ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

BEFORE:

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

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

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 - 5:04 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:
William McKain - County Manager
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and remain standing for silent prayer or reflection? After me.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)
(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call?

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BARKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Present.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here. Proclamations,

10072-17.


MS. MEANS: I am so excited and honored today that we have a representative of the Red Cross here with us today. And everyone knows how wonderful the Red Cross
is. When there's disaster, they're there to offer comfort. A blanket and a cup of coffee sometimes when tragic (sic) has hit, it just means so much. And well, I don't want to say too much because the proclamation mentions all the things they do for us in our community.

But we have with us today --- I'm very honored to have with us today Patricia Waldinger. Patricia is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross of Western Pennsylvania covering Allegheny, Greene, Washington counties.

She also is the CEO of the 28 county American Red Cross of Western Pennsylvania. She joined the Red Cross in 2008 and oversees the day-to-day operation of the American Red Cross of Southwestern PA and the Western PA region which serves nearly four million people.

She also oversees the operations of four other Red Cross chapters in Western PA. In her role as CEO, Patricia has a hand in the chapter's disaster response operations, health and safety training programs and service to the armed forces programs and financial development.

Goodness, me. What does she do in her spare time?

So Councilwoman Kirk is joining us to honor the Red Cross.

So I'm going to go ahead and read the proclamation. Then I'll ask Mrs. Waldinger to say a few words. And also, you can --- what --- if you'd like to add ---.

MS. KIRK: Thank you.


WHEREAS, in Allegheny County, we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need. American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our everyday heroes, those selfless Southwestern Pennsylvania Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members; and

WHEREAS, these heroes help families find shelter after a home fire, give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients, and deliver comfort items to the military members in the hospital. They use their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated for measles and rubella; and
WHEREAS, the American Red Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. We applaud our heroes here in Allegheny County who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand; and

WHEREAS, across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those who are affected. It collects nearly 40 percent of the nation's blood supply, provides 24-hour support to our military members, veterans and their families, teaches millions lifesaving skills, such as lifeguarding and CPR, and through its Restoring Family Links program, it connects family members separated by crisis, conflict or --- uh-oh, that's a word I don't know. How humbling (indicating).

MS. KIRK: Mitigation, migration.

MS. WALDINGER: Migration

MS. MEANS: Migration. Oh goodness, me.

Humbled, again.

WHEREAS, we dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby proclaim March 2017 as the American Red Cross Month in Allegheny County and encourage the citizens of Allegheny County to support the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania and its noble humanitarian mission.

Sponsored this day by myself and all the members of Allegheny County Council.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: If you'd like to come and say a few --- go ahead.

MS. WALDINGER: Thank you. Thank you so much. This is such an honor to be here, and it's such an honor to have this wonderful proclamation. I just wanted to say that this is such a special year for the American Red Cross because we are celebrating our 100th year serving this community. And we were founded in 1917 here, our Pittsburgh chapter. And so it's been a wonderful time.
And as was mentioned, it was such a wonderful description of what we do. We operate about a 90-percent ratio of volunteers to staff. And so we have over 2,000 volunteers, and we have only about 20 Pittsburgh-based staff members, so we can't do what we do unless we have our community. And this is a wonderful example of a Pittsburgh American community, so thank you so much for this honor. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: Councilwoman, would you like to say a few ---?

MS. KIRK: I would just like to echo what a valuable organization the Red Cross is and would encourage people to donate of their time, or if they have treasures or money, they could help support. Because they're the ones that are helping the families who have a burned-out house. They're the ones who are there putting the blankets over them while we're in our nice warm homes. And also, you might want to consider taking their first aid or their CPR class, because you never know when you're going to need it. And because of the Red Cross, it's available to all of us, so I thank them again. Thank you.

MS. WALDINGER: Thank you so much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10073-17.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation commending the Pittsburgh Service Summit honorees and naming March 28th, 2017 as "Get Involved! Service Summit Day" in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. If we could have all of our honorees come on up and join me here, that are winning awards also Devon from our board for Get Involved. So we do not have as many folks as the county managers, but there's a lot of people here tonight. So come on come on up, guys. You might want to jump on on both sides. These are some of our terrific winners for the 2017 Get Involved Service Summit, and it's going to be a great event.

This time next week, we'll actually be joined back together, this group, at Carlow University. This is our eighth year of doing the Pittsburgh Service Summit. We'll have great speakers, inspirational speakers, that evening. We have Esther Bush, the CEO of the Urban League, who will be speaking. Maggie Jensen, who is the
CEO of the YWCA, will be talking at the event. My co-emcee that night is Natalie Bencivenga who is the SEEN editor, so everyone has got to look very fancy. Everyone looks very nice tonight, though, so it will be a great event.

