COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 7, 2017
2:45 p.m.

PRESENT:
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O’NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

BILL 170206 - An ordinance authorizing and approving the execution and delivery of a Service Agreement between the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development...

BILL 170207 - An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and the Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia...
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, everyone.
We're going to get started now. We now have a quorum. This is the public hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No. 170206 and 170207.
At this time, I will announce that Bill No. 170207 is being held and will not be heard today.
Mr. Christmas, please read the title of Bill No. 170206.

THE CLERK: Bill No. 170206, an ordinance authorizing and approving the execution and delivery of a Service Agreement between the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development relating to the financing of the City of Philadelphia's Rebuild program, approving the issuance of the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in one or more series to finance or refinance such program and
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authorizing and approving the obligation
of the City of Philadelphia to pay in
full when due the Service Fee and other
amendments payable under the Service
Agreement; authorizing certain City
officers to take certain actions required
to issue such bonds, notes or other
evidences of indebtedness; covenanting
that the City of Philadelphia will make
necessary appropriations in each of the
City's fiscal years to provide for, and
will make timely payment of, the Service
Fee and other amounts due under the
Service Agreement; and authorizing City
officials to take necessary or
appropriate actions, all under certain
terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Mr. Christmas.

Our first panel will be from
the Administration. Subsequent to that,
we will call up members of the public for
their testimony. Each individual will be
given two minutes for your testimony, and
if there needs to be questions or answers from members of the Committee, that obviously will be extended.

The first members to testify from the Administration are,

Mr. Christmas?

THE CLERK:  Nicole Westerman and Rasheia Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  Good afternoon.

MS. WESTERMAN:  Good afternoon.

MS. JOHNSON:  Good afternoon.

MS. WESTERMAN:  Good afternoon, Council President Clarke and members of City Council. I'm Nicole Westerman, Executive Director for Rebuilding Community Infrastructure, or Rebuild. I'm joined today by the Rebuild team and members of the Kenney Administration to present testimony in support of Ordinance
After years of underinvestment and deferred maintenance, Philadelphia's parks, libraries, and recreation centers are in desperate need of investment. From leaky roofs to no air conditioning or heat, Philadelphians are frequenting facilities well below acceptable standards. Many need upgrades to external lighting to improve public safety concerns, while others aren't ADA compliant. In total, only 10 percent of facilities across both systems are in excellent condition. Every other site needs improvement, ranging from small in scale to complete overhauls.

At its most basic, Rebuild seeks to transform communities, one public space at a time, by improving physical infrastructure, engaging and empowering communities, and promoting economic inclusion. Together, the three pillars of Rebuild serve Mayor Kenney's vision for a more equitable Philadelphia.
A city that invests more in its neighborhoods and residents gives people opportunities to succeed no matter which neighborhood they live in and value their communities and their quality of life.

We know that City Council shares this vision of a more equitable Philadelphia and the goal of Rebuild, stronger communities. The Rebuild team and the Kenney Administration want to work with City Council to bring Philadelphians the investments that they have been waiting far too long for and to do it in a timely, transparent, and efficient manner. We believe that the structure and funding outlined in these ordinances is the best way to do so.

Over the past several months, questions and concerns expressed by Councilmembers have led us to make changes that strengthen the implementation plan and structure for Rebuild. We have drafted amendments to Bill 170206 to more clearly illustrate
the project delivery process and the participation and oversight of City Council, including a Project Review Team and Council roles in site selection, Grant Review Committee, the Oversight Board, the Rebuild Diversity and Oversight Committee, and the Design Excellence Committee. New provisions have been added to ensure that Councilmembers are notified timely of whether project users are on track to meet EOP goals and to ensure that past performance on City contracts or Rebuild projects, including EOP performance, will be considered in the review of grant applications. The amendments also include increases to contract participation goals, aligning them with the 2016 Disparity Study.

Council will also receive other updates and reports from EOP monitors, which will be selected with Council assistance, and updates on business supports and employment through Rebuild
at least quarterly. Rebuild will provide to City Council an Annual Budget and Annual Program Statement which will identify planned site work, community engagement efforts, and diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Rebuild will also provide monthly, quarterly, and annual program reports to City Council that would encompass the entire Rebuild program, including community participation, where completed at sites, and program revenues and expenditures.

With this in mind, we respectfully request a suspension of the rules so as to allow for first reading at the next session of Council. Additional details and information have been provided in my written testimony.

Thank you for your time. My team and I are happy to answer any questions you may have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you.
MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, Council President Clarke and members of City Council. I'm Rasheia Johnson, City Treasurer for the City of Philadelphia, and I'm here to testify in favor of Bill No. 170206.

Bill No. 170206 would authorize the City to enter into a Service Agreement with the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development to finance the City's Rebuilding Community Infrastructure initiative, Rebuild. The bill also approves the issuance by PAID of bonds or notes in one or more series. The bonds will be issued in an aggregate amount up to $300 million outstanding plus related costs of issuance, credit enhancements, and discounts. The bonds would be secured by the City's obligation under the Service Agreement to budget and appropriate annual amounts necessary to pay the Service Fee, which would be sufficient to pay the debt service on the outstanding bonds.
The bond proceeds would be used to finance improvements to, construction, demolition, renovation, and equipping of the City's parks, libraries, playgrounds, recreation centers, and other related facilities and related costs such as workforce diversity, inclusion programs, community engagement, and program administration.

As we have discussed, our intention is to issue the bonds in three tranches, with a par amount of $100 million each, roughly every other year or every two years. The Philadelphia beverage tax is projected to provide sufficient funds to cover the debt service on the bonds, but we will not issue bonds until the litigation challenging the tax has been resolved.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you very much for your testimony.
With respect to your last statement in terms of timeline of the borrowing, you indicated -- and I think I've heard Rob Dubow, the Finance Director, say they will not issue a bond until the conclusion of the litigation. Do we have a potential timeline? I don't know who I should be asking that question. I guess you, Rasheia.

MS. JOHNSON: Potential timeline for the?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Litigation to be resolved.

MS. JOHNSON: For the litigation to be resolved?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah. I know you don't have a crystal ball, but the bottom line is that the people in the neighborhoods might say when is the money going to be available.

MS. JOHNSON: Well, no, we don't. I don't have a timeline as to when the litigation is going to be resolved. However, we're hopeful that we
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hear something by the end of the fiscal
year, but, no, we don't have a timeline.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
there anyone here who can speak to the
litigation?

MS. JOHNSON: That would need
to be the Law Department.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
the Law Department here?

(Witness approached witness
table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
afternoon.

MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon.

Good afternoon, Council
President and members of Council. There
is --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
State your name for the record.

MR. DAVIS: Oh, excuse me. I'm
Barry Davis. I'm with the City's Law
Department.

I am not immediately involved
in the litigation, so I don't have
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exactly a day-to-day update on it, but we
had argument before the Commonwealth
Court and we have not yet gotten a
Commonwealth Court decision. It's
certainly likely that there would be an
appeal of the Commonwealth Court
decision.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Either way?

MR. DAVIS: Either way. So I
think we would be looking at -- I think
as the Treasurer stated, probably no
earlier than the end of this calendar
year. I think the City Solicitor feels
it's very important that we move ahead
with approving the issuance of these
bonds. I think it sends the right
signal, both to the community and to
participants in the litigation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Meaning the courts? You believe that the
action that may or may not be taken with
respect to the program will affect the
decision of the courts?
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MR. DAVIS: Well, I think it speaks to the readiness of the City to move forward.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I mean, is that a practice? The issue as it relates to the -- I don't want to use that term. The issue surrounding the litigation with the uniformity and all of the other provisions in the challenge, you're saying now that somehow the courts may rule a particular way based on progress of --

MR. DAVIS: I think it affects the way -- if the City prevails, let's say, in the Commonwealth Court, I think it could have an impact on how the argument is framed by the appellants. If the City is not ready to move forward with this program, I think that's something that they can say.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Okay. That's your perspective. Okay. I just wanted to make sure.

So in terms of the -- we're
looking at, what, 150 to 200 sites possibly?

MS. WESTERMAN: We don't know how many sites we will be able to get to through Rebuild. It will depend on which sites are selected. There's a very wide range of needs, physical needs, at the sites. So we'll know over time as sites are selected and also as we see what kinds of unforeseen conditions we run into such as environmental problems.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Didn't we already do an analysis of every site?

MS. WESTERMAN: We have a rough condition assessment of every site. We don't think it's sufficient to identify with certainty the scope of work at each site. So we anticipate that each project would begin with a validation of physical conditions and validation of scope of work.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Okay. Because, I mean, we set high
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expectations. I've been out there too.
I go to rec centers. People say,
Darrell, such and such.

You know, Wait until Rebuild.

So I want it to be clear this
high expectation that we set, because
people -- and there's some people here
with some signs outlining specific
locations. It's our objective that every
facility, be it a park or rec, ultimately
gets dealt with, be it either with
Rebuild or be it with traditional capital
funds.

MS. WESTERMAN: We can't wait
to get to work at as many rec centers,
parks, and libraries as possible.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
That's not an answer.

MS. WESTERMAN: We think we can
get to a lot depending on which sites are
projected. We do think we could get to
150 to 200 sites.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Do
we want to treat every site in the City
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of Philadelphia? Is that the objective?

MS. WESTERMAN: We would love to, but we don't think that $500 million is enough to take care of physical needs of the entire system.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right. And I know there will be a number of questions with respect to this. Participation. Having been a member of this government in different capacities, currently as a member of Council, I think one of the most frustrating things to me is the inability to get parity as it relates to the workforce, particularly on capital projects, be it any type of activity, and representing a community that has a significant number of, quote/unquote, minority members, residents. And having to be at facilities on capital construction when you don't see the demographics of that workforce reflect the demographics of the City, let alone the demographics of that neighborhood, it's always been a
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challenge, and I know that the Mayor has indicated that this is an opportunity to correct that to some degree. So how does the PLA or MOU address that issue?

MS. WESTERMAN: So the MOU is anticipated to help us on the workforce side. We have been working with the building trades, and the MOU is about the agreement between the City and the building trades and contractors to establish a more reliable pathway for people, most especially minorities and women, into the building trades. So the current draft of the MOU specifically references other models for apprentice-ready programs, specifically PennAssist, and the idea is to make sure that there is a process in place for recruiting, assessing, and then providing paid work opportunities for individuals while they prepare to take the apprentice exam. So there is -- so the MOU --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's kind of an entry-level position?
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: What about a skilled tradesperson who happens to not be in the union?

MS. WESTERMAN: So we think it's very important to give skilled people who are not yet in the trades opportunities as well. So that's part of the conversation. That could be also part of the same program, or as the MOU specifically speaks to, the potential for the Redevelopment Authority to hire those kinds of skilled individuals in order to implement some Rebuild projects, and they would -- any individuals hired by PRA would become members of the trades.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. So I'm actually not going to get into the details in terms of asking follow-up questions, because that is something that we're still working on with respect to the specific language. So I don't want to get too much further into those conversations. So I'll come
back, but we are having conversations. My colleagues are lined up here. Let me defer to my colleagues.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate your patience with regards to not delving into details. I have to resist that and delve into the details.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

That's just me now.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So with that said, I want to thank my staff and others who have helped me get back context information which frames my questions.

My first line of questioning is on participation, and in a 2017 EOP Employment Composition Analysis, the fact is that it states that the availability of female workers is 3.3 percent in the construction trades, and that is well below the goal of 7 percent. So help me
understand. Either the goal is too high or more outreach is necessary to reach the stated goal. Could you speak to that?

MS. WESTERMAN: I think I would like to --

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So I guess a broader question would be, how did you arrive at your goal? What metric, what data, what research did you use to establish the goals in the document you've shared with us?

MS. WESTERMAN: So our goals are consistent with the 2016 Disparity Study, and I would like to defer to my colleagues at the Office of Economic Opportunity, if I could, on the question.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: While that official is coming to the table, what is the total number of potential buildings that Rebuild can have an impact on? Since we don't know if it's going to be
between 150 to 200 sites, what's the
global number, potential number of
buildings where Rebuild could have an
impact?

MS. WESTERMAN: So the total
number of sites that we've been looking
at is 406.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: 406 is the
number?

MS. WESTERMAN: Is the total
universe of sites.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

MS. HARPER: Can I ask you to
repeat the question?

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes. So
your Disparity Study report is what year?

2016, 2017?

MS. HARPER: The one you just
got?

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: No. I
have a 2017 EOP Employment Compensation
Analysis report.

MS. HARPER: Right. So that
was the report that you just received,
but that was for FY16, but it was given in FY17.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So speak to the disparity regarding the availability of female construction trade professionals. How did you get to the goal of the number of female workers?

MS. HARPER: Okay. So --

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: When the availability is not there.

MS. HARPER: I can speak to the disparity, but I can't necessarily speak to how -- is your question how Rebuild got to their goal?

MS. HARPER: Yes. So the Disparity Study analyzes the availability of female labor, and it also looks at how they were utilized by the City. And so the figure that is represented in the Disparity Report is the difference of availability and utilization, which you correctly stated. What I'm unable to comment on necessarily is how Rebuild reached their employment goal. It could
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be because you used the disparity
information from the FY15 report. I'm
not sure.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
let's put a comma there. Similarly, the
availability of minority workers in the
construction trades is higher than the
set participation goal of 45 percent. So
help me understand if the availability of
minority workers is higher, why are we
setting a goal almost 10 points lower?

MS. WESTERMAN: To be clear,
our intention is to set goals for Rebuild
consistent with the 2016 Disparity Report
goals. So if there is an inconsistency
there, we would like to address it.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
then I can look forward to us having
subsequent conversation about how we can
align what's possible, what's doable, and
what's available?

Okay. Let me shift my
remaining questions around sustainability
and the environment. So it states in the
report, the Rebuild Office will work in coordination with City departments, including the Office of Director of Finance, Parks and Rec, Free Library, and others. City departments will monitor Rebuild project development.

My question is consideration that the Office of Sustainability become woven into any and everything around Rebuild, because part of us doing it right is about thinking for the future, and the future requires us to be conscientious about energy, conservation of energy. So that's the broad question, to make sure that the Office of Sustainability is included as a part of the Rebuild project.

MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Are you okay with that? What's your response?

MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely, Councilwoman. We think it's extremely important for Rebuild projects to be models of sustainability. We have been
working closely with the Office of Sustainability to date. They're in the process of developing standards that we would require of all project users for the use of all projects.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

Because my next question was around standards, what does that mean. So you're going to be more specific in what they are, correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: I'm sorry?

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My next question dealt with standards, and what I hear you saying is that ultimately you're going to be more specific in what standards?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, exactly.

Exactly. So whatever the Office of Sustainability says are the current standards, those would be referenced in the grant agreements for project users.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And you're okay adding language encouraging the inclusion of an expert on environmentally
sound development as a part of the Oversight Board?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My last question deals with Design Excellence, which is discussed in great detail in that document, and the question is, the Rebuild Design Excellence program states as one of its standards that facilities should facilitate the reduction in stormwater pollution.

Has the Administration considered any other environmental goals as a part of that Design Excellence program, like the incorporation of renewable energy and, more importantly, green spaces?

MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely. So we think really the whole gamut of sort of sustainability goals are key. So not only stormwater management, not only energy efficiency, but resilience, waste reduction, and simplicity in terms of operations and maintenance, all of those
are very important.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, I would ask that that not be implied, but that it be real clear, crystal clear, in the language of this entire document, because we only get one chance to get it right.

MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you. We are finally here. I have a statement and then a couple of questions.

I represent the Fourth Councilmanic District. In our district, we are proud to represent approximately 66 percent of the parkland in the City of
Philadelphia. So this is a big deal for
the members of my district.

In my district, I believe we
have over 50 parks and recs facilities
out of that potential 406 facilities.
Some I share -- I share Mander with my
colleague, because it's technically in my
district, but it services people from,
the great people, from the Fifth
District. And I have good rec centers.
Rose comes to mind. I have the Carousel
House that services people with
disabilities. I have Kendrick, which is
the second oldest rec center in the City
of Philadelphia, put a million dollars of
improvements over my nine years there and
it's still not adequate. It is a mess.
But out of all of my facilities -- and
I've been to them all -- the one that
comes to mind about why this is important
is Nichols Park at 55th and Race. And
I'm going to give this story and then I'm
going to go into some questions that we
need answered.
But at the end of the day, I was pulling down Race Street. I was on my way to my office in the neighborhood, and there was a bunch of kids, maybe half dozen to a dozen of them, playing in the sweltering heat. I pulled over to watch, because that helps my blood pressure. After going to crime scenes, it helps to watch kids play.

In that park, there were benches that had metal sticking up from them that had been rusted, and those kids were hurdling over those benches like they were in the Olympics. In their mind, they were in Disney World, but in reality, they were in danger.

We put approximately a half -- $400,000 into that park. And I want people, if the reporters are listening or people, drive by there. It has made a world of difference, because those kids live under, many of them, the poverty guidelines at 26 percent. They are not going to go Disney World this summer.
They're not going to make it to Florida or California. They might be able to manage to have a safe environment. And safe doesn't mean from predators that bother kids, but also equipment failures, rusted equipment, unsafe play areas. So we have to get this right. That is the primary reason most people voted for the sugary drinks, infamously known as the soda tax. That's why we did it.

So now we're getting down to the nitty and the gritty. It's not just good enough for those kids to play at Nichols Park at 55th Street. Their parents need to help the rebuild of those parks, so we have to figure out how parents can have their kids play, but also be able to feed them at the end of the day. So this is a process.

So now I go into -- after the statement, I want to say the questions. It is my understanding that there is a potential job pool that will be civil service that will help in the
maintenance and sustainability of some of these things; is that correct? Don't shake your head. Say it on the record.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. In the last budget, $2 million was established for additional Parks and Recreation skilled trades positions. So that will be really important not only to making facilities safe during the course of Rebuild and helping get Rebuild done, but the long-term sustainability and safety of the facilities.

COUNCILMAN JONES: And it's my understanding that those individuals have to come from the City of Philadelphia.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMAN JONES: To take that test.

MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN JONES: It's my understanding there is a discussion around an additional pool of workforce that may be assigned -- am I allowed to talk about that good idea you had?
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Councilman, you are an independently elected official. You can talk about anything you want. And I'm sorry to say I didn't vote for you, but I don't live in your district.

COUNCILMAN JONES: That's all right.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But if I did, I would have.

COUNCILMAN JONES: So the second pool, potential labor pool, will be assigned to the Redevelopment Authority, and that might be people that have skilled trades, done it for a long time. I think of Shaka Trotter, who is from my district, who has been an independent entrepreneur. He may have an opportunity to do a skills test to be in that and then wind up in a union opportunity; is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: So I'm going to defer to --

COUNCILMAN JONES: Say it loud
with your chest now.

MS. WESTERMAN: I'm going to defer to my colleague, Deputy Mayor for Labor, Rich Lazer.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Councilman, Rich Lazer, Deputy Mayor for Labor.

That's correct. There will be another pool that we are working with now that will be hired by the Redevelopment Authority and then would be in the respective trade of their craft.

COUNCILMAN JONES: We're going to get to how many and all of that, but that is a second pool.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yes.

COUNCILMAN JONES: And in that pool, where are the kids from the trade schools going to -- where is there entry into this process and potential pipeline of opportunity?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So there's another piece that we worked out and Councilwoman Blackwell had actually
worked on, and we are mirroring that, the PennAssist --

COUNCILMAN JONES: The Godmother of Participation.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Councilwoman Blackwell did the heavy lifting, but we are going to mirror that process, the PennAssist process, where we have a whole layout of where we would have -- it wouldn't just be students. We could take other applicants as well, but students --

COUNCILMAN JONES: So ex-offenders?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

We'll mirror the PennAssist process.

COUNCILMAN JONES: And so kids from Dobbins or Randolph or Gwynedd Mercy can come in that door?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. So let me segue now. Tell me about participation. There's employment opportunities and then there's
contracting opportunities. So some of those people from that labor pool will be assigned to some of the subcontractors that work on these jobs?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

So people --

COUNCILMAN JONES: Say it with your chest now. If you did something right, you say it.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So people that go through the program will then be assigned to Rebuild sites, and they will be paid --

COUNCILMAN JONES: So somebody who got a contract will be able to get an apprentice that is paid and he's also being tutored to take the union test; is that right?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Right. So they will be given additional skills as they are going through this program, but they will be paid on the job in a union atmosphere on a construction site, one of the Rebuild sites or an additional
Capital Program that we currently are involved in now, so to open up more sites, and then they will have a chance to take the apprentice test within that first 12 months of the program.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. While they're being paid?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Because some of the kids in the barber shop can't fast for a whole year, and so they need that kind of support to make their day-to-day obligations.

