on this Councilman Palmosina, but where is that address?

(Photos Were Taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: The following proclamations and certificates will be read into the record. 11996-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award Zoe Stebbins, Jocelyn Eber, Hannah Elizabeth Osborn, Jane Grabowski, Hannah Fox and Rachel Ditzenberger, sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11997-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award. Allison Zeanchock, Katrina Schwab, Shivali Saxena, Ella Sanfillipo, Taylor Rechenmacher, Charlotte Menke,

Margaret McManus, Ava Farrell, Holly Ebner and Anna Elisa Betler. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11998-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award, Molly Stefl, Kaelyn McClain, Natalie Brogna and Sara Bagay. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11999-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award; Allison Kurtz, Brianna Hayes, Olivia Ernest, Emma Chothani and Emily Carter. Sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12000-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award; Annie Garness and Sarah DeFrancesco. Sponsored by Council Member Zavarella.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry, which number are we on?

MR. BARKER: 12001.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. 12001-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Award; Alexandra Morrison, Chintha Kathiresan, Payton Herman and Rebecca Havko. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12002-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the following young women for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award; Samantha Kracun and Hannah Hebda. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12003-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and Congratulating Jessica Windows for attaining the Girls Scouts Gold Award. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12004-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating Laura Klamut for attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award. Sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12007-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the month of September 2021, as Love Your Library Month 2021 in Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Member Baker.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12008-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating the Mon-Yough Trail Council upon the occasion of its 30th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Zavarella also informed me he'd like to be added to that proclamation.

MR. BARKER: Gotcha.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12009-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Tom Fauls for his accomplishments in receiving the 2020 Outstanding Achievement award presented by the Media Association of Pittsburgh. Sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12010-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Wilkins Township as it celebrates its Bicentennial. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12011-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Allegheny County Airport upon their 90th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, can I be added to that proclamation. Yeah, the airport one.

MR. MACEY: That's what I was going to say. Because of the time limits, we didn't have a chance to get this out, but I wanted to have this proclamation sent out.

Now, this is a county-wide proclamation, so I'm asking the rest of my colleagues here if they would like to be a part of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone object?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Everyone wants to be added. Okay. Now we'll have public comment on agenda items.

MR. VARHOLA: Mr. President, we have a few. The first one is Zachary Strader, and he's here in person, I believe.

MR. STRADER: Hello, Council. My name is Zach Strader. I'm here on behalf of Clean Water Action. I'm a community organizer with our Pittsburgh office. We represent, roughly, 37,000 members in Allegheny County, many of which are directly impacted by Mon-Valley Air Pollution and the proposed episode rule. And what is being passed around, I'm presenting you with comments from our state director, Pennsylvania Director Myron Arnowitz. They were submitted to the Allegheny County Health

Department during the ACHD's public comment period of this proposed episode rule earlier this year.

And these comments express concern and do provide suggestions regarding three areas of the proposed rule. Those concerns do still exist with the rule as current proposed, and so I will summarize those concerns, but please do read the comments in front of you. We believe, firstly that the rule, as currently proposed needs a shorter term standard than 24 hours for exceedances of the fine particulate matter level and determining when to move to the warning phase.

There's a strong correlation, as you'll see more information on the page, between short-term p.m. 2.5 values and 24 hour averages. And using a shorter term standard could help in both reducing pollution and provide warning earlier to the public. We believe, secondly, that the rule needs to include a quantifiable minimum emissions reduction in order to make the plans effective and enforceable, and that should include increases in emission reduction, based on the length of the episode and the severity of the particulate matter levels.

Finally, we believe that the public notification element of the proposed rule is too vague and what is outlined does not involve direct communication but rather a reliance on others to pass along the information on to residents. It's important that ACHD factor more direct means of communication into their plans, including Allegheny County alerts, reverse 9-1-1 and social media. They should also make sure that school districts are part of third-party conveyors.

And lastly I do want to reiterate that despite our concerns, we do still want to see the proposed rule move forward; however we encourage Council to convene a public hearing soon after the period in which companies are required to submit their plans to comply with the rule. This will allow you and the residents of Allegheny County to directly hear from ACHD about the initial prospects of the rules implementation, including what industry plans look like, what more specific methods ACHD has identified for communicating with the public on poor air quality days, and what timeline they have in place for further evaluation and steps to address continued shortcomings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

MR. VARHOLA: Alyssa Monnette. The importance - Pittsburgh, 15217, the importance of mandating face coverings, mask use throughout Allegheny County and institutions, according to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets travel into the air when you cough, sneeze, talk, shout or sing. These droplets can then land in the mouths or nose of people who are near you, or they may breathe these droplets in.

Masks are a simple barrier to help prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others. Masks - studies show that masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. You should wear a mask even if you do not feel sick. This is because several studies have found that people with COVID-19 could never develop symptoms, asymptomatic, and those who are not yet showing symptoms, pre-symptomatic, can still spread the virus to other people. Wearing a mask helps protect those around you.

Rachel Filippini, Edgewood, 15218. Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Rachel Filippini, I'm the executive director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution. While we have some lingering concerns about the effectiveness of the Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Rule, we support moving it forward at this time.

We appreciate that this regulation, as is, should help the Allegheny County Health Department air program's stated goal to limit the frequency and strength of PM2.5 exceedances, but believe it will fail to address health impacts that the Environmental Protection Agency shows could exist with very high, short-term concentrations of fine particulate matter. We have urged the Allegheny County Health Department to continue, as they move forward, to examine the data to ensure public health is protected in the Mon Valley. We know that patterns of PM2.5 concentrations in the Mon Valley are unique and simply relying on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards averaging time might not be sufficient to protect public health.

