

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 - 4:57 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting will come to order. Will you please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and remain standing for a silent prayer.

After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll have the roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio? Ms.

Ranalli Russell? Mr. Walton? Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You can call my ---.

MR. BARKER: Present, yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here. Okay. We'll move on to the Chief Executive's Quarterly Address.

(Applause).

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Hope you had an enjoyable summer, because the last time I was here was in June. So some things that have occurred since then, I was just given word that --- from Amy Downs, our Communications Director, that today is the 231st birthday of Allegheny County, so I think that's September 24th, 1788. So you guys don't look --- never mind. I won't go into.

(Laughter.)

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And the 131st birthday of this courthouse. So that's also 1888. So in any event, I wanted to talk. Last week we got quite a designation. The Green Building Alliance, which is an organization in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County that really talks about making our buildings as green and sustainable as they could give. We were awarded the United Nations Center of Excellence, one of only three cities, one of only three regions in the world that have gotten that, Vancouver and New York City, something we should be very, very proud of. And I know a lot of folks have worked, whether we're doing development with our private developers, the work that the County Manager and our facilities department are doing with our buildings to make sure that they are sustainable and as green as they can be is something we should be very, very proud of.

In July we opened and started the landslide portal. We know the issues we have had over the last couple of years with landslides in our community. Really, the most we've --- we've ever had with some of the record rainfall. Not just, obviously, in county land, but on private land, on --- on municipal property. And I want to thank Public Works Director Shanley and EOC Director Matt Brown. They co-chaired this emergency services chair director, and what they have done bringing a whole group of folks together, geotechnical experts, folks from the utility industry, engineers, developers and in our --- our datacenter and our universities. Our datacenter now has a portal which you can go on, and there can be some --- even some predictive analytics about which hillsides might be --- might be a little bit at risk. CMU's obviously been a big help with this. And actually, the Pitt Engineering School did a big demonstration on this awhile back, and it got a lot of notoriety. So I really want to thank them for the --- for the work that they do. And really working with our municipalities and our partners out there. Again, private developers and how we can be --- be a little more proactive in trying --- dealing with some of the things that we've had to deal with over the last couple of years.

Also, this summer our learn and earn program that --- that this Council has been supportive of over the last five years, we had over 1900 high school students that went through that program at 55 different corporations throughout the region at 350 different

worksites. It really allows young people to have access and see what kind of opportunities and careers are out there, but it also allows the corporate community the ability to --- to --- to interact with some of our young people to see if they --- they would be employees that they would want to use and have and hire in the future. So that's been a very, very successful program, something we've partnered with the City of Pittsburgh. Mayor Peduto is one of the initiators of that when he got elected a number of years back.

On the economic development front, our unemployment is under four percent. It's at 3.9 percent, one of the lowest it's been in --- in really half a century. There's a number of groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings we've had over the last few months since I came before you before. The last one a couple of weeks ago was Bechtel. Over 1200 jobs in Monroeville. I know Councilman Zavarella was out there for that ribbon cutting that we had out there. Amazon announced 800 jobs out in Findley Township with a 1,000,000 square foot, one of the biggest buildings underroofed that we'll have here in this region. Volkswagen announced a \$2.6 billion investment into Argo AI, a startup --- CMU startup company around autonomous vehicles.

In Braddock the Ohringer building's coming online doing --- doing some, again, some initiatives that are happening in that community, which a lot of good things are happening. Connection RX, North Fayette, hundreds of jobs there. A beam signing ceremony that we did out there. Highmark making their big announcement investing in Fifth Avenue Place. When they did that over 30 years ago, there really hasn't been much to that, and they really made some --- some significant investment. What they're going to be doing, clerk testing, Westinghouse --- an old Westinghouse building. Building's out in Large, PA. Making some investment there. So there's a lot of good things happening throughout the region.

People are making some investment around affordable housing. PHFA has awarded tax credits for some buildings in Clairton, Natrona Heights and Penn Hills. The Penn Hills one is of note, because it's a net zero building that they're going to be building in that community. The Live Well program that was instituted a number of years ago by the Health Department continues to

grow. We now have over 68 municipalities that are part of it. Over half the municipalities are part of it, and well over half the populations of folks in Allegheny County, 18 school districts. Fifty-eight (58) restaurants have joined on that and 33 workplaces. The Health Department also was granted a \$5.2 million grant dealing with --- to deal with opioid overdoses. Some of the really progressive things they've been doing has been making some improvements on that very, very big issue that we --- we've all been dealing with.

And along with the Health Department I really want to praise this Council for some of the work that they have done. About a month ago Governor Wolf came to town to try to institute mandatory lead testing around the state, and what he picked out as a model of what this Council voted on a year or so ago in which you --- we have mandatory lead testing for children under the age of two. Because of the success and because of what it has been able to do, the Governor wants to do it in the other 66 counties around the Commonwealth. Also, this Council was ahead of the --- ahead of the curve dealing with the vaping issue. And we've seen nationally what --- what's been occurring. And there's --- there's discussions at the national level and in many states about outlawing and banning vaping, but this Council was ahead of that a couple of years ago when --- when you instituted the plan here. So I think it's something that --- you know, these debates sometimes, you know, we take a look and look at, you know, issues that might not be very easy to deal with and might be more difficult. But I think those are two issues that this body working with the Health Department and Dr. Hakker that really worked with, and I think is --- is something you should be very, very proud of.

The 911 center, since I was here last time, we did the ribbon cutting out in --- in Moon Township. I think --- most of you I think were there that day. It was a very exciting day. I really want to praise, again, Director Brown, Matt Brown, Chief Brown and --- and also the County Manager for the work that they did working with the Airport Authority, working with all of you and our --- and our state leaders that were very helpful in bringing the resources to --- to really have a state-of-the-art 911 center that will live for --- for, you know, many, many years for --- for the folks of this --- of this community.

Also, want to praise our Department of Human Services were awarded a \$3.5 million HUD grant dealing with youth homelessness. We know how homelessness around the country, and particular --- and as well in this region is something to deal with. Again, because of the some of the groundbreaking things that Director Cherna and his folks are doing we were --- we were pleased to see HUD recognize that and --- and awarded this --- our DHS that grant.