The County Executive has spoken at the event many times in recent years, so it's a great gathering. For those of you that have never heard of the Service Summit, it's a kind of --- if in college, you went to something like an activities fair, an organization outbreak, to learn about how to get involved at your school, this is that event for college students, graduate students, young professionals and lifelong learners. That's what the event's all --- is all about. That's what Get Involved is all about, and that's why we're particularly proud to get to honor all of these great people that stand with me here tonight.

So you're going to get a chance to meet them in just a minute, but before that, let's read the proclamation. And we were --- a lot of us were together this morning down at the City County Building. A fun thing about next Tuesday is that it will be Get Involved Service Summit Day in both the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. So it is your day, everyone, so that will be very good.

WHEREAS, Get Involved was founded in 2011 to provide programs that develop, educate and engage students and young professionals in order to encourage them to become active assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, on March 28th of 2017, the 8th Annual Pittsburgh Service Summit will take place at Carlow University and will give recognition to outstanding individuals for their positive contributions to the community. The event, which is open to the public, will also feature a variety of local vendors who will be available to educate attendees about ways that they can get more civically involved. This year's honorees include the following individuals.

The Man of the Year, Emmai Ailakuiva, who's with us here tonight. Woman of the Year, Aradhna Oliphant. Male Emerging Leader, Diwas Timsina. Female Emerging Leader, Michaela Buzzard, who's here with us. The Dr. Tom Baker Community Leader --- that's after my dad's memory --- Kevin White. The Patty Verostko Award for Child Advocacy is going to Larry Berger, who's here with his
wife, Rikki, tonight. And then the Western PA Rising Stars. These are young leaders 21 to 32 that are just doing amazing things here in our community.

They are Adonna Anderson --- if I say your name, just if you want to wave to everyone. Jenna Baron, Emily Brown, Thomas Bryant, Curt Conrad, Brae Geary, Cara Mia Grassi, Brittany Huffman, who has spent much time in this room. Shenay Jeffrey, Harry Johnson II, Jose Miguel Juarez, Daniel Lampmann, Kylie LaSota, Wesley Lyons, Mandy McNabb, Representative Jason Ortitay, Joe Ortman, Ryan O’Shea, Lisa Philipp, Samone Riddle, Jenny Sabol, "Tori" Victoria Snyder, Ben Stoviak, Aster Teclay, he's right over there. And Shanon Williams, and last but not least, Councilman Kress' favorite person, Robbie Zaremberg. It is very fun for Robbie to be winning this award. Councilman Kress was named the Junior Achievement Legislator of the Year, so this is very nice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council does hereby commend Get Involved, our organization, for their commitment to fostering the development of young leaders into civically active community assets, and for hosting the eighth annual Get Involved, Service Summit to honor the achievements of these 32 individuals from the region whose work has made the --- a difference in our community.

BE IT THEREFORE --- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby declare March 28th, 2017 to be "Get Involved! Service Summit Day" in Allegheny County. Congratulations to all of our winners. It is your day.

(Appause.)

So Emmai will start. We'll go with Emmai. Well, actually, we'll just start with Cara Mia. Just say, if you can, real quickly, who you are, your name, where you work and your favorite organization to get involved with.

MS. GRASSI: Okay.
MR. BAKER: Okay.
MS. GRASSI: My name is Cara Mia Grassi. I work at PNC Wealth Management. I'm involved with Big Brothers and Big Sisters as a mentor and co-president of the Young Professional Outreach Board.
MR. BAKER: Good. Larry, you want to go?
MR. BERGER: Sure. I'm Larry Berger, SLB Radio Productions. I'm happy to be a young professional.
That's the --- we do work with youth and media with the Saturday Light Brigade and Youth Express, and I can't pick a single nonprofit.

MR. BAKER: You got your own, yeah. Okay. Hi, how are you?

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, I'm Shanon Williams and I'm sick. I work for CeaseFire PA. I'm our campaign coordinator. I run our youth program, and I mainly work with independent special projects and whoever needs help.

MR. BAKER: Thank you. Miguel?

MR. JUAREZ: Thank you so much. Hi, everyone. Good evening. My name is Miguel. It's a pleasure to be here. I'm a third year medical student over here at U-Pitt Med. I'm concentrating in global health in underserved populations and the coordinator of the --- one of the student coordinators of the Birmingham Free Clinic here in Southside, and my favorite organization to be involved with is Operation Safety Net with Dr. Withers.

MR. BAKER: Who was our Man of the Year last year. Very good. Thanks, Miguel. Ryan?

MR. O'SHEA: Hi, there. I'm Ryan O'Shea. I am the host of the Times Today news program for the Beaver County Times and my favorite organization to be involved with is a startup I recently cofounded called Behavior. We seek to democratize addiction treatment and limit recidivism rates.

MR. BAKER: Okay. Aster? Here you go.