This regulation will require major and minor sources of fine particulate matter pollution like U.S. Steel to create and submit to ACHD for approval a two tiered action plan to be implemented when these watches and warnings are issued.

The crux of the regulation is really going to be in the plans submitted by industry, how effective those plans are in reducing emissions, and how well they are enforced by the Allegheny County Health Department. If the plans aren't effective how quickly can they be modified to ensure public health is protected on these days?

Although the bulk of the regulation addresses industrial sources of particulate matter pollution, the proposed change will also ban all wood-burning activities when a Mon Valley Air Pollution Watch or Warning has been issued in the defined municipalities.

A key component of this regulation is going to be clear and timely communication to the public and municipalities about any issued watches or warnings. While we understand that the County Health Department did not want to dictate the specific messaging within the regulation itself, it will be critical for them to utilize a broad array of messaging strategies in order to reach everyone. We encourage the County to keep in mind that many in the impacted area do not have access to the internet, so messaging should also be made available through landline messaging.

April Clisura, Pittsburgh, 15207. My name is April Clisura and I live in the Greenfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I coordinate the neighborhood group Greenfield Neighbors for Clean Air. I am grateful that the Health and Human Services committee has taken up the consideration of the Mon Valley Episodic Weather Regulations, and hope the committee will recommend them to be voted favorably. The early days of fall and spring are a time when cool nights and warm mornings, cause what more and more residents are beginning to recognize as inversions, an adverse weather event that has a tell-tale bad smell that we know is also bad for us to breathe.

With these events being largely predictable, and with their responsibility to respect the right of residents to breathe clean air, I hope those industrial sources that are covered under the proposed regulation will provide robust action plans that will quickly cut down on emissions when needed. And I hope they are transparent to the public about what those plans are. Backup plans and backup equipment have proven to be weak links in the past. I hope the proposed regulation will be enforceable by some means, such as an evaluation of the

data coming from official emissions monitoring stations during such adverse weather events. It means a lot to residents, especially those who have respiratory problems and asthma, that air be clean enough to breathe even on those days when the weather conditions don't cooperate. I hope the Council will give its full support to the Health Department in implementing and enforcing these weather related regulations in the near future.

India Hunter, Pittsburgh 15206. On behalf of the Black COVID-19 Equity Coalition, we support legislation that mandates masks in Allegheny County for inside and outside gatherings of 250 or more. The Black COVID-19 Equity Coalition is comprised of a group of physicians, researchers, epidemiologists, public health and healthcare practitioners, social scientists, community funders and government officials concerned about addressing COVID-19 in vulnerable populations.

With cases continuously rising in the number of cases, we know that masks will help prevent the spread of this deadly virus that has impacted us all in drastic ways. Additionally, people under age 12 are vulnerable and we need to do what we can to protect those too young to be vaccinated. Recent Data from CDC demonstrates that over 90 percent of cases, hospitalization and deaths occur among those who are unvaccinated. However, we know that many residents of Allegheny County are not vaccinated, and masking will continue to protect us all. Public health experts clearly agree that masks are an important tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. This is a particularly crucial time for such measures, given the increase seen over the last two months, during the national surge in the Delta Variant. Despite proving to be increasing vaccination rates over the past couple of months, there has also been a surge in cases, and masking are proven to be an effective mitigation tool regardless of vaccination status.

Further, this virus has been shown to disproportionately affect black residents in Allegheny and vaccination rates are low in many neighborhoods with a large number of black residents. Thus, we are in support of slowing the spread through any means possible, including implementing a mask mandate on the county level. Vaccination rates are increasing but remain very uneven across ZIP codes. Because we interact across ZIP codes, it is important that residents protect each other as they

interact. As cooler weather forces us inside, masking indoors will be even more important. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that white workers are far more likely than black workers to be able to work remotely.

Thus, a mandate is essential to protect those who are consistently unable to work remotely, and this mandate will be an important layer of protection for the most vulnerable members of our workforce. In conclusion, a mask mandate is essential to protecting the health of all Allegheny County residents, especially those residents most vulnerable to the continued spread of the virus.

Anthony Barbati, Pittsburgh, 15241. Dear County Council, I am writing to request that you not take up and not pass legislation requiring mask wearing in Allegheny County. This puts an undue hardship on many small businesses, including mine, which has 50 employees across two locations within Allegheny County. Furthermore, the vaccines have been available since the February/March timeframe of 2021. The majority of Allegheny County is vaccinated. The goal was never to end COVID, but to flatten the curve. The curve has been flattened. Vaccinated people who end up getting COVID end up either no symptoms or mild symptoms; they rarely end up in the hospital. People who have chosen not to receive a vaccine do so with ample data and ability to make their own choice. I own two gyms and another mask mandate will likely put my two-year old establishment out of business. Please do not further this legislation. It does more harm than good.

Jackie Borkowski, Pittsburgh, 15201. I am truthfully sick of selective scientific evidence being used to flex a muscle of control over the population of Allegheny County. I've sat back for over a year and watched as the government has gone to more extreme measures to tell consenting adult individuals what they should or should not do with their body, and it is time for you all to stop.

I am sick of my employer refusing to acknowledge that my natural immunity to COVID that is backed by science is not sufficient to keep me from being tested for COVID weekly. I am tired of establishments demanding to see sensitive parts of my medical history, COVID test or record of one vaccine, not all of the vaccines that are offered since infancy. I am sick of politicians such as yourselves thinking that it is your job to babysit adults

that voluntarily attend venues where crowds are knowing that there may be germs present. It is expected that this is going to be one of the worst flu seasons in recent history per Dr. Mark Roberts, a scientist at Pitt, who stated this is because we are not allowing our immune systems to do their job.