Also, we got some national recognition, some of the things that are happening in our jail. The jail was recognized as a national model for reducing barriers for parents to connect with their families when --- when they are incarcerated, when they are in jail. And National Public Radio, NPR, did a story a while back just a month or so ago dealing with high school students that are --- that are in jail and how they're --- they're still doing their school work with the --- with the AIU, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. So we were given some --- some national notoriety on some of the things that are happening in our jail.

We also --- this --- this --- this body voted to allow moviemaking, another August Wilson movie. Denzel Washington, again, coming back to this region after he did Fences a couple of years ago. He's doing another August Wilson movie, and again, that provides a lot of jobs and a lot of revenue that comes into this region, which we're excited to do. And appreciate your --- your willingness to work with the Film Office and the folks that are --- that are making movies and putting Pittsburgh on the --- on the silver screen, which is a --- is a good thing. Giving us a kind of good notoriety and publicity we can have.

We had a good --- good summer with our parks program. We increased the amount of programs by about seven percent in the programming that we do, but in doing that our attendance actually went up 48 percent. So there were a lot of people that were using not only the new programs that came about but many of the existing programs that have been put in over the last couple of years. And even more, I think, good news, the revenue actually went up over 160 percent for the programs that --- that we were doing with --- with summer camps and yoga and all the things that --- that have happened with the programming that --- that's going in with our parks.

In general, our parks attendance was up over ten percent this year, and that's on all the things that we do, just people using them passively as well as actively. And our revenue was up --- was up 11 percent as well. So we see, you know, more continued popularity within our parks. The summer concert series was again very, very popular. I know many of you go to those. The South Park concert's on Friday night, and the Heartwood Acres concert's on --- on Sunday nights.

Public Works, it looks like we're on --- on track again to do over 40 miles. It looks like we're going to do about 48 miles of road paving and re-milling this year. As you know, we made a --- a commitment a number of years ago that we were going to at least do 10 percent a year. Ten (10) percent would be 40 miles a year. We own 400 miles of road that we do, and over the last three years we --- we've done that. And this is the fourth year in a row that we're on track to exceed that 40 miles. We had fallen behind many years ago, and we were playing some catchup. So I think, again, Director Shanley, the County Manager and his team making sure that we're --- we're getting to those roads. And I'm sure --- I certainly hear it when I'm out in the community, and I --- I'm sure many of you do when you're in your districts. And hopefully hearing good things.

The airport, I wanted to talk a little bit about that. We got a grant for --- a \$2 million grant for the innovation campus, which, again, helps not just --- I know we focus on flights and some other things. But it's all part of an economic development strategy that occurs with our airport. We also are one of the only airports in the country, we opened a sensory-friendly room for folks along the autism spectrum. People that are on the autism spectrum, particularly children, very, very stressful and difficult for them to fly, and many families won't do it because of what goes on. But the sensory room, again, is one --- we're one of the few in the country that started that. It's been very, very popular. In fact, we've gotten some national notoriety. Some of the national TV shows have come in to do --- news shows have come in to talk about that.

We also partnered --- we're working with CMU with a company called Zensors that will predict when you are in line in the security line how many minutes it will take you to get through security. Again, one of those

stressful things when you're in line, are you going to miss your flight? Are you going to make it? And now there's a --- on the board it will tell you 22 minutes to get through. And it's within a minute or two the accuracy of how they're able to do that. And people really have enjoyed that. They could actually access it on their phone to see how long the line is when they have a flight that they're going to catch. Again, I give the Board and the folks out at the airport continuing to --- to push the envelope about making the customer experience better and better.

You --- excuse me.

You may have also seen that Alcosan and the EPA signed a consent decree last week. We've been working on this for a number of years. I think we were probably working on this when I was on Council. In fact, I know we were. And they've come to an agreement that gives I think our ratepayers more stability in where this will go. The spikes won't quite be as high. We're going to, obviously, remove the --- the 9,000,000,000 gallons. I think it's about 7,000,000,000 we'll be --- we'll be taking out of --- of the --- of the water that's going into our rivers. Cleaning up our rivers, making things better, quality of life, all those type of things that we're working on. So I --- I give them a lot of credit for the work that Arletta Williams and her team do --- did to get --- to get to this point.

And the last thing I wanted to bring up was the Port Authority. I know it impacts every one of us. You may have seen that the Port Authority's going through a study now to reduce we'll call them redundant stops. I don't think anybody in Allegheny County's not been behind that bus that stops at every single street corner or ever --- you know, very, very close. So they want to take a look and see if there's ways to improve without impacting, you know, people's ability to get to the stops. You know, they'll be taking a look at that. Katharine Kelleman and her team taking a look at that.

They're also working with seniors to get the senior passes. I know many of our state representatives and state senators have opened up operations within their offices to try to help people, particularly our seniors, when the change through the ID program has gone through with PennDOT, and that's gone very, very well as well.

And then the final thing, they're taking a look at 24-hour bus service in many communities. We know many of our shift workers, they're not --- they work beyond 5:00, 6:00. Some of them might be getting off at 2:00 in the morning, 3:00 in the morning. So to take a look at how, you know, we can access and get folks to work that may be working, you know, those odd shifts and those odd hours on how to do that. So I give the Port Authority, again, credit for taking a look a little bit differently than they have in the past to try to serve the customers that we need to serve and making things --- particularly people that might not have access to a car and public transportation is really their only way to get to work and get to where they have to go a way to get there.

So with that, let me open it up to any questions you may have.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone have a question?

Go ahead, Representative.

MS. KIRK: Well, first, I want to thank them, the Port Authority, for looking at that shift worker, 24 hour thing. Working at Presby and Oakland we have to limit --- a lot of people can't work certain hours. So it really impacts our schedule, which then, of course, impacts patient care. If this one has to go home by 10:00, this one doesn't get there until 11:00, we have an hour gap we have to deal with. And that's a huge --- it'll be a huge help if you can pull that off.

And also regard to Port Authority, I had the head librarian from North End Library come up to me all ecstatic the other day. She's, we got our bus. We got our bus. I said, what bus? And she goes, we've been wanting the bus to the library to come back. And she goes, we are just so excited. And she said, please let everyone know we're very grateful for that.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Let's hope they use it, because we got to make sure --- you know, yeah.