MS. TECLAY: Thank you. My name is Aster Teclay. I'm a senior project manager with the City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority. My favorite organization to be involved with is my own, Invest In Her. It's a --- we provide capital in the early stage of professional development for female-owned businesses.

MR. BAKER: Devon, do you want to say hi? Devon's on our board of directors and she's one of the co-chairs of the summit.

MS. TALIAFERRO: Hi, my name is Devin Taliaferro. I work for Amachi Pittsburgh, and it is my favorite nonprofit organization. Thank you.


MS. HUFFMAN: Yeah. Hi, I'm Brittany. I'm with Tobacco Free Allegheny. You guys heard from me a lot, recently, so I won't bore you too much. But my favorite organization that I'm involved with is Planned Parenthood.
MR. BAKER: Michaela?
MS. BUZZARD: Hi, I'm Michaela Buzzard. I'm a senior at Carlow University, and my favorite organization to be involved with is Big Brothers, Big Sisters, where I am development intern.
MR. BAKER: And where can everyone model in April?
MS. BUZZARD: The Fashions for Kids' Sake fashion show at Carlow University.
MR. BAKER: All right. Sounds good. Jenny?
MS. SABOL: Hi, I'm Jenny Sabol. I'm a project manager at Highmark, and I love being involved on Big Recruitment Board for Big Brothers, Big Sisters.
MR. BAKER: All right. Tori?
MS. SNYDER: (adjusts microphone) I'm sorry. Victoria Snyder, executive vice president of Ya Momz House, Inc. and director of programming for Hip Hop on L.O.C.K. My favorite nonprofit is the Rukmini Foundation here in Pittsburgh, that supports girls in Nepal to gain an education.
MR. BAKER: All right. Robbie Zaremberg? Ed's probably back there cheering right now.
MR. KRESS: All right, Robbie.
(Applause.)
MR. ZAREMBERG: Thank you. Robbie Zaremberg, director of community development for Junior Achievement. Our programs are in the schools, kindergarten through 12th grade, focusing on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce development. And I do fundraising and also government relations, and my favorite organization is Junior Achievement. But I'll say my second favorite organization is Big Brothers Big Sisters, because we're both providing mentors to our young people to get them to succeed in life.
MR. BAKER: Thanks, Robbie.
MR. ZAREMBERG: Yeah.
MR. BAKER: All right. Very good. Well played. All right. And not --- last, but not least, we've got the Man of the Year, Emmai Alaquiva, always looking sharp.
MR. ALAQUIVA: (adjusts microphone) Everyone, hello. My name is Emmai Alaquiva. I am a former homeless person. For about a year and a half in 1999, I very well could've asked anyone for money in Oakland or the Pittsburgh area. And now I am a CEO of an Emmy Award winning multimedia company called Ya Momz House.
Also, I'm founder of an arts education program called Hip Hop on L.O.C.K. My favorite nonprofit is Hip Hop on L.O.C.K., which started out servicing 16 students in the East Liberty area in 2007, servicing the 16 to now over 5,000, through 11 school districts throughout Western Pennsylvania. Thank you.

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Emmal. All right. One more big round of applause for all of our winners.

(Applause.)

We'll grab a group picture. And again, if you like these folks, you can hang out with them again next Tuesday, 5:30 to 8:30 at Carlow University. There should be 400 of us at Carlow next Tuesday. So we'll grab a group picture. Congratulations to everyone, again.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 10075-17, and the rest will be read into the record.


10078-17. A proclamation congratulating Ms. Rachelle Dene Poth of Riverview High School for earning the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.

10080-17. A proclamation declaring March 31st, 2017 to be "PACE Inclusive Voices Day" in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Walton.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Thank you. At this time, we'll have the Chief Executive's Quarterly Address. (Applause.)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. It's always --- always good to be here back where I spent so many years wrestling over the issues you wrestle with every couple of weeks. So it's always good to be here.

I'm going to start with the challenging stuff first tonight. I'm going to talk about our --- the federal budget and the state budget, which are both concerning to all of us, and certainly to this --- the things that we provide. Some of the early federal budget that came out of the administration last week, we see our CDBG budget, which has been slashed a lot over the last number of years, literally zeroed out. And I think that's really going to hit a lot of communities in a hard way, you know, that we really rely on that.

I know Director Hurley and his team really work with --- with all of you, to try to provide some of the projects throughout the year, to really help communities that really need that help. So we're going to certainly be lobbying our congressional delegation to make sure that the CDBG funding is not --- is not cut to the level they're talking about.

NIH funding, that has done such great work over the last number of years in starting to prevent some diseases and --- and --- and you know, ameliorate some of the suffering that a lot of people have, has been a great advocate, great for this nation. But also, bringing it home, University of Pittsburgh, and all the jobs and all the economic development that comes out of that great university --- cuts to NIH funding will really affect our economy in a big, big way. We all know not just what they do with the --- with the jobs there, but the spinout companies, and the development that's come out of some of the research and development would also affect us very well --- very poorly in many ways.