I urge you to do the right thing, stop telling consenting adults what to do. Let people choose whether to wear a mask. Let people choose to not get a vaccine that doesn't even work without fearing unjust weekly testing. Stop allowing businesses to be intrusive. This is all because Ms. Hallam and Ms. Bennett are refusing to remove politics from science. You cannot pick and choose the facts, and you cannot rewrite the very document this country was founded upon.

Kelly Merranko Strain, I do not believe it is your right to mandate masking for anyone regardless of whether indoors or outdoors, vaccinated or not, and crowd size. People know enough information about COVID-19 to make their own health choices. People should not be forced to wear a face mask if they choose not to.

The other COVID-19 mitigation efforts the county has been doing like mandatory testing is a waste of diagnostic resources and taxpayer money. I also believe the County should not be mandating anyone to get the COVID-19 vaccination in order to be hired. I do not and will never understand how anyone at the County can believe they can mandate such medical procedures on people. I believe you should stop all of this and allow people to make their own decisions. Thank you for your time.

Kyle Hynes, Pittsburgh, 15213. I would like to comment on the proposed mask mandate for indoor gatherings and large outdoor gatherings being proposed to the Council. If attending the meeting in person is possible, that would be great. If not, here's my comment: My name is Kyle Hynes and I'm a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University. I first want to thank the Council for doing its best to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. However, I think the current proposal for a mandate stretching through April 30th of next year is excessive for several reasons. First, and most importantly, we don't know what the state of the pandemic will look like in November, let alone next spring. Just two months ago, most vaccinated Americans were safely going maskless indoors, but obviously those days are gone. However,

we've seen in many countries that surges in the Delta Variant appear to rise for about eight weeks, as ours did, and take about eight weeks to fall, as ours is beginning to do.

For that reason, I'd ask the Council to limit the scope of the mandate to Halloween at the latest, subject to extension if needed. Secondly, it fails to consider the different circumstances that might cause a region or institution to impose a mandate. At CMU, for instance, all students, faculty and staff are required to be fully vaccinated, a great step the school has taken to protect us all. Here, then, it might be safe to remove mask rules far before it's safe to do in the rest of Pittsburgh and the county, but such an ordinance would make that impossible, effectively setting the rules in a community where the situation is substantially different to the rest of the county with one wide brush.

If Council does pass a mandate, I'd encourage you to carve out an exception for places that require vaccinations, be it a restaurant or a college. Finally, it's well documented that COVID almost never spreads outdoors, with around 99.9 percent of transmission taking place inside, and that outdoor mask mandates are therefore limited in utility. I'd therefore ask the Council to consider removing the outdoor mandate part, leaving the indoor portion intact. I do appreciate the work the Council is doing, and I hope it will pass some sort of mask mandate. However, the current ordinance seems to be too broad, with an extremely pessimistic timetable for its lifting. Thanks again for keeping Allegheny County safe.

And that's all we have for agenda items, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have presentation of appointments. These three appointments will be referred to a committee on appointment review.

11992-21 through 11994-21.

MR. BARKER: 11992-21 is approving the re-appointment of Michael R. Dunlevy to the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

11993-21, approving the re-appointment of Cynthia D. Shapira to the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31st, 2025, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

11994-21, approving the appointment of Melissa Wade to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2024, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Unfinished business. Any unfinished business?

11986-21, Ms. - or I'll let you read it, and then we'll go to Ms. Kirk.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to Section 210210, installation permit application and administration fees, Section 2103.40, administration fees, and other sections regarding air program fees, of the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Now it's your turn Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. This proposed amendment include replacing the annual operating permit administration fee with an annual operating permit maintenance fee and would allow the Board of Health to set fee amounts for plant-wide applicable limits, risk assessments and for requests for determinations.

These proposed regulations would also allow the Health Department to establish fees for the use of general installation permits in general operating permits. These charges will render the county fee structure consistent with the DEP free structure.

So the Committee of Health and Human Services reviewed this ordinance, and - on September 8th and voted to refer the bill to the full Council with an affirmative recommendation for final vote.

I move for approval.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

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. FUTURLES:	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, notes zero. The Bill

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11987-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that add new Section 2106.06, Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode and revise Section 2105.50, Open Burning, but the Allegheny County Health Department rules and regulations, Article 21 air pollution control sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman, Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. The Health Department is proposing changes to address the air pollution episodes in the Mon Valley area, including the - involving the fine particulate matter PM2.5.

This proposed new air quality regulation from the Health Department is aim in emission mitigate mitigation requirements for industry operating in the portion of the county known as the Mon Valley during weather-related pollution episodes, episodes related to temperature inversions.

The goal is to have the emission reduction plans in place that can be implemented within 24 hours of notice from the Health Department to minimize the impact on public health. During these incidences air quality action alerts will also be issued for citizens in the Mon Valley communities.

So the Committee on Health and Human Services met on September 8th to review this ordinance and voted to refer the Bill to the full Council with an affirmative recommendation for a final vote. I move to approve.

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion on this one? Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

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. FUTURLES:	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. Pالموسينا?
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: 11988-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department rules and regulations pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. The Health Department is proposing the addition of an article to its rules and regulations to address the necessity for certain employees performing work within Allegheny County to have access to paid sick days. The proposed regulation would allow for the accrual of sick time at the rate of one hour per 35 hours work for individual employed in workplaces with 26 or more employees up to a maximum of 40 hours and subject to certain limited exemptions for temporary seasonal and other employees.