MS. KIRK: Well. Well, do you have ---?

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No, you're right.

MS. KIRK: You have CCAC right there, too.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Exactly.

MS. KIRK: So between CCAC. Although I have seen that parking lot, the one there, has been especially full the last couple weeks. So maybe when the bus comes, they'll start taking the bus and won't drive as much there.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It's good to --- good to know.

MS. KIRK: Yeah. So there's a lot of happy people in that particular area. So thanks.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'll pass that along to Katharine.

MS. KIRK: Yes. Please.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Catena. Then we'll go Baker.

MR. CATENA: Thank you, Mr. President.

Not so much a question, Mr. Exec, but a thank you actually. I noticed recently that you're eliminating plastic straws in all County-use facilities, so I just want to thank you for that step in the right direction that ---.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It's been very popular. And I think, again, this is something that the County Manager brought to us from --- from some other folks. And so far it's been --- it's been pretty popular. So yeah, thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Baker?

MR. BAKER: All right.

I get blamed for being overly optimistic, but I have all good things as well to share, as did my colleagues. One thing I wanted to say. You were there at our Airport Chamber legislative breakfast last Friday. I usually sit in the last seat. I don't know if it's because I'm youngest or the lowest elected official, but Rich actually sat in the last seat. So I appreciated that on Friday. But that was very good.

Just on behalf of District 1 and the further away part of my district, I know you live in Squirrel Hill. You work downtown. But North Fayette, Findley and Moon, I think that was 25 percent of your report today were things that happened in District 1, which they very much appreciate. When I talk to my elected officials and residents out there, they appreciate the effort. They appreciate that you're always out there in the airport area. So thank you for that.

In --- in concert with the idea of you being everywhere, you've been to three Big Brothers, Big Sisters events this year, and I have good news on a county level as well. You came to the Bigs and Blues Summit. The Superintendent, Coleman McDonough, is here. And Assistant Superintendent, Maurita Bryant, I was actually with the

Assistant Superintendent around 11:30 today. Allegheny County is going to be the fourth ever Bigs and Blue partner, which is awesome. So children from Aiken Elementary will be going over to work with Maurita and all of her colleagues there at Allegheny County Police Department. So we're really pumped up about it. It's going to be great. We've got a Board member in the house too, Dan Gigler from Big Brothers, Big Sisters. So this is big news and there's more and more law enforcement officials and superintendents and police chiefs really getting on board. So I wanted to thank you and the administration.

The final positive thing, it doesn't include you, but it includes two of the most important women in your life. Caroline Fitzgerald was honored at the 10th Annual Pittsburgh Service Summit, so we're very happy to have her there. And Kathy Fitzgerald did some opening remarks, and she might've done better than the County Exec. I don't know. She did --- she did pretty well. She did pretty well. So we were very happy. Yeah, I think you've been to every service summit except for the one where your daughter won. But I know you're at six different events ---.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It was a busy night. It was a busy night. Appreciate she filled in for me.

MR. BAKER: So much --- appreciate all of it and the collaboration between District 1 and this entire administration is --- is very much appreciated.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

Rich, you --- you'd mentioned a porthole for landslides.

What --- what benefit is that to people, and what --- what would they be looking for by going to the porthole?

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, I think --- I think what you can go do is work with your municipal officials to be predictive of like, this --- this one might be troublesome. Are there things that can be done? I don't know what those things are, but maybe around drainage. Maybe around a retention wall. If things --- sometimes you can do things early in the --- in the process that will be much less costly that if you let things get to --- to a --- a certain level. So the team that Chief Brown

and Director Shanley put together can talk to those things. And we've got folks like Duquesne Light. We've got other utilities that deal with that. You know, dealing with developers on, you know, how they develop properties and will that impact something downstream or upstream of --- of what's going on. So it's really working with a lot of our municipal managers and public works directors at the municipal level on --- and PennDOT. They're a big part of this, too. How can we be preventive in some of the things that can occur?

So I can't give you all those answers, but if you go on the website, they did a pretty in-depth demonstration of how you can go on there. And they'll actually take pictures and then like --- what do they call it? Motion --- you take a picture a day later, a day later, a day --- and then if things are shifting --- time lapse. Time lapse. Thank you. Time lapse photography to see if things are changing and how you can deal with them. So they're trying to get ahead of it. We're just trying to get --- you know, we've actually put some more money, as you know. You guys appropriated some money in the budget this year with the Public Works Department to deal with landslides, retaining walls, things like that. It's just something we've been dealing with the last couple of years, and if we can get ahead of it, I think it would be smarter to do so.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other questions?
Representative Sue Means?

MS. MEANS: Thank you for recognizing me.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, I'd like to thank you for all your hard work. And we're getting --- and I'd like to thank everybody that works for the County for all their hard work. And as we're moving toward budget time, I would like to be able --- hope that we could allocate some funds to deal with human trafficking. We had a Public Safety meeting last week, and we had excellent speakers bring to our attention the crisis that we have here, that there are people that really need help. And I was --- just wanted to budget some extra resources at budget time to deal with that. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And --- and as you know, I will --- at my next --- at your next meeting I'll be coming back presenting a proposed budget. And then you will have a couple of months. You'll hold your hearings. I mean, the budget then becomes, obviously, your --- your

purview in what you want to allocate funds for. I think it is a --- it's a discussion. I know you had a meeting, I guess, a week or so ago on that very topic, and I've talked to some of the members regarding that. So I know with Superintendent McDonough and some of his team around our County Police and Public Safety, if there's some things we can do and be where you partner --- because obviously this is not just an Allegheny County issue. This is a --- much broader than that. And how this happens, obviously it affects our county as well as other places. So it is something we can --- we can certainly take a look at. But yeah, you guys will be --- budget will be yours in a couple of week so yeah.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, Representative Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Good to have you here, Rich. Nice to see you as always.

A couple things. Rich, I wanted to mention, first of all, CCAC. I wanted to mention the fact that, ladies and gentlemen, I don't know if you're aware or not, but you can send a student for a full year, books and all, to CCAC for \$6,200 a year. That's less money than you can send a lot of kids to parochial schools. You know, so I --- I wanted to get --- I'm on the --- I'm on the Committee over there. And I just wanted to make that understood. We are the biggest bargain in the family budget, believe me. And we have wonderful, wonderful teachers over there, wonderful curriculum, and we're working hard to improve things one step at a time. And we're moving in a good, positive direction. We really are.

And I also would like to mention the fact that I want to single out Dennis Biondo and the people over at the Kane's. You know, at one time if you told an old timer, one of your family members that they were going to Kane Hospital, they wanted to commit suicide. They --- there was no way they wanted to go to the Kane's. And that's the terrible reputation they had at one time. Well, Dennis, I want to tell you, you and your people, bless you. You've done a wonderful job of turning that around. Because I have a lot of friends that are there now, and they love it. And their families, they're very

happy that their --- their loved ones are being taken care of.

And last but not least I wanted to mention the --- the Parks crews in our nine parks. You know, I'm the --- I'm the chair of the parks. And I get a lot of flack from this, that and the other thing about the parks, but I want to tell you, lately it's been wonderful. I actually have people coming up to me and saying, boy, these parks are really looking good, John. What's going on? Things are really, really moving in a positive direction. And I just wanted to mention those few things, Rich, as good, positive things that are going on in Allegheny County. And I thank you for all of that.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. Now, let me touch on those. Yeah, the Kane Centers have really changed than they did traditionally. Having memory care units now, drug and alcohol treatment, other type of rehabilitation that occurs. Not just strictly for seniors anymore. So they've done --- they've done a great job. And as a matter of fact, they're hosting the State-wide conference of nursing homes and rehabilitation centers today --- this week out in Greentree, which is --- Director Biondo and his team been hosting that and held up as a --- as a model.

In the parks, again, I want to give County Manager McCain, an idea that he came up with around doing he calls them painting blitzes, carpentry blitzes where they'll go in for a couple of weeks and kind of spruce things up that, you know, where the --- the shelters need a little upkeep. So instead of having the folks --- we don't have them all year. But they could be here for --- for a few weeks and really hit --- hit an area and make it look a lot better. So it's --- we've gotten a lot of positive feedback along those lines.

And then as far as CCAC, you're right. What a deal. What a bargain that is. And the other part of it that's really important is most of those graduates come out with a job. So they --- they go through the process. They get an education. They improve their skills, and they come out --- a lot of them graduate on a Saturday and start work on a Monday. And that's something that I think all of us certainly as parents, you know, that value that. And it's been a great --- it's been a great program. And I give Dr. Bullock and --- and the Board a lot of credit for what --- what you guys are doing.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no more hands, we want to thank you, Rich, for ---.

EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: All right.

I'll be back in a couple weeks to bring you the budget, and then we can see where we go with that. Thank you, guys. Take care.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Thank you. Okay.

We're going to move along here.

11215-19.

MR. BARKER: Before proceeding, please let the record reflect that Ms. Prizio and Ms. Ranalli Russell are now present.

11215-19. A proclamation congratulating Allegheny Shotokan Karate upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Sponsored by Councilmember Macey.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. MACEY: Are they here?

MR. BARKER: Yeah.

MR. MACEY: They're here.

Good afternoon. Previously, our Chief Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, gave this proclamation to the Allegheny Shotokan Karate School and the Viola Karate. And we thought it would be nice for them to come in and present it to them at a Council meeting where we have the picture and all that. So with me is Bill Viola, Sr., Bill Viola, Jr. and not to be left out --- where's Bill Viola, Jr.?

MR. VIOLA: He's actually at Karate School teaching tonight, so I brought my --- my other two --- his sisters.

MR. MACEY: Surprise. Surprise.

And Jenn Viola.

And?

MR. VIOLA: This is Ally and Addy.

MS. VIOLA: Allison Viola.

MR. MACEY: Okay. There they are.

Okay.

Whereas founded in 1969 at East Allegheny High School by Bill Viola, Jr. --- Sr., Allegheny Shotokan Karate, and Viola Karate, as it is more commonly known, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of martial arts in Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania. And whereas the family-owned and operated dojo has had three generations of Violas to carry on the legacy that Bill

Viola, Sr. created and at the age of 71, not bad, he still teaches a black belt class every Monday. And whereas a decade before the Ultimate Fighting Championship, UFC, Shihan Bill Viola was recognized by this --- by Senator John Hines History Center in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute as the co-creator of mixed martial arts.

And whereas in 2011 the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum established a permanent exhibit to honor Shihan Bill Viola as one of the founding fathers of the sport. His life was subject of the Amazon number one selling book, Godfathers of MMA, which inspired the documentary film Tough Guys. And whereas in 2017 the Viola family's story was published in the book Who's Who in the Martial Arts Legends of American Karate. And whereas over the years Shihan Bill Viola has utilized his karate school to instill important lessons to the students, respect, discipline, focus and confidence. Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Councilman Bob Macey, and all of Council do hereby honor and congratulate Allegheny Shotokan Karate upon its occasion of its 50th Anniversary. And I thank them for not only serving our communities by using its notoriety as an internationally known and recognized martial arts school to further benefit charities in our community for generations. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. VIOLA: First of all, I'd like to thank everyone in Council for honoring me tonight. This is great honor. And I'd also like to thank my family for coming with me. I have five children and they've all been in the martial arts, and they've helped me teach over the years. I'd especially like to thank my wife who probably has more patience than anybody in the world, because this all started 1969. I was a young science teacher at East Allegheny High School, and they came to me. And they said, oh, we understand you know karate. In those days, boy, that was a big thing, because not too many people knew that. And they talked me into teaching an afterschool activity.

And the activity director came up to me and said, hey, would you, you know, teach karate after school. And I said, sure. This is great. They said they're going to pay you. I said, you mean I'm going to get paid for something I really like to do? And he said, yeah, \$4 an

hour. I was so excited. I thought, I'm going to be rich. But anyhow the journey went a long, long way. Many, many accolades and travels and different things from the book, the movie, the Olympics and everything.

But the most important thing that I've ever had in my life is everyone has a job you wake up sometimes you go, what am I doing? Or it's going to be a bad day. The boss is on your back, so and so. But I can tell you, 50 years there hasn't been one day that I have not been excited to get to that karate school and work with kids. If you can change one kid, the whole journey was worth it, just one. And it's been a long journey. But I'll tell you, the journey went quick, but the next 50 years I hope go a little slower. I want to thank everybody.

(Applause.)

MS. VIOLA: I just want to thank the Council for recognizing my father and his accomplishments. He's had a huge impact on not only my life through the martial arts, but many children and other families in the community. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MACEY: Come on up front and take a picture.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Next we have 11216-19.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring Tuesday, September 24, 2019 as National Diaper Need Awareness Day in Allegheny County Sponsored by Councilman Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right.

We're going to invite the Battles up. This is an organization that I learned about about three years ago, and it's actually Diaper Need Awareness Week in America. And we're about to make it Diaper Need Awareness Day in Allegheny County. But to the Battles I want to thank you so much for all that you've done. Three out of five parents suffer from or have diaper awareness need and worry about it, miss work from it, really struggle from --- from the issue of not having diapers.

I remember meeting you guys three year --- years ago and thinking that can't be that big of a deal. How much can diapers really be? Now as parent of a 19, 20 month year old, it's a lot. So you guys were --- you were --- you were on to something. And there's a lot of people that you're affecting and influencing in a positive way. I have been to your high tea event. I know that you have your big luncheon coming up on Saturday, and just want to

wish you the best of luck for --- for the big event on Saturday. But that will get to the --- these are the Battles by the way.

Whereas 5.9 million babies in the U.S. age three or younger live in poor or low income families with one in three mothers unable to provide their children a basic essential for health and hygiene, a clean dry diaper. And whereas disposable diapers cause up to 150 per month per baby with no government assistance, and parents cannot take children to daycare without diapers preventing them from working or attending school. And whereas lack of clean diapers can jeopardize a child's chance to develop cognitive abilities and language skills normally and contribute to home environments with more tension, less nurturing and possible abuse. Whereas there's an estimated need of 77,000 diapers per day for kids right here in --- in Allegheny County. Whereas the non-profit Western PA Diaper Bank, established in 2012 and based in Pittsburgh's East End, at present is the only local organization that has addressed this need as its sole purpose and is the only diaper bank in the state west of Harrisburg. Whereas the Western PA Diaper Bank in following its mission to help ensure that babies in need are clean, healthy and dry has over seven years distributed more than 1,000,000 diapers. So in seven years 1,000,000 diapers.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: Which is unbelievable. Through a network of 26 social service agency partners. Whereas the Western PA Diaper Bank now also provides period supplies to women in need through those agencies as part of the national alliance for period supplies supporting women's health and enabling them to go to work and school to break the cycle of poverty. And whereas the Western PA Diaper Bank envisions a community where all families have an equal opportunity to thrive and joins the National Diaper Bank Network in raising awareness of this critical need during this week, which is National Diaper Need Awareness Week, which is September 23rd to the 29th. Now therefore be it resolved that I, County Councilmember Tom Baker, do hereby proclaim today, Tuesday, September 24th, as National Diaper Need Awareness Day in Allegheny County, and I call upon citizens to join the Western PA Diaper Bank in their efforts to ensure that the diaper crisis is

solved and that every child has a basic essential, a clean, dry diaper.

So Battle family, congratulations. It is your day.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: This is Kathy Battle.

MS. BATTLE: Thank you very much. Thank you, Councilman Tom Baker, and the entire Council here. This is our third year of you helping us raise awareness of the diaper crisis in our community. And like he said, one in three families have experienced a diaper need. And I always say --- a lot of people say, well, I've never heard of that. How did we miss that? And I didn't know of it either. And I always say, you know, maybe most of you make a living wage. You have a car. You have a credit card. And I still hear you say, oh, I'll be glad when that baby's out of diapers. But think if you don't have any of that, and there's no government assistance. And you have to choose between buying food and buying diapers, or paying a bill and buying diapers or any other household necessities.

Diapers are \$70 to \$80 a month per baby. So they're very expensive. So we're just trying to close the diaper gap. But we can't do it alone. Like he said, we've given away 1,000,000 diapers, and the need --- as we raise awareness, the need --- the demand increases. And so we need the help of everyone. And this is always --- the last week in September's always National Diaper Need Awareness Week. But we try to have as many diaper drives as possible. We ask the community to donate. We ask you to come to our warehouse and sort, repackage and count diapers so that we can close this gap and help babies in our community. The blessing is in the diaper.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

11217-19 and the rest will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: The remaining six items are certificates of recognition presented to Thomas DeMartini, Mary Lloyd, Mark Carroll, Eleanor DiSanti, Barbara Mierzejek and Zora Carroll for their service as volunteers to the West Deer Volunteer Fire Department Number 1. All presented by Councilmember Prizio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, you ---.

MR. BARKER: That's all --- that's all six of them.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.
They're all done?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right.
What about 1 --- 11221-19?

MR. BARKER: 11221 and 11222 were all included in that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.
Public comment?

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is Scott Pospisil. And I apologize if I messed that up in advance.

MR. POSPISIL: Can I give a copy of what I'm to say to the --- all the Councilmembers? Would that be okay?

MR. BAKER: You just give it to Jared, and then he passes it over.

MR. POSPISIL: Thank you so much.

I'm the father of two sons and a daughter-in-law who are officers in the United States Marine Corps. They love our country. They'd be willing to die to protect freedom of speech in this country. And I believe this is what this present debate is partially about with these two bills. You've already had one old bill proposed to you, and I've read it. Bill number 11000-19. A lawyer told me that this bill would ban all attempts for a minor to talk to a counselor about possibly reducing their same-sex attraction, even if that's the desire of the minor and their parents. I believe this old bill unnecessarily limits free speech and personal choice.

I believe the new bill being proposed to you today that amends this older bill is more balanced. It would protect free speech while still protecting the minor from extreme, harmful methods of counseling. This new bill would also protect something that this country desperately needs more of, respectful conversations, respectful conversations about different lifestyles and the pros and cons of those different lifestyles. That's what good counseling involves, respectful conversations. I've been a pastor for over 30 years. I have a Master's in counseling, and I've --- I've done a lot of pastoral counseling. And I've also known a lot of professional counselors. And here's what my professional counselor friends, even the conservative Christian ones, tell me

about counseling people with same-sex attraction. They wouldn't push their beliefs on these clients.

They would explore the pros and cons with them. My friend Nick Philips, a Christian professional counselor in Michigan puts it like this, I collaborate with the client to look at all ramifications of their decision and process it together. It gets back to what the client's goals are and the decision is left to the client. Respectful conversations discussing the pros and cons of a lifestyle, that's what professional counselors in today's world are trained to do. I've seen people go either way after these respectful conversations. I have a close friend who was in a heterosexual marriage decide to get a divorce from her husband and enter into a gay lifestyle after a respectful conversation with a counselor. I've also known and read about people like Rosario Butterfield, who was a lesbian professor at Syracuse. After having a series of respectful conversations with a pastor, she became a Christ-follower, married a man and had several kids.

There are thousands of people like her and also like my friend who went the other way. Let minors keep the freedom to have respectful conversations with counselors if they're struggling with same-sex attraction. Let them hear about the pros and cons. Scholarly held websites like Pubmed shows that there's plenty of pros and cons to a same-sex attraction and lifestyle. There's both emotional and physical pros and cons.

If it were your child or grandchild who had the same-sex attraction and didn't want it, wouldn't you want them to have the freedom to consider these pros and cons and the freedom to choose? Please vote for this new bill being proposed to you today. Protect respectful conversations. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Dale Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: I'd like to thank you all for having us here. I did not read the new legislation. I did hear and read the old legislation, so I want to, kind of, speak from that leverage point. Because I heard Rich Fitzgerald, who's not here, give you all praise and the whole county. And it was very uplifting. I've never been here before, so thank you for having me. About the problems you've faced and the problems you've been

solving. I'm a lifelong resident except for a stint in the Air Force. I've been here 65 years. I've been trying to figure a way to get out. So hopefully someday I can retire from UPMC and stop taking the bus. Not that I get to drive free, I'd still like to rather stay home and sleep in.

But anyhow, to make a long story short, I used to do addiction counseling. I know this County spends a lot of money putting forth funds for people to become clean and sober. And if you look in the NA and AA books, which are marvelously written ---. And there again, they all come --- have a history going back from the Oxford Group, which was from a Lutheran perspective. Started in a --- in a Christian church. But it realized, much like the gentleman back here said, that some things needed to change because culture was changing. But the main thing is in sobriety and AA and NA, for Gambler's Anonymous, Overeater's Anonymous is be clean and abstinent. And I don't know why when you're solving all the other problems around the County, which are many and I'm glad that, again, to thank you all to see how they're changing and being addressed cooperatively.

And I'm going to read from here, because this is a little white book from Sexaholic Anonymous. And again, while we're championing and trying to --- getting other people clean and sober from drugs and alcohol, let me just read what they say for --- for --- and why --- why go after this as an issue. And again, I apologize for having not read the new legislation. From what I hear I want to champion to keep this in mind. The definition by Sexaholics Anonymous statement of principles is, we do not speak for those outside Sexaholics Anonymous, but we speak to --- for ourselves. And here again, honor this group as you do the NA and --- and AA. For married sexaholics, sexual sobriety means having no form of sex with self or with persons other than the spouse. And SA sobriety definition term spouse refers to one partner being a marriage between a man and a woman for that unmarried sexaholic. Sexual sobriety means freedom from sex of any kind, and that's for all of us, the single and married alike. Sexual sobriety also includes progressive victory over lust.

So here again, I champion the fact that you --- of what you're doing and certain things in our society for the abstinence of those on substances, lust, addiction,

covetness which leads to stealing. There goes our crime rate. Stay away from those things and honor those values that, you know, sustain the family together. And I thank you again for your time and for all your good effort.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

Approval of minutes.

We don't have ---?

MR. BARKER: We don't have any.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No minutes.

Okay.

Next we'll have 11209-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Nicholas Futules to the Sports and Exhibition Authority Board for a term to expire December 31, 2023. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will be referred to Committee on Appointment Review.

11210-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of John Tague, Jr. to the Port Authority of Allegheny County for a term ending September 17, 2023. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

11211-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Ann Ogoreuc to the Port Authority of Allegheny County Board for a term ending September 17, 2023. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

11212-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of David Minnotte to the Allegheny County Airport Authority Board for a term expiring December 31, 2023. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

11213-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Richard Stanizzo, Jr. to the Allegheny County Airport Authority Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review.
11214-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Lawrence Steckel to the Council of Friends for North Park for a term to expire on September 31, 2021. Sponsored by Councilmember Kirk.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to say anything?

MS. KIRK: Thank you.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the appointment of Lawrence Steckel to the Council of Friends North Park.

MS. MEANS: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any remarks?

Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed?

The ayes have it.

Okay.

Liaison reports?

Representative Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right.

Thanks, Mr. President. Couple quick updates from District 1. As we mentioned earlier, the Chamber Legislative Breakfast was great. Councilman DeMarco and I were together for that one for our 3rd consecutive --- 3rd or 4th consecutive --- 3rd consecutive --- yeah, your 4th, so ---. It's always a --- a good panel, a good discussion. Usually about 300 to 400 people there, so it's a nice chance to tell them all about the good things that is --- that are going on within Allegheny County Council.

Do you want to announce that we do have a --- an open house coming up that Councilman Catena and I are cosponsoring with Pittsburgh Botanic Garden? We don't just sit together here at the meetings, but we also have neighboring districts. So we're cosponsoring this with the County Executive and a few of our legislative friends. So that'll be coming up on October 18th at the Botanic Garden, which is just a wonderful resource and a wonderful asset here in our community. We were in the studio earlier this morning in Moon Township in District 1 filming episode number 14 of Get Involved Moon Township on the MCA TV. Had some incredible leaders from the community

there, Kelly Caine, Harry Pizaros, Deb Crowe, Scott Pavlov, Joel Grey and Taylor Pinkston. It was just another wonderful episode, and it's a good way to let everyone in District 1 know the good work that residents are doing and ways that they can help each other and make a difference in the community.

And I will say I think within the last two hours the --- the agenda came out for our Board --- I know a lot of people are here for the Board of Elections discussion. A lot --- our Board of Elections meeting's going to be tomorrow, 5:00. It'll be Chairman --- President DeFazio, Council --- or sorry, Judge Hens-Greco and I. And that's --- it's an important meeting. So I know that Ron and Tim and all of your colleagues will likely be out for that and appreciate all of the passion and all the fervor that everyone's put into this --- to this debate and this discussion. And we will be together tomorrow at 5:00. All my Council colleagues are invited to join us if you'd like to at 5:00 tomorrow. And the --- the agenda is now online.

Okay. Thanks, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other question, remarks? Seeing none --- seeing none, we'll move on to new business.

MS. MEANS: Oh, I'm sorry. I --- Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You forgot to raise your hand.

MS. MEANS: Yeah. Yeah, I did. I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MS. MEANS: Sorry about that. I'm thinking about the next thing. So yes. Well, first of all, I want to congratulate Bethel Park for an outstanding --- another community day and the parade that took place on September 14th. I also want to congratulate the Bridgeville American Legion who celebrated their 100th Anniversary. The building they're in even is 100 years old. But I understand it's also the 100th anniversary of the American Legion nationally, so I think we'll probably be recognizing that.

But the other thing I wanted to thank, Mr. Palmosina, he's not here, for having a public safety meeting last week. And Mr. Macey --- Councilman Macey for bringing the --- the human trafficking issue forward. It was a very informational meeting, and I hope that we can

work together as colleagues to address the issue of human trafficking in our County.

The last thing I wanted to mention is that I also attended the Board of Health meeting on September the 18th, and to give my colleagues a little heads up, we're --- they're proposing to raise some fees in 2020. So we'll be raising fees for --- possibly for inspecting restaurants and other things. And also that --- the cases of hepatitis A are increasing. And I just wanted to share that with my colleagues, and again, the Board of Health is hard at work. And we are really happy to have a great and very engaged, you know, Health Department. They're doing a great job. And thank you, Mr. President. That's all for me.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.
Moving on the 11223-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 5, entitled Health and Sanitation, through the creation of a new Chapter 540, entitled Therapy, in order to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of minors living within the County. Sponsored by Councilmembers Means and DeMarco.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.
11224-19.

MS. MEANS: May I make a statement on that bill?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No. We're going to put them in committee rather than debate them here.

Okay?

MS. MEANS: All right.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. MEANS: But usually we're allowed to make a comment when our bill goes to committee.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Make a quick comment then, so we ---.

MS. MEANS: Okay. Thank you.

So thank you for allowing me to speak, President DeFazio. Ordinance 11223-19, also referred to as the Harmful Therapy Ban, is language that we as Councilmembers can all agree upon. We heard the concerns from those who spoke earlier this year, and we agree that harmful forms of therapy should be banned. This ordinance strikes a balance banning both forms ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Sue ---.

MS. MEANS: I'm almost done, Mr. President. Banning bad forms of therapy while leaving minors the ability to seek treatment that is not harmful and is consistent with their own goals. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11224-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Netflix Productions, LLC to use certain County-owned real and personal property in connection with filming a motion picture. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on --- no, wait a minute. That'll be referred to the Committee on Parks.

New business motions? We have none?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Notifications of Contracts? We have none?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We had four individuals who signed up and two who did not who expressed a desire to speak. First up is Helen Bisers.

Is Helen Bisers not here?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's move on to the next one then.

MR. BARKER: Dixie Tymitz.

MS. TYMITZ: Well, I had everything timed out for three minutes, but some things have happened since I've been in here and have changed my mind. So this will have to start and then just tell me when to hush up and leave.

I'm Dixie Tymitz. I live in the City, and one of the things that came to my attention was when Mr. Fitzgerald came in, gave a lot of information. I was concerned, and I wish he were still here because I would like to talk to him about some of the things I'm going to share with you. First of all, and I wasn't planning on using this, Mr. Fitzgerald was the M.C. for the Consol's Airport Love In. The invitations were --- the admission was invitation only. The party venue was a Consol Wellpad. Friendly media were on hand to record the festivities. Ordinary citizens were nowhere --- nowhere

to be seen or heard. Such was the official public kickoff of fracking at Pittsburgh International Airport. Host for the event, Mr. Fitzgerald. Anyway, much --- he says, much has been made of the financial windfall that the Airport Authority has been promised. And nostalgia runs high for the terminal's early years as a hub for U.S. Airways. Mr. Fitzgerald, but not the air travel industry, even argues that gas royalties will restore Pittsburgh service levels by subsidizing land fees. Well, I wanted Mr. Fitzgerald to know that really in the last three years when I have heard his name spoken, except here, he was called Fracking Fitzgerald. And I have relatives --- not relatives, friends and neighbors that are very, very much against the fracking for good reason.

All right. I'm going to keep talking. These are none of the things I was going to say. Is that my ---?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You better get moving. Get with --- that red light.

MS. TYMITZ: Okay. Okay.

Anyway. Over the past decade there's been a rush for natural gas across America using the controversial drilling method of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The new techniques are more intensive and riskier than conventional gas drilling. And I will tell you one thing right now. There's just been a study by one of the universities that pregnant women within ten miles of a fracking place can be affected very, very badly. They can end up with their babies being damaged some way. So I want you to know that and remember it.

All right. I'm going to keep going. Accidents. Fracking uses tens of billions of gallons of water each year. Accidents and leaks from fracking have polluted rivers, streams and drinking water supplies. And I thank you. Okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Ronald Bandes.

MR. BANDES: Hi. I'm Ron Bandes. I'm a Judge of Election, President of Vote Allegheny and a director of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. I am a computer security analyst by training. On the 10th and 11th of this month, three voting system vendors conducted mock elections to demonstrate their ability to handle the

capacities required for Allegheny County. Although the Voting Equipment Search Committee has not yet made public their findings of these tests, it appears to public observers that all three vendors achieved the goals. These results must be accepted by the Board of Elections. The Board cannot say that these systems are still not certified at these levels. It is an outrage that these thresholds were not available to the vendors in the Request for Proposal issued by the County's Search Committee. The excuse for omitting this information from the Request for Proposal doesn't even pass the smell test.

On another matter entirely, another difference between vendors cited in the final report is the vendor's capabilities to transmit unofficial election results from the seven regional centers to the tabulation center. Although Hart Intercivic has a solution the Search Committee has said that their solution is not certified. Actually, none of the vendors have a certified solution for transmitting results nor will they. Since the transmission of unofficial results is outside the election system, the devices that transmit and receive these data are not examined for certification. The Pennsylvania Department of State has said they would like to approve such devices. They have not done so for any of the vendors' new systems to date. Pennsylvania Department of State has examined the documentation for Hart Intercivic's transmission system and found no fault with it. They want to see a demonstration before approving it, however, and none of the vendors will have an --- will have an approved transmission system before Allegheny County makes a procurement decision tomorrow evening.

We are left with a choice among three vendors who all provide hand-marked paper ballots for the majority of voters who have all demonstrated their ability to handle the capacities required by the County and who have the transmission systems for unofficial results. The differences are in the ballot marking devices for voters who cannot or who choose not to hard-mark a paper ballot. Hart Intercivic has the only system which does not use barcodes to reflect voter choices, meaning they are the only ones which provide voters with disabilities the means to verify their ballot. The other difference is between a vendor who makes tremendous lapses of security and then attempts to cover up those lapses and vendors that make more suitable partners for democracy for our County. Hart

Intercivic remains the vendor of choice for Vote Allegheny, the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh and other local organizations. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next.

MR. BARKER: Next up is David Tessitor.

MR. TESSITOR: Good evening. What does this say? I created the barcode using a barcode maker. It says, what does this say? But you know, I can't verify that that's actually what it does. I put it into the system. This is what it created.

Guess what these ESNS barcodes say? They aren't the names of candidates. The ballots, even the hard-marked ballots, have barcodes down the sides. The barcode gets printed on the hard-marked ballot to be tallied. And what it does is it takes the coordinates for where that is. The only way a person could verify it would be to take a ruler, figure out what those coordinates are. Can you image the slowdown if people tried to verify their ballots? I mean, this is ridiculous. And then it has to go to a database to pull out where those coordinates are filed with that name.

This is another barcode I created. What does it say? Barcodes are not voter-verifiable. Now, if we're going to have an attempt to make people feel confident that their votes are what they say they are and we have this especially --- I'm a member of B-PEP with the African-American community not necessarily trusting. If we want them to trust, we don't want to have to have them using barcodes. Unfortunately, that's what ESNS does. Only Hart Intercivic was the only one that did not. So while we understand that they're leaning toward ESNS, one of the factors being that Hart actually demonstrated that they can reboot the system, to come up again and not lose any votes. The other systems didn't. There seems to be some considerations there that need to be looked at very carefully. And I would hope that if the Board hasn't fully looked at it that the election board would take the time. We do not need to rush to have a decision tomorrow.

Anyway, thank you very much for your attention. We had --- as you know, I had drafted an ordinance. We ran past various people to have County Council create an expert commission. And unfortunately, that was robbed from you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: We are through the individuals who signed up. The only two remaining did not. First of those is Chris Hunsinger.

MS. HUNSINGER: I just want to make a request that you not think of people in the non-print reading community as an afterthought. I know you think of us, otherwise you wouldn't be spending money on expensive ballot-marking devices. But make us a part of the system, and one thing that makes the Hart equipment better for me is that it gives me a ballot that is quite similar to the hard-marked ballot. ESNS not so much. Dominion jams easily, and when it does jam, it doesn't tell me that it has. ESNS also is if you were --- we were to use the Excel machine, ESNS is a machine that I would have to get pole worker intervention to help me get the ballot out so that I could scan it with my own scanning software. And then I no longer have as private or as independent or as verifiable a ballot for myself. It's also not uniform. It's a different shape. Maryland is already dealing with a lawsuit about non-uniformity of ballots, and that is certainly a consideration that we should all have.

I've sent my comments to both Mr. Baker and Mr. DeFazio as well as Judge Hens-Greco, and I hope that everybody considers those --- those comments along with everybody else's. Remember, Council is going to ultimately have to approve some kind of funds, and we hope that the funds that they approve are for the best possible decision for me. Now, I --- of course, I can't speak to any of the technical things like speed of scanning or any of those things. I'm only talking about the ballot-marking devices. And last but not least, if the whole state went to vote by mail, we'd still have an issue, because we don't have accessible absentee ballots. I have to have help getting those filled out. So bear that in mind for the future. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Last up would be Tim Stevens.

MR. STEVENS: Good evening, Council. Thank you for the opportunity.

We're at a crucial moment in our County and in our nation that our citizens must feel that their vote means something, that their vote is counted. And that they have to believe --- they have to have a belief in the system that's being used and the machines that are being used. We don't want anyone regardless of party or

anything else not feeling that. This whole thing of verifiability, you've heard it time and time again. Hopefully you will not make a rushed decision if you really haven't fully investigated all questions that remain on the table. The verifiability that both the Black Political Empowerment Project, the League of Women Voter, Vote PA and others have supported, it appears that Hart Intercivic is the only one that meets the requirement that we can all live with and leave feeling that when we leave the polling place what we meant to do was, in fact, done with our votes.

The barcode example that my fellow B-PEPer mentioned was phenomenal in its simplicity. I watched your faces. I hope you got that. That was very powerful, David. And I hope you realize that the barcode is not any --- none of you are going to know what's on that barcode, but you will know with the other methods that's available.

So we ask that you do what you need to do. If you don't feel you've had enough time, take the time. As I said last time, we're going --- you're not going to buy these machines every five minutes. You want to buy the machines that will allow every voter in Allegheny County to feel that their vote counts, their vote was registered and that we have honesty in the system. Please do that.

And on one last note I'm asking that you support what City Council did today. They're going to send a letter to this D.A. and say please review what he did yesterday with that misdemeanor against those black women who were beaten, hair pulled. One woman thrown against a pump. And that's a misdemeanor? Aggravated assault? Please help. I got to --- I talked to someone today who looked something up on the internet. It came out of Atlanta, Georgia are looking at what happened on Marshall-Shadeland. We're getting --- I won't say a black eye, because if I say a black eye, it means it's something good. But we're getting an image. And the report just came out, what, last week that black folks are in a worse condition in this nation. So don't feed into that. If you like the District Attorney or not, he made a horrible decision. And black women feel slapped in the face and black people as well. Thanks.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does somebody want to make a motion to adjourn?

MR. KIRK: So moved.

MS. MEANS: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor, signify
by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed?

The ayes have it. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:15 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 31st day of October, 2019.


Court Reporter

Diana L. Inquartano