Meals on Wheels, you know --- cutting Meals on Wheels to our seniors, we have so many seniors in this community who really rely on that, so I'm hoping that that gets restored by congressional folks. The afterschool
programs that they're talking about eliminating and cutting, also, --- I mean, if we're going to invest in our --- in our students and we're going to continue --- continue to grow as a region and a nation, you know, we've got to educate and --- and deal with the after school programs for some of our kids, so that they have the skills and the life training to be able to get the jobs that we have.

And then Medicaid, I mean, I cannot imagine how --- how those cuts will affect us here, locally, with all the folks that we take care of. So we're going to be lobbying at the federal level to make sure that some of these things do not occur.

Now, let me go on to the state budget, and that one also is concerning. We get an awful lot of our funding for human services that comes through the state budget, and we're going to see how that goes as the delegation in --- in the House and the Senate go through the budget process that, hopefully, will get passed in late June, early July, on time. We know what we went through a couple of years ago. We were able to withstand it a little better than some counties did, but it did have some effects on --- on some of the programs that --- that we need to provide.

We also see some concerns with our Health Department funding, that there are some cuts that are going to occur there. And that's also concerning because some of the protections we're able to provide around here, quality around restaurant grading, restaurant inspections, et cetera, are very important. And we all know the implication of what the opioid crisis has meant, and again, a lot of the funding we do, both in human services and through the Health Department --- you know, dealing with the opioid crisis. This year we're --- we're --- and last year, excuse me, we surpassed over 500 people who passed away with overdoses. That's the most we've --- we've --- we've had. We keep trending upwards. It's not just here in Allegheny County. It really is around the state and around the country that we're all dealing with.

So these are some of the challenges that --- we're going to have to work with our Senate and House members in Harrisburg, as well as our Senate and House members in Washington. So I hope we can --- we can come together to lobby some of our folks on some of those issues.
On the --- on some of the county initiatives, I want to --- like to always talk --- start off with jobs and economic development. You know, we --- the announcement was made just a few weeks ago that ARGO A1 was bought out by Ford Motor Company and they've committed to invest a billion dollars in Pittsburgh around autonomous vehicles. We know that Uber is also already investing, or going to be investing a billion dollars as well over the next five years with those two. And there are other companies that are doing the very same thing.

We're also very proud to announce that we're going to be hosting the National County --- NACO, the National Association of County Commissioners. Their transportation committee is going to be coming here in early May to learn about autonomous vehicles, the smart signaling that CMU is doing with Traffic21 and how to improve transportation.

So I know we --- we talked about that a little earlier on transit, but you know, the whole range of how we deal with transportation and what's coming down the road is really important. And it's great to know that here in Pittsburgh we're at the forefront of that. And it really is because of, you know, our great universities.

And I want to give a shout out to Carnegie Mellon. Last week they were named the number one computer science university in the nation by U.S. News and World's report. That will continue to bring more talent, and more companies and more innovation here, so we're very fortunate to have that great university doing --- doing a lot of the works that --- that they're doing.

And we do see, you know, some of the --- some of the things that are happening, like the CSX program --- project in McKees Rocks that's moving forward. The --- just in Hazelwood yesterday to see that new bakery come in on 2nd Avenue, to start to see, you know, that this is the same company that located in Lawrenceville about eight or nine years ago. And I think they see the same --- the same, you know, trajectory. That in a few years, what Hazelwood can become with --- with Almono and some of the development that's happening in the location that they are.

We also know the announcement that was made earlier, about a month or so ago, by the governor, that they're going to be closing some prisons, as the prison population in the state is coming down, which is obviously
good news from a lot of standpoints and --- and the one they marked for closure is SCI Pittsburgh, the old Western Penn. And one of the reasons I think they did that, notwithstanding that --- that it's one of the oldest in the state. I think it was built in the 1880s. You know, 130, 140-year-old facility that had been closed a number of years ago, and then was --- was opened up, I guess, just a few years ago.

But knowing that the economic development opportunities for those 24 acres that are there over on the North Shore can be used and I know in Councilwoman Ranalli-Russell --- Councilwoman, in your district, I think there's a lot of good opportunities to do some --- do some good things over there.

So we continue to see, you know, really, you know, positive job growth and positive things that are happening in the community.

Just last week, the report came out talking about venture capital. And in venture capital, while the nation was going down over 30 percent, investment around the country, we actually were up eight percent, and continue to do very well as we continue to be a hub and an attraction for investment really throughout the country and throughout the world. And we're --- we're going to see some more announcements coming up that I'm anticipating in the next month or two. When I come back to see you in three months, I think we'll have some more --- more good things to talk about.

Along those lines, I wanted to talk about the airport. You've seen some of the announcements that have come out recently with the airport. And one of those was the naming of Pittsburgh International Airport at the Airport of the Year by Trans World (sic) trade publication. We are the first American airport to have gotten that award. Singapore has gotten it, London's gotten it and --- and Hong Kong has gotten it. And we're the first American one and we're --- I'm going to be going to New York City with the Airport Authority next Tuesday, so I'm going to miss the --- and I haven't missed it in a number of years and I apologize for being there, but you know it's --- it's a big deal for us to --- to go and be recognized.

And a lot of that is because of the growth that we've seen starting when you voted a number of years ago in a tough vote to use those royalties, the $500 million
that comes in over the next 20 years, to be able to
jumpstart an airport that was in --- really, quite
frankly, flat on its back. We went from 37 destinations
that you could get to --- up to 68. We now are one of the
very, very few airports in the country that have all three
low cost carriers, discount carriers, at our airport. We
just announced Spirit about a month ago. We have
Allegiant and we have Frontier. So all three of them are
there. It gives our --- our consumers an awful lot of
choice.

Obviously, it helps with our business community
as well, as we're up to 15 airlines now that are servicing
and serving the citizens here in Western Pennsylvania.
And you know, that --- just so many good things are going
to continue to happen at that airport. And not just at
the airport itself, but the surrounding area, where you
see a lot of companies that want to locate there and want
to build there. Obviously, the cracker plant is a big
part of that. But other companies are going to be --- be
joining in as well, so I'm --- I'm really, really
optimistic about where we're going to go.

One of the things that we're going to come talk
to you a little bit about this, the airport, --- which a
lot of us --- old timers, I'll consider myself. We still
call it the new airport. It's 25 years old, so I don't
think it's so new anymore. And one of the things we're
probably going to be looking at is Christina Cassotis and
her team will be probably making some recommendations on
how to reconfigure the airport to optimize it in a way
that makes sense for the market that we're serving now.

When it was built, we know it was built for one
airline. It was also pre 9/11 when people could go and
shop, and dine at the stores, and at the mall without
having a ticket and going through security. Things have
certainly changed since that time, so we've got to
reconfigure the airport in a way that makes sense.

So over the next couple years, I think they'll
be looking at some plans and how to do that. The good
news is, we've got --- we've got finances to be able to do
it. The bond rating has gone up, I think three times,
maybe four times in the last few years since we did the
deal with Consol. And optimism is good in where we're
going there.

I want to move into some of the departments
we're dealing with. Public Works, we talked about this
before, that last year we really set records paving 58 miles of road, of county roads, with the milling machine, and the paving machine. And what Director Shanley and his team have been able to do has been terrific. We're looking at a very aggressive schedule again this year. We're looking to do over 50 miles again. I'm optimistic. If the weather, you know, cooperates, which it certainly did last year, they're going to begin on April 1st to begin the --- begin the paving program. So we're going to try and get an early start on that.

And I know a lot of you have weighed in on needs in your district, and we're going to do our best to --- to accommodate as many as we can.

You also saw the announcement yesterday that PennDOT is going to be doing close to $300 million worth of projects in Western Pennsylvania as well, so it's going to be a busy --- a busy summer. There might be a few detours here or there, and a few waits, if you know what I mean. But you know, some of the investment that both PennDOT and us as a county, and some of the municipalities really have got to catch up on for some years of really not --- not doing it as robustly as we can.

This summer is also going to be very challenging. As you know, the Warhol Bridge is under construction. And then when baseball season starts, those 81 times of the year, the Clemente Bridge will close as well. So we'll only have one bridge coming across over the sister bridges, the --- excuse me, the Rachel Carson Bridge. So you know it's going to be challenging and --- but you know, these are things that we're going to have to be doing as we --- as we move on.

BRIEF INTERRUPTION

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. I go on too long sometimes --- forget your questions.

I want to talk about the parks, which really excites a lot of you, I know. Trout season is starting. We have stocked Deer Lakes Park. It's already been stocked, so we're ready on April 15th for the beginning of trout season. And some of the projects that we have, it --- obviously, Deer Lakes and North Park will be having, you know, for --- for those lakes.

The Deer Lakes Portal Project which we toured last fall, in late May or early June, we're going to be opening that up. A new --- a new playground in White Oak should be opening up in --- in May, late May, early June.
The North Park Tennis Courts and Pickle Ball Courts will be opening up in --- in late June, so that will be good for that park. Hartwood Acres wedding pavilion in late June, I want to talk about the wedding pavilions in --- in just a bit, to --- to get to some of the other things that are happening.

South Park Hartwood, the stage and sound improvements --- we've seen such great attendance over the last couple of years at both of those venues, so we made some --- we invested with some stage and sound improvements for those shows that begin --- begin in early June.