The proposal regulation also provides for enforcement multi-lingual notice to employers and employees in a phased in enforcement period. No fines will be issued for the first year of enforcement. The Committee on Health and Human Services met on September 8th to find and do the final review of this ordinance and voted to refer the bill to the full Council with an affirmative recommendation for a final vote. I move to approve.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

MR. DUERR: President Catena, if I may -

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. DUERR: - real quickly. I actually took time to write something on this since we had spoken about it so much. So if I may read this?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. DUERR: Thank you. Tonight County Council, is taking the final steps in approving paid sick leave for thousands of workers in Allegheny County. It's been a very long road for this ordinance, but it's been an effort I was proud to be a part of since the very beginning. I'd like to thank President Catena, the prime sponsor of the original bill, all my colleagues and everyone at the Board

of Health and the Administration who dedicated to making this a reality.

I'd also like to thank SCIU 32 BJ, Pittsburgh United, and the countless Allegheny County residents who came out to make their voices heard on this critical legislation throughout the Bill's lengthy journey. And while I know that we still have to do everything we can to ensure that eventually this Bill covers every county worker, regardless of their size of their employer, this is truly an important step forward, for protecting the health and dignity of working people across this county.

On a personal note, I just wanted to say the paid sick leave, the issue, was the most, so far rewarding legislative process I've been so far during my time on County Council. It showed me firsthand the benefit of building a broad coalition of support around an issue, showed me how to navigate a lengthy committee process, when to sacrifice a little bit for the sake of moving an issue you care deeply about forward, but also when to stand firm in your convictions, in the face of pressures, both in and outside your legislative body. It showed me most importantly, know that this Council is indeed up to the task of crafting and passing meaningful progressive legislation.

So as far, we're working together every step of the way. Thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: I would just like to say for all the folks who are looking forward to this legislation, who've been waiting to get this approved so that they would be able to have access to these paid sick leaves, I think this demonstrates what would take place tonight, is the importance of doing it the right way. And we might've been able to deliver this to these folks, you know, much earlier if we had gone to the Health Department in the first place and had them initiate this legislation and put it in front of us.

So in the future, I hope we take and pay attention to what we can and can't do and try to take and do things the right way to get the folks we think to help, to help as quickly as we can.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening? Councilman Dewitt first and then Councilman Futules.

MR. DEWITT: I think that this is an event that is truly significant. Council has done several things over the past month that I believe are truly important in providing leadership and an opportunity to empower residents of Allegheny County. This legislation points out that we follow protocol and did it the right way. And I think that's important that we understand and that we're accountable to do just that.

This along with the Independent Police Review Board legislation demonstrates how we can fight, how we have to remain committed to a process for equity and justice for all residents of Allegheny County. An affirmative vote tonight will demonstrate real leadership and accountability for all of us on Council. And I thank God that we were able to get here. This is a momentous occasion. It is truly significant and I think, it is well worth celebrating. It should be truly highlighted tonight. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules.

MR. FUTULES: I'd like to ask our solicitor a question, if I may. The fact that I own a business, would I be considered a conflict of interest by voting this evening?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: I think it would be a de minimis issue. I think it would be a de minimis issue. In other words, you are a businessman all throughout Allegheny County. This is not specifically to you or any specific restaurant, so I wouldn't have an issue with you voting.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. So with that, I believe, I think he said I have an - I should abstain?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No.

MR. FUTULES: I can't hear you. So I can vote? Okay. I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

All right. Thank you. That's all I wanted to know.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else this evening that would like to make a comment? Okay. I'd like to make a comment at this point.

Obviously this legislation isn't perfect. It's been a long haul though, getting here. And I would just

like to say that truly, I believe this is a momentous occasion for all of Allegheny County. When this passes tonight, hopefully this passes with bipartisan support and hopefully this is a unanimous decision that will go down in the roles of history of Allegheny County, both Republicans and Democrats coming together to support an issue so important to the residents of all of Allegheny County.

So before the vote takes place, I would just like to thank my colleagues and the administration. And obviously everyone that came out in support of this or against this either way, like I said, it took a long time in getting here, but it was well worth it because this is a win for all of Allegheny County.

So at this point in time, we'll now take the vote. Jared, please take the roll call.

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. FUTURLES:	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: I'd truly like to thank my colleagues and the administration for making this happen. I mean, this is a wonderful achievement, like I said, for all of Allegheny County, and it's a win, I believe, for all the residents. So again, thank you.

We'll move on to the Committee on Parks for the second reading. 11939-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who would authorize Venture Outdoors, continued use of certain Allegheny County owned real property along Pearce Mill Road in the County's North Park, to operate a boat rental and outdoor activities business sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere, are you out there?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, I am. Thank you, Mr. President. These - this particular Bill - these people that we're dealing with here have been loyal and they've been good partners with the County for a lot of years. And we met on - the Committee met on Wednesday, the 8th and with an affirmative recommendation, I move for approval.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

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. FUTURLES: 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.

11984-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Highmark Health to use designated sites on county owned real property for purposes of placing healthcare related educational advertisements, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. This is another Bill that breaks up new ground for Allegheny County and in association with local businesses and the community. And we - again, we met on the 8th and this was also approval of - an affirmative recommendation and I move for approval.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Good. Thank you. Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

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. FUTURLES: 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. Pالموسينا?
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: 11985-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing Pickrow Streaming, Incorporated to use certain county-owned real and personal property in connection with filming a television series sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, this is another issue that's come up in recent years. And again, the county has met the challenge and we're looking forward to working with these people again this coming year for these television programs.

And again, we met on the 8th and again, it's met with affirmative recommendation, Mr. President, and I move for approval.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

approve. MR. BARKER: On the motion to
 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. FUTURLES: 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: Thank you. We'll now have liaison reports. Councilwoman Kirk, I believe you have one.