By way of these individual participations at rec centers, so if we talk about building a building or a track or things like that that fall below $3 million, these individuals will be able to go on those sites?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

This will be all Rebuild sites.

COUNCILMAN JONES: So each one of those opportunities, let's say at Kendrick or at Rose Playground, we will
be able to have input about how those
scopes of work happen. So you may say,
All it needs is a patch on the roof. I
may say, It needs a whole roof, and we
can then determine how to better service
those people; is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes,
definitely. There will be a very robust
community engagement process in
determining the scope of work for each
site.

COUNCILMAN JONES: That's with
each of the individual District
Councilpeople. Because I don't know
Cherelle Parker's district as well as
Cherelle Parker knows hers. I ride
through there, but I don't know it like
she does. Is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, that is
correct.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.
Mr. Chairman -- I mean,
Mr. President, I'm good. Thank you.
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Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

Thank you, folks. One of our challenges has been always around when folks don't meet the numbers, how do we disbar or take some of our contractors out. In the language in the legislation, it's pretty vague around remedies and -- it's called remedies and incentives, and I'm looking for punitive and how we get people off lists who don't meet numbers that they agree to do.

So can you walk me through what that process looks like since we've only disbarred three people in the last decade. How are we going to make sure at that 25 percent mark that we get people off the list?

MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely. So one piece of it is that we'll be looking to contract with one or more EOP
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1 monitors. Council would assist in the
2 selection of the entities performing the
3 monitoring. Then an important piece is
4 that our priority is to meet our
5 participation goals. You know, that's
6 the goal rather than getting rid of that
7 contractor. So what --

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: My goal
1 is to get rid of bad contractors who sign
2 a contract with us and tell us they're
3 going to give us participation and don't.
4 So my goal is, they got to get off the
5 list. So how are we going to do that
6 quickly since we're always scared to pull
7 that trigger?

MS. WESTERMAN: So the EOP
18 monitor is going to be monitoring in
19 realtime and assisting in realtime, and
20 one of the things that is, I think,
21 different about Rebuild is that because
22 of the apprentice-ready program and
23 because of the business supports that we
24 have in place, there will be a lot fewer
25 excuses for project users and contractors
to say --

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But what happens? We need the 25 percent. Numbers are not met. What happens? How quickly? What happens? Because that's what we've been scared of. Because through this pay system, we're supposed to have an easier, more seamless process to do that. What happens? Job stops. Contract says, according to your vague language right here, is we can terminate immediately. Will they terminate, and what happens?

MS. WESTERMAN: Before we terminate, we would like to have a discussion with the District Councilmember, and we'd like to, for example, stop -- do something like stop payment first and see if that is an adequate incentive to them taking the actions necessary to achieve the participation targets.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So what's the day? Because, again, one of
the reasons we're scared to pull the trigger is, people don't want to stop a project. We're always delayed. Obviously this process is going to make sure we can do these quicker. So what's the timeline? Is it 30 days remedy, 60 days? Do we have the ability, our project user or project management -- you know I'm into project management, not this other stuff. Are they going to have the ability to insist that that contract remedy like the next day? In order for the job to start again -- and this is not about a Monday hire, Friday fire. Don't hire someone so EOP comes and counts them. How do we make sure that that happens, and what can we do or the project user do immediately?

MS. WESTERMAN: So one of the things that we put into the legislation is a provision where the EOP monitor has to report to the District Councilmember and the Administration at a point --

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What is
the project user's authority to cancel
the contract?

MS. WESTERMAN: It will be in
their contract with their contractors
that they are able to cancel the contract
if they're not meeting project
participation.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
Immediately?

MS. WESTERMAN: Meaning the
EOP.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
Immediately?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Because
that's one of the issues that we have.

Whatever the -- and I'm not saying --
everybody is entitled to due process.

I'm not crazy, right? I've actually
built stuff, so I know how this works.

So the project user makes a
determination, sends a letter, 30 days
we're going to go back on the job, they
can cancel, and they can hire the next
person that was on the list to bid on it immediately? Like what are we going to do to make sure that those gaps -- so no one is scared to pull the trigger, right? Because until people get disbarred, we're going to keep playing this game.

MS. WESTERMAN: Again, one of the things that we're hoping is that because of the business support work that we're doing, we're going to have a big bench. So we'll say, Okay, if this electrical contractor couldn't meet their goals, here are four more contractors who are ready to step in.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can we in our design of the project user authorize the project user for the second person who came in, they pick the lowest qualifying, are we authorized that that second person to be on standby in case this happens or does that get rebid? Because part of the problem becomes that the argument right now through Capital is that we can't just go to the second
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bidder. We got to open up the process, and that's why people don't pull the trigger.

Is the project user going to be able to cancel, go to the second person right away or not? And how do we make that process seamless? Because I'm interested in that part of this, because if we're going to meet these --

MS. WESTERMAN: So that would be up to the project user how to make that happen, and I think actually one of the benefits of the project user process is that they have the ability to do things in their contracts.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So we will give them the authorization, they can go to the second bidder without having to open up the process, which is what we do now, which is why it's so complicated. They will be authorized to be able to do that?

MS. WESTERMAN: It would be up to the project user.
COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Up to the project user, because they have to meet their timeline and all.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So my thing is, how do you build those incentive in so that people are not scared to pull the trigger, right?

MS. WESTERMAN: So I think that the grant agreement needs to have provisions in place allowing us to not pay the project user. I think we should ultimately be holding the project user accountable for meeting the participation goals, the EOP, and if they're not, I think we need to withhold payment from the project user to help them understand we're not kidding around.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Right.

So going back to some of the earlier questions around participation. So we're still going to do a third-party counting system? This is sort of self-reporting by contractors on the ground?
MS. WESTERMAN: No. The project user would need to provide the -- so the EOP monitor would have access to the job site, so they would be observing themselves. They would also use records provided and, of course, there would also be certified payrolls, and the EOP monitor would be crunching that data as well.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What's the basis? Daily? Weekly?

MS. WESTERMAN: Daily.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And so they're going to monitor utilization also, right, so we don't do this Monday hire, Friday fire kind of thing?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay. All right. As it relates to -- I know we're still talking about the MOU, so I don't really want to go into those questions.

As it relates to the Oversight Board as it's been discussed, right, how
many different advisory and oversight boards do we have? We have --

   MS. WESTERMAN: So we are proposing a Rebuild Oversight Board and we're proposing an EOP Oversight Committee.

   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: EOP Oversight Committee.

   MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Made up of who?

   MS. WESTERMAN: So that would be made up of Council representatives, the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and representatives of the trades and the contractors and the Administration.

   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So there will be of the trades and contractors. Wouldn't they be conflicted since they're doing some of this work?

   MS. WESTERMAN: So I think you wouldn't have on that committee somebody who is actually on a job.
COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But how do we know they're going to be on this job or any job?

MS. WESTERMAN: I think if that instance comes up, then we would have a policy in place that they would have to recuse themselves from the issue or we would have to have alternate numbers ready to stand by and take place. But I think that there are potentially representatives of contractors and the trades who would not actually be working on jobs.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That's a little problematic. We want people to trust this, right? We're asking people to have faith that we're going to do things differently, right? So when you put people that potentially could become conflicted who are sitting at the table, if I'm someone new to this process and I'm going to make an investment building my capacity and building my company, how do I trust that this process is going to
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be fair if I'm put before an oversight crew of folks who don't necessarily want to grow the pot?

MS. WESTERMAN: Do you mean conflicted in the sense of they're involved in a Rebuild project?

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: A project with a contractor, with anybody.

MS. WESTERMAN: So I think for the committee, we're looking for people who are not going to be actually working for project users. I think we're looking for people who can come together with --

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I think we need to say that. I think we need to say that there is nobody that's going to be on any of these committees who is interested, looking at, affiliated with, associated with anybody aspiring to do that work. I think that's hugely important in building trust in the process. We want people with expertise, and this is not an arm length kind of relationship. These are folks who are
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not actively -- and there's a lot of retired folks in all of those sectors that I think would be willing to serve and really share their expertise.

I just want from the very beginning, we should say to people we don't need to have people recusing themselves on those or potentially doing that. I think that's an important part of the process.

MS. WESTERMAN: That makes sense.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Council Lady.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

I only wanted to verify, and I'm grateful that we're following a path that we used a little earlier during our budget, is that for our local workforce,
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we talk about and had agreement to 40 and there's up to 45 percent in records here for this project for minority participation. We didn't talk even about women or handicapped and all of that, and for local workforce for neighborhood, we have -- and everybody agreed to them. We have 50 percent. So I'm just verifying that those are the numbers we use, at least 40 to 45 percent and 50 percent when it comes to local workforce. Because if you deal with people in the neighborhoods, 50 percent, people will feel included, and I just wanted to put that out there and verify that that's what the numbers are.

MS. WESTERMAN: So I have to confess, Councilwoman, we do not have the local target articulated in the legislation, but that is something that's very important to us.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well, I will not support inclusion numbers lower than those I've already committed
to in Council. So that's where I am.
It's got to be that in order for me to support it.

Thank you.

MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good afternoon.

MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So just following up on Councilwoman Blackwell's statement a moment ago and recognizing that we in Philadelphia have really done a terrible job when it comes to inclusion in the past, and so I think that people see this as an opportunity to really get things right. And I saw a sign that this young lady is holding up that says "ready for Rebuild." As the Chair of Parks and Recreation, I don't think that there's anybody who is more ready for Rebuild
than I am, and I --

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I have been working with my colleagues, and we've collectively pooled our capital dollars in the past, all of my district colleagues, to make sure that there were cameras and that there were anti-loitering devices and other things to make our playgrounds as safe as possible. We worked on our playgrounds and rec centers for quite some time.

So it became a little bit of a challenge, a bit daunting, a bit disappointing, I should say, that so much of Rebuild, in my opinion, has been done without the support, the advice, the involvement of District Councilmembers. And so I have a number of questions, and so I just wanted to run through as many of them as I possibly can today. And I know that this is not the full-course meal today. The meat and potatoes is going to come on a later date. We're
having salad today. But at the same time, this is all very, very important and goes towards what it is that we're ultimately trying to accomplish with Rebuild, which is beautiful amenities for our communities, great opportunities for the folks who live in those communities. We think that Rebuild is an opportunity not just to rebuild our rec center or playground, but a chance to really rebuild lives and include people who have been not included in the past.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So I just wanted to ask you a few questions, and I'd like to start actually with Mr. Lazer, because one of my questions is around inclusion. And I'm excited that we're going to be using the PennAssist model and we're going to be doing some things at the RDA and some other things, being creative, but the question that I have is that originally when I asked the Administration about work sites and what
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are work sites going to look like, and I
asked would there be diversity that looks
like Philadelphia on day one, and I was
told no. And then I asked would there be
diversity that looks like Philadelphia at
the end of year one, and I was told no.
And I asked about year two and then year
three, and I was told no and no. And so
it came out that probably around year
three and a half or four that we would
see the diversity that looks like
Philadelphia on work sites.

And so my concern is, if you
look at our work sites right now, they
don't look like Philadelphia. We're
looking to bring forward a $500 million
program --

(Appause.)

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- that
tentatively it appears will not look like
Philadelphia. And just in following
Councilwoman Blackwell's comments
earlier, if we're not ready for this, if
we can't have the diversity that we need,
then -- and as I said, no one wants Rebuild more than me, but if we can't have the diversity that we need, that we expect on day one, then we need to wait until we are ready for Rebuild. I'd like to hear your response.

(Applause.)

MS. WESTERMAN: Councilwoman, we're committing to you the numbers in the legislation we will achieve in year one.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: In year one?

MS. WESTERMAN: Year one.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's new.

What changed?

MS. WESTERMAN: We've been working on it. We've been talking. We've been figuring things out. We think we can do it. We think we can do it because of the apprentice-ready program that we're trying to work on and we think we can do it because the business supports program that we're proposing
here.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We think we can do it or we know we can do it, we know it's going to happen?

MS. WESTERMAN: We are committing to you to these numbers for year one.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And as Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez said, if we don't make those numbers, if for whatever reason those numbers don't come to fruition, then what?

MS. WESTERMAN: We're committing to these numbers for year one.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's not an answer. We need an answer. We do need an answer.

MS. WESTERMAN: If we don't make the numbers in year one, then we'll have to make serious changes in the apprentice-ready program and the business supports and in the contract structure with the project users so that they meet the numbers.
COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. The idea is to get this right now. So we can't -- it's not to revisit it, come back later, let's look at it and try to tweak it, get it right after the fact. We want it to be right in the very beginning. So let's make sure that it's right now. Okay? Because I don't want to revisit it. I want it to be right. I want it to look right.

We've been out here working really hard on Rebuild, as you have as well. It's been a little bit frustrating that we haven't been able to work in tandem as much as we would have liked, but at this point, we just need to make sure that we get it right. And so we're counting on you. We're depending on you. And, again, as I said, if we're not ready, then we need to shelf Rebuild until we are ready.

MS. WESTERMAN: We are ready,

Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
We'll see. We hope so, because we want it to be right. Okay?

I did want to ask a couple of other questions too around site selection. And so the question is -- and I had asked our Managing Director, Mike DiBerardinis, this during the budget hearings -- if Rebuild team and the District Councilperson do not agree on site selection, then what happens?

MS. WESTERMAN: So we would propose that you try to persuade us and that we'll try to persuade you.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's not an answer.

MS. WESTERMAN: And we think that we'll get to an agreement.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No. We need to have this ironed out. So it can't be, you know, we hope to come to an agreement. We need to say one way or another what's going to happen. This is a $500 million transaction, and so if we were in the business world, we would not
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doa $500 million transaction on, well, we hope we can come to an agreement.
There has to be an agreement up front, either --
(Appause.)
COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And I would propose, as I've proposed in the past, that as the District Councilperson, who is the elected representative of the district, of the people of the district, that we would have the opportunity to have that say and, of course, weighing in with the Rebuild team.

MS. WESTERMAN: Sure. We would expect that every person in your district wants their park, rec center or library to get improved through Rebuild, and we would expect everybody in your district to advocate strongly for their park, rec center or library. So we definitely are looking forward to hearing their point of view and your point of view.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: But that still doesn't answer my question about
site selection and who is going to decide. Like we need an answer.

MS. WESTERMAN: I think the answer really has to do with how has it been working in the past, so --

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The District Councilperson has a say. That's how it works right now for capital projects.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, and that's what the legislation memorializes, that the District Councilperson will have a say.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Will have the final say.

MS. WESTERMAN: The Council has to approve the Annual Program Statement and the Annual Budget, which would include a list of sites.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So what you're saying is that if I say, as an example in my district, if I say Happy Hollow and you say Belfield Recreation Center and we don't come to an agreement
and then you put forward a list and then
Belfield is on the list, Happy Hollow is
not on the list, so then what?

MS. WESTERMAN: I assume you
would vote no on the budget ordinance.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
you're okay with that? Because there
will be other things that will be
submitted as well at that same time,
correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Councilwoman,
we believe your input is incredibly
important in this process. We think that
you have valuable information. We think
that this is a collaboration, and we
expect to get to very wise decisions in
collaboration with you.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
That's not an answer, but I have some
other questions. We're going to come
back to that.

(Witness approached witness
table.)

MR. ABERNATHY: Councilwoman,
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if I may, Brian Abernathy, First Deputy Managing Director.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Hi, Brian.

MR. ABERNATHY: I do want to put this in a very practical statement. We are expecting a project -- we are expecting to present to Council on an annual basis the list of projects that we're intending to cover in the following year. We expect that to be negotiated with individual District Councilmembers, and I would expect that if an individual District Councilperson is unhappy with those list of projects, I can't imagine that program getting passed by Council.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Brian, I hear you. However, it would just be so much simpler if the Administration would just say that the District Councilperson will have the final say, because that's what you're saying in a roundabout sort of way, but wouldn't it just make more sense for us to say that up front and just -- let's just keep it real with each
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other. Let's just --

MR. ABERNATHY: I am, and I believe the Administration has moved significantly on this issue. We're looking forward to Council being our partners, but I don't believe that the Administration is willing to move any further at this point.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So if you're saying that the -- okay. So you're not willing to say that the District Councilperson has a say over site selection, but what you are saying is that you can bring in a list and that we as a body can vote it down?

MR. ABERNATHY: No.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So that that way, we would have the final say. So is that the Administration's idea of working together?

MR. ABERNATHY: No. We will not prepare that program statement in a vacuum. We are going to prepare that program statement in cooperation with
Council, just like we do today, just like the Capital Program is managed today. We will not be going around Council's back. We will be working with Council on every step of the process in order to get this project done. We understand that you represent your community. We understand that you understand your district better than we do.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Recognizing that you understand that, what I don't understand is why it is so difficult to just agree that District Councilmembers will have the say.

MR. ABERNATHY: Understood.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And in consultation with their constituents, for each one of us, the 159,000 people who voted for us.

MR. ABERNATHY: And I think what we are saying is that we are going to do this in consultation with the District Councilmember and your constituents. I think we're saying if
not the same thing, very gosh darn close.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No, we're not, but okay.

MR. ABERNATHY: Fair enough.

Thank you, ma'am.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

(Audience members yelling out.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Folks -- hold on one second,

Councilwoman.

Folks, in terms of the conversation, the responses, we got a long list of people that are prepared to testify. So thank you. Thank you for your cooperation.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

So question: So regarding community input, one of my frustrations with the initial proposal is that community input, involvement, just the Rebuild team working with folks to let them know, alert them what's going to be happening, how to get their input into what to expect in their neighborhood, the
details just have been lax, and I'm just going to throw that out there. The initial community input on the proposed Rebuild process that was just provided by the Administration, it does not appear to be in the early stages of conversations and planning and involvement around implementation of these projects. And so I'm wondering like what is the community engagement? When is it going to happen? What are we going to see? People are asking. We're out -- I'm out almost every night doing Rebuild briefings, but it really does, in my opinion, require the Administration to -- this is your plan, this is your project -- to get on out here and talk to folks, answer their questions.

And so I'd like to know, what's the community involvement? What's the input and the process going to be?

MS. WESTERMAN: So community engagement is one of the three pillars of Rebuild. It is core. So when a site is
selected, a project user has to have provided -- a project user in order to do work at the site has to have a plan for engaging the community. We think what that means is first going to the people who have been already working at that site for years, the people who are in the "friends of" group, the people who are in the Recreation Advisory Council. Those people have earned the right to have major say in what happens at that site, and they will be the first people we go to.

It's also important to broaden the tent, those people who have been working really hard, and we want to lighten their load by bringing more people into the conversation. So what we're looking for is the project user to develop a community engagement plan that allows for not just sort of typical we're going to have a charrette on a 6 o'clock at the local church, but making sure that there's a wide variety of ways for people
to get involved to meet people where they are.

So we know that, for example, not everybody is comfortable standing up in front of a group and talking about what programs they want to see and making sure they're reflected in the designs. So we do want to do the charrettes. We also want to use apps. We also want to go door to door. We also want to have fun events that draw people out. All of those events need to get people to provide information about how they use the site today, how they want to use the site in the future, what the design should look like. And then the designers will keep coming back and saying, Here's what we heard, did we get it right, here are the designs that we've developed based on your input, did we get it right.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So the Rebuild team is not going to do outreach essentially is what I'm hearing, that the outreach and the community engagement is
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going to come from the project users.

And from the document that I have in
front of me, which was from the
Administration, it states that applicants
or applications may include plans for,"may," which is optional, may include
plans for community engagement, diversity
and inclusion, and the anticipated scale
of the improvements.

So if you're saying that -- why
would it be optional that -- why would
community engagement ever be optional on
a project like this?

MS. WESTERMAN: In order for a
grant application to be approved, the
Project Review Team would have to find it
acceptable, and definitely for the
Administration to find it acceptable,
there would have to be an excellent
community engagement plan.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So why
would it be "may"? Shouldn't it be
"must"?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, it should
be "must."

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. All right.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Councilwoman?

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Am I out of time?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sorry.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I didn't turn the clock on yet, but we're going to have to do the clock, because we got a lot of people here to testify.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I do apologize. I'll come back.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's okay, Councilwoman. I understand.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President.