The Round Hill Pond renovations will be completed in mid-July. Settler's Cabin, with some new basketball courts, will be open in August. Some improvements to Harrison Hills will begin this fall. And then the South Park ice rink --- and you may have seen the announcement a little --- a couple of weeks ago, that the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation donated $100,000 when they came into town and played the Winter Classic against the Flyers over at Heinz Field. They donated $100,000 to the South Park ice rink for some of the improvements that we have there.

On back to the bridal part a little bit. I want to really congratulate Kevin Evanto in the marketing team. I don't know if any of you were able to make it down a couple of weeks ago, but they held a bridal show right here in the courthouse with 30 exhibitors who came to --- to demonstrate their wares. We had over 170 people who showed up. We've got, I think, 19 events already booked for this year and started to book some events for next year. So some of the marketing of our facilities that we talked about, to be able to raise some revenue that way, has been --- been very positive.

And I came over that day, and I --- I tell you, the --- the reaction of both the exhibitors who brought their company over to display, and the people, were very, very positive. So it was very good that we were --- we were able to do that. So those are some of the good projects that we wanted to talk about. And with that, I'll open up to any questions you have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Who has the first question or any questions? Representative Futules?
COUNT EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: You don't have to. I can go without questions.
MR. FUTULES: Yeah, I know. I hesitated. Is the pavilion at the Hartwood Acres complete now, the new facility?
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I don't ---. Hartwood?
MR. FUTULES: Hartwood. I'm sorry. What did I say? I said Hartwood.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes, it is.
MR. FUTULES: It is finished?
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yep.
MR. FUTULES: Good. We're going to have a dedication?
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yeah, we've been planning on having an event. There's going to be --- you know, in some of these things, just real quickly. But on all of them, we're going to try to schedule a ribbon cutting or an opening, a grand opening, so we'll be letting you know. For those of you who have the park in your district, we're going --- we're going to be letting you know whether it's the pickle ball court, or the White Oak Park, or you know, whatever --- whatever it might be, the South Park ice rink, all those things.
MR. FUTULES: Good.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no more hands, I want to thank you very much.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. Have a good night, guys. Thank you.
(Appause.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment on agenda items, we have none?
MR. BARKER: We have none.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have none. Approval of minutes, 10070-17.
MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 7th, 2017 regular meeting of Council.
MR. ELLENBOGEN: So moved.
MR. WALTON: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? They ayes have it. Okay. Unfinished business, Committee on Appointment Review, second reading. 999 --- what's that, 9999-17?
MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Dr. Lee Harrison to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?
MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. On March 15th, 2017, the Committee on Appointment Review convened and at that time, the committee made a positive recommendation. I would like to make a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

10000-17.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Dr. Edith Shapira to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?
MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. On March 15th, 2017, the Committee on Appointment Review convened and at that time, the committee made a positive recommendation. I’d like to make a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

10004-17.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Michelle Pepitone to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?
MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. On March 15th, 2017, the Committee on Appointment Review convened, and at that time the committee made a positive recommendation. I’d like to make a motion to approve.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.
Committee on Budget and Finance, second reading.
10062-17.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, authorizing participation in the 2016, 2017 Nursing Home Intergovernmental Transfer Program proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, authorizing the transfer of funds as required by the said program and further granting authorization for any and all lawful actions necessary to effectuate Allegheny County's participation in said program. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. On March 15th, 2017, the Committee on Budget and Finance met and affirmatively recommended that the full council approve this resolution. I'd like a --- to make a motion at this time to approve.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

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

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?
MR. CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?
MR. KRESS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?
DR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes, 15. No's, zero. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10063-17.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017, submission number 03-17. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. On March 15th, 2017, the Committee on Budget and Finance met and affirmatively recommended that the full council approve this resolution. I --- I'd like to make a motion to approve the resolution at this time.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in --- oh, take a roll call because it's a resolution.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes, 15. No's, zero. The bill passes.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison reports, Representative Baker?
MR. BAKER: All right. Thanks, Mr. President. Just a couple quick ones. I wanted to thank all the colleagues from Council that were able to make it out for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade and thank the region as a whole, thank County Manager McKain and everyone that led to make it a great day. It certainly was cold, but we did --- we did pretty well. We threw out a little bit less candy than maybe we would have, but congratulations to everyone involved with a --- a tremendous day on that.
Visit Pittsburgh wise, I just want to thank Councilman DeMarco and Councilwoman Means for being there for our board meeting, our annual meeting last Thursday for Visit Pittsburgh. It was a really positive annual meeting. We have five new board members and four of us got reelected to second two year terms, so looking forward to that.
And Christina Cassotis, I know has been --- she's been mentioned a couple times already tonight. But she was named the Community Leader of the Year Award winner for Visit Pittsburgh, which was really nice, for all of the good that she's done to get heads into beds here into our region, to get people staying in --- in Greater Pittsburgh and spending time in Allegheny County. And then just finally, I would mention that April 4th, you've probably gotten some e-mails about it. It is the Annual Kane Free Throw Contest. Last year we defeated the city, so hopefully, DeWitt's --- DeWitt's game again, so ---. Paul Klein did pretty well. Cindy was good. I mean, we had a --- we had a strong team last year, so I'm --- I'm happy to head that up again, or at least, you know, get us together for that. There are different shifts and different times, so I'll send an e-mail out to council in the morning and we can figure out
what time we want to do it together. And DeWitt is practicing his jump shot. Very good. Okay. so it should be a lot of fun. That's all I have, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone else under --- go ahead, Ranalli-Russell, Representative.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Duquesne Light is partnering with Community College of Allegheny County to provide training on the basic skills, knowledge and --- that the applicants would need to --- to apply for this electrical distribution technology program. And it is a one-year certificate program with access to paid internship and scholarship opportunities. And although the employment is not guaranteed after the completion of the program, it will be considered with Duquesne Light.

And the deadline for the application is April 2nd of 2017 and with this program, you'll obtain the certificate. And you would also have to obtain a Class A CDL, and they have three available scholarships, also. So if you would like to apply, it is www.duquesnelight.com/careers.

So I would like to make sure that everybody knows about that, and I think it's a good opportunity and it's great that CCAC is partnering with Duquesne Light. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other --- Representative Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes. Thank you. At this time, I'd like to recognize our budget director, Mr. Walter Szymanski. I believe this is going to be his last meeting here on County Council. I want to thank you for the years of service that you gave us. You've been a great budget director, a great friend and I wish you the best of luck in the future on your new job. I want to thank you for being here.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: I just wanted to invite all the council members to --- well, the next three days in Mount Lebanon, Representative Dan Miller will be sponsoring a summit, a disability summit. And it is just so beneficial for family members, students, healthcare workers. On Thursday, we will have a visit from Ted Davis, the Secretary of Human Services for the state. We will also
--- there will be workshops there. The county will have a table at --- in the vendor hall, so there will be three days of a vendor hall.

Wednesday is around employment opportunities. There will also be a legislative panel meeting with students and hearing their concerns. So again, I just want to encourage everyone to come to this disability summit. It's for --- not only for students, but it's for adults, and it's at 1900 Cochran Road at the Bethel congregation, and that's in Mount Lebanon. And if you need --- I'm sorry, Scott Township. And if you need more information, just get in touch with Representative Miller's office. So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Who was it, Representative Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to piggyback what Councilman Futules said about Walt Syzmanski. A lot of the things that I've been able to accomplish during Walter's term are a direct result of the work that Walter has done. You know, a lot of times it's easy for me to announce it publicly and to say this and that, but Walter's always been there to do the --- a lot of the paperwork and the things that I need to make my visions come true, and I want to personally thank you publicly for all the hard work that you did. And just because you're going across the street, don't think I won't find you. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Representative DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to mention that Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum, this Sunday, is having the induction into their Hall of Valor. That's a ceremony that's going to take place at 2:00 p.m. in the main hall. It's open to the public. There's no charge and they're going to be inducting about 17 area veterans for their bravery and for their service. So anyone who would like to go there, again, you know, the ceremony is free. It's at 2:00 p.m. this Sunday the 26th at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any --- okay, Representative Palmieri?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of council, first of all, I want to just report to tell you that I attended a welcoming dinner for the middle
states people that came in to evaluate CCAC on Sunday and that's a ---- that's become a very positive --- excuse me, a very positive thing for us to --- to go through as members of the Board of Trustees. It was just a wonderful evening and it took place over where --- the culinary school over there and the students made the --- you know, they cooked the dinner and had a --- you know, it was just a wonderful event all the way around. And we're doing well, Mr. President. We're almost through with the middle states and it's been very positive all the way through.

And one other thing I wanted to mention, UPMC Life Changing Medicine here is going to have a drug --- drug take --- a drug take back day. They wanted --- they wanted people to bring their prescription drugs that they're not using or have gone past the dates that they were good taken back and it's going to take place on Saturday, April 29th. And there's a whole list of places where I --- I don't want to read them all. There's a whole list of places here that --- they're going to have the --- you know, they can take back your unused drugs. So thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.
MR. KLEIN: One more?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, would like to recognize and acknowledge Walt Szymanski for all the great work that he's done for Council over the many years and especially making sure that that candy jar is filled. I will miss that. But as the --- as the chair of Budget and Finance, I will really miss his presence, but I've got him on speed dial, and so he might not be leaving after all. So thank you so much, Walt, for all you've done.

MR. FUTULES: Thanks, Walt.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?
MR. KRESS: You can't leave, Walt. You have to stay. I'm actually surprised it's your last meeting. I thought that you weren't going to be quitting until a little bit later in April.
MR. SZYMANSKI: I'm probably taking some time off.
MR. KRESS: Okay. Okay. I know, because I wish we, you know, had a proclamation prepared for you. So you can come back; okay? You don't have to like, avoid us, so --- no, but I have to say he was --- he's been
exceptional, what he's been able to accomplish. I mean, really, without you, you're just another cog in a well-oiled machine here that, you know, we used you for, you know, for the Budget and Finance. I mean, you had a lot of knowledge from your background. I know you were at the Treasurer's Office for a number of years and we're really going to miss you, really. I mean, I don't know what else to say. This is actually a surprise, so ---. But thank you for all your service to this County Council. I appreciate it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Real quick, I'd like to agree with everybody else on Walt. Rather than take up time, I agree with every --- all the speakers. Thank you.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: I think we all do.
MR. DEMARCO: Can we make that unanimous?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, I think every ---.
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Amen.
MR. KRESS: Do we have a motion on the floor?
MR. MACEY: Budget Director Szymanski --- and for the soda, and candy, and yeah --- I was ---.
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Eddie should have to fill the candy jar, now.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Looks like everybody agrees with everybody --- whoa, on that issue.
MR. KRESS: We should just stop the meeting right now.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Moving down to new business, 10071-17.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Townsquare Live Events, LLC to use the outdoor space adjacent to and behind the structure known as the Amphitheatre in the County's Hartwood Acres Park to conduct an event entitled The Glow Jack-O-Lantern Experience. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to the Parks Committee. 10074-17.

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the Board of Elections of Allegheny County to provide an increase in compensation to District Election Officers in Primary and General Elections. Sponsored by Council Member Ranalli-Russell and Controller Wagner.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. I think that would go --- we should put that in Budget and Finance, for the group over there. Public --- let's see. Notification of Contracts, we have none?
MR. BARKER: No, we do not.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: None. Public Comment, let's see. Would you read off what you have with the public comment?
MR. BARKER: Stephen Riccardi.
MR. RICCARDI: Good evening, everyone. My name is Steve Riccardi and I am the Western Pennsylvania field organizer for the Penn Environment Research and Policy Center. We are a statewide, citizen-based environmental organization with thousands of supporters in Allegheny County, pushing for clean air, clean water and open spaces.

As many of you know, we have a serious air pollution problem here in Allegheny County. Pittsburgh still ranks among the ten dirtiest cities in the --- in the country, in terms of year-round pollution from soot, according to the American Lung Association. This takes a serious toll on our health.

Air pollution poses a wide range of risks for cardiac, respiratory, neurological and even reproductive health for residents who live in greater --- in the greater Pittsburgh region. It means that the one in ten county residents who live with asthma are risking their health going outside during some of the hottest and smoggiest days in the summers.

And the roots of this --- the roots of this issue are clear. Toxic industrial polluters like the Clairton Coke Works, and McConway and Torley in Lawrenceville emit tons of hazardous pollutants into the air, forcing residents to either leave or accept the risk of living in the county with the third highest cancer risk from point source pollution in the entire country. There's still a lot of work to be done to clean up this air pollution threatening our health.

We know that the Allegheny County Health Department can do more to establish protections, including Clean Air Act permits that put public health first. This means ensuring that every facility has a permit outlining emissions limits, based on the most recent public health research, and use of the best available pollution control technology. Right now, too many of the major facilities
in the county are operating despite their Clean Air Act permits being expired or never issued. And I hope that you, the Allegheny County Council, will do your everything and anything in your power to support the Health Department in fulfilling that responsibility, including giving them the resources that they need to accomplish that.

But at Penn Environment, as a citizen-based organization, we also recognize the incredible value of everyday people's passionate voices in the process of overcoming a huge hurdle like air pollution. So that is why tonight, I am delivering to the council, a petition signed by 5,787 Allegheny County residents from Bethel Park to Gibsonia, and Wilkinsburg to Ben Avon, who know that clean air is a right and not a privilege and are invested in the work of taking on the challenge of ensuring that right.

Coming out of this meeting, I would like to meet with each member of the county council to talk about the ways that we can work together to protect the people of Allegheny County from unnecessary and serious health impacts of polluted air. So I'll be sticking around after the meeting's over to kill time to sit down with any of you that are willing to work with Penn Environment on this campaign and I'll have my scheduled with me so I'd be happy to talk with any of you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have one more.
MR. BARKER: Bill Godshall, I don't believe is here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make a motion to adjourn?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: (Indicating.)
MR. MACEY: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Meeting adjourned. Thank you.
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.

_____________________________
Rachel Marie Fatter,

Court Reporter