MS. KIRK: Well, President Catena actually have more of a comment. And I'm asking you to address the appointment review backlog with the additional nominees from tonight's meeting.

We now have 41 people who have stepped up to give their time and talents to volunteer, to help make our county a better place to live. Several people are waiting since July 6th. Chairwoman Hallam now has a backlog of 41 people waiting. Even keeping a quick pace of ten minutes

per interview, per person brings us to seven hours of appointment review time.

People should not have to wait this long. These are volunteers. If Councilperson Hallam's schedule does not support scheduling appointment review meetings to address this issue, I ask that she step down and allow someone else to deal with this backlog. We're doing a disservice to our residents who are willing to volunteer throughout our county.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there any other comment?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: On September the 18th, two of my communities are celebrating their anniversaries. Wilkins Township is celebrating their bicentennial and Verona is celebrating their 150th anniversary on September the 18th this year. Thank you.

MR. DUERR: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else wishing to make comment?

Councilman Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Very quickly. I just wanted to invite - if any of my council members would like to join - Bethel Park Community is going to be on September 25th. I will be having a county government table, booth there. So if anyone would like to come down. I already invited Councilman DeMarco, he, unfortunately can't make it. Councilwoman Hallam is the other at-large member is welcome to come, or anyone else, I'll be able to see some folks down there. Bethel Park Community Days is always a great time. It's at the Bethel Park High School from 10:00 to 3:00 on the 25th, so I just wanted to send out an invite. That's it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else with a liaison report this evening? Hearing no one else, we'll move into new business, ordinances and resolutions.
12012-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a uniform countywide system of mask requirements and exemptions for public and private gatherings, sponsored by Council Members Bennett and Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So I'm going to exercise a point of personal privilege at this point in time. Solicitor Cambest, can you give us your opinion on whether this Council has the authority to do so?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Are you asking, do we have the authority to enact this ordinance?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do we have the authority to do so this evening. Do we have the authority to act or basically at this point in time, can - is this a legal enacting ordinance or should this go through the Health Department or what? What is your - what are your thoughts on the subject?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Well, yeah, I mean my thoughts on the subject are - I just had the opportunity to look at it this evening. It is a fairly short ordinance.

MR. DEMARCO: No, it's not.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Rather than to talk about legality, I think it raises some questions for me. And I've discussed this with Jared right before the meeting, after looking at it, I see that there's some issues with, definitions of outdoor public location that could cause some issues with this legislation. Also, there are some questions about jurisdiction. I mean, we've talked about these sorts of issues when we looked at the Police Review Board as to whether or not we have authority to tell Mt. Lebanon what they have to do as far as a concert's concerned.

There's some question on the - on the fines. Although I realize that normally when a body like you enacts legislation or enacts, let's say, a fine provision, as long as it's not something less than what the state has put in place, or the federal government has put in place, that we usually are able to do that.

I did notice - and I've had some experience in the school districts with obviously the masking order that we got from the Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There is a Disease Prevention Act that deals with violations of these types of orders if they happen. That's a summary offense, as this is, that fine is \$25. There could be some question about the - about the amount of the offense. That's there, although I don't see that as a big issue.

Your question about the Allegheny County Health Department, obviously we've seen a number of legislation

Bills go through tonight that may have a similar nature. I noticed in the ordinance itself, that there is some issue, at least some feeling that by going through that, process, does that - does that really struggle with, the ability to prevent COVID and to put into place things that would make a more - protective - for residents of Allegheny County.

So just looking at it in - objectively and not taking into consideration some of the issues that are in the ordinance, it could be that the - that the better method is to go through the Allegheny County Health Department, have them bring their regulations.

So those were my comments about it. I don't think I have the ability tonight to tell you whether it's legal or illegal. I think I can tell you that there are some questions that could have some ability to be able to enforce and enact what you're trying to do - or what the bill says you want to do.

Can you hear that, Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I did.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Okay. Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: And with that, I'd like to make a motion to waive the second reading.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on one second. Manager McKain, does the County have any thoughts on this ordinance? Just to clarify.

MR. MCKAIN: Not at this time.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Councilman Futules.

MR. FUTULES: I still have a motion to waive the second reading.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: This is an up or down vote, so there's no comment. Jared, please take a roll call vote.

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. FUTURLES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM: No.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Pالموسينا?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
President Catena: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes ten, noes five. The motion

succeeds.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. At this point in time - so now we have the main motion. Councilwoman Hallam I'll begin with - you and Councilwoman Bennett actually co-sponsored it, so I'll open the floor to you guys to give the initial comments on it.

So I don't know if Councilwoman Hallam, if you want to go first or Councilwoman Bennett, if you want to go first.

MS. HALLAM: I'd love to go first. I just think that it's important. We've talked about getting opinions from experts with past issues that we've introduced. I think the only proper way to proceed forward with this is to have a committee meeting and to have multiple committee meetings.

I don't think it's fair to not have public input on this issue before we voted up or down. I do not think it's correct to not have experts come and testify to council members prior to us voting this up or down. So that is the reason for my no vote on waiving the second reading. And I hope that my colleagues will give this bill the same consideration that they've given other bills

that have been put forward in front of this body in the past.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena. So hearing the comments from the Black Equity Coalition, which was the catalyst for introducing such a bill, which is comprised of public health experts, epidemiologists, among other medical professionals who have looked and studied these case numbers, who have been paying attention to these case numbers, who have worked along - worked together as a coalition through this whole pandemic, much of it unpaid just to make sure that Allegheny County is seeing and being able to have their residents be kept safe and healthy in a public health pandemic.