And good afternoon to each of
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you. Let me start by saying that since we began this discussion regarding Rebuild, I know I have and many of my colleagues -- and I know it's like I've been beating a dead horse -- have been unapologetic about seeing the employment opportunity here as a vehicle to provide African Americans, women, other minorities with a systemic way into the building trades so that they can acquire --

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: -- so that they can acquire a skill set and/or put to work an existing skill set that gives them access not to an immediate short-term infusion of cash but a card that allows them to have self-sufficiency and take care of their own families and pay mortgages in the middle neighborhoods that we represent in the City of Philadelphia.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: With that
being said, I just again want to be clear about managing expectations when it comes to the number of jobs that are being created, because depending on where you go and what presentation or speech you listen to, some folks would have you believe that we're talking about we're going to create 500 or 5,000 new jobs, when the reality is with the construction that we're talking about, 5,000 new jobs is not the number that I've heard.

So that we are managing expectations from a public perception perspective, tell us how many jobs -- and you won't have to know exactly, an estimation and/or range total -- is Rebuild expected to create.

MS. WESTERMAN: The number of jobs is going to depend on which sites are selected and what the scope of work is. We don't have a good estimate yet.

We think it's in the hundreds.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So we think it's in the hundreds, and we should
talk about that. So that 5,000 number
that -- no. We're talking about over the
life of Rebuild, when we talk about the
total amount of jobs created, we're
talking about it could be, what, maybe
150, 100, 150, 175. You're not exactly
sure, but you know in the hundreds?

MS. WESTERMAN: We don't know.

We think it's in the hundreds.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: In the
hundreds.

MS. WESTERMAN: And let me just
say that that's because we're talking
about -- so, for example, we have rough
cost estimates for this work, and the
average cost estimate across the whole
portfolio is about $1.4 million. So when
we look at each project, we have a lot of
small projects that don't require a lot
of people. So that's why we think that
the total jobs from Rebuild is fairly
modest.

At the same time, we do have
really ambitious goals for the
apprentice-ready program, because we think that we can partner with institutions and private employers and that what Rebuild is doing can be a model.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And I'm glad you just -- I want you to put a pin in that, Rebuild being a model, because my hope is -- and we're going to get into my questions relative to the workforce, where they come from, how are they recruited, how do they get into the system, but when you talk about sort of it being sort of a model, my hope is that when we look at Rebuild and we talk about this big bad $500 million, I'm hoping that the pipeline for this workforce gets to parlay in the $11 to $12 billion worth of private industry work that has been done over the last two years and will continue into the next 18 months from resources that I've heard. If you look at the Schuylkill project along with what Councilwoman Blackwell did, Penn, Drexel,
and other areas, the hope is that if they
get into a pipeline to get those skills
and they get access to that card, we want
them working in neighborhoods too.

So with that being said, with
that being said, I want you to tell us.
You described in response to Councilman
Jones' question three points of entry for
people to access the pipeline to get to
the trades, and I want to make sure that
I have it correctly. You described the
model that Councilwoman Blackwell created
via the Pennvest model, and that would be
CTE. So that's for high school students
via the trades; is that accurate? And
you also described that PennAssist model
as being a vehicle for grown men and
women who need to access, so not just CTE
but also adult. So that's two vehicles
for two -- one vehicle but being used by
two different constituencies. And then
we, in essence, heard two more.
Actually, not just one, because you
talked about the PPR. So that's the
Parks and Rec. That's 40. We did that via the budget. We're waiting for the litigation to move. But then we talked about the creation of a pipeline via the RDA.

Now, if you think back to the resolution that we passed unanimously in this body, we talked about -- we laid out a blueprint of all of these things that we wanted to have included in this process, and we talked about a vehicle that allows currently skilled men and women who have been doing this work but are not unionized to gain access, and you are thinking about that RDA model as proposed and discussed by our President as the vehicle for that group; is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Do you have any numbers that you can attribute to how many you're talking about for the first cohort? And the reason why it's so important, even if you can't give us
exact numbers -- and I'm not going to be unfair and tell you you should be able to give me exact numbers right now, because we're debating back and forth what is going to be done at what sites, and to be quite frank, I don't want you telling me that you know what it's going to cost to do X at a center in the Ninth, because we haven't come to that decision yet.

How many do you estimate or range will be in that first cohort of the Pennvest? How many potentially in the RDA's program? And we know the number for the PPR was 40. Can you give us an estimate?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So for the PennAssist model program, we were thinking no less than 30 for the first cohort.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No less than 30 for the first cohort.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: And the cohort would be yearly. So every year that would be a new group.
COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So every year there would be a new group of 30 that could consist of young people coming through CTE and adults who are past that stage but going through that training process?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And then we're talking about approximately how many? I'm not asking you to give me details, but when you think about that pathway for those people who are prepared now, what kind of numbers are we potentially talking about?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: For the PRA piece?

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So that one is a little more vague because we have to see how many projects through Rebuild would go to the PRA for work through them. So I think that one is a little more in flux, but we will do no less than 30 on the first cohort for the
COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And you said the cohort would last a year, the training process would be approximately a year?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Tell me this: What is going to be the criteria to become a part of that 30-person cohort and/or that RDA process? Because part of this is we want to create a systemic process that's transparent, and so if you're creating that kind of process, what's the rubric? What's the eligibility requirement to determine whether or not Cherelle Parker can be eligible to become one of those people? And if you develop a criteria and what if I don't need one and need some help, how do I get the support? Explain that process.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So number one would be City resident. I mean, that would be the number one piece. The rest
of it, once we -- I mean, something like that will be CTE students, but also folks that are not in a CTE program. They would come in through Philadelphia Works, through either a CareerLinks or another facility that we would set up for intake, and then we would do a skills assessment on those individuals to see kind of where they are with skills they may have, if they need a driver's license, and if they don't have a driver's license, which is important for a trade job because it's mobile, we would then have -- we would provide funding to get that person a driver's license, because that's the number one thing.

And then we would go through -- they would also once they're selected in the program, for the two to three weeks that they're going to be trained with OSHA 10 and look for additional math and work training, they would then be paid a stipend for those couple weeks that would cover transportation and food for those
weeks. And then once they came through that piece of it, they would be put on a Rebuild job and would be getting paid a salary to be working on a Rebuild job site.

The other thought would be, because as Nicole had said, with the ramping up of Rebuild, we also are looking at doing other Capital Program sites via the other -- Public Property or Airport or Water or other stuff that's already in the pipeline so we can kind of broaden the jobs, not just Rebuild.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So a very important point. You're talking about systemically -- and I mentioned this to the Council President. If we are able to get this accomplished under his presidency, under our Mayor, this body -- and I've only been involved in government since 17. I think that was 1994 and '95. I don't think there has ever been a systemic pathway created to allow access to union jobs, the building trades. I
don't know that that has ever happened.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So when you hear people who get a little frustrated about whether or not this systemic process is going to be established, it's because if this happens, as Councilwoman Blackwell says, and we do it the right way, this will be history-making in the City of Philadelphia if we do this right.

(Applause.)

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: And the other -- and I think the reason we are trying to be uniform with PennAssist and with Schuylkill Yards is that the more projects that we can put together in a uniform process on the entry point and the training and what we want folks to do and how to go through it, it will broaden and open more slots for folks.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Finally for me, only because of the history or confidence in the process, I've been anal
about how are we going to report in realtime the status of those who are trying to enter into the process? How will we know how many people apply? How will we know the zip codes of where they live in? How will we know whether or not they got directed into the program, if they were directed somewhere else? How will we keep up with that?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So I think the number one piece would be the involvement of Philadelphia Works and their piece on this, because they can help track, and they'll also have case managers that will have files on each one of the applicants, so then we can track them and see how far they go. Hopefully everybody completes the process, but if there was an issue, what the issue was and also keep on top of folks, and if there's any issues on the applicants and on what they may have, we can try to fix that through the case manager.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So,
again, I know we will have the
opportunity, as I've heard from my
colleagues, that we will talk more about
this at a later date. I just want to
reinforce what I know sounds like a
broken record, is that I am 1,001 percent
behind empowering and/or positioning
Philadelphia who currently don't have
access to union jobs that will allow them
to get retirement security, that will
allow them to get healthcare that they
are paying for so they don't have to
worry about the Affordable Care Act, they
can pay for it out of money that they
earned on a regular basis.

In addition to that, I'm going
to share with my colleagues and share
with you a report regarding diversity in
the New York City union and non-union
construction sectors. And we all know
this group. I've worked with them and
known for working in Harrisburg. I also
know them from my work with retirement
security. It's called the Economic
Policy Institute, and although this is not based on Philadelphia, this is a study that they've conducted in New York about how African Americans and other minorities have been able to gain access to the building trades and/or the non-union construction sector and what has been advantageous for each.

Again, I want to state for the record that I want to see people of color have, this process, to have an opportunity to enter into the trades, but for anyone who is attempting to convince me that, Cherelle, this process is going to fall apart, they're never going to do this, the only way you are going to see diversity in the trades is if you get companies that are not affiliated with unions, and that's the only way people of color are going to work, I want to say to you, as I've said to my colleagues and to the public before, I don't support it. What I've seen happen in that instance -- and this report says it. So this is not
just Cherelle Parker giving her experience in Logan when she was a staffer for Tasco, but it says that New York City's union construction sector employs a greater share of black workers and pays them more than non-union construction sectors and that unions are drawing more black people into the construction through what you sort of just outlined here, which is why I and so many other people are skeptical that this is really going to happen, because it's never occurred before.

But here's the manipulation that bothers me when you talk about work being done in neighborhoods, especially when we use that term "people of color," because just because a firm gets access to the ability to do the work in neighborhoods across the City, it does not necessarily mean that they're going to hire people who live there to work on those projects.

So let me tell you how they
manipulate the process. This report, not Cherelle Parker, says Hispanic workers make up a growing share of the non-union construction sector where there are relative youth, lower levels of education, and more recent immigrant status means that they are paying far more less than union sectors.

Let me say this to you: I represent the United Nations. I have Latinos, I have Asians, I have Hispanics, I have African Americans. I have the UN in the Ninth Councilmanic District. I'm not going to support a company to get business via Rebuild and/or the City and they are going to manipulate my minority residents who, because of their immigration status or anything like it, don't understand that they should be fighting for healthcare, that they should be fighting for better resources.

So we're going to get to the meat at another time. The devil is in the details, and I'll see what the end
looks like, but please, I want to see a path to union membership, not that we got to get somewhere else.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We've had a lot of conversations this afternoon and there's been a lot of discussion about inclusion and getting into the building trades, and some of the questions I have about this initiative and something that we have not addressed in this conversation is that one of the ways that people get involved in unions is that they are sponsored through their union. And as I've had many, many conversations with representatives of Rebuild, I've invited you to the Capital Consortium meetings and other initiatives on how we brought access to credit to small businesses, but
what's been lacking in this conversation is how Rebuild will provide the growth of minority union contractors.

I believe part of the problem that we have is that we do not have enough minority union contractors that can sponsor people through the building trades. And so some of the questions I'm going to be asking about is how are we going to use Rebuild to grow small businesses, especially small businesses of color that happen to be in a union? Because they can go to the apprentice hall and bring in a person of color that are going through these programs.

Now, when you're talking about this initiative regarding PRA and from what I'm understanding is that if I was Derek Green, a 36-year-old person who went through various programs, that I went through the DAP program and the PREP program and all these apprenticeship programs, if I have a certain skill set where I know how to do carpentry,
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electrical work, plumbing work, what I'm hearing is that I have an opportunity to come into the trades based on my past experience through this middle set that Councilwoman Parker and others talked about while I'll be hired by PRA, correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: But we don't know exactly what that number may be?

MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: My concern is what happens when the money runs out? When you look at the programs we've had over the years, from the Convention Center and the Convention Center expansion, from the Eagles stadium and the Phillies stadium, we've had all these programs to help people go through an apprentice program, but once the public dollars run out, there's no additional work for people who go through these programs. So my question is, what's going to be the process that if you go
through this initiative, you'll be getting work, especially on the multi-billion-dollar backlog of projects we have in City capital projects?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So, Councilman, if you go through the process and you come out and you are in an apprenticeship, you'll be pulled off on any job that -- any job in the City or in the counties or anywhere that a specific union or contractor would go on. So if you would -- if we have through this first cohort, you know, a few folks that go into the electrical union, then they will be an apprentice in that local and then they'll get pulled. So if Joe Smith Electrical has a job at Comcast and they need people on an apprentice list, that person will be on the list and will be pulled. And as we know with talking with the building trades, there's no -- at this point, there's so much work going on that there's no shortage, and apprentices are always first to be pulled. So
they'll be in that process and they'll be able to work on any other job, not just on Rebuild, after they're in the --

COUNCILMAN GREEN: But that's the apprentice piece. I'm talking about someone that has been working for a number of years and have gone through multiple training programs. And now you're saying through the PRA concept, they're going to get hired, but that's going to be a subset probably, what, 40, 50, 60, 70?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yeah. So the other piece that we're looking at now, we're slowly looking at it, is expanding more of our own capital projects and allowing PRA to do work on those projects. So we're continuing to move that. So along with -- we're going to do Rebuild, but we're also looking to move capital projects to that as well to continue to open up the amount of jobs. So after Rebuild, there's always going to be capital projects coming through the
COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right, but that's just a subset of people that are now part of that union that are employees of PRA.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Right.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: What about people who go through that first cohort of apprentice program and they're working on -- at some point working on a Rebuild project, but once Rebuild funding runs out, like ran out in the Convention Center, which ran out in the Eagles and Phillies stadium project and the Convention Center, how are they going to continue to stay employed?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So what I would think and what we -- that's why when I spoke with Councilwoman Parker's question was, we are trying to model after the other institutions, so that we can put people on other -- the program will continue. I mean, this is a building trade-sponsored program as well
with the City and Penn. This is a separate model, but we are trying to do the same thing that we can continue that pipeline to continue to move without -- so when Rebuild is over, we could use this program on capital projects as well, so the program would continue to go, and we would still work with Philadelphia Works, who is helping us fund it through state and federal money through TANF and (unintelligible).

MS. WESTERMAN: And I think the other piece is that there's -- right now we're blessed with a really strong construction market. There's a lot of pressure on institutions and large private entities to have high minority and women participation on the workforce. So once folks do get some work experience, successful work experience, and they become apprentices, they will continue to work regardless of the Rebuild initiative.

The other piece is that our
support of the businesses will help them
to grow and grow their own workforces, so
that there will be more job
opportunities.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Let me just
focus on just the PRA cohort. So now
you're going to have people that work
with PRA possibly do other projects in
the City?

MS. WESTERMAN: So --

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Is that what
I'm hearing? So you're saying you're
going to have PRA employees that come
through this middle section. They're now
going to work possibly on Water
projects --

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We were
looking at that option.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: -- Public
Property projects?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We were
looking at that as a way to open more
projects instead of just Rebuild.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: But that's
still only at most maybe 50 to 100
people. What about people who have
gone -- because my concern is the people
that go through this apprentice program,
they're going to work possibly to become
an apprentice, work on Rebuild for a
period of time, but then when Rebuild is
done and all the other capital projects
we have, they're not going to be working
on that and we're going to be back in the
same situation where people have gotten
frustrated.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So you're
talking about the actual PennAssist type
model we're doing?

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So they
work on a Rebuild site for the first --
within that first 12 months while they're
getting ready to take the apprentice
test. So once they take that test and
they pass and they're in the respective
local, then they'll go on any job site
that if they're pulled off the list with
anybody else that's in that.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Key phrase, pulled off the list. Who is going to pull them off the list? That's going to be --

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: It would a contractor that has the signatory to a specific local will call a hall and say, I need the next --

COUNCILMAN GREEN: How do we know we're not going to be in the same situation where someone that went through an apprenticeship program and now is an apprentice and they don't get called or get pulled off the list because someone else gets pulled off the list, and they look at the situation like they may have gone through other training programs or saw older relatives go through similar training programs and get frustrated because they went through this training and never got hired. So they never got pulled out of the union hall, where someone else got pulled out of the union.
hall, and we're back in the same
situation we've had over and over and
over again, which brings me back to my
initial statement of how are we going to
grow firms of color who are minority
union contractors who they can pull
people out of the training hall to
continue to get work?

MS. WESTERMAN: So, again, we
think that Rebuild is a model. So we
expect to have high minority and female
participation on the work site, and we
expect in part to be successful in doing
that because of the apprentice-ready
program, and our successful efforts then
will be watched by private developers and
by institutions in the City of
Philadelphia. And by efforts like
Councilwoman Blackwell's efforts to put
pressure on those other entities to
increase participation, we would expect
to see continued employment.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: But this
goes back to what Councilwoman Sanchez
was saying also. How are you going to put pressure on those other entities? Are you going to be willing to stop projects if you see people not being employed?

MS. WESTERMAN: The project users?

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. So I think we need to have -- we would have sort of a set of escalating interventions that would occur if a project user isn't meeting their EOP. So the first piece is that the monitor tries to help them achieve it, and we will have more tools in our toolbox to do that because of the apprentice-ready program and because of the business supports. The second piece of that is realtime monitoring. Another piece is having a milestone where the EOP monitor is reporting to the District Councilperson and the Administration on whether the project user is on track to meet the EOP. If not, that's when we
figure out what the intervention is, and we make sure that the grant agreements have levers allowing us to do that, so allowing us to stop payment to the project user and allowing the project user to fire the contractor.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: But once again, you're still not really explaining to me how are we going to make sure that people who go through these apprentice programs or the PRA program are continuing to get work after Rebuild comes to an end or on some of the existing capital project backlogs that we currently have.

MS. WESTERMAN: I think we have -- our ability to impact the long-term demand for minority and female apprentices has to do with us doing a really great job with Rebuild. So we grow our participation through Rebuild, we demonstrate to other employers and project owners in Philadelphia that those high participation rates are achievable,
and then they will be pressured to have equally high or higher participation rates. And so then there will be demand for those minorities and women on job sites throughout Philadelphia.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. I mean, you're talking about things that have never happened in the past, and part of the reason that it has not happened in the past is that we do not have -- we have not helped grow the capacity of minority contractors in the City of Philadelphia by a real participation way. You're talking about going through apprentice programs and training, but at the same point, we're not demonstrating how we're going to make sure that people get pulled from these training halls to get work, not only just on Rebuild but on the capital projects in the City of Philadelphia. So how are we going to help that occur? How are we going to help grow capacity of firms of color in the City of Philadelphia so they will be
able to bring people from apprentice training halls to work on projects they have so that we can grow their capacity, so they can bid on larger and larger contracts and reduce poverty in the City of Philadelphia?

MS. WESTERMAN: So we think there are a bunch of different pieces to building the capacity of minority and women-owned firms. So one piece of it is paying promptly, and the legislation includes provisions about project users being required to pay within 30 days. So we're going to make sure that contractors and subcontractors are paid promptly.

The second, we think that what we want to have is -- we want to make it extremely easy for project users to identify different minority and women-owned businesses who are capable of doing work and knowing that they're receiving supports from Rebuild to feel more confident that the work will be successful even if the businesses are
less experienced.

So, for example, in our conversations with businesses and organizations like the Enterprise Center that work with businesses, themes of support -- what we're hearing about supports that are needed have to do with access to capital, ability to access insurance, ability to access bonding, and then ability to do a set of back-office functions, such as getting invoices out timely, doing certified payroll, bidding well so that they can make a profit. So those are all skills or credit levels that we can actually be assisting businesses with in the course of Rebuild.

So one of our premises is, this is a seven-year program, and seven years is enough time to really give some supports to businesses to allow them to increase their credit score, for example, to increase their capacity to do larger projects or increase their ability to access capital even from a private bank,
for example, instead of from a CDFI, for example. So we want to have an assessment process where we work together with businesses to establish where are they and where do you, business owner, where do you want to get to over one, three, seven years of Rebuild and how do we help you get there.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: We've been talking about this issue for well over a year, but I haven't seen any of the things that we've talked about kind of written down in some type of proposal that we can then start to have a conversation with small business owners that, listen, 18 months from now, 24 months from now, six months from now, Rebuild is coming, these are some of the things that you can do to prepare yourself so you can bid on the contract, here's access to credit, here's technical assistance, so we can help with businesses in the City of Philadelphia to grow using Rebuild and capital as a
catalyst, so that way, they will be able to become a modern union contractor going forward and continue to get work from the City of Philadelphia.

So we've talked about this for the past year, because I know we've had this conversation over and over again, but I have not seen anything reduced to writing in how we're going to implement this.

MS. WESTERMAN: So we did try to provide some of that information to you in the briefing materials that were provided at the end of February. Happy to make sure you have those and would love to discuss them.

We've also, as you know, been working with the Capital Consortium, and we were at Councilman Johnson's Open for Business event last week. We've been speaking with Chambers of Commerce, and over the summer, we're hoping -- we're not hoping. We will be getting out to different parts of the City to talk with
vendors about Rebuild. Hopefully we'll have ordinances passed so we'll be able to be specific about how they'll be able to access contract opportunities, and then let them know what -- how to be ready, and if they're not ready today, how can they get ready. There's also actually an event tomorrow, a vendor event at Temple, where we will also be getting the word out.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: This is my last point, because I know others have questions. Going back to what Councilwoman Sanchez raised regarding the remedies and incentives. Now, from my understanding, you're saying that you'll be able to direct the project users, who then can talk to their subcontractors, if certain goals are not being made that they can stop the project?

MS. WESTERMAN: So we will be holding project users accountable for their EOPs and we will have levers in the grant agreement, like stopping payment to
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the project user if they are not
complying with their own EOP.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: So if a
project user has a subcontractor and that
subcontractor is not meeting some of the
goals and objectives, although they are
not privy of contracts with the City for
Rebuild or PAID, you're saying you'll be
able to tell that project user to stop
that payment to that subcontractor?

MS. WESTERMAN: So our
authority would be with the project user.
So we wouldn't have any direct
intervention with the subcontractor. But
we would make sure that the project user
is very clear on the consequence of not
complying with the EOP and making sure
that the project user understands that
the EOP monitor has reported to the
District Councilperson and the
Administration that the EOP is at risk.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. But
then how do we not have a situation like
we've had in other projects where you
have a construction manager, CM, like on the Eagles and Phillies stadium, point at the subcontractor and the subcontractor points at the CM and nothing gets done?

MS. WESTERMAN: Well, because the project user is accountable, so --

COUNCILMAN GREEN: And what you're saying here on the record is that you're going to hold the project user accountable for either their participation goals as well as the subcontractor's, and then going to the information that Councilwoman Sanchez and others said, that if that project user fails to do so, they will be held accountable and we can remove that project user from the contract and bring another project user in, regardless of this may impact the timeline of getting this project done?

MS. WESTERMAN: So the --

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Because that's historically been the issue. Historically the issue has been, well, we
can't remove this entity because we're
too far along in the project, we've got
to get this project done, the community
wants the rec center, the library, and as
a result, we can't stop. And so, once
again, we have another situation where we
have not used our power to enforce
minority participation, and then we go
around again to the next project where
we're going to have this participation
project again and things don't get done.

MS. WESTERMAN: So we believe
that one of the ways that Rebuild is
different is that we need to not say we
don't have time to meet this
participation goal. Sorry, we missed the
opportunity to reach our contract
participation or our workforce
participation goal. We think it's more
important to stop the work and make sure
it gets done correctly.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: I mean, I
have a very long memory, so I will hold
you accountable to that.
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilman.

Councilman Oh, please.

COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

You know, as far as I've looked in the history of Philadelphia, projects have not been stopped for violation of diversity and inclusion. Just never have been. And although we've had offices that have been in charge of that, there have been waivers, exemptions or whatever, and I find it difficult to understand or believe that no matter how sincere and goodwill the effort is, that it would be successful merely on goodwill, and no matter how much pressure you try to apply, it just historically has never seemed to matter.

I do think, however, that Rebuild can be different if you articulate it in the ordinance, that if you put in a mechanism whereby the
private entities or the general contractors agree to not being paid, having their work stopped, if there isn't a meeting of the disparity agreement, if you are not in fact -- if you don't have the numbers, then a third-party entity, like OEO or another entity, comes in and puts the workers on the job. And it just has to be something where someone, other than who wants to see this work get done, just stops the work, and that's when you show people that you really do prioritize inclusion. Because if inclusion is not met, no money flows. Everything is done. It stops. It's over.

(Check applause.)

COUNCILMAN OH: And I think that is important.

I have written a bill, as you know. I've introduced it. I've asked people to look at it as a reference point. But I would support Rebuild if it had a trigger mechanism that said diversity and inclusion where it has been...
proven in the Disparity Study is that important to us, that if anyone does not meet these goals, then our public service, our public interest is not being met and we will halt the entire project.

    Thank you.

    MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you, Councilman.

    (Applause.)

    COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilman.

    All right, folks. Hold it down.

    Councilman Domb, please.

    COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

    Good afternoon.

    MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon.

    COUNCILMAN DOMB: I have a few quick questions. Are we doing $500 million potentially of construction work?

    MS. WESTERMAN: So it would be less than $500 million of construction work. Some portion of it will be for
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design work and other soft costs. We
also intend to spend some money ensuring
that the community engagement portion of
Rebuild is more robust than you have seen
in the past, and then we do plan to
invest in this apprentice-ready program
and in the business supports we've been
talking about.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Let me
rephrase that question. We're going to
invest $500 million in various ways of
building, fixing our parks and recs and
all the other contracts and subcontracts
that are needed, but we're investing $500
million?

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: And I've
asked before. I don't remember the
answer. Are we hiring an outside owner's
representative to represent the City's
interests on these projects?

MS. WESTERMAN: We don't have
confirmed plans. We do definitely need
assistance ensuring that these dollars
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are spent effectively, ensuring that we have adequate project controls in place, and especially ensuring that design and construction are occurring consistent with what we've intended and with integrity.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: I would strongly -- I know a little about construction. I would strongly suggest that we consider outside owner representatives to represent our interests in handling the payment of funds, the completion of work and all this $500 million investment. It's a huge investment. No outside private company who is doing a development would do a development without an owner's rep. It just wouldn't happen. So that's question one.

The other is, if you can just give me an idea -- I'm sitting here, I'm listening to everything and I'm saying to myself, when would the public actually expect the first park -- the work on the
first recreational facility actually to start?

MS. WESTERMAN: Great question. We're hoping to obviously get ordinances approved and then issue requests for qualifications for project users and then identify project users, identify sites in cooperation with District Councilpersons, and then we have a small amount of money, so as soon as we have qualified project users on board and sites identified, we would be able to begin design and community engagement on a small number of sites.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: So is that a year from now?

MS. WESTERMAN: So we think potentially we could be doing that in the fall.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Fall of this year?

MS. WESTERMAN: Potentially, if we are able to move forward expeditiously with site selection and with project user
COUNCILMAN DOMB: One other question on the finances. What are the costs for the -- we're issuing $300 million of bonds. We're doing it at $100 million sections basically. Do we have an idea as to the legal counsel, administrative costs, and the financing costs on those bonds?

MS. JOHNSON: No, but we usually monitor those once we issue bonds, but we don't have the estimated cost of them at this time.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: We don't have any idea of the estimated cost?

MS. JOHNSON: For legal counsel? No.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Or a ball park or a budget number.

MS. JOHNSON: I can give you estimations of historical transactions that we've done, but, no, there is no estimation of cost at this time.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right.
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Let me ask a final question for right now. I haven't been here, but -- I've been here, but not here. In the last ten years, has the City of Philadelphia had a project of this size and been able to complete it on time and on budget?

MS. WESTERMAN: I'm afraid I'm not able to speak to that question.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: The reason why I ask that question is because it goes back to my point of an owner's rep. I will tell you, an owner's rep does a better job than I can do. They're professionals. They're hired by professional development companies, and it's worth our investment to hire them. That's my main point, and I'd like to see it happen.

Thank you.

MS. WESTERMAN: Point taken, Councilman. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

Mr. Chair.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a couple more questions for you. So the boot camp that was a part of the MOU that was suggested, it was stated that on a periodic basis, a boot camp would be conducted by Philadelphia Works or a partner organization for identified candidates. Participants would receive math and work training skills, OSHA safety training, et cetera, et cetera. Stipends would be provided.

Can you go into some level of detail about how this would all work? Because it sounds like a very interesting program, but, again, the devil is in the details and we don't really have many details here.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Sure, Councilwoman. So it would work in the same mindset and process as PennAssist,
for the most part. People would come in through -- it would be recommended through neighborhood organizations, community groups, other organizations like CAP or YouthBuild. They would come through Philadelphia Works and then they would get a skills assessment and see kind of what trade or interest that person has, what skills they have, and then whether they have a driver's license or not at that point. If they don't, then Philadelphia Works would pay for that person to get that driver's license.

After that piece, then they would go to a two- to three-week training, or also known as the boot camp. We would look at the OSHA 10 training and give them additional math and reading or work training to try to help them -- the big issue is teach them to the test. And then as they are participating in that two- to three-week process, they'll also get paid a stipend to pay for transportation to the facility and also
where the training is and also for lunch or any type of food for that day. And during that process, the participant will then decide, based on what they've gone through, what trade they're interested in, if it's electrician, a sheet metal worker, a carpenter, and then they'll be -- after that, the participant will sign a commitment letter and then they'll start the work on a Rebuild or City capital project site. They'll work on a site doing that in that field that they chose. At that point, a participant will then be able to take a test for that respective trade within that 12 months. The goal will be to try to fit that into the schedule, but if another date has to be made to take the test, that will be accommodated. And then if they pass the apprentice test, they will then be placed in the proper trades apprentice class for that upcoming year and then go from there with the teaching any other apprentice would get and be a --
COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So from the start of the boot camp until admittance to the trades, what is the timeline?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So the boot camp itself would be no more -- most likely no more than three weeks. So we expect the whole -- that whole process to take 12 months. After the boot camp -- it would depend on the time of that trade and when they give -- when they're starting that apprenticeship class, and then we'll be there to make sure that that person is on a paid Rebuild job in the interim so they're not not being paid a wage, and then --

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: What would determine when the class would start? Would it be based on the number of recruits that have come through the City of Philadelphia through the boot camp or would it be --

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: It will be based on whatever trade that specific individual --
COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So if there's an abundance of folks who are interested in being plumbers or electricians or carpenters, let's say if you have like 30 to 50 people for each specific trade, that does not mean that they would open up a training program or an apprentice program at that time?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: If they go through our program, I mean, I could -- I want to ask Tony Wigglesworth to come up, because he's worked with me on behalf of the trades on this and he also worked with Councilwoman Blackwell on the PennAssist.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: While he's coming forward, I have another question for you, and, that is, it states in your suggested MOU that each candidate would have to sign a commitment letter acknowledging their responsibility, such as arriving at work every day on time and performing required tasks, which I have to tell you, I felt that arriving at work
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every day on time was a little insulting.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we took

that from the PennAssist model for more

CTE students. So I corrected the MOU,
because it's not -- it's more for

students. That was more for a student

who has never worked on a job site

before. So that would be more of -- so

that was a typo on my part.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And can you
give us an idea of also -- because one of

the other things -- and I don't know if

this came from the PennAssist program

also, but it said each candidate will be

requested to identify a support system or

mentor. What is that? Is that someone

who has to sponsor them into membership?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yeah.

That would be someone -- and that, again,

was more geared towards the CTE student.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So that's

not a requirement?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Because

this will be part of -- because our
program can take CTE students but also would take adults as well. So this would be more geared towards the student.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So this is for the CTE student, that they will be required to identify a support system or mentor?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: For sponsorship into the trades?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All right.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

Mr. Wigglesworth, you want to come forward and answer. Just identify yourself formally for the record, please.

(Witness approached witness table.)

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: I'm Tony Wigglesworth. I'm the Director of the Philadelphia Area Labor Management Committee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Did you hear the Councilwoman's question?
MR. WIGGLESWORTH: If you wouldn't mind repeating it, especially given the two questions that have been answered since. So I want to make sure that the question you want to ask is the one that I answer.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I just wanted to get an idea of how this process is going to flow, because it's frustrating that we're a year in on Rebuild, on planning for Rebuild, and we still have so little in terms of detail. And so what I'm trying to find out is if we have started this boot camp and let's say we have 50 people who want to be carpenters who come out of the boot camp and 50 who want to be plumbers and another 50 who want to be electricians, at what point will the trades have their apprentice program? So like is it once it reaches a certain number or is it just -- what is the determination in terms of, well, we have this particular group of people who are interested, and
so now that we have the size of the class that we need, we're going to open it up, or is it something else?

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Let me begin at the beginning, if I can.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: The PennAssist program is now only two and a half months old. It has not run its course all the way through. So the answers that I give you don't have the benefit of experience yet, but let me do my best to describe how this process would work.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: The current idea is that individuals who are interested in jobs through Rebuild will go through our CareerLinks process, be assessed, get some information regarding the individual trades. And I would hasten to add that there are 17 different internationals and 54 locals within the Building Trades Council. So it's not a
simple answer to give you regarding when apprenticeship tests actually occur, because there's 54 different sets. But the process would be, individuals will be assessed and when there are enough individuals to conduct a boot camp, a boot camp would be conducted, as Rich said, under contract through Philadelphia Works. Those boot camps would last two to three weeks. The intention would be to do an assessment of individuals, figure out their skills, figure out where they want to end up, figure out whether or not their skills permit the opportunity for them to end up there, and also deliver an OSHA 10 program, which is required for work on construction projects for the health and safety of the employees that will be there.

So the answer to your core question regarding the boot camp is, they'll be put together as needed around cohorts of individuals, and they will not be trade specific, because we're not
going to wait to get X number of folks here and Y number of folks there. We're going to run boot camps as we have enough people, and the boot camp itself is not craft specific.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And they need sponsorship after all of this, after the boot camp, after CareerLinks?

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Currently within the Building Trades Council there's only one union that requires sponsorship. It's the carpenter. In the case of carpenters, general contractors will be asked to place individuals with carpentry contractors. The balance of the unions do not have sponsorship. So the union, when an apprentice is entered, actually places that individual on a job.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

Thank you very much.

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Sure.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can we go back to the -- Rich, can we go back to the CareerLinks program and how that --
like what's the length of time on the CareerLinks? Because when we went through the timeline before, we didn't include that. So we didn't include -- you said it was roughly three weeks for --

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: I was talking -- I apologize. I was talking about the boot camp would be two to three weeks. So prior to that --

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: But before that, there's a CareerLinks process. What is that process and how long would that be?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we would have -- I guess it would be -- that piece would be where we would have folks refer or that would come into a CareerLink and we would have folks at the CareerLink specifically for the Rebuild program so they wouldn't be diverted. They would go right and talk to a person, give all the information they need, and that's when they would go through the
COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Time-wise on the Philadelphia Works piece coming in on the screening, time-wise, I mean, I guess it would be set by us on how long we want to do intake for folks for that first cohort.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Say again. I can't hear you.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: It would probably be a timeframe that we would create to see how long we would need to collect applications for folks to be in that first cohort.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And how do we -- when we talk about inclusion, one of the things that drives me a little nuts here is that getting the information -- because like I'm not on every work site, you're not on every work site, none of us is on every work site, but we do know right now in Philadelphia we have a major problem, and so fixing
that problem really requires not just the
will but also the information, the data.
And so we still don't have from the
Administration a plan to properly collect
the appropriate data that we need so that
we know who has been hired. It's not an
MOU. It hasn't been presented at all by
the Administration. So how will we ever
have any sort of idea in terms of who has
been hired?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So that
was one of our main reasons why we will
be working with Philadelphia Works. So
they will track everybody that comes
through this program and will track them
through the whole process and help them
through that through a case manager, so
if there's any supports needed, we will
give that to them. And also we'll track
them after the fact to make sure that
they were placed and they're on some of
the job sites. So we will have -- by the
end of the first cohort, we'll be able to
show numbers on how the program went,
where people ended up. All that
text information will be collected through the
first process with Philadelphia Works' involvement.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
Well, you know, we certainly hope so. We
certainly hope so. What we've seen thus
far is really a problem, and I've heard
it been said that we're not talking about
a lot of positions and that the positions
that we're talking about really is just a
drop in the bucket in terms of
construction in the City of Philadelphia.
But if your bucket is empty, you want
that drop. If your bucket is full, then
a drop in the bucket is a drop in the
bucket. But if you don't have an
opportunity to participate, then it's
very much problematic.

So, again, we'll be having this
conversation, I know, I think as soon as
Monday. Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Thank you,
Councilwoman.
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

What can I say? This is a -- this hearing has been long overdue and these conversations, I'm going to ask you all individually, have been going on for some time. So I don't think that there's any new information that's being brought out here today. We understand what needs to take place and what needs to happen with Rebuild. We, I think, all know and understand, especially District Councilmembers understand, that we need to improve our capital investment and our parks and recreation.

I grew up in the park at a rec center. I grew up in Wissinoming Park. I was the first one out. Al was my rec leader. I depended on him. He's reliable, and Parks and Recreation do a tremendous job, and it was a safe place
that my parents and/or those who have
guardians or whomever knows that you're
going to go. We need to make that safe
again. We need to make people like me,
people that's in Mount Airy, people in
West Philly, people in Southwest Philly
need to feel safe going to our rec
centers again, and we need to do it in a
different way. We need to do it where
people can co-exist and not have to worry
about not having camera surveillances,
not having any kind of other devices that
are detections of any kind of guns. We
need to have our police being a part of
the safe walks. And I think that's all a
part of Rebuild. And a part of Rebuild
is rebuilding our communities and getting
them back to work in addition to, and the
only way we have those safe places is if
we do create opportunities for people.
And I think, in my opinion, we need to
all agree. And I think we're really
close. We're real close on legislation
on Rebuild, on getting there, and I think
we will get there, as we always do, because that's what this Council always does. We come, we know we're 17 different independent elected officials who represent different constituencies who have different concerns, who actually have different upbringings. I know what it's like. I know what it's like to be in school and be afraid that when somebody from the admissions office is going to come down and say the parents didn't pay the tuition. I know what it's like. I know what it's like to have a bill at the corner store, but always relied on the park, where we can -- everybody can come together, and we need to rebuild them.

A couple things, one on time. We've been talking about this for a long time. I'm going to start with the MOU. The MOU has been circulating around here for how long? This question is going to be to Deputy Mayor Rich Lazer. How long has it been circulated?
DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we worked on it, but then we first showed it in, I think, the briefing in February. We added it into a packet in February.

COUNCILMAN HENON: In February. And it has transformed into something I think that, in my opinion, in a draft form, although it may not be final as we sit here today, but could be within the next few days or a week. I think that -- I'm proud of it, because coming from building trades, coming from middle class, working neighborhood, I see things and I've seen things in a draft form that I've never seen before, like stipends, like trying to -- life skills, and not just finding a prospective craft for an individual, and if they don't pass the test, they're not out. They get a chance and an opportunity to work on where they fell short on and have another chance and another opportunity, because we're really going the extra step to make sure that we have Philadelphia people into the trades.
I think that the Pennvest model of Councilwoman Blackwell is historic, but Rebuild is just a small part. I mean, we're talking about $300 million in a bond. I don't know what our capital budget is. I do know what it is. It's a lot more than $300 million every single year. It's in the billions. It's a B. So we're talking about $300 million of bond resources that we need to be responsible for, and I think we're taking those steps. And we're not there. We're going to work it out, and this is what we do in the City of Philadelphia. We disagree on some things, but we compromise on the things that are important, and that's really providing the opportunities. And I've never seen the building trades, I've never seen the City of Philadelphia, I've never seen City Council members be so involved and so engaged in providing their advice, their challenges, their concerns from their citizens that they represent to get
to the place that we are today.

I heard some things today about
the business world and the business
community. This wouldn't be happening in
the business community. The business
community don't need us. The business
world, the business community will just
go build. They need approvals, of
course, for certain things, but they
don't have to do this. So we are being
the example, is the reason why I'm saying
that, using Rebuild just as a small part
of a bigger picture. We're sending the
message to the business community,
anybody who wants to develop in the City
of Philadelphia, that we mean business,
that we want to employ our kids, we want
to make sure that they use CareerLink and
that Philadelphia Works is a part of it,
that the PRA has direct access for
building trades members directly to help
those who may not have the skill sets to
test in but have the experience for the
last 20 years. I mean, Council President
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is spot on when he's talking about using

the PRA as an opportunity.

So I think that we're
discussing a lot of things here, but

there's the big picture. Let's not lose
the fact that the big picture -- this is
just a microcosm of how Philadelphia is
taking the lead nationally on how to do
business in the City of Philadelphia
collectively.

You talked about community

engagement and the community engagement
part. I just want to -- and you may not
have stated it correctly, and this is
just constructive criticism. District
Councilmembers know who the partners are,
so I would hope it starts with the
District Councilperson, not the Advisory
Committee. The Advisory Committee may be
a part of it, community groups will be a
part of it, but the District
Councilperson really knows the partners
that are involved in the planning of our
parks and recreation centers. So I hope
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you really -- you take that in 
consideration as we move forward.  

And we talk about meeting goals 
and benchmarks. In the legislation it 
has quarterly progress reports? 