And so for me, this is not about being political. This is not about being - trying to do the hot thing. This is about keeping people alive. We have had more - we have had more infections now in this pandemic than we have when the pandemic started. And in my - again, working with public health experts in this field and listening to what they advise, this is part of the mitigation efforts that need to happen in order to curb the spread of this virus.

I heard one of the public comments saying that we've reached - we've reached the plateau or flattening the curve, that is not true. We are seeing increased numbers every single day. And much of those new infections are people 25 and above. Today's numbers were 248 new cases, 171 of those cases were 25 and above.

So again, this is about protecting the public and - and that is what I seek to do as a public official and through this legislation. Thank you, Mr. President, for your time.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to make a comment?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah, everybody.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll just go down the line then. We'll begin with Councilman Baker. Anything?

MR. BAKER: So no, comment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, when this pandemic started back in March of 2020 is when it really hit here. Okay. We shut down the

country, basically for - initially for two weeks, because it was to flatten the curve. And we've since seen with the number of people - well over 600,000, who've lost their lives here. That COVID is a serious, you know, threat to the health of many of the folks here and their safety. But we've also through the introduction of the vaccines, you know, and other mitigation efforts we've been able to take and make some significant strides there.

I'm - I believe that if you're concerned about your health, you should go and get vaccinated. I did. I got vaccinated in March because I was concerned about my health, comorbidities. I believe if you're - you're vaccinated, you're still concerned. I believe you can wear a mask. If you're still concerned, maybe you should take care as to where you go.

I just don't believe that it's this body's role to tell people out there how they have to live their lives. And you're - there are studies out there that point out that these masks aren't all that they're cracked up to be. We talk about an N95 mask, which surgeons use is something that's good, but cloth masks really don't stop the small nanoparticles, you know, from some of this virus.

And so I just think that this whole thing is misplaced. We don't have the authority to do this. I don't care whether it's supposed to be temporary or not. I just think that we shouldn't even be voting. This thing shouldn't be before this body tonight and we should be focused on many of the other problems and challenges we have in Allegheny County, where we can actually improve the lives of our citizens. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Okay, please stop the applause. Councilman Duerr.

MR. DUER: We just went through a very long process in which - with paid sick leave in which we - this government - with the administration came to the conclusion that this body does not have the ability to - did not have the ability to ability to legislate on that. And I believe we are in the same place with this.

Since I got on the Council, I've had to take quite a few votes where I might - I might agree with what the Bill is trying to do, I disagree that this is the correct body to do it in. And I find myself in a similar place here tonight. I lost someone very early to this virus before we had access to vaccines, before there was,

you know, true nationwide public policy on this issue. Anyone who hasn't gotten vaccinated yet, I strongly urge you to do so. Anyone who still, you know, continues to feel unsafe, given - and also given the CDC recommendation, when they're inside, I urge to continue to wear a mask. But when it comes to whether or not this body can or cannot do this, given all the conversations I have had behind the scenes over the past couple of days and given the trajectory and what we just went through with paid sick leave, I just don't believe that it is this body's - we do not have the authority to do this.

So whatever my opinion on it is for or against, I believe I would be doing a disservice to the people who elected me, knowingly sending this to committee, knowingly giving this more time when it's something I believe that we cannot do at the end of the day. Because I'm here for them, I'm here to - I'm here on their dime. And to waste the only true commodity we can't get back, which is time, on something that I feel we can't do, I believe I would be doing them a disservice.

So for that reason, that is why I chose to waive the second reading tonight and that is why I will be a no vote tonight as well. Very simply be the fact that I believe if this was to be done, it would have to be done through the Board of Health or the Health Department.

And I will strongly urge anyone who is in favor of this, or any mandate when it comes to this to reach out, have discussions with the Health Department, with Dr. Bogan or with the Board of Health in working to pass something like this. Because if we truly want to see an expedited, resolution on this issue, that is the best way to go. And in my opinion, it is the only way to go. So thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I believe our two council members here have summed it up pretty much, as far as this ordinance. And I didn't like the way it was written. I didn't like the fact that we were mandating mask wearing and we were going to pass out summary offenses to people not wearing masks, which are basically impossible.

I can't imagine, how you would go to a football game and 60,000 Steeler fans, all getting a ticket. That would be ridiculous. This Council has bigger things to worry about than someone wearing masks. We should be more

worried about the tax base in this county, jobs and other things. I think we're wasting our time on issues like this, that we don't have any jurisdiction or authority.

Nobody here has a medical degree to make this consideration. But I do support the fact that if by chance, this Council would to have made a motion to suggest or recommend masking, I would have supported that because I think that people would have a choice whether to wear their mask or not, but to mandate it and to give them a fine, a summary offense, no. No, that's not the way I work. So for that reason, that's why I waived the second reading. Ask for it and I will be a no vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: I agree with the last three Councilmen who have spoken, so I'll keep it quick. Right now, if you look at the number of actual positive cases, because, you know, there's probable and there's positive. If you use the true PCR test, that's the ones that are positive. You have an antigen test, or if you're in close contact they're the probables. Our cases remain sort of stable with this latest mini surge. It - like 200, 220 is the average for the day. That is nowhere near the previous surges we've had in the past before vaccinations.

Our weekly - if you took a weekly average of hospitalizations or weekly average of deaths, it's very low. So it's really - we have - the cases are there, but people aren't in the hospital and people aren't dying like they were pre-vaccinations. That said, when I looked at the stats from September 8th, our county is at a 70 percent fully vaccinated population.

And the problem we have in the county, if you ask me, it's very lopsided. In Wexford where I live it's 83.31 percent were vaccinated. I feel real safe going around my neighborhood and going into the stores. There are other communities in the county, it's less than 45 percent. So I think that might be where we need to encourage and do a little more outreach perhaps for the vaccinations.

So at this point, I - I would also be a no for the various reasons. The last three folks have mentioned. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Klein.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, President. Thank you, President Catena. I have to say that in my mind, this

ordinance, raises more questions than it does, present answers.

And I - I think that for that reason, I find it regrettable that we've decided to push ahead for a vote this evening. I think that the more responsible approach would have been to have referred it to committee for consideration to try to get some of these questions answered, some clarification.

And given the fact that we've chosen not to go that route and simply call a vote - call for a vote, where many members there's - that it seems to me a lack of clarity in terms of the - what this is really all about. And as our solicitor, Mr. Cambest, pointed out, I mean, there are a lot of definitional questions and, you know, that is kind of important in the law.

So because of our decision to, push ahead for a vote tonight and because of my concerns with what I need clarification on, that will inform my vote tonight.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I also agree with Councilman DeMarco, Duerr and Councilwoman Kirk, as well as my good friend, Councilman Futules. I believe that we as individuals, once this got started, did our due diligence. I researched it. I checked with law. I checked with various entities to see where they stood with this. And in my opinion, it's not within our purview to enact these type of laws and sanctions against our citizens.

But there's another thing that we haven't heard from our elected officials at this point. And I'd like to point out that I represent 94,000 people in the Mon Valley. Sure, we have our issues. We have the situation regarding the Mon Valley experience, pollution and issues like that. And we need to reach out because - and change rules to protect people in this respect, but I've traveled quite a few places in the United States over the last year.

And you know, what I did, I wore a mask. It was my choice. And except when the place that was mandated. I washed my hands. I used antibacterial lotion and I also got the - a vaccine. I did what I was supposed to do. Not because some county told me to do it. And it said, if I didn't do it, they were going to fine me X amount of dollars.

And according to my constituents - constituents who have elected me over the last 15 years, they believe that we do not need this kind of law. And I can point that out by virtue of the emails I received, 90 emails, not to - two emails to go forward. I think I've made up my decision. I think it's - it's up to the Health Department, our state legislature, we've got all the information we need from Dr. Fauci, from the CDC, and of course from the statistics. If you don't use the mask or you don't follow the rules, you may have a good chance of getting sick. And I've had friends who didn't and didn't bother. Although they - they thought it was just a ruse, this disease, and now they're - they met their maker.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Palmosina.

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be short as I usually am. A couple of things, I had COVID. I am well aware of the ramifications. My wife and I were very sick. We have put these things in committee and it takes forever to get them out. I think we're here when you take this to a vote. We are not doctors, we are not lawyers. We are not health experts. That's for them to do.

We got to be careful, 70 percent. We need to get 90, 95 percent. We need to up that. People need to get vaccinated, but we also need some normalcy in our life. We need people to get back to work. We need businesses to get back on their feet. So that being said, I appreciate what we always do here as a - as a body, but I think tonight we need to vote on this. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: Yeah, I have some issues here. You know, I was very involved in the whole sick leave legislation that has just passed. And I have a feeling that if we did not go through - it might've been faster. Had we gone through the Board of Health, but the administration could have also started drafting the requirements.

We can't be certain that the paid sick leave would have happened if we did not send it to committee. And, you know, I think we need to have this public discussion. I think it's really important that we discuss

this. And I agree with Councilman Klein. I don't think it's perfectly legislation, but I think we should have the opportunity to discuss it.

I think it's undemocratic and disservice to Allegheny County if we don't have that discussion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Oh, sorry. Councilman Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yeah, I know, I'm the lone star out here. Thank you. I just wanted to - I just wanted to make a comment if I may, please. I'm sorry, Mr. Walton. I don't mean to take your time up here, but I was passed over. So I just thought I'm want to simulate to have an opportunity to speak to this issue.

Number one, I thought we only had two lawyers on console. I didn't realize we have 13 other ones. And everybody's entitled to their opinion. Yes. But I think we're beating these subjects to death.

And I can't understand why we're wasting all this time when we really don't have the authority to pass something like this anyhow, and to make it stick. So that's my comment, Mr. President. And I thank you for letting me speak.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: Mr. Palmiere, you can interrupt me most of the time, but -.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. Walton. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: In all seriousness, my mother contracted COVID on her 97th birthday, two weeks later she was dead. I didn't go home to visit her for a year and a half because I wanted her to be safe and I wouldn't want to put myself in a position that exposed her to any danger. And someone brought COVID into her home. My mother will never be back.

I support mask mandates. I respect everybody's divergent - the divergent opinions, but I find myself being really frustrated here on Council far too often. We don't want to follow protocols. We don't want to do due diligence in terms of our investigation. We should have - we should have asked the solicitor for legal opinion. When we need something, we go down the hall and ask the county

manager for help. Why not ask him for an - a legal opinion from the law department?

We should have sent this to committee and fought it out on committee and come back with something that benefits all of the residents of Allegheny County to protect us. To move toward a healthier, more prosperous environment. We all know that vaccination is the true answer to our problem, but despite that we have to consider the alternatives and we have to consider also what we have the ability to do.

It's incumbent upon us to be responsible leaders. We don't have to agree. Hell you guys send me home. I'm mad half the time, but damn, let's do our job. Let's do what we asked people to elect us to do, legislate, work it out, find solutions. That's why I'm here. And I'm frustrated. I'm disappointed. I'm going to vote no, on this piece because we didn't send it to committee and give it a fair hearing in committee.

We should reintroduce it and fight it out again.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Done?