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, sir.  
COUNCILMAN HENON: It has 
quarterly progress reports, when you get 
to 25 percent of the project. That's on 
the build and spend, is that correct, and 
the EOP and -- 

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Exactly. 
So for 25 percent of contract spend on 
the contract participation side and 25 
percent of projected hours on the 
workforce side. And that's not to say 
that all of the regular sort of daily, 
weekly, monthly, quarterly monitoring 
isn't going on. It is also. We're just 
saying that District Councilmembers will 
expect and receive a specific 
recommendation from the EOP monitor as to 
whether that project is on track. 
COUNCILMAN HENON: As we
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should. And that's historic, because that hasn't happened here. I mean, year after year, we argue about this on what are the numbers when it comes to participation during our budget process. So it would be more frequent and it would be in realtime; is that correct?

    MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

    COUNCILMAN HENON: That's good to hear.

    And for the record, when it comes to -- we were talking about -- I think Councilwoman Sanchez was talking about disbarred contractors. The City has been very lenient or understanding or liberal when it comes to disbarring contractors. There are thousands of contractors -- I'm not going to say thousands. There are a lot of contractors in the City of Philadelphia who should be disbarred right now as we speak for not pulling permits, for not paying taxes, and who are not providing the work to the scope of what they agreed
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to. So I would hope that this is just a reminder that there are contractors out there now who don't meet the qualifications of having OSHA trained workers on the work site, and I got them -- I'm going to also remind that there are only two types of workers on the work site. There's a licensed contractor or an employer -- or an employee of a licensed contractor, and they have to be OSHA 10 trained. And the MOU that is 99.9 percent there, but not final or executed yet, requires that they're OSHA trained. So people are going to get trained to be safe and perform safe work for the general public.

And I know I'm saying a lot, but I wanted to get a few things out while I had the opportunity. I'm sure we'll have more rounds here or more conversation, but this isn't no joke. This is a real opportunity to show the nation and show the City of Philadelphia we make tough decisions. And I remind
you that we made tough decisions with the soda tax. I made a tough decision with the soda tax. Not a lot of people -- people are angry out there. So I want this to be built. I want it to be built responsibly and I want to make sure that the constituents that I represent are seeing the product of our hard and tough decisions, and that's being responsible, that's giving people opportunities, and that's not playing politics with people, not playing politics with the past. So if the past didn't work -- and it obviously hasn't worked -- and some people have been around, they may have not had the opportunity or chances to change it, but we're changing it right now, like it or not. It's going to change and it's going to change for the best.

So I really -- I guess I didn't have a question there. It was a ten-minute -- it was a ten-minute statement.
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Statement, yes.

COUNCILMAN HENON: But I will have questions on the next round, but thank you for allowing me to speak.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Speaking next round. We're all in the next round.

I will remind the Councilpeople we have about 25 of the public who are on the list that want to speak. So just note that for the record, please.

Next, Councilwoman Sanchez, please.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you. I'm going to be short, but I'll take as long as it takes.

So going back to this workforce issue, and I didn't want to get into the MOU, but as we started talking about trade opportunities and the local access, in the language of the MOU -- and some of us have seen the MOU for a couple of months, and I will have to disagree with
Councilman Henon. It is not 99 percent there, because I still think there's some really critical details that are missing here that I think people need to understand. As Councilwoman Parker says, how do we manage expectations, right? So in these programs, everything in the MOU talks about the initiative and it talks about folks having access. So there is a scenario where we are going to put people through a program, but ultimately they still have to pass the building trades exam, right, based on their choice of building trades? Why isn't it possible for folks to work through this process and get an assessment that is not just a test?

(Applause.)

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Each union's apprenticeship program is governed through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Bureau of Apprenticeship Training. That specifies hours of instruction. It also specifies hours to
be worked in conjunction with the hours of instruction. Each one of those apprenticeship plans, by the way, whether they're union or non-union, requires and has a test at the front end.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So if we're designing the boot camp piece thing, why are we not designing it aligned with those requirements? Because right now the way this program is structured, I'm struggling to see how we're providing better access than what people could do now.

If I have someone who can pass a test, they're going to go to the union hall, pass the test, and hopefully have access to the apprenticeship. What are we really doing different if we're not breaking down the historical barriers?

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: If an individual can take the test and pass the test, then they'll be accepted into the union. However, it's anticipated that a lot of individuals will not be able to
pass that test and --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: And the structure is based around allowing an individual not just to go to school but to work with his hands and with his mind for a duration of time. This is not a pre-apprenticeship program. This is an employment program. That's a dramatic difference from what's existed in the past.

So an individual will go through the boot camp. They then will be employed, and they'll be employed at wages that approximate a first-period apprentice's rate. They will be working for a signatory contractor and they will be encouraged to go to school at night through schooling that's provided for through grants from Philadelphia Works to gain an education to allow them to pass the test. That is what is different.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And I appreciate that, because I do think --
and let me tell you, my kudos to the Mayor. We want to make this work.

There's still a lot of details around all of those things, right? Because it's about expectations, right? So there is a scenario where someone goes through all of this process, doesn't pass the test. Why do we need that test if you're sponsoring these young people, or whoever it is, and you see that they can do the work? Why can't we come up with a different assessment model that is not that test?

(Audience members yelling.)

(Applause.)

MR. WIGGLESWORTH: The only response that I have is that the building trades unions have agreed to an awful lot in the way -- and I'm not from the building trades. I do, however, partner with them on labor management programming. So I'm not speaking for the building trades. I'm speaking for my organization and our experience. And
what we are doing here is attempting to come up with a process that opens up access to our building trades unions but, at the end of the day, provides for a career for individuals, because what unions provide to their employers is the control of the quality and the consistency of the labor product.

Without that, they can't maintain market share. If they don't have market share, they can't provide jobs, and they certainly can't provide jobs at union wages.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The reason we're here is because we want that access, right? We value what you've created, right? We just want access to it, right? We're not devaluing what you've created, the institutions that you've created. What is troubling to me and even in this version that we have is everything -- there's nothing here that says a certain percentage are going to get accepted, there's a commitment to a
certain number of jobs, there's a commitment to a certain number of union positions. Everything still says building trades. They still got to take the test. It is up to the building trades to set up the apprentice program. It is up to the building trades to accept or not accept. So I don't know what we're getting here that's different than what people could do right now if they had the capacity, and that's the part I'm struggling with.

I want this to work, right? We have a lot of folks who are skills tradespeople who have not in the past had access. And so that's the part that I'm still struggling with, because it says people may, people can apply. There's nothing of we're committed to taking 80 percent of the people that go through the program and we're committing to make them union, no matter what. There's nothing that gives me numbers or guarantees. And nothing is guaranteed but death in this
life, but there has to be something stronger. And so that's why there's still so much work in this document that needs to be done.

Now, you said there's 17 locals and -- 17 trades and 154 locals or something like that. That's a whole lot of folks, right? I don't know how we get to a place, because they're not even signators to this, right? I mean, they're signators to the PLA, but this MOU is an MOU of the Administration committing to certain things, but ultimately none of this will be met if those 17 trades and those 154 locals make a commitment.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: The trades will sign onto the MOU. This will be a signed document.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yeah, they'll sign onto this MOU, but we can't sign onto this MOU because it doesn't have numbers. It has aspirational goals. Even if we -- even if we did the
maintenance team and the PRA, if we did
the maintenance team, we're talking about
80 jobs.

(Audience member yelling out.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Sir, sir,
sir.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:  You
can't do that, Emanuelle.

So I want folks to know it's
not that we don't want this to work.
It's not that we are not committed to
helping the Mayor.  It is not that we --
as Councilman Jones says, he likes
cutting ribbons.  I like cutting ribbons.
But ultimately we have to -- it has to
pass Councilman Jones' barber shop test.
We have to be able to say that at the end
of this, there's a pathway, an
institutional pathway, for the 10 billion
Capital Program, and it's still not
there.  It's still not there for me, and
we want this to work.  All I see is
aspirational goals, Philadelphia Works
doing some stuff.  And some of our folks
have been through these apprentice programs, and it hasn't left there.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

Councilman Jones, please.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There was some new information added and there's a ray of optimism and then there's the history of pessimism, and we're at a crossroads right now that we need to get past by Monday to figure out these details.

So the optimism is that I spent a lot of time in economic development, whether at PCDC as its President or at the Minority Business Enterprise Council as its Director. So I've been there, done that, seen it, know how it's done.

You have an opportunity right now with this process to create more input and access than we've ever had in the history of contracting in this city.
That's if we pay attention to the details. But if we don't -- and I've heard in these hallways, and I listen to everybody, that there are people ready to say that if there are 154 locals, why not create the 155th local and start their own union? Start their own union.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN JONES: So what I would hope is to take this opportunity to get this right, and I'm going to tell you why. Because what I think you said, Rich -- Mr. Lazer. I'm sorry. I actually met your kids -- that this is a beta test, that 300 million is a small quantity, because right next door with the public schools is 4.2 billion, with a B. So if this model -- if somehow in the next year we actually work this out and there are young people coming from barber shops and trade schools and reentry going to actual jobs or actual businesses or actual City employment, we take this model right over to the School District
If we talk about the fact that we have $10 billion a year in backlogs for the capital project, if this works with PAID, if this works with the Memorandum of Understanding, if all of these things actually work in unison, we take that and start sending more of our projects over to that model, if all of the questions that my colleagues that raised it -- so what should be the message today is that no one is trying to take food off of anyone's plate, any of those locals. We just need to expand the plate, and here is the opportunity to expand the plate to let all people benefit from this economic -- this is better than Obama stimulus package. We have within our own means to stimulate our own local economy. And with the prospect of Trump and his skinny budget, we need to get this right. We need to get this right.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A couple of follow-up questions. I wanted to make sure I understood the financing. What's the life expectancy of these renovations we're going to be doing? Is it 20 years, 15 years?

MS. JOHNSON: Based on the potential various projects, we estimate a 20-year life for the bonds.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Twenty-year life of the bonds?

MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: And so the time of the bonds matches basically the financing -- actually the time of the renovations? Twenty years from now we're going to have to revisit this again, fix up these parks again? In other words,
how long are these renovations going to
last for?

MS. WESTERMAN: So I think that
depends on a lot of factors. As you know
from managing buildings, the lifespans of
HVAC systems is a little different from
the lifespan of windows, and that's
different from roofs.

So two things I will say. So
one is, a specific goal of Rebuild is to
make sure that we do these renovations in
a way that we make the maintenance and
operations of the buildings smarter and
easier and simpler. So we want to make
it as easy as possible for Frank Fabey
and his staff to take care of these
buildings.

The other piece is, because $2
million got added to the operating budget
of the Parks and Rec Department for the
skilled trades, that that's going to make
a big difference in terms of taking care
of these facilities.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: So I guess my
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concern is, I want to make sure that we
don't have to revisit this 15 years while
we're still paying for the debt of what
we did today. I'm thinking down the road
15, 20 years.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Nobody
wants that. So we're going to -- but we
do think that because this is going to be
a big difference, we're going to bring
hundreds of facilities up to a really,
really high quality, that they will be
easier to maintain. So as you know, it's
much easier to keep a facility in good
shape than it is to sort of keeping a
facility that's in pretty poor shape. So
we're going to bring them up to a higher
standard, and then with the additional
funding in the Parks and Rec budget, keep
them there.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: So you'll
maintain them better than we have.

MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: On the
financing, the rate of financing, ball
park, what's the range of the interest rate on the financing?

   MS. JOHNSON: Based upon a kind of last service agreement we did, which was a refunding earlier this year, it's around 4, 4 percent range.

   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Four percent?

   MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because when you look at it, we're borrowing basically 300 million, 100 million in each section basically.

   MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

   COUNCILMAN DOMB: So unfortunately I have a mortgage calculator on my phone. When I do the analysis, it comes out to about 7 and a half million a year on 100 million. So for a 20-year amortization -- this is a fully amortized loan? In 20 years from now is the loan fully amortized or is there going to be a balance too?

   MS. JOHNSON: No. The way it's set up, we will be paying principal every
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year. So at the end of 20 years, there's no balloon payment or anything.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: It will be all paid off?

MS. JOHNSON: It will be all paid off.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: We're done, okay. So when you do the math, it's going to come out to about 7 million annually per 100 million at 4 percent. So if we're borrowing, do the math, 300 million, our annual payments are going to be in that $20, $21 million a year range. And I think if you did the math and you say that's $300 million in principal, it's at least another 225 million in interest. So I just want to make sure that when you look, it says 300 million. It really isn't. It's between 500 and 550 million when we count the cost of borrowing the money over the term of 20 years. That's why I want to make sure that we're very careful.

I'm in favor of everything. I
just want to make sure that we're very careful with how we invest the money and we do it in a smart way.

      Thank you.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilman.

Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to join the ray of optimism in looking at the glass is half full. It's balanced, however, with the reality I've seen since I've been here and, that is, that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. I was here when stadiums were negotiated, and some of these same issues were raised, and at the end of the day, we didn't agree -- we'd get an F in ensuring that making sure that people who look like me and women have had a fair chance at this piece of the pie.

      (Applause.)
COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Now, what's been unresolved in briefings that we had, and so I pose the question now, which is enforceable, which has more teeth, an MOU or a PLA? We never ever came to an agreement in those briefings around that question.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Councilwoman, I think just to explain, I think the PLA is in place, and that has teeth, but I think we wanted to do the MOU because the PLA specifically just handles actual jobs and what would be needed to make sure jurisdictions were respected regarding the specific trade and the specific participation numbers. We wanted to do the MOU because we wanted to make it a broader document to include other workforce programs, the RDA piece, which is new.

So the PRA is a part of the MOU, but the MOU is a broader document that will cover the workforce piece, the PLA piece and also the RDA also. So I
think that's why we wanted to do the --
that was the idea about going behind the
MOU. So they both have teeth, but -- in
the MOU it says if certain -- if we don't
feel that certain things are done, the
PLA could be void. So it does say that,
but PLA talks about specific -- in the
PLA it does talk about specific
participation numbers.

So the answer is they both have
teeth, but the MOU is a broader document
that touches on more things than just the
PLA.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So then
that goes to the very concern raised by
both Councilman Jones, Sanchez, and
Green. To punctuate the point, I learned
today in doing my own homework that there
are about 300 men trained at PHA in some
of the trades who are sitting and waiting
for an opportunity to do work. And so
for me the question is, where is the
missing link? Why haven't we looped
those men that have been trained and
waiting with opportunities before Rebuild? That becomes an in-your-face example of how we have not done well and some would say failed at the very issues we're trying to resolve with this new enormous $300 million opportunity. Quite frankly, I don't care if it's 3 million, 30 million, 300 million. People want an opportunity to work.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We understand that, and we have discussed that with PHA in the past, about that group of individuals, and we will be -- we are having further discussions with them on that, on these folks that there's a pool already to pull from.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We understand that there is a pool there to pull from.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So we should never assume anything. What do you anticipate the yield of those discussions will be?
DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: I think because there are -- we can pull from that pool, I think that's another piece for the PRA as well, is there's qualified candidates there already trained that we can look to pull from. So I think the PRA piece is where there's a big hopeful there and then also through this program and see what the skills are and how we can move forward with them on that.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So shall I surmise from that that there's a chance, which is now, to include those men in this document, maybe the MOU, that they become the first capture of trained Philadelphians ready to be a part of this Rebuild opportunity?

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yeah. We can look at that, definitely. I don't want to commit because there was some piece about doing some CTE students in there first.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes, yes, yes. And this is certainly not to
exclude another potential pool, but to be as inclusive as we can and get it in writing -- because for me if it's not in writing, it doesn't exist -- to include them as well.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We can look at that.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We can get back together with you.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay, then. I thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to touch back on -- there was a conversation and there's always been conversation about Council approval. For the record, I don't want
to approve anything when it comes to contracts. That's not my job. But I certainly want to sign off on priority of projects based on need and facilities and the amount of capital investment that's required in my district.

We have changed things around where it will be introduced on the resolution yearly. So on a yearly basis, there will be a resolution. Because there's been so much conversation, that how do we know how many projects are going to get done and are they all going to get done or how many? You know, what is the baseline on that?

So a resolution will be introduced in the beginning of the year or however, fiscal year or whatnot, and it will have projects or sites, because I'm going to call Rebuild the project. There will be sites that will be in districts. I'm going to use my district. So there will be sites in my district that I will be working with the Rebuild
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team; is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: Right.

COUNCILMAN HENON: And a

financial allocation based on the scope

of work or whatever the project, the site

project entails will be included in on

that; is that correct?

MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN HENON: So every

year not only will there be a quarterly

progress report on the 25 percent of the

work and whether there's overruns or

challenges that are unexpected,

unforeseen challenges, like they

discovered some underlying infrastructure

issues or something like that. So

Council will have the final say anyway,

right, because it has to be a resolution?

MS. WESTERMAN: So Council

would approve an annual budget and annual

program statement and an annual list of

sites to be leased.

COUNCILMAN HENON: So annual

budget based on the selection of the
sites?

MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

COUNCILMAN HENON: That are agreed upon with Rebuild in accordance to need, or however that is, right?

MS. WESTERMAN: Right.

COUNCILMAN HENON: And what else?

MS. WESTERMAN: So an annual program statement, which would lay out not only the sites but it would lay out the community engagement plans.

COUNCILMAN HENON: The community engagement plan.

MS. WESTERMAN: The workforce -- the apprentice-ready program.

COUNCILMAN HENON: And the Councilmembers will be a part of, as I mentioned earlier, that community engagement.

MS. WESTERMAN: It has to start with the District Councilmember, absolutely.
COUNCILMAN HENON: And so that will be in the form of a resolution?
MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.
COUNCILMAN HENON: And all this will be public and transparent?
MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.
Annual program statement, annual budget.
COUNCILMAN HENON: Annual program statement, annual budget allocation line item.
MS. WESTERMAN: An annual list of sites to be leased.
COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay. All right. Thank you.
MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you.
COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman.
Councilman Domb.
COUNCILMAN DOMB: I just wanted to follow up on a question. On the financing, I was wrong in this out number. I used 30 year. If you have 20 year, it's going to be close to 460 to 470, but you're sure you can get a 4
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percent interest rate on this?

MS. JOHNSON: Am I guaranteeing the 4 percent interest rate right now?

No, because interest rates are rising as well as market conditions. So I just -- that's where we were, and we budgeted some buffer in for the fiscal year. But that's where we were the last time.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is that fixed rates?

MS. JOHNSON: Yes. We are doing fixed rate, tax-exempt fixed rate.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

Thank you, Councilman.

I know you want to be here even longer talking to us, but that seems to be the end of the questions here. So we're going to go into -- so, again, thank you. Thank you for all your time here.

We're now going to go into the
rest of the public who has asked to speak. Like I said, we have a long list here. As the Council President said earlier, we want to limit everybody, because we want to give everybody a chance before it gets too late, to two minutes for your testimony, two minutes.

I'm going to call people in a list of three. So please come up three people at the same time. And I apologize if I mess any names up, okay, ahead of time.


(Councilmen approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And how about the name I said first, Ethelind Baylor or Ethelind? I may be messing that up so bad they don't know who I'm talking about. Is she here?

(No response.)
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: She left?

Okay.

Jihad Ali? Come on up.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Reverend Holston, why don't start first. Please identify yourself and proceed. Please, if we can stay to the two-minute limit, I'd appreciate it.

REVEREND HOLSTON: My name is Reverend Gregory Holston. I am the Executive Director of POWER, Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild, 65 plus houses of faith in the City of Philadelphia and our surrounding suburbs. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak on this very important project.

I would just say I was -- most of what I was going to say today has changed based on the testimony that just happened, but there's five points I think that POWER is really concerned with
around this project. One of them being that this city for the last at least 30, 40 years that I've been around here has struggled in a very tangible way with minority participation on any building project, whether it's University of Pennsylvania or the Liacouras Center, all the way back to all of the different types of stadiums that are down at the stadium area. We have always struggled with real minority participation.

And I think one of the most powerful things I heard -- and I think it came from one of the union people -- is simply the -- the simple statement that he said, which was "then we will," the union, "place them on a job." It means the union does have the power to place people on jobs. It means the union can determine in their own way and in their own fashion what people get on jobs. That is probably, again, the strongest statement made, because of all the workforce development things and all of
the guidelines and training programs and
everything that was mentioned about
everything, the reality is, that power
still remains in that union.

(Applause.)

REVEREND HOLSTON: And if we're
ever going to really solve this problem
of really participation of African
Americans in particular but all people of
color in this city, to be representative
of the needs and concerns of everyone in
this city, then that union has to make
the decision to have people of color on
their job places.

(Applause.)

REVEREND HOLSTON: And if this
Council hears that statement and does not
do everything in its power, particularly
putting those standards, as Councilman Oh
suggested, actually in ordinance, not
just for Rebuild but for every project
involving any City dollar any place in
this city, if this Council does not
demand that union to be able to put
people of color on their job sites, then we need to do whatever is necessary to make sure that every dollar in this city is used to help African Americans in every way. And if that names other means and other methods, then we have to do that.

And so this is my final note to this. Councilperson Bass said that she wanted the final say in all the projects that are going on in Rebuild. Well, I'm in complete and POWER is in complete agreement with that, that every Councilperson should have final say in every project. Why do I say that? Not simply because I'm appreciative of the needs and the concerns of Council, but I want to make sure, POWER wants to make sure that we clearly have the people who are identified as responsible for making sure those projects have African American people on it, and if the Councilpeople want to take on that responsibility to make sure that every project in their
district has African American people in the right numbers and the numbers are high enough to represent their districts, I'm glad they want to take that challenge on, and I want to support them. They should not approve any project that the people where the unions, where the companies do not already have enough African Americans and people of color that are in that union and on that job site.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

Mr. Muhammad, please.

MR. ALI: Good afternoon.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jihad?

Okay. Go ahead.

MR. ALI: Good afternoon, members of Council and members of the audience. I'm delighted to be up here with these two leaders in the community. My name is Jihad Ali. I'm the President
of the Contractors' Roundtable, which is an organization of African American contractors.

I would like to follow up on something that the pastor said. In fact, we have been on this issue since 1950, since we built the Municipal Service Building. And, again, 58 years later in 2008, we were on this issue when we got ready to build the Convention Center. And here we are today, June 7, 2017, still struggling with this issue.

Also we're approving a project labor agreement, which, as the pastor said, talks about the -- we talked about the demographics of the City, but we need to really change the language. And the language is we're talking about a workforce, and if we're talking about workforce, think back a couple years ago, maybe 40 years ago, when we used to have the trolley car line, the SEPTA line, the subway line. There were no blacks on there. But then as we have other leaders
came forth, Cecil B. Moore and the rest
of them and the Honorable Dr. Martin
Luther King and all those, they started
looking at the workforce. And so the
state, the government -- because we're
talking about labor. Labor is ruled by
the U.S. Department of Labor, not City
Council, not the Rebuild, not the
Disparity Study. And the Department of
Labor indicates that the workforce in
Philadelphia has a number, and that
number is -- let's just say for my
argument there's 1,880,000, and of that
1,880,000 of the workforce, which is
defined as those people that are working
and people that have looked for work in
the last three months, that is the
workforce in Philadelphia County. And if
Philadelphia County -- if that workforce
consists of 20 percent African Americans
or minorities for this case and 40
percent women, then anything that we look
at, any field, any profession should have
those same ratios, 20 percent and 40
percent. That is workforce.

(Applause.)

MR. ALI: And so going forward, if we're going to have a criteria, we need to look at that criteria of workforce and we ought to have that.

And just in conclusion, I'd like to say that, you know, when Councilwoman Sanchez asked the fellow from PALM a question, and he said to her something that wasn't an accurate statement, and he said that -- he told you through his own language that the U.S. Department of Labor, which is the regulatory agency for labor, empowers the state local agency, which is the Department of Labor and Industry in Pennsylvania, which empowers the Pennsylvania Apprentice Council, and in that Council, he said that whoever has an apprentice program, which is the language, that if you have an apprentice program, you have to take a test, but in fact what the law says, if you're going
to have an apprentice program, a program consists of two components. One is the work component, which is you have to work 2,000 hours, and the other is you need 144 hours of classroom instruction. You don't need a test, because for that 144 hours of classroom instruction, you have to identify a third-party provider to provide you with -- to provide the classroom training. So you get a student in there for the classroom training. They do 144 hours, and you're going to give them the work when they come out.

And then thinking about that program -- and I'll finish with this one point. So we're talking about -- you said about -- let's talk about direct entry into the CTE program, which the CTE program is approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and we have people in class four years in a row. Every year they're tested by former union members. They file a program of instruction according to ONET. ONET is the national
database of employment. So their
classification -- whatever field they're
following, it has a construction code,
like a Social Security number, and it has
a code that identifies that construction.
They get tested. They go up to the next
level. They're tested up to the next
level, all the way up to the fourth year.
So when they come out of that fourth
year, if they're carpenters, HVAC,
whatever they are, they know what they
want to do. Why won't we give them a
test, an assessment to see what you want
to do and you can spend four years doing
that?

(Applause.)

MR. ALI: So that makes no
sense.

So you're on the right track.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jihad, I
have to call you.

MR. ALI: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
otherwise we'll never get through this.
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Mr. Muhammad, please.

MINISTER MUHAMMAD:

Minister Rodney Muhammad, Minister of Mosque No. 12, President of the Philadelphia NAACP.

Let me just say I'm here because of a higher memo of understanding. When God woke me up this morning, that was my memo of understanding, to worship him and serve my fellow man. And Philadelphia has got to learn that lesson.

Jesus said what does it profit a man that he should gain the whole world and then lose his soul? He was citing that there's a wide cavern between what the world deems as legally right and what God sees as morally wrong.

I've lived in this city for over 25 years, and the work sites that I have seen, I've seen they got more work here than workers, and when they have less workers, they're bringing people from Virginia and North Carolina, and
that's morally wrong. And, you know, I just want to say that when you go out of this state to get workers, it's telling me that we're unwanted. So we have to come to the party uninvited, and that's the way we are here.

Much of the urban blight that we see today is the result of moral decay, because we are failing in our moral responsibility. High inequality of wealth, high doses of income inequality have left our communities in a state of ruin. And I remind us in history that in 1865 at the end of the Civil War, the only skilled tradesmen in this country were black men, not minorities.

Minorities is a term that troubles me because it's not illegal to include everyone, but minorities weren't enslaved. It wasn't minorities that had to sit at the end of a whip, and it was black men in particular that were the skilled labor in this country. Systemically we were moved out of that,
and now we're trying to find our way back in.

So I'm just calling on the City of Philadelphia to do what is morally right. There are a lot of other things that I could say, but many stakeholders have brought that up. What the NAACP wants to see in the end, where is the roadmap, where is the formula that takes an unemployed black male from being a spectator when construction is going on right in his own neighborhood to making him a participant. That's what we want to see.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Wait.

Hold on. I have a list here. Are you -- the next three names I have, Kim Riddick, Ozetta Jones, and Reverend Chester Williams and Rena Graves. Any of them here?
You are who?

MR. RIDDICK: Kim Riddick.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

Please, have a seat.

What's your name, sir?

MR. TROTTER: Charles Shaka Trotter. I'm going to take the place of somebody that's not here.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, are you on the list?

MR. TROTTER: Oh, yeah. Definitely I'm on the list.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, when your name is called, come up. When your name is called, you can come up.

MR. TROTTER: All right. Call your three people.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. I got Kim Riddick. Ozetta Jones is not here? Reverend Chester Williams?

No? Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

Please, come up.

Sir, if you could yield the seat so the people whose names are
called --

MR. TROTTER: Sir, can I take Ozetta's spot?

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You can sign up.

MR. TROTTER: I did sign up already.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Well, then you're on the list. You have to wait. There's 25 people on the list. Only fair to take people as they signed up.

Sorry, sir.

MR. RIDDICK: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So we got -- you're Rena Graves?

MS. JONES: I'm Ozetta Jones.

Rena is not here.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. And we got Reverend Williams. Fine.

Mr. Riddick, please, identify yourself and proceed.

MR. RIDDICK: Yes. My name is Kim Riddick.
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on, please.

Please. Please. Let's be respectful to everybody, please.

I'm sorry.

MR. RIDDICK: Yes, sir. My name is Kim Riddick and I'm requesting the City Council to vote no on this bill, on this Rebuild. There's no way that City Council should allow this to proceed. You have a situation where you just read a vit (ph) and a will.

The union doesn't support black people. They already have apprenticeship program. We're not in it. You're allowing this to occur, which doesn't make any sense. It makes no sense at all to allow the union to organize and to cater to this situation. It doesn't make sense.

What I propose is to take the union completely out of this and allow an independent group to sit and study this and come back with a better solution,
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because it's not going to work.

And then I really can't understand how you allow someone that's being under federal investigation, which is union members, to sit and to negotiate for us, for people of color, minorities.

So what I'm asking is for City Council to vote no on this process and to come up with a better solution.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jones is it?

MS. JONES: Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes, please.

MS. JONES: First giving honor to almighty God, the Father, the Son, in Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit.

We are to rebuild --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: State your name.

MS. JONES: I'm sorry. My name is Ozetta Jones and I'm from the CBNC,
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

MS. JONES: We are to rebuild our communities, and one of the main components that is important to rebuilding any community first is the people, the people themselves, not the structures and the buildings. And if we ignore the people, the structures and the buildings are just materials. They're not going to last. It's the people who we must be investing in. And we must invest in the people who look like ourselves and look like the persons in that community.

These dollars should be put in the hands of responsible stakeholders and residents in these councilmanic districts and to responsible community organizations, such as Reverend Williams and others, many others, who have a
40-year or more track record in serving their community, because they have a vested interest in their community. They live there and, therefore, they can maintain, they can monitor their investment, which is in themselves, which are the things that are in the community, such as their homes and houses, the blocks, the parks, the playgrounds, the school, the businesses. You get the picture. And that brings me to a point, that there are too many people, especially elderly, in the urban community who cannot fix up their homes. Part of this is due to redlining in the City also.

So we need people who can put money into the hands of people, the residents, who need to do this block by block. I mean, it can be paid directly to contractors in the form of Block Grants where the homeowner doesn't have to get the money directly, so there's an accountability, but approved contractors,
and it can be with minority contractors who are fixing up their own communities. The people who live there are doing the work and reaping the benefits of that project and they will also maintain that project, so that block by block the community overall is looking better, safer, cleaner, reducing crime, and instead of putting guns and drugs into the hands and putting that in the reach of our young black males and young males in the City, we need to be putting, as we were explaining earlier, the tools of the trade and business industry into their hands and that knowledge.

So Block Grants, business corridor improvements, that any business in any corridor, they should be made or be held accountable to form an association and maintain that corridor in terms of safety and cleanliness and also a uniformity, so people know that this is a business corridor and that they're responsible for the upkeep of that
corridor and safety to the residents and
the shoppers there, especially if they're
getting tax breaks from the City.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
I'm going to have to call you on the two
minutes. This clock is not working. If
you could just wrap up, please.

MS. JONES: Okay.

Also we need quality affordable
housing for working professionals in our
neighborhoods, condos, apartments, and we
also have to monitor other people from
coming into our community and raping it
by breaking up the halls and making them
apartments and also bringing in services
that we don't need, like a lot of corner
stores. And, again, training our youth,
putting them into the building and trade
and construction industry.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
you, ma'am.

MS. JONES: And connecting with
the houses of worship where a lot of the
responsible people --
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
I'm going to have to cut you off, just to
give everybody a fair chance.

MS. JONES: Okay.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
very much.

Reverend Williams, please.

REVEREND WILLIAMS: Good
evening, everyone.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
evening.

REVEREND WILLIAMS: I'd like
for City Council to listen real
carefully. If everyone here would just
stand up for a second, stand up, just
stand up. Just stand up. Don't be
ashamed. Just stand up.

This is the community. It's a
diverse community. If the union can't
diverse their union, they need to go.

(Applause.)

REVEREND WILLIAMS: If they
can't choose the people from the
community and make them quality, I
support City Council to tell them you got to go somewhere else. This is our community. If we cannot serve the people that you live with and next door to, you need to go. I'm saying it blunt because God knows the truth.

City Council people, you have to stand up and be bold. Speak with authority. These young developers need to break down this barrier, and I love the phrase of our President Reagan, "tear down this wall." Say it with me. Tear down this wall.

(TM) REVEREND WILLIAMS: Tear down this wall.

(TM) REVEREND WILLIAMS: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

(Applause.)
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

Please listen up now. Our next group, Kevin Lumpkin. Is Kevin Lumpkin here?

Kevin Lumpkin?

Okay. Come on up.

Jamal Johnson and Shaka Trotter.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

MR. TROTTER: Thought you got rid of me, didn't you?

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

Mr. Lumpkin, you want to --

MR. TROTTER: He's not here.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm Mr. Johnson.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You're Jamal Johnson, okay.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm Jamal Johnson.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you for bringing this up today. One of the issues that we'd like to bring -- first
we want to thank all the Councilpersons for making this happen and what our input into the MOU that's come before Philadelphia today.

Now, we know that Philadelphia, since I've been in construction, has not been that friendly to the African American contractor in terms of inclusion. When Goode was President -- when Goode was the Mayor, when the Honorable Wilson Goode was the Mayor, we had -- we were getting a lot of public works jobs.

MR. TROTTER: Opportunity.

MR. JOHNSON: We were doing six-digit contracts, six- and seven-digit contracts, but on the invent of the PLA, the project labor agreement, the City -- we thought it was actually a discriminatory move that excluded African American contractors, because the PLA said that -- made the City signator to the unions, and historically we haven't been in the unions. So with that PLA, it
pretty much eliminated the large participation of African American contractor with City projects, because we were doing the public works projects. So with the invention of the PLA, it kind of like took us out of that picture, and we were the main employers of the African American young boys in the community. We were hiring them. You know, the young boys was working. And then with the invention of the PLA, we kind of like -- our public works projects kind of like got real almost with a zero.

So this is an opportunity now to bring us back into the play, to bring the African American contractor back into play, because we honor the young boys that's in the community. They ask us to work. They ask us to take them on jobs. We can't really give them adequate, decent jobs because we don't have the six- and seven-digit contracts to give them employment. We're doing a lot of small jobs, and those small jobs doesn't
give us the ability to hire a lot of young boys. So with this MOU, we hope that we have principals that know about the problems that we have as African American contractors put some input in this MOU.

Now, if you have unions devising the plan, I mean, what we're saying, it's like actually letting the fox kind of like say how you're going to protect your hens. Without the inclusion of the people that they're trying to help, it's kind of difficult.

I mean, we think that -- you got principals like Jihad Ali that's really versed in construction. You got guys like me that been a African American contractor for over 20 years. I mean, see, we know the problems that we're facing with the participation of these public works projects.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, if I could ask you to wrap up.

MR. JOHNSON: And if we can
commit somehow become part of the solution,
become part of delivering suggestions on
how we can solve this problem, we'd like
to.

Like one thing, for instance,
if we're a certified contractor and then
the job says you're union only, what good
is it being certified if we can't
participate on a public works job that's
funded by the City and we can't even
participate in it because the call says
union only?

But we're not anti-union,
because we love what the union said. We
love the product that they produce and
all that, but we're just not in the mix.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
right. Sir --

MR. JOHNSON: So what we'd like
to do in closing, what we'd like to do is
come up with some kind of language that
says, okay, if you're certified, you
don't have to be union to get on the
project. I mean, we need things like
that to help us out so we can employ our
young boys, because you got guys in the
union with 65 family members working.
Everybody and their mother working on
City public-funded jobs, but when it come
to us, we got to look at them and they
say, This is a union-only job. So we
like to --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, all
right. I appreciate that.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, if
you could identify yourself. Just state
your name and proceed.

MR. TROTTER: My name is
Charles Shaka Trotter and I'm with the
Contractors' Roundtable. First and
foremost, I'd like to thank Councilwoman
Cindy Bass and Councilwoman Jannie
Blackwell. They have been our sojourner
truth and Harriet Tubman to black
contractors in Philadelphia. One
speaking the truth, dissect the trick
from the truth, and the other leading us
in the direction away from this economic apartheid that black men find themselves in in the black community.

Just three dragon heads that they're fighting is, one, the police are killing us on the street. Two, we killing each other. And three is this economic apartheid. No jobs. A lot of us go to drugs, selling drugs, which ends up with casualties.

I thank God that they spared Brother Pryce Johnson's life, who was shot four times in the back but lived. We want to stop that. We need this work.

Two things. One, with this license that -- we know who is pulling the strings. We know Papa Doc is pulling the strings. With this license, the same way they use identification to vote, to suppress the voter turnout, is the same way they use this license to suppress the turnout for black men. We are the most racially identified driving while black, stop, give us a ticket, we don't have no
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job, can't pay the ticket, we don't have
no license, so now we can't get in the
union and build.

A lot of those jobs in the
union, you're not driving anything. You
come in there working.

Now, as far as the fox guarding
the henhouse, check this out. Councilman
Kenyatta -- is he here? Oh, yeah. Let's
say if you went down Spring Garden, Broad
and Spring Garden and you filled out an
application to get in the union. We know
how intelligent you are. I watched you
grow as a young man. You graduated from
Mansfield University, top honors, because
my son graduated with you at the same
college.

You go back, and they say, You
failed the test. Now, how you going to
fail the test? It's an intellectual
assumption that something is wrong. It's
not that you're too stupid to pass the
test, but you're too black to get in the
union.
Now, you go there and say, Let me see my test. I know I ain't fail. And they tell you, I'm not going to give you the test, because the information is privy to the organization. So you never see the test. So now we got to trust the union --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, have a seat.

MR. TROTTER: -- to get black people in? That's the fox guarding the henhouse.

So what I'm saying is, give me somebody like Al Spivey, Saboor and, you know, the brother from -- Ty from Cindy Bass, and we turn this whole damn city upside down. You think you was in Amini (ph), Atlanta.

There's got to be a change.

And I just want to thank the City Council for taking the heart and audacity to stand on the right side of history. It's overdue. Thank God. Now my grandchildren -- I mean, it's like will
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the real City Council please stand up.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, sir.

MR. TROTTER: Thank you so very much.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Our next three, Imam Kenneth Nuriddin -- Nuriddin. I'm sorry.

Rochelle Bilal.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I'm sorry. You are? I'm sorry.

MR. HANAFI: Muhammad Hanafi.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You got to wait -- let me call your name. I'm trying to call people in order here.

Rochelle is coming up.

Emanuelle Bussie, is he here? I saw him earlier. Here he comes. Okay.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
right. Please, Imam, please start. Just identify yourself and proceed, please.

IMAM NURIDDIN: Good afternoon, City Council. I am Imam Kenneth Nuriddin, the Imam of the Philadelphia Masjid, Clara Muhammad School, and I have to speak very quickly, but first I would like to commend all of the Councilmembers for this reason here. The Muslim community is now in the midst of its Ramadan fasting, and in about two weeks, we're going to have an EID recognition, which Council did a lot to help us make something recognized by the City, but EID also stands -- EID, equality, inclusion, and diversity. And let us take these words very seriously, because this has really been EID Recognition Day for equality, inclusion, and diversity. I will say one thing. The vehicle that is used when we have a PLA means that we give a monopoly the right to determine which lines are used to deliver to construction sites, and they
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call themselves locals. They originate
many times in the suburbs. They are
full, and by the time they get to the
inner city neighborhoods, they go right
by us. And so in reality, they aren't
locals. They are express lines that pass
right by the inner city community.

So what we are advocating,
there has to be some breaking up of a
monopoly. It doesn't mean that you get
rid of the entity that exists, but it
means that a monopoly may be efficient
but it's not effective in doing what has
to be done. So we need some local
alternatives, and there are things in the
works. Based on all of the presentations
made today, I'm certain that we can very
quickly make shovel-ready alternatives to
what exists, because we can't keep going
down the same road and think we're going
to get a different result. We know what
that is a description of. If you do the
same thing and you expect something
different, none of us want to be defined
So, again, thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please, just state your name for the record.

MS. BILAL: Rochelle Bilal. I am President of the Guardian Civic League and also Secretary of the Philadelphia branch of the NAACP, but I am not here on that capacity at all. I'm here as a longstanding citizen of the City, thirty years of public service. I raised my daughter, who can't get a job in the City that pays nothing because she works now an hour away from the City, because what they offered her after graduating from school is nothing.

I raised other kids in the City. Public service and inner city -- and I will be 60 years old this month. That means I've been here. I've been here when they raised the rent, they
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changed the water, they changed the policies. You Councilpeople, it's on you, because poverty has increased on your watch. It's increased. It didn't go down. It went up.

I lived at Lawrence and Cumberland. I lived at 6th and York. I am a part of this city, and I'm not going anywhere for another 60 years. But I'm here to say -- and I'm really shocked that the project went up to 50 percent, but let me say this: I am not a minority. I'm part of the black and brown people of the City. Stop using "minority," because when you do that, over the past 20 and 30 years, people that have black and brown got less than 6 percent of any of the things in the City, if they got that. So we want you to start using the right word, black and brown people of this city. Because when you use "minority," you don't include us.

I don't want to get upset, because we've been doing this for too
I got 15 seconds. Other people have four and a half minutes and now you're going to check me.

In reference to these training, I was trained in the Philadelphia Police Department, that we went through the training and we had to go and we had to take a test. The one thing that I need to walk away to let you know this. They taught that test in the Academy. So if they're going to these training classes and the carpenters who need a sponsor and don't let people in, then they need to teach the test, not teach ABC and then go give them a test that they haven't even covered. Teach the test.

And I'm going to say this: I want to thank Councilwoman Parker, Councilwoman Bass, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Councilwoman Blackwell. When women take control of things, stuff get done.

Thank y'all.
MR. BUSSIE: Good evening, everyone. My name is Emanuelle Bussie. I'm the Director of Operations for the Coalition of African American Organizations, also represent a group called Professionals for Progress and, more importantly, I'm a different kind of democrat.

MS. BILAL: So am I.

MR. BUSSIE: So I stand here encouraged. So when you see me come in Council and I'm all passionate, I'm passionate because I'm actually encouraged, because this is the most sophisticated, well-educated, well-informed, studious City Council I've ever seen, and me and Councilman Clarke go back about 26 years. This is a dynamite City Council.
The problem in our community is not that we don't hit our targets, because we actually can hit our targets. The problem is, we aim too daggone low. What I'm encouraged and this sophisticated, savvy, informative -- and I'm really encouraged by Derek Green. I mean, I've been watching him and been checking him out. This Council is dynamite. I just think that we need to aim a little bit higher. If it ain't 50 percent black and brown, it shouldn't go down, right? We not just talking about jobs. We always talking about servicing the black community, servicing the brown community, but if you expand contracting opportunities for black and brown and make contracting opportunities fair, guess what? Black contractors hire black people. Brown contractors hire brown people. We have to stop talking about this in terms of jobs and talk about contracting and employment and
professional services. We have to expand the gamut in terms of opportunity for our people in the City, because what happens is, if you expand opportunities for black and brown people, you expand opportunity for Philadelphia. Because as Philadelphia go, as black and brown people go, Philadelphia goes, because as Rochelle said, we're actually -- black and brown people are not the minority. Black and brown people are the majority. So what you have a situation is the minority, white people, actually supporting the majority, brown people and black people, when you lock them out. When you lock black and brown people out, you actually do a disservice to the City of Philadelphia. Don't look at it and the unions shouldn't look at it as a situation where if I give black and brown people a bigger slice of the pie, that means it's less pie for me. You know what you do? Bake another daggone pie. Because you're never going to run out of
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enough dough and water.

What we need to do is expand
to a reasonable opportunity, not just access but
opportunity. And I'm going to tell City Council -- I'm going to share this with
City Council, that if you -- the question
is about capacity, how do we do it, how
do we do it, do we have black contractors
able to get these kind of jobs. I
guarantee you if you hold up the
contracts of $500 million contracts or $1
billion worth of contracts for white
people until they find black contractors,
until they find black people that can do
the work, I bet you they'll find some way
to find black people with the capacity to
do that work.

I just think it's up to this
body. This is a rare moment in time, and
I'm really optimistic about this because
of the leadership that we have in
Council. I mean, we always look to
denigrate Council, but this is a dynamite
Council, and Council has an opportunity
at this space in time to actually change
the dynamics of Philadelphia in terms of
opportunity for black and brown people,
and I'm really looking forward to you
guys. When you see me all passionate,
it's because I really want you guys to
seize this opportunity.

I look at a lot of
documentaries about Philadelphia. You
guys have the opportunity to do something
that has never been done in 70 years in
this city, which is expand opportunity
for black and brown people, which expands
opportunity for the City of Philadelphia.

I thank you guys.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Our next
group, Gwen Toler? Okay.

Albert Hicks? No? Okay.

Muhammad Hanafi.

MR. HANAFI: That's me.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Your turn
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now.

MR. HANAFI: That's right.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And


(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So, Ms. Toler, your name came first. Please state your name.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Albert Hicks, did you call him?

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's my constituent.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We got to take care of Councilman Johnson's constituent.

Ms. Whittaker, why don't you just stay right in one of those chairs right there, so you'll be next.

Mr. Hicks, why don't you sit there.
Okay. Ms. Toler, please.

MS. TOLER: Hi. My name is Gwendolyn Toler and I'm from Hawthorne. I'm the block captain, the Secretary on the Advisory Council, and I'm a foster parent, grandparent, a parent, whatever you want to call me. I'm into that community.

I'm here about my playground. I want it rebuilt because the rec, when it rain outside, it rain inside. It's very deplorable. I have two basketball courts with three big holes in it, a tower that's sinking, along with a generator with it and what floods my basement.

Rebuild it so we can feel the love in our communities. If we say we're community oriented, let's be community oriented. Talking it ain't doing it. Actions is what I like to see, because I have children that are down there that cannot play.

I have two parks around me
that's nicely done, nicely built, but I have a playground that's crumbling all around us. And you're talking about these people needing jobs. Yes, they do. Some come gifted with the talents to do the work that they need to do. They don't need a union. They need work. So give it to them. Y'all know what we need. There are erasers on pencils. Start erasing y'all mistakes that y'all make along with us in the communities. That's all we have to do, and that's not a lot to do.

Rebuild these libraries. Rebuild these recs. Rebuild these playgrounds. That's what we need to be done. That's what I'm here about, rebuilding America. Let's make it great again, not make it work for some and gone for others.

We actually violate a need in this children -- in the limbo of these things that y'all don't even care about. You don't even show them the love about
So if we about America, let's be about it and let's get it together and get it done together. It's with the numbers, and I'm not hearing the number. George is here. So is Olivia. They calling down here to back them up. I'm backing them up. And I'm here to back the Councilpeople up too and these wonder womens y'all got down here. All of them are sitting with you. They're all women of color and all women to take us there. Y'all need to back them too.

So it takes the strong women to back you men up.

And I'm done. That's my two minutes of saying.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

Mr. Hicks.

MR. HICKS: Good evening. My name is Albert Hicks and I'm actually here present in City Council Chambers in the capacity of an officer/member of Hawthorne's Advisory Council.
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Our Advisory Council has stood with the Parks Alliance lobbying with Mayor Kenney's passage of the soda tax since our Mayor announced it at the Olney Rec Center.

The New York Times has an iconic picture with the Mayor and I standing next to a big brightly lit soda machine, gazing at the petitions that we already been circulated within the Hawthorne community explaining the soda tax to our residents. George Matysik and his team was instrumental with helping us achieve that goal.

Hawthorne's basketball court, as Ms. Gwen had just described, had developed large depressed craters and cracks, along with eruptions of asphalt, small hills sticking up on one side of the court. It seemed like a subterranean problem might exist. With the many pleas and complaints going to our Councilman's office concerning the severe damage present upon Hawthorne's basketball
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courts, it prompted our illustrious Councilman, the Honorable Kenyatta Johnson, to investigate what was going on. The City's engineering team was called to study the subterranean possible cause or causes.

The ordinance of Bill No. 170206 addressing the bond issue, we surely urge our Council to pass this bill so that we can fund the reconstruction of the court and playground area.

Hawthorne Recreation Center is also one of the sites for the City's children's performing arts camp and by the end of June will host this camp in our facility, which is still seemingly under construction.

In closing, I would like to remind the Council that they supported the view of Mayor Kenney's soda tax. The benefits of Rebuild surely outweighs the soda industry and their opponents to rid our city's proposed new ability to enhance our recreation center, our
libraries, and our parks and to aid in
the parents with the kindergartners.

To those of you that understand
the benefits of funding these very long
underfunded centers, parks, libraries,
keep standing tall against this special
interest group and continue to fight for
our communities' children, preteens,
teens, and over-increasing senior
citizens population that utilize these
same facilities and parks I just
mentioned.

Listen, I've been a black
contractor for quite a few years, and
after sitting here listening to what was
going on in reference to hiring
minorities, I hired, just like gentleman
and people already that talked before me,
many people that look like me in the
community, and I made sure that as a
black contractor, I had to follow the
rules verbatim, because I got called on
by various agencies quite a few times
trying to kick me off the jobs, but I was
My contention is that Rebuild have been meeting with the City's PRAC organization, and I've sat with Mr. Gould and several of his colleagues, and we talked about this very thing, about hiring people of color, what we can do as an RCO to oversee, I guess, projects that's coming into the community. Some of the answers they gave me at these meetings were similar to what we have here. Because they're still new, they don't have it all down pat, but you got to start somewhere. So I am still behind the fact that we need Rebuild to do what they have to do.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up.

MR. HICKS: Some of the T's, some of the I's have to be dotted. With that said, since I'm running out of time, thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.
Please. State your name for the record and proceed.

MR. HANAFI: My name is Muhammad Hanafi. I'm Assistant Imam of the Philadelphia Masjid, Vice President of Clara Muhammad CDC. I also worked for Kenyatta's campaign.

How you doing, brother? Good to see you. Good to see Curt, everybody else in here.

Here's my issue: Clara Muhammad, we've always stood for do for self. I want this Council to understand that you're going to have to do for self. And what does that mean? It means do it yourself.

Here's the problem: I hear people talking about apprentice-ready. That's still not an apprentice program. That means you're still at the mercy of the unions, and I don't care if you pass the test, because you haven't passed the number one test, and that means that it's predominantly white. So that's the test
that need to be passed, black or white.

We need our own black unions.

It's just that simple. We need to
develop apprenticeship programs that are
certified by the Department of Labor
under all 16 locals. I'm not speaking
about Local 332, because Local 332 is a
representation of a real union that
reflects the demographics of the City.
It just so happened that the laborers
union is the lowest paid union in the
City, but that's not the point. The
other 16 don't care about black people.
And if you don't believe me, go on the
Local 98 web page right now, the IBEW 98.
It's a picture that is horrifying. It's
a picture of white men, like about 90
white men, sitting there staring at you.
They look like the ones that lynched my
grandfather down South. They look like
gangsters. They look like criminals who
will kill you if you try to get in that
union. Now, why would you put that on
your web page in the year 2017 in the
City of Philadelphia, if that's not an intimidation tactic to tell black people and Puerto Ricans and Hispanics to stay out.

Now, here's my point:
Absolutely not should this thing pass. That PLA is worthless. That MOU is worthless. The definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing, expect a different result. The only thing that we can do right now is take that money that they talking about for training and start black apprenticeship programs in the black community and black unions that parallel the white unions. That's the only solution.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

(Capplause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
Ms. Whittaker, if you want to come up, and we'll call two more names.
Ms. Whittaker, please come on up. And then I have Mike Abdullah, is he here?
Okay. And Greg Allen? Okay. Come on up, please.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ms. Whittaker, why don't you get started. Please identify yourself and get started.

MS. WHITTAKER: Good evening.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good evening.

MS. WHITTAKER: My name is Denise Whittaker. I'm the Vice President of Community Action Group. I would like to thank City Council for the opportunity today to give testimony why Rebuild and supporting the Philadelphia Parks Alliance is important to my community. I live in the Northwest section of North Philadelphia. I'm sure you will recognize that area as Allegheny West. However, several years ago my organization adopted the name of Swampoodle Heights because we are situated between the historically named
section of Swampoodle, East Falls, and Paradise. I could talk more about that, but that is not what this conversation is about today.

I'm here today to speak about the importance of Rebuild and what it will do for my community. My organization has been together for 17 years, and we served our organization well. We were formed in opposition to a business that was not going to bring value to our community. Neighbors came together on one accord, and that was our first victory. Since then, we've worked together as a community with one thought in mind, and that's improving the quality of life for everyone.

When we formed this organization, providing educational and recreational activities has always been very important to us. The one constant problem we have always had is the space to function in a way that would best serve our community. Our community
recreation center is a one-room facility that is not conducive to serve the young or the seasoned members of the community in a way that they deserve. Because of the lack of space, we cannot have more than one activity going on at the same time. For example, chess practice, arts and crafts, and homework help cannot operate in the same room at the same time.

In addition to the facility, the grounds also need help. Every recreation center that I know of has a basketball court, but all children do not play basketball nor have the desire to do so. There was a slide and swings, but these are in need of repair. And I have pictures.

There are other sports that our neighborhood children can participate in and should be exposed to, such as track and field, baseball, and swimming. There is surrounding space available on the grounds to cultivate other outdoor
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activity.

Our children are deprived of having a safe place. I don't need to go into any statistics of what a well-functioning recreation center would mean for my community, because you already know. I ask you today, please don't make us wait any longer. We are losing our young people, and now is the time for City Council to pass the ordinances to begin the projects and support the Philadelphia Parks Alliance.

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Ms. Whittaker, let me ask, I see you're down here twice. Shuler Rec, is that you too?

MS. WHITTAKER: Yes, for Shuler Recreation.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You only get one shot now. You're down here twice, but you only get one shot.

MS. WHITTAKER: All right.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
Please, whoever would like to go next.

MR. ALLEN: Good evening,
Council President, Councilmembers.
Ramadan Kareem to my Councilmember, Curtis Jones, who represents the Fourth District, and all of the guests in Chambers. My name is Greg Allen. I am a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. A year ago today I was here in this Chambers giving testimony as to why I thought you should nominate me to be a member of this Commission. I'm also a member of the Philadelphia Police Department PSA No. 1 in the 19th District, and I'm a Philly 311 neighbor liaison.

In the last year I have attended plenty of press events and visited lots of rec centers, but the one that I testified a year ago was the one, like Councilman Henon, that I live across the street from, which is Tustin Playground where a young man, Bernard
Scott, was murdered in the field through no fault of his own, through nothing to do with Tustin Playground. And another man in our community named James Patrick Stuhlman, who was murdered walking his dog by two young men who had been playing at a playground nearby.

These events, in my experience, could have been prevented if those young people had more active, more engaging things to do. And over the last year, as a Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, here's what I've seen, here's what I know: Like you, the conditions in most of our rec centers are really challenging. Rebuild is not just about unions and jobs and facilities. It's about neighborhoods. Like Councilman Jones, I encourage you to think of it as the Philadelphia Neighborhood Reinvestment Act, because when cleanliness, Philly 311, neighborhood services, and public safety and recreation facilities all come together,
it has the potential to completely change
the neighborhood, like our Overbrook
neighborhood, where you can Google. You
see some of the things that have been
happening and how they can be changed
through Rebuild.

The other thing I've seen is

that --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If I
could ask you to just wrap up, please.

MR. ALLEN: Yup.

-- is that residents, visitors,
and staff are anxious. They're not real
sure -- like Council President Clarke
says, is the money going to be available.
We're not sure. We're going to convince
them that it is. Time is urgent. Time
for us to move forward. I encourage you
to do so with post haste. I also
encourage you on the diversity and
inclusion of workforce parts. I've had
the pleasure of working with Kathryn Ott
Lovell and George at the Parks Alliance
and PRAC, Mike McCrea. I know that they
all intend well. And I want to congratulate you on being bold to take on this initiative. I support Rebuild everywhere I go.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, I'm going to have to ask you --

MR. ALLEN: I use that hashtag.

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

(Appause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

MR. ABDULLAH: Good afternoon, City Council, and good afternoon, City Councilman, President Councilman Clarke. I come from --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just state your name.

MR. ABDULLAH: I'm Assistant Imam at Masjid Muhammad. I'm working with 12th and Cambria Community Recreation Center as well as the community at-large in that area. We started out -- and I'm sort of like the
gentleman came up earlier who said I believe in do for self, and what I'm telling you is that when I came into this community and start working around 12th and Cambria Street area, we started out with an area that had a lot of trouble in it, shooting, gun killings all over the place. Within three-year period of time after we started working with the community center, we was 85 percent no crime. Why? Because we start cleaning up the area by our own self efforts. We started placing cameras in the community, cameras around the community center, over 32 cameras. We started creating programs, after-school programs. We started creating job programs. We started creating college programs where you actually come in, get your records expunged. We did so many different efforts around the community, bringing the community together, unwed mothers together, elderly people together, bringing them all into this recreation
center, which was only one room space, a small room space. We don't have many rooms in the recreation center, but one of the greatest things that I think we did was the fact that we bundled with the school and we started doing -- we built the computer room a library, where now we have the school teachers coming into the recreation center, giving help to have after-school programs. But we did all this according to our own efforts.

Now, one of the things that we look at is the fact that with all these programs, had we waited on policies, had we waited on ordinance or laws or any of these things, it would have never happened. And in the condition of our community, we can't wait for that. We had to take charge and do what was necessary to save lives to bring down the troubles.

Me myself, with praises be to God, I walk to the corners, actually talk to young men, say, You have sisters in
here, you have babies inside this recreation center. If you're going to sell, go far from here. Don't do it around here where kids might get shot or hurt. They agreed with me and moved from those areas. I didn't stop them from selling, but they moved from the area so that in that neighborhood, we had 85 percent less crime.

We took it and we started having community meetings, bringing in the police officers, bringing them there, the captain, Captain Craig, all the 25th District, bringing them in, working with them, having to walk around, be part of the community, introducing they self to the community so these things would cease.

Now, this is a fact, and you can ask your President of the Councilman. He's been there. This is his district, the Fifth District. So he had been with us all the things that I'm saying that we did.
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What I have to say today in plain and short is a story that we always said in our Islam. It's called Wellasa (ph), and that Wellasa refers to the fact that surely by time, men is their loss. And if we do not use our time well --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Sir, you have to --

MR. ABDULLAH:  If we do not use our time well, then surely we will be losers. And if we do not take and get this thing together and not allow ordinance and policies and laws and different things that are happening to us right now that we sat here and I heard today, if we put them in the way, we will not get where we're going and everything will become a loss to us.

I would like to see this generation benefit from what's going on with the Rebuild and the policies. I would like to see that happen.

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Thank
you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Our next group -- and I'm sorry. I'm reading handwriting here, so I may get this wrong. Nora Levitt. Okay. Mike McCrea. Mike still here?

(No response.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think he left.

(Witness approached witness table.)

MS. LEVITT: I'll correct you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: MaryAnn Lancaster. Okay. And Monica Allison. Monica Allison here? She's here? All right.

Please, Ms. Levitt, did I --

MS. LEVITT: I will spell it and I will tell you how to pronounce it. It's very simple.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Go ahead.

MS. LEVITT: My name is Nora, N-O-R-A, last name is L-E-V as in Victor,
I-T as in Tom, T as in Tom. That's Nora Levitt. And I didn't write that.

My name is Nora Levitt and my neighborhood is Wynnefield, and I am a longtime resident. I am President of Wynnefield Cultural Center Advisory Council at John C. Anderson Cultural Center, a member of Friends of Wynnefield Library, and member of the Board of Directors of Wynnefield Residents Association.

The Wynnefield Library and John C. Anderson Cultural Center are around the corner from one another near 54th Street and Overbrook Avenue, and WCCAC has recently received informational support from Philadelphia Parks Alliance.

Wynnefield, W-Y-N-N-E-F-I-E-L-D, was founded in 1690. You heard that right, 1690, and named for Thomas Wynne, physician to William Penn and the first speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Wynne had a house built in 1689 to '90 that was known as Wynnestay,
W-Y-N-N-E-S as in Sam, T as in Tom, A-Y, a Welsh word meaning Wynne's field. The Thomas Wynne house is the oldest continuously occupied house in Philadelphia and it is located at 52nd Street and Woodbine Avenue.

When my family moved to Wynnefield -- and I won't say how many years ago that was -- I was a young elementary school student. My brother, who was much older than I, wanted to know where he could find the local recreation center and the local library. There was none to be found. There was no library, no community centers.

Due to continued community activism, Wynnefield Library was opened in 1964. Wynnefield Cultural Center was opened about 1982. In 1984, the name of the Cultural Center was changed to John C. Anderson Cultural Center in memory of the late Councilman, who was able to obtain the funding for the building.

The library and cultural center
are in need of the following repairs and renovations that have not been made in many years due to the City's lack of funds. The John C. Anderson Cultural Center needs new steps to the basement where the Girl Scouts room and dance room are located; repair of a wall that is often wet and causes mildew problems; a replacement pump to prevent flooding, which has happened many times in the past; a new roof and gutters; replace central air conditioning, which hasn't worked for 25 years, and no AC units are usable for the halls, steps, and the basement classrooms; security cameras inside and outside --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Ma'am, I'm going to have to ask you --

MS. LEVITT: I know, but I want to finish, though. You gave more time to the other people.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, no. I'm trying to be fair to everybody.
MS. LEVITT: Wynnefield Library needs a new roof, new carpeting, especially in the large meeting room, and a courtyard to be made level, landscaping designed and set up, activity space created.

For your information, Wynnefield has never had a recreation center. The residents have wanted a large environmentally green recreation center for activities to be used by children, teens, and adults to be built at 53rd and Euclid Streets. Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. took over the responsibility of the future recreation center. He prevented the sale of the building along vacant former synagogue, turned alternative school and annex for Beeber Junior High School. He also made possible the resurfacing of the outdoor basketball court. I thank him for that.

Now, however --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,

I'm going to have to ask you to --
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MS. LEVITT: I'm finishing up, sir.


MS. LEVITT: Now, however, two different developers will be submitting requests to build senior citizen housing on most of this property, and the large recreation center will be reduced to a small community center type of building.

The Wynnefield community has been ignored for too many years. Wynnefield needs to be included in the Rebuild Philadelphia plans. That is why I support City Council's Ordinances 170207 and 170206, support the Mayor's budget initiatives --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. LEVITT: -- and support starting Rebuild as soon as possible.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

MS. LEVITT: Now I'm done.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please,
next speaker, please.

MS. LEVITT: Don't intimidate me.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please, identify yourself and proceed, please.

MS. ALLISON: Good evening. My name is Monica Allison and I'm here representing Cedar Park. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our friends group.

I'm here to speak in support of the two bills, even though we're just talking about 170206 today, because of their importance to advancing the Rebuild initiative. When the residents of Cedar Park began discussing renovations of our park, we realized that the park was located right in the center of our community. We knew it would take a while to get all the funding needed to complete the renovations, so we started with small but noticeable changes. First we established a garden. Then we removed the old fencing and so on.
What began to happen was that small changes and improvements while they were being made, the residents began to see the park in a different light. They began utilizing the park different. They cleaned up trash. They helped us weed, and they were conscious of the work that was being put into the park, even on a small scale, while we waited on larger renovation dollars. This is what we're asking Council to do. No, not all the funds are in place, but if we start by passing these ordinances, the community will see some of what we were told was going to happen with Rebuild. As more funding becomes available, residents will continue to buy into the process.

We need these ordinances passed now so that we don't lose the momentum behind our parks, rec centers, and libraries.

Once projects are started, they need to move quickly and efficiently without experiencing delays that a lot of
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projects in the City have experienced in
the past. We have high-quality
non-profit entities that can ensure our
carks, recreation centers, and libraries
get the improvements they deserve. And
it's important to use existing data in
choosing the sites for the funding. Too
often in this city money follows money,
and in this instance, we need to ensure
that the sites are in neighborhoods that
need the most investment.

I'm confident with the help of
Council Rebuild can allocate resources to
these underserved sites. As a proponent
of Rebuild, we understand that there has
to be collaboration between Council and
the Administration, and we're confident
that you will find ways to work together
without delaying the process itself.

Finally, community leaders --
as a community leader, we're asking that
you embrace the Administration's
diversity program and work closely to
ensure the success of partnering with the
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building trades so that 40 percent of all contracts are awarded to black, brown, and women in these businesses.

The hard part is already done.

You made the difficult decision to support the tax, and now we need you to take the next step to approve these ordinances and move this forward.

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

Please.

(Applause.)

MS. LANCASTER: I'm MaryAnn --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And we have your handout here.

MS. LANCASTER: Yes. I am MaryAnn Lancaster Tyler, and I am the liaison for Cliveden Park.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

Please, everybody try to keep your voice down a little bit. Show respect for the speakers, please.

I'm sorry.
MS. LANCASTER: And I'm going to be brief.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

MS. LANCASTER: Because I think all that had to be said has been said today.

I want to commend our Councilpersons, Cindy Bass and Cherelle Parker, and when I think of Councilwoman Blackwell, I always think of Lucien Blackwell also. And Curtis Jones. All of them know what we have to do. But I want you to think about the fact that we are living in very tumultuous times, and Philadelphia can set an example that will be a global example. And our children are watching us. For every park, for every recreation center, for every building that we have, place that we have in the middle of these communities, our children are watching and they need us to do this right. We don't need to go back over the same mistakes.

I passed this out. We never
did find out who wrote this, but I want
you as you make decisions about which
buildings will get what they need, which
ones don't need it, which parks will be
renewed and replenished, I want you to
think about all of our children that go
through these parks every day.

Our park, Cliveden Park, is
dead in the center of about five schools.
We are two blocks from Emlen, one block
away from Wissahickon Charter, two blocks
from Roosevelt, four blocks from Martin
Luther King, right in the middle, and our
children walk through every day, and what
they see and what they experience tells
us and tells them how we feel about them,
how we really care about them.

And so I want to take a minute
and then I'm finished.

Children learn what they live.

If a child lives with criticism, he
learns to condemn. If a child lives with
hostility, he learns to fight. If a
child lives with ridicule, he learns to
be shy. If a child lives with shame, he
learns to feel guilty. If a child lives
with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

That's in our rec centers and
all the other places.

If a child lives with
encouragement, he learns to have
confidence. If a child lives with
praise, he learns to appreciate. If a
child lives with fairness -- we've got to
be fair with this project -- he learns
justice. If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith.

Are those buildings secure?
Can they be trusted? Can we keep having
our children there?

If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself. If a child
lives with acceptance and friendship, he
learns to find love in the world.

Philadelphia, let's show them
what should be done and how it should be
done.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
you, ma'am. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Listen, everybody, we're just going to take a couple-minute break for our stenographer and we'll be right -- we have about four or five more people that have asked to speak. I want to make sure anybody that is interested in speaking, they've already signed up.

(Short recess.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Can we get started again, please.

All right. We're going to have two more panels and that's it. I got Todd Pride. He is here? Todd Pride, come on up.

And I'm really going to mess this name up. Sorry. Regina Gorzkowska. She's coming back? All right. We'll wait.

And then Christopher Morello.

He left? Okay.

Marion Johnson, why don't you
come up. Marion.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. So who do we have here?

Come on, quiet, please.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Joy?

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: She might as well come up because Regina is not here. Joy Watson, come on up.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Please.

Mr. Pride, please, identify yourself and proceed, please.

MR. PRIDE: Sure.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I'm asking everybody, please stick to two minutes.

MR. PRIDE: Thank you, Councilman. I know it's been a long day.

My name is Todd Pride and I am here representing a couple --
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

I'm sorry.

Please, over in the corner, please. Please give everybody respect now.

I'm sorry.

MR. PRIDE: Thank you, Councilman. Again, my name is Todd Pride. I'm here representing a couple of different hats. I am the President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of FDR Park in South Philadelphia. We are arguably the largest park segment within the Fairmount Park system with 348 acres and about 120,000 visitors per year, and I think just about every zip code in the City FDR Park has a number of activities in. And also in addition to that, professionally oversee a five-state organization that is based here in Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers and Outdoors Program, and I know a number of our Councilmembers here have been very supportive of our activities
and having introduced over 9,000 youth to fishing and the outdoors. And while we have very spirited and I think healthy discussions over this last couple hours regarding some of the diversity issues with the Rebuild initiative, but I'm speaking specifically to what this initiative is poised to do. And I think myself, similar to some of other speakers, altered a part of our comments to adjust to where I think the momentum is going. And my first comment and thought was, we are really at the doorstep with this Rebuild initiative of a loss of momentum, if I can speak to that.

In addition to overseeing a five-state organization, we're fortunate to work with the OST program here in Philadelphia managed by Public Health Management Corporation and overseeing introduction of some of these outdoor activities and recreational activities at 172 sites and 68 non-profit organizations.
serving almost 16,000 to 18,000 students per year. And I think as we all listen to the national news, I mean, this $500 million initiative is here at a time when millions and millions and hundreds of millions of dollars are being cut out of local and state budgets all over the country. I mean, I left Governor Carney in Delaware yesterday, and that state is facing a $400 million deficit. I was asked to speak in Washington last month where our President has cut millions and millions of dollars from not only just after-school programs, but other initiatives.

So I think this vote on the ordinances, which I ask you all to strongly consider moving ahead with, is going to be a remarkable opportunity for Philadelphia or a remarkable loss.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Can I ask you to please wrap it up, please.

MR. PRIDE: So I just ask you to strongly consider supporting what's on
the table right now, because I think we're at a point where we're either going to advance far forward where a lot of people are looking for us to fail or for those of us that had made the investment in the future of the City.

So thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

Ms. Johnson, good to see you back here.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Marion Johnson. I'm here from the Logan area. I'm going to be as brief as I possibly can, because I know you need the time. And sitting in back of me is Cecil Hankins, and he's also in the Logan area, and we work very closely in that community. We've been working there for years. And I have -- I've been very excited because I was looking forward to the Rebuild project, everything being passed. We came here today to speak on that and say how we
support that bill, and unfortunately I must say I was disappointed. My excitement kind of died down, faded away, because I was disappointed.

We came here to take a position on that bill of support, but I must say after hearing my Councilperson, Councilwoman Bass, and Cherelle Parker here, Councilwoman Parker, and other Councilmembers, after I heard them do such a thorough job on questioning and getting more details about that, I was highly disappointed.

(Applause.)

MS. JOHNSON: And so I want to thank them, because I was thinking are they holding information back from us? That's the first thing coming in mind. You want people to be moving forward when you got a crisis like we got.

So I thank you all for bringing those things out, because it made me understand better, and I did explain as much as I could to my neighbors. I have
petitions that I'm handing in to my Council office, and I want to be able to go back and inform them now so that they will want to be disappointed with me thinking that what's she holding back. We was expecting her to come back here with some good news and that they had moved along on this Rebuild bill, but, again, unfortunately it didn't happen.

So now I want to get to what's really made us also determined that we would support this bill is because of -- what happened is, the building that we have for a playground -- and I refer to it like that. I've been there for many years. We've been up there working for years. It's in deplorable condition. Not that -- we who serve on that Advisory Council who work up there in the neighborhood all the time on our own, we work, we clean, we do everything like we are hired staff. Not that we don't do that. We do. But the Department of Recreation has been so lax in maintaining
that building as far as they should until
the building now needs to be demolished
and rebuilt, definitely rebuilt, because
of the condition it is in. The wireless,
the toilet facility for the children.

The one room, the one cement
room's construction building that our
children have to utilize for everything
at that recreation center, it has totally
outgrown its use. We're tired of
cleaning it. It's not that we're lazy
people, not that we're not interested in
our neighborhood, but it's not our job to
take care of that and take away time from
our children, because those children come
there, they should be on computers, they
should be in classes learning how to read
things, how to be prepared to go out to
work when they get to that point, as well
as having socialization in the recreation
center with people of all ages.

So although I'm saddened that
it's not as far gone as we had hoped,
that they would be no longer patching
this building and unnecessarily wasting money on a building that they know is unfit for human habitation.

And so I take that stand by saying the building is unfit for human habitation, because I can produce correspondence back to me from way back in the '80s where we always wrote to the Department of Recreation. We did the work and whatnot, but very little support and not really good cooperation from the Department. And so --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Ms. Johnson, I'm going to get accused of playing favorites if I don't call you on time.

MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I'm going to finish now.

So I'm thankful to have the opportunity to come here now and have a better understanding.

And, lastly, I want to see minorities. I want to see people of color. Let me say people of color
employed when this project gets started, white women, black women, disabled people, people -- disabled human beings. They're human beings too. So we have places that they should be situated in when this building is finally arrived at.

Thank you for the opportunity.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Good seeing you again.

Ms. Watson, please state your name. Speak in the microphone.

MS. WATSON: Well, you just said my name. Hello. How are you?

Hear ye, hear ye -- my name is Joy Watson. Hear ye, hear ye, City Council. Lend me your ear. What my testimony is today is true and sincere.

I just want to say good afternoon and I just want to go on to say that I'm here today to explain why rebuilding is needed right now. I'm Acting Vice President of the Baker Playground Advisory Council at 54th and Lansdowne. We need a playground that
needs a lot of help. It looks good on the outside, but the inside it's a total mess. The air quality is lousy. The furniture and refrigerator needs upgrading badly now, and the floor is leaking and needs help.

I want you to bring your children and families to these recreational centers, but I wouldn't even have my child there. Would you bring your family? I don't think so.

I challenge the Councilpeople right now to give our children something more than just basketball to grab on to. They need strong recreational centers, public spaces, and support and educational and mentors to build these programs up. Give our children future careers by making sure that they have access to the kind of education they need.

What happened to those children and youth who have nowhere safe to go and nothing constructive to do after school?
They need -- there needs to be opportunity for them to learn more about what to do out of school, regardless where they live and how much money their families make.

They should be programmed -- there should be a program in every neighborhood for our kids to learn to be entrepreneurs, how to make and build things, how to strategize. We need people to come into our recreational centers and teach these young people how to do this more.

I ask today the Councilpeople, help the residents of Philadelphia. Come out of your comfort zone. Come on out. Step out of your comfort zone and help our communities with better areas of public spaces. Please stop talking about it and be about it. Stop talking about it and be about it.

By working on the Advisory Council with the Philadelphia Park Alliance has shown me that it only takes
a handful of people to start the village up again and again and again to bring the community back to our playgrounds.

Would you put your child in these environments, unclean and infested?

Let's stop turning our faces from the problems in the public spaces. Let's be educated. You're used to doing things your own way with broken swings and unsupported programs. Let your conscience be your guide. Let's stop putting our children's danger -- in danger and instead put them in healthy environments to stimulate their minds and their curiosity and self-esteem.

The recreational centers are the starting place. Rebuilding is necessary. We need more for our City Council to move forward and to get out their comfort zone, and these ordinances need to begin to the most needed, not just the ones in Center City and in South Philly, but we need them all. Put that technology --
COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, I need you to wrap up now, please.

MS. WATSON: Put that technology in our youths' hands. They're smart. Watch how they work it out, like you should too, City Council.

Don't deprive our youth. Let them work it out, and you too. We need healthy and safe recreational areas. Fix it now.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, I have to ask you to finish, please.

MS. WATSON: Fix it now. Good jobs now.

Thank you.

Mr. Clarke, hello again. God Bless.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So we got Mr. Coleman. We got -- is it Reverend Jackson? And then is it Ms. Gorzkowska? Please. That will be our last panel.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please,
Mr. Coleman, why don't you start.

MR. COLEMAN: Good evening. My name is Keith Coleman. I represent the West Mill Creek Recreation Center, 51st and Westminster Avenue. We are part of the Third Councilmanic District, I believe. Well, I know.

Last year in April of 2016, they did an article on television on the news about West Mill Creek Playground and they spoke with me and another one of the representatives of West Mill Creek Playground.

At our recreation center when the kids flushed the toilet in the bathroom, it comes outside on the grass. We have cracks in our walls that's about an inch wide where you can see the outside from -- you can see outside from inside our recreation center and vice versa.

We have a tennis court. It has at least six holes in it that's three feet by three feet wide, and it's been
visible and it's been annotated on numerous occasions.

We have at least 60 feet cracks in our basketball court that's about a half an inch wide, and every year before our kids play basketball, they get out there on their hands and knees and they get some sod and cement and try to fill the cracks themselves, but because our recreation center was built on a creek, it continues to stretch and span every year.

Our children take their own money and buy backboards and basketball courts -- for the basketball courts on each side of the playground. We keep hearing that they don't have any funds for our recreation center and we keep hearing it, but -- and everybody says we'll do this, we'll do this, we'll do this, but what our children need is consistency.

We need for you, whoever, to get off the job and come out to these
recreation centers and help these kids. I mean, would you want your child to go into a bathroom and flush the toilet and it come up outside? Would you want your child to be playing outside when that feces or that urine comes up outside? We have swings and sliding boards that have chips and cracks in them, and kids slide down them sometimes and get cut. We had a baseball game last year against Papa's Playground and one of the kids fell in one of the divots on the field and broke his spine. This is not a healthy environment. We need help. We need consistency. And even with all of this going on, our children have still decided to put on a Juneteenth Day program because they say on June 17th, we're going to have a Juneteenth program because they say we still live in the slavery times by the way that we're being treated.

So could you please do whatever
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it is that you can to help the West Mill Creek Recreation Center.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

MR. COLEMAN: I'm sorry. We're in the middle of Shepard and Mill Creek. So we get forgotten a lot. We get passed over, and we feel like we're the stepchild. So if you just come out there, and when you please come out, could you get people from the Advisory Council or the recreation center to come out with you, because we're the ones who know the problems. So if you just do a walkthrough without us, you're just doing it without us.

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

Let me say that this a serious thing as well and that we were there, I don't know, what, a month ago, maybe a month
and a half ago we've been there. The Commissioner is hearing it. She's going to send our guy Frank out there tomorrow. And believe me, we have -- believe me, we'll deal with the issue. And I'm sorry.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you for coming.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Whoever would like to go next. Who wants to go next? Just state your name and proceed.

MS. GORZKOWSKA: My name is Regina Gorzkowska. I represent Pulaski Park and our partner organization, Polish American Business Association of Port Richmond.

Yes. Pulaski -- as you know, Pulaski Park is Philadelphia's first pier park, and now we have a row of those pier parks, but we were the first. It was organized in 1971 by Councilman Zachitzni (ph), who somehow got discouraged a lot
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to move to better places, move to
Harrisburg and we -- this park was never
put under Recreation. It was neglected,
forgotten, and it was only our generation
which arrived in Philadelphia after
solidarity, who started -- who discovered
the park non-existent. There was even no
name. And we started working on this and
developing the park, using our youth.
They were very eager to work as scouts,
Polish scouts, and school children were
brought and our (unintelligible), they
know how to work. No one needs to tell
them anything, and that's how we started
with the approach.

We had developed excellent
relations with the City, because first we
collected names to petition the
Representative Lederer, Marie Lederer, to
restore the park and started working the
City that way with her 820 signatures.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
I'm going to have to ask you to finish
now. Okay?
MS. GORZKOWSKA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Thank you.

MS. GORZKOWSKA: Just let me finish.

So now our current needs are to repair the underwater pillar, which was broken during the renovation project.

The City guy gave us --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, you're going way over time. I'm going to have to ask you to let the other gentleman have his time. Okay?


COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, ma'am.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir.

MS. GORZKOWSKA: So I will just shake my -- the park is a gem, but it is small. I need --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, please.
MR. JACKSON: Good evening, Council President and members of Council. My name is Ray Jackson. I'm from the West Oak Lane community, Morris Estate. I'm President of the Advisory Council there. And I've sat here all afternoon listening to various testimonies, and I am very impressed with what's taking place from City Council in regard to the Rebuild. I'm also impressed with the efforts to try and get a lot of the jobs to the people in the communities of the black and brown persuasion, but I'm more impressed with the efforts in trying to rebuild and reestablish a wholesome recreation center in the community, because without those centers, I don't think our children will have the ability to grow and utilize those jobs that you're trying to create.

We have a lot of deterioration in the centers. Ours is among them, but we are not the worst of the centers in
the City of Philadelphia. But we are trying to establish a kind of organization or family of rec centers that can promote harmony, growth, and good recreations for the children in these various communities. And I want to thank my Councilmember and the Committee -- I mean, Chair of the Rec Department and Councilwoman Cindy Bass. She has worked very closely with my center to develop good programming. She's come and sat on several of our community meetings to help give us guidance on how to move forward with good programming, and we appreciate her for that.

But I'm going to implore you to, whatever you can, expeditiously get this Rebuild thing going. We need it. We thought that it was the end when we came out in support of the soda tax. I thought that was the end of it. I didn't know it was just the beginning.

So at this juncture, I am in
support of whatever City Council is
doing, and whatever voice that we can
offer to help you make it known to
whoever the powers are that they need to
move forward with this endeavor, we are
all for it, and thank you very much for
this time.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
you. Thank you, sir.

That completes our list of
testifiers.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you very much. This completes the
witness list. I will now ask if there is
anyone else here in the Chambers to
testify?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
better not see anybody get up.

All right. Thank you. There
being no other witnesses in the Chambers
to testify on the bill, I would again
announce that Bill No. 170207 is being
held -- I'm sorry. 170207 is being held
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in Committee.

Having exhausted all testimony on Bill No. 170206, this concludes the public hearing of the Committee on the bill, and we will go into our public meeting shortly to decide the action to be taken on Bill No. 170206.

We will now convene the public meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass for a motion on the amendment to Bill No. 170206.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I offer an amendment to Bill No. 170206. A copy of the amendment has been circulated to all members of the Committee, and I move for the adoption of the amendment.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you. It has been moved and properly seconded that the amendment to Bill No. 170206 be approved.

All those in favor of the
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motion will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The motion carries, and Bill No. 170206 has been amended.

The Chair recognizes

Councilmember Bass for a motion on Bill No. 170206.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the public meeting on Bill No. 170206 stand in recess until Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It has been moved and properly seconded that the public meeting of this Committee on Bill No. 170206 be recessed until Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

All those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye.
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(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it. The motion carries. The public meeting on Bill No. 170206 will stand in recess until Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

That concludes the business of the Committee.

Thank you very much.

(Committee of the Whole recessed at 7:05 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings, evidence and objections are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

-----------------------
MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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