MR. WALTON: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Councilman Zavarella.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Thank you, President Catena. I don't have much to add from what's already been stated here tonight. I do have some reservations about the legality of the ordinance and my vote will reflect that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. And I would just like to say that, look, I understand what my colleagues are trying to do. It's quite simply, they're trying to save lives and I applaud them for that. Unfortunately, I'm not a medical expert. I never professed to be. There's no easy answer to what we're talking about this evening. I mean, it's debated nationally. It's debated in our daily lives. People are tired. There's fatigue.

I see it in people's faces on a daily basis. And how do we make this better? How do we improve? I mean, that discussion needs to be had, and I don't think we're going to solve for it tonight. And I don't think we'd solve for it in committee to be quite honest. I mean, this is a problem that's going to probably be facing us for some time and we need to come to grips with reality.

And how do we improve the vaccination rates? How do we get more people vaccinated and how do we get

people out there to actually care again about one another? Because I think that's where we've sort of lost it a little bit, caring for one another. It's not about me all the time. It should be about the other person sometimes.

And I think that if this is a decision that needs to be made, it needs - I have to put my faith in the Allegheny County Health Department in order to make that decision for us, specifically, Dr. Bogan and her staff. If it's needed - they've had to make tough decisions in the past. And if it's needed, I believe they would make those tough decisions again.

But I guess the conclusion is that again, I think we need to ask ourselves how do we do better? And I try to ask myself that every night and, it's a - it's a difficult conversation to have in the least. So until we can come to grips with that reality, I think we're going to be struggling unfortunately with this problem for a long, long, long time. So thank you.

Jared, would you please take the roll call vote? Oh, the motion - is there motion to - the motion has been made and seconded to waive the second reading. So actually on the main motion, who wants to make that motion?

MR. DEMARCO: I do.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. So we'll take a roll call, vote on the mask wearing.

MR. BARKER: 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: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTURLES: No..

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yeah, I'd like to abstain and as per the rules of Council. I would like to explain my abstention. Is that okay, President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. So Councilman Walton brought up a lot of my concerns. I promised my constituents when I was elected, I would listen to them. I promised that we would take advice from the experts. As was mentioned earlier, we are not all lawyers, we are not all doctors, we're not all public health experts. We are elected members that represent the County of Allegheny.

That is our duty to be elected representatives and take in advice, to take in testimony, to take in public comment. And this is the most undemocratic way of doing things, by bypassing the system that exists for us as legislators to introduce a bill, send it to committee, hear from the experts, get public input, introduce amendments, you know, talk about it amongst ourselves, as opposed to just shutting it down and not getting any input whatsoever.

So for that reason, I am abstaining. Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Thank you.

Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: I've been a member of Council for five years, and this will be the second time in the five years that I've been that I will abstain. I think I abstained on a vote at my first Council meeting, and I have not since then. But I think I explained why, but I am abstaining.

PRESIDENT CATENA: For the record, can you send it to Jared when you get a chance?

MR. KLEIN: Sure.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Well, I've been elected by my constituents, and I think they deserve an answer, and I'm voting no.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: I'm voting no also, because I've been inundated from my constituents also. No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: I am going to abstain for the reasons that I spoke to before.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And again, for the record, can you provide those to Jared, please. Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: This is a - I'm going to do 180 degree flip. I said I was going to vote no, but this is crazy. This is absolutely crazy. What we're doing here tonight is insane, and as a result, despite my struggles with the legislation, I'm going to vote yes.

MR. BARKER: Councilman Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: No.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

President Catena: Yes - or I'm sorry, no.

MR. BARKER: Ayes two, noes ten with three abstentions. The Bill failed.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry, it's been a long day.

12013-21.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the grants and special accounts budget for 2021, submission number 08-21, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to budget and finance.

New business, any new business?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contracts.

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Public comment on any general items.

MR. VARHOLA: We have one. Steve Johnston Ball, who I believe is here.

MR. BALL: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. President Catena. If you would please pass my presentation around. I'm going to keep this real brief given the late hour and how long this has all gone on. What I'm passing around to you is a list of - listing of requests for - for answers from county staff. They begin on April 26 then I ran out of paper on August the 12th.

If Council would be so kind as to see what you can do to do - see what you can do to secure answers for the North Park Council of Friends, so that we can continue to do everything we can to make North Park the great economic engine that is as the Picrow legislation indicated tonight. It's a \$20 million spending

opportunity in Allegheny County because North Park had exactly what Picrow was looking for.

And with that I'll end. Thank you very much. I appreciate your time, ladies and gentlemen.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there any other public comment? No other public comment.

Motion to adjourn?

MR. BARR: Mr. President, I sent an e-mail to City. My name is Jim Barr, I'd like to ask -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: When did you e-mail, sir?

MR. BARR: Sunday evening.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Does anyone object?

MR. DEMARCO: Nope. Let him speak.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay, go ahead.

MR. BARR: My name is Jim Barr. I reside at 200 Frankford Avenue, West View Borough, and I would like to be able to find a contact person that I could communicate with about the treatment that the inmates are receiving over at the Allegheny County Jail. In particular, the quality of the food and the time to make phone calls.

I just want to know if there's somebody I can communicate with on ensuring that the inmates are receiving adequate time for on the phone and that the food is edible.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'll have our chief of staff provide you - actually, Councilman Hallam is our representative on the Jail Oversight Board. So I'll have our chief of staff provide you her information since she's directly on the board.

MR. BARR: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome.

MR. WALTON: Motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: There's a motion on the floor and it's been seconded.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you guys all, every single one of you for listening to the people in your areas and in your districts, because we understand what you got to do. We appreciate what you guys are doing and listening to us and voicing our opinion as the people that elected.

PRESIDENT CATENA: He's good. Thank you. Thank you.

The motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you everyone.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:57 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 29th day of December, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeremy Harris", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter