

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...

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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

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 authorizing and approving the obligation
3 of the City of Philadelphia to pay in
4 full when due the Service Fee and other
5 amendments payable under the Service
6 Agreement; authorizing certain City
7 officers to take certain actions required
8 to issue such bonds, notes or other
9 evidences of indebtedness; covenanting
10 that the City of Philadelphia will make
11 necessary appropriations in each of the
12 City's fiscal years to provide for, and
13 will make timely payment of, the Service
14 Fee and other amounts due under the
15 Service Agreement; and authorizing City
16 officials to take necessary or
17 appropriate actions, all under certain
18 terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you, Mr. Christmas.

21 Our first panel will be from
22 the Administration. Subsequent to that,
23 we will call up members of the public for
24 their testimony. Each individual will be
25 given two minutes for your testimony, and

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 if there needs to be questions or answers
3 from members of the Committee, that
4 obviously will be extended.

5 The first members to testify
6 from the Administration are,
7 Mr. Christmas?

8 THE CLERK: Nicole Westerman
9 and Rasheia Johnson.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you.

12 (Witnesses approached witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
15 afternoon.

16 MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

18 MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon,
19 Council President Clarke and members of
20 City Council. I'm Nicole Westerman,
21 Executive Director for Rebuilding
22 Community Infrastructure, or Rebuild.
23 I'm joined today by the Rebuild team and
24 members of the Kenney Administration to
25 present testimony in support of Ordinance

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 170206.

3 After years of underinvestment
4 and deferred maintenance, Philadelphia's
5 parks, libraries, and recreation centers
6 are in desperate need of investment.
7 From leaky roofs to no air conditioning
8 or heat, Philadelphians are frequenting
9 facilities well below acceptable
10 standards. Many need upgrades to
11 external lighting to improve public
12 safety concerns, while others aren't ADA
13 compliant. In total, only 10 percent of
14 facilities across both systems are in
15 excellent condition. Every other site
16 needs improvement, ranging from small in
17 scale to complete overhauls.

18 At its most basic, Rebuild
19 seeks to transform communities, one
20 public space at a time, by improving
21 physical infrastructure, engaging and
22 empowering communities, and promoting
23 economic inclusion. Together, the three
24 pillars of Rebuild serve Mayor Kenney's
25 vision for a more equitable Philadelphia.

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2 A city that invests more in its
3 neighborhoods and residents gives people
4 opportunities to succeed no matter which
5 neighborhood they live in and value their
6 communities and their quality of life.

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

19 Over the past several months,
20 questions and concerns expressed by
21 Councilmembers have led us to make
22 changes that strengthen the
23 implementation plan and structure for
24 Rebuild. We have drafted amendments to
25 Bill 170206 to more clearly illustrate

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 the project delivery process and the
3 participation and oversight of City
4 Council, including a Project Review Team
5 and Council roles in site selection,
6 Grant Review Committee, the Oversight
7 Board, the Rebuild Diversity and
8 Oversight Committee, and the Design
9 Excellence Committee. New provisions
10 have been added to ensure that
11 Councilmembers are notified timely of
12 whether project users are on track to
13 meet EOP goals and to ensure that past
14 performance on City contracts or Rebuild
15 projects, including EOP performance, will
16 be considered in the review of grant
17 applications. The amendments also
18 include increases to contract
19 participation goals, aligning them with
20 the 2016 Disparity Study.

21 Council will also receive other
22 updates and reports from EOP monitors,
23 which will be selected with Council
24 assistance, and updates on business
25 supports and employment through Rebuild

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2 at least quarterly. Rebuild will provide
3 to City Council an Annual Budget and
4 Annual Program Statement which will
5 identify planned site work, community
6 engagement efforts, and diversity and
7 inclusion initiatives.

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

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

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

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you.

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2 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon,
3 Council President Clarke and members of
4 City Council. I'm Rasheia Johnson, City
5 Treasurer for the City of Philadelphia,
6 and I'm here to testify in favor of Bill
7 No. 170206.

8 Bill No. 170206 would authorize
9 the City to enter into a Service
10 Agreement with the Philadelphia Authority
11 for Industrial Development to finance the
12 City's Rebuilding Community
13 Infrastructure initiative, Rebuild. The
14 bill also approves the issuance by PAID
15 of bonds or notes in one or more series.
16 The bonds will be issued in an aggregate
17 amount up to \$300 million outstanding
18 plus related costs of issuance, credit
19 enhancements, and discounts. The bonds
20 would be secured by the City's obligation
21 under the Service Agreement to budget and
22 appropriate annual amounts necessary to
23 pay the Service Fee, which would be
24 sufficient to pay the debt service on the
25 outstanding bonds.

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2 The bond proceeds would be used
3 to finance improvements to, construction,
4 demolition, renovation, and equipping of
5 the City's parks, libraries, playgrounds,
6 recreation centers, and other related
7 facilities and related costs such as
8 workforce diversity, inclusion programs,
9 community engagement, and program
10 administration.

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

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

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you very much for your testimony.

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2 With respect to your last
3 statement in terms of timeline of the
4 borrowing, you indicated -- and I think
5 I've heard Rob Dubow, the Finance
6 Director, say they will not issue a bond
7 until the conclusion of the litigation.
8 Do we have a potential timeline? I don't
9 know who I should be asking that
10 question. I guess you, Rasheia.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Potential
12 timeline for the?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Litigation to be resolved.

15 MS. JOHNSON: For the
16 litigation to be resolved?

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

22 MS. JOHNSON: Well, no, we
23 don't. I don't have a timeline as to
24 when the litigation is going to be
25 resolved. However, we're hopeful that we

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2 hear something by the end of the fiscal
3 year, but, no, we don't have a timeline.

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

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

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
10 the Law Department here?

11 (Witness approached witness
12 table.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
14 afternoon.

15 MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon.

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

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 State your name for the record.

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

24 I am not immediately involved
25 in the litigation, so I don't have

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2 exactly a day-to-day update on it, but we
3 had argument before the Commonwealth
4 Court and we have not yet gotten a
5 Commonwealth Court decision. It's
6 certainly likely that there would be an
7 appeal of the Commonwealth Court
8 decision.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Either way?

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

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Meaning the courts? You believe that the
23 action that may or may not be taken with
24 respect to the program will affect the
25 decision of the courts?

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2 MR. DAVIS: Well, I think it
3 speaks to the readiness of the City to
4 move forward.

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

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

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

25 So in terms of the -- we're

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2 looking at, what, 150 to 200 sites
3 possibly?

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

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Didn't we already do an analysis of every
15 site?

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

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Okay. Because, I mean, we set high

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2 expectations. I've been out there too.
3 I go to rec centers. People say,
4 Darrell, such and such.

5 You know, Wait until Rebuild.

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

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

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 That's not an answer.

20 MS. WESTERMAN: We think we can
21 get to a lot depending on which sites are
22 projected. We do think we could get to
23 150 to 200 sites.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Do
25 we want to treat every site in the City

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2 of Philadelphia? Is that the objective?

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

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
8 right. And I know there will be a number
9 of questions with respect to this.
10 Participation. Having been a member of
11 this government in different capacities,
12 currently as a member of Council, I think
13 one of the most frustrating things to me
14 is the inability to get parity as it
15 relates to the workforce, particularly on
16 capital projects, be it any type of
17 activity, and representing a community
18 that has a significant number of,
19 quote/unquote, minority members,
20 residents. And having to be at
21 facilities on capital construction when
22 you don't see the demographics of that
23 workforce reflect the demographics of the
24 City, let alone the demographics of that
25 neighborhood, it's always been a

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2 challenge, and I know that the Mayor has
3 indicated that this is an opportunity to
4 correct that to some degree. So how does
5 the PLA or MOU address that issue?

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

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 That's kind of an entry-level position?

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2 MS. WESTERMAN: Exactly.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: What
4 about a skilled tradesperson who happens
5 to not be in the union?

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

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Okay. So I'm actually not going to get
20 into the details in terms of asking
21 follow-up questions, because that is
22 something that we're still working on
23 with respect to the specific language.
24 So I don't want to get too much further
25 into those conversations. So I'll come

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2 back, but we are having conversations.

3 My colleagues are lined up
4 here. Let me defer to my colleagues.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

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

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 That's just me now.

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

19 My first line of questioning is
20 on participation, and in a 2017 EOP
21 Employment Composition Analysis, the fact
22 is that it states that the availability
23 of female workers is 3.3 percent in the
24 construction trades, and that is well
25 below the goal of 7 percent. So help me

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2 understand. Either the goal is too high
3 or more outreach is necessary to reach
4 the stated goal. Could you speak to
5 that?

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

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

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

19 (Witness approached witness
20 table.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: While that
22 official is coming to the table, what is
23 the total number of potential buildings
24 that Rebuild can have an impact on?
25 Since we don't know if it's going to be

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 between 150 to 200 sites, what's the
3 global number, potential number of
4 buildings where Rebuild could have an
5 impact?

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

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: 406 is the
10 number?

11 MS. WESTERMAN: Is the total
12 universe of sites.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

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

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes. So
17 your Disparity Study report is what year?
18 2016, 2017?

19 MS. HARPER: The one you just
20 got?

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

24 MS. HARPER: Right. So that
25 was the report that you just received,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 but that was for FY16, but it was given
3 in FY17.

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

9 MS. HARPER: Okay. So --

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: When the
11 availability is not there.

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

16 MS. HARPER: Yes. So the
17 Disparity Study analyzes the availability
18 of female labor, and it also looks at how
19 they were utilized by the City. And so
20 the figure that is represented in the
21 Disparity Report is the difference of
22 availability and utilization, which you
23 correctly stated. What I'm unable to
24 comment on necessarily is how Rebuild
25 reached their employment goal. It could

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 be because you used the disparity
3 information from the FY15 report. I'm
4 not sure.

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

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

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

23 Okay. Let me shift my
24 remaining questions around sustainability
25 and the environment. So it states in the

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 report, the Rebuild Office will work in
3 coordination with City departments,
4 including the Office of Director of
5 Finance, Parks and Rec, Free Library, and
6 others. City departments will monitor
7 Rebuild project development.

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

19 MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely.

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

22 MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely,
23 Councilwoman. We think it's extremely
24 important for Rebuild projects to be
25 models of sustainability. We have been

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 working closely with the Office of
3 Sustainability to date. They're in the
4 process of developing standards that we
5 would require of all project users for
6 the use of all projects.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
8 Because my next question was around
9 standards, what does that mean. So
10 you're going to be more specific in what
11 they are, correct?

12 MS. WESTERMAN: I'm sorry?

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

18 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, exactly.
19 Exactly. So whatever the Office of
20 Sustainability says are the current
21 standards, those would be referenced in
22 the grant agreements for project users.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And you're
24 okay adding language encouraging the
25 inclusion of an expert on environmentally

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2 sound development as a part of the
3 Oversight Board?

4 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

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

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

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

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2 are very important.

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

9 MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you,
10 Councilwoman.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
18 Mr. President.

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

22 I represent the Fourth
23 Councilmanic District. In our district,
24 we are proud to represent approximately
25 66 percent of the parkland in the City of

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2 Philadelphia. So this is a big deal for
3 the members of my district.

4 In my district, I believe we
5 have over 50 parks and recs facilities
6 out of that potential 406 facilities.
7 Some I share -- I share Mander with my
8 colleague, because it's technically in my
9 district, but it services people from,
10 the great people, from the Fifth
11 District. And I have good rec centers.
12 Rose comes to mind. I have the Carousel
13 House that services people with
14 disabilities. I have Kendrick, which is
15 the second oldest rec center in the City
16 of Philadelphia, put a million dollars of
17 improvements over my nine years there and
18 it's still not adequate. It is a mess.
19 But out of all of my facilities -- and
20 I've been to them all -- the one that
21 comes to mind about why this is important
22 is Nichols Park at 55th and Race. And
23 I'm going to give this story and then I'm
24 going to go into some questions that we
25 need answered.

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2 But at the end of the day, I
3 was pulling down Race Street. I was on
4 my way to my office in the neighborhood,
5 and there was a bunch of kids, maybe half
6 dozen to a dozen of them, playing in the
7 sweltering heat. I pulled over to watch,
8 because that helps my blood pressure.
9 After going to crime scenes, it helps to
10 watch kids play.

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

18 We put approximately a half --
19 \$400,000 into that park. And I want
20 people, if the reporters are listening or
21 people, drive by there. It has made a
22 world of difference, because those kids
23 live under, many of them, the poverty
24 guidelines at 26 percent. They are not
25 going to go Disney World this summer.

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2 They're not going to make it to Florida
3 or California. They might be able to
4 manage to have a safe environment. And
5 safe doesn't mean from predators that
6 bother kids, but also equipment failures,
7 rusted equipment, unsafe play areas. So
8 we have to get this right. That is the
9 primary reason most people voted for the
10 sugary drinks, infamously known as the
11 soda tax. That's why we did it.

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

21 So now I go into -- after the
22 statement, I want to say the questions.

23 It is my understanding that
24 there is a potential job pool that will
25 be civil service that will help in the

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 maintenance and sustainability of some of
3 these things; is that correct? Don't
4 shake your head. Say it on the record.

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

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

17 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: To take that
19 test.

20 MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: It's my
22 understanding there is a discussion
23 around an additional pool of workforce
24 that may be assigned -- am I allowed to
25 talk about that good idea you had?

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Councilman, you are an independently
4 elected official. You can talk about
5 anything you want. And I'm sorry to say
6 I didn't vote for you, but I don't live
7 in your district.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's all
9 right.

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

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

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

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Say it loud

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 with your chest now.

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

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

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

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

17 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yes.

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

23 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So there's
24 another piece that we worked out and
25 Councilwoman Blackwell had actually

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 worked on, and we are mirroring that, the
3 PennAssist --

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: The
5 Godmother of Participation.

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

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So
15 ex-offenders?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.
17 We'll mirror the PennAssist process.

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

21 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. So
23 let me segue now. Tell me about
24 participation. There's employment
25 opportunities and then there's

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 contracting opportunities. So some of
3 those people from that labor pool will be
4 assigned to some of the subcontractors
5 that work on these jobs?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.
7 So people --

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

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

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

20 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Right. So
21 they will be given additional skills as
22 they are going through this program, but
23 they will be paid on the job in a union
24 atmosphere on a construction site, one of
25 the Rebuild sites or an additional

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 Capital Program that we currently are
3 involved in now, so to open up more
4 sites, and then they will have a chance
5 to take the apprentice test within that
6 first 12 months of the program.

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

9 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

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

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

21 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.
22 This will be all Rebuild sites.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: So each one
24 of those opportunities, let's say at
25 Kendrick or at Rose Playground, we will

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 be able to have input about how those
3 scopes of work happen. So you may say,
4 All it needs is a patch on the roof. I
5 may say, It needs a whole roof, and we
6 can then determine how to better service
7 those people; is that correct?

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

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

20 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, that is
21 correct.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

23 Mr. Chairman -- I mean,
24 Mr. President, I'm good. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 Thank you, Councilman.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
6 you.

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

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: Absolutely. So
24 one piece of it is that we'll be looking
25 to contract with one or more EOP

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2 monitors. Council would assist in the
3 selection of the entities performing the
4 monitoring. Then an important piece is
5 that our priority is to meet our
6 participation goals. You know, that's
7 the goal rather than getting rid of that
8 contractor. So what --

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: My goal
10 is to get rid of bad contractors who sign
11 a contract with us and tell us they're
12 going to give us participation and don't.
13 So my goal is, they got to get off the
14 list. So how are we going to do that
15 quickly since we're always scared to pull
16 that trigger?

17 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

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 to say --

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But what
4 happens? We need the 25 percent.

5 Numbers are not met. What happens? How
6 quickly? What happens? Because that's
7 what we've been scared of. Because

8 through this pay system, we're supposed
9 to have an easier, more seamless process
10 to do that. What happens? Job stops.

11 Contract says, according to your vague
12 language right here, is we can terminate
13 immediately. Will they terminate, and
14 what happens?

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So
25 what's the day? Because, again, one of

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 the reasons we're scared to pull the
3 trigger is, people don't want to stop a
4 project. We're always delayed.
5 Obviously this process is going to make
6 sure we can do these quicker. So what's
7 the timeline? Is it 30 days remedy, 60
8 days? Do we have the ability, our
9 project user or project management -- you
10 know I'm into project management, not
11 this other stuff. Are they going to have
12 the ability to insist that that contract
13 remedy like the next day? In order for
14 the job to start again -- and this is not
15 about a Monday hire, Friday fire. Don't
16 hire someone so EOP comes and counts
17 them. How do we make sure that that
18 happens, and what can we do or the
19 project user do immediately?

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

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What is

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 the project user's authority to cancel
3 the contract?

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

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
10 Immediately?

11 MS. WESTERMAN: Meaning the
12 EOP.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
14 Immediately?

15 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Because
17 that's one of the issues that we have.
18 Whatever the -- and I'm not saying --
19 everybody is entitled to due process.
20 I'm not crazy, right? I've actually
21 built stuff, so I know how this works.

22 So the project user makes a
23 determination, sends a letter, 30 days
24 we're going to go back on the job, they
25 can cancel, and they can hire the next

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 person that was on the list to bid on it
3 immediately? Like what are we going to
4 do to make sure that those gaps -- so no
5 one is scared to pull the trigger, right?
6 Because until people get disbarred, we're
7 going to keep playing this game.

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

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can we
17 in our design of the project user
18 authorize the project user for the second
19 person who came in, they pick the lowest
20 qualifying, are we authorized that that
21 second person to be on standby in case
22 this happens or does that get rebid?
23 Because part of the problem becomes that
24 the argument right now through Capital is
25 that we can't just go to the second

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 bidder. We got to open up the process,
3 and that's why people don't pull the
4 trigger.

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

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

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

24 MS. WESTERMAN: It would be up
25 to the project user.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Up to
3 the project user, because they have to
4 meet their timeline and all.

5 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Yes.

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

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

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Right.
21 So going back to some of the earlier
22 questions around participation. So we're
23 still going to do a third-party counting
24 system? This is sort of self-reporting
25 by contractors on the ground?

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 MS. WESTERMAN: No. The
3 project user would need to provide the --
4 so the EOP monitor would have access to
5 the job site, so they would be observing
6 themselves. They would also use records
7 provided and, of course, there would also
8 be certified payrolls, and the EOP
9 monitor would be crunching that data as
10 well.

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

13 MS. WESTERMAN: Daily.

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

18 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

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

24 As it relates to the Oversight
25 Board as it's been discussed, right, how

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 many different advisory and oversight
3 boards do we have? We have --

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

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: EOP
9 Oversight Committee.

10 MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Made up
12 of who?

13 MS. WESTERMAN: So that would
14 be made up of Council representatives,
15 the Director of the Office of Economic
16 Opportunity, and representatives of the
17 trades and the contractors and the
18 Administration.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: So I think you
24 wouldn't have on that committee somebody
25 who is actually on a job.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But how
3 do we know they're going to be on this
4 job or any job?

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That's a
16 little problematic. We want people to
17 trust this, right? We're asking people
18 to have faith that we're going to do
19 things differently, right? So when you
20 put people that potentially could become
21 conflicted who are sitting at the table,
22 if I'm someone new to this process and
23 I'm going to make an investment building
24 my capacity and building my company, how
25 do I trust that this process is going to

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 be fair if I'm put before an oversight
3 crew of folks who don't necessarily want
4 to grow the pot?

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

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

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I think
16 we need to say that. I think we need to
17 say that there is nobody that's going to
18 be on any of these committees who is
19 interested, looking at, affiliated with,
20 associated with anybody aspiring to do
21 that work. I think that's hugely
22 important in building trust in the
23 process. We want people with expertise,
24 and this is not an arm length kind of
25 relationship. These are folks who are

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 not actively -- and there's a lot of
3 retired folks in all of those sectors
4 that I think would be willing to serve
5 and really share their expertise.

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

12 MS. WESTERMAN: That makes
13 sense.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Council Lady.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilwoman Blackwell.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
21 you, Mr. President.

22 I only wanted to verify, and
23 I'm grateful that we're following a path
24 that we used a little earlier during our
25 budget, is that for our local workforce,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 we talk about and had agreement to 40 and
3 there's up to 45 percent in records here
4 for this project for minority
5 participation. We didn't talk even about
6 women or handicapped and all of that, and
7 for local workforce for neighborhood, we
8 have -- and everybody agreed to them. We
9 have 50 percent. So I'm just verifying
10 that those are the numbers we use, at
11 least 40 to 45 percent and 50 percent
12 when it comes to local workforce.
13 Because if you deal with people in the
14 neighborhoods, 50 percent, people will
15 feel included, and I just wanted to put
16 that out there and verify that that's
17 what the numbers are.

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

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well,
24 I will not support inclusion numbers
25 lower than those I've already committed

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 to in Council. So that's where I am.
3 It's got to be that in order for me to
4 support it.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you, Councilwoman.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
12 afternoon.

13 MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon.

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

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 than I am, and I --

3 (Applause.)

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

14 So it became a little bit of a
15 challenge, a bit daunting, a bit
16 disappointing, I should say, that so much
17 of Rebuild, in my opinion, has been done
18 without the support, the advice, the
19 involvement of District Councilmembers.
20 And so I have a number of questions, and
21 so I just wanted to run through as many
22 of them as I possibly can today. And I
23 know that this is not the full-course
24 meal today. The meat and potatoes is
25 going to come on a later date. We're

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 having salad today. But at the same
3 time, this is all very, very important
4 and goes towards what it is that we're
5 ultimately trying to accomplish with
6 Rebuild, which is beautiful amenities for
7 our communities, great opportunities for
8 the folks who live in those communities.
9 We think that Rebuild is an opportunity
10 not just to rebuild our rec center or
11 playground, but a chance to really
12 rebuild lives and include people who have
13 been not included in the past.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So I just
16 wanted to ask you a few questions, and
17 I'd like to start actually with
18 Mr. Lazer, because one of my questions is
19 around inclusion. And I'm excited that
20 we're going to be using the PennAssist
21 model and we're going to be doing some
22 things at the RDA and some other things,
23 being creative, but the question that I
24 have is that originally when I asked the
25 Administration about work sites and what

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 are work sites going to look like, and I
3 asked would there be diversity that looks
4 like Philadelphia on day one, and I was
5 told no. And then I asked would there be
6 diversity that looks like Philadelphia at
7 the end of year one, and I was told no.
8 And I asked about year two and then year
9 three, and I was told no and no. And so
10 it came out that probably around year
11 three and a half or four that we would
12 see the diversity that looks like
13 Philadelphia on work sites.

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

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- that
21 tentatively it appears will not look like
22 Philadelphia. And just in following
23 Councilwoman Blackwell's comments
24 earlier, if we're not ready for this, if
25 we can't have the diversity that we need,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 then -- and as I said, no one wants
3 Rebuild more than me, but if we can't
4 have the diversity that we need, that we
5 expect on day one, then we need to wait
6 until we are ready for Rebuild. I'd like
7 to hear your response.

8 (Applause.)

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

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: In year
14 one?

15 MS. WESTERMAN: Year one.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's new.
17 What changed?

18 MS. WESTERMAN: We've been
19 working on it. We've been talking.
20 We've been figuring things out. We think
21 we can do it. We think we can do it
22 because of the apprentice-ready program
23 that we're trying to work on and we think
24 we can do it because the business
25 supports program that we're proposing

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 here.

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

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

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

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

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

19 MS. WESTERMAN: If we don't
20 make the numbers in year one, then we'll
21 have to make serious changes in the
22 apprentice-ready program and the business
23 supports and in the contract structure
24 with the project users so that they meet
25 the numbers.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. The
3 idea is to get this right now. So we
4 can't -- it's not to revisit it, come
5 back later, let's look at it and try to
6 tweak it, get it right after the fact.
7 We want it to be right in the very
8 beginning. So let's make sure that it's
9 right now. Okay? Because I don't want
10 to revisit it. I want it to be right. I
11 want it to look right.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: We are ready,
24 Councilwoman.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

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2 We'll see. We hope so, because we want
3 it to be right. Okay?

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

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's not
16 an answer.

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

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No. We
20 need to have this ironed out. So it
21 can't be, you know, we hope to come to an
22 agreement. We need to say one way or
23 another what's going to happen. This is
24 a \$500 million transaction, and so if we
25 were in the business world, we would not

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2 do a \$500 million transaction on, well,
3 we hope we can come to an agreement.
4 There has to be an agreement up front,
5 either --

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And I would
8 propose, as I've proposed in the past,
9 that as the District Councilperson, who
10 is the elected representative of the
11 district, of the people of the district,
12 that we would have the opportunity to
13 have that say and, of course, weighing in
14 with the Rebuild team.

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: But that
25 still doesn't answer my question about

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 site selection and who is going to
3 decide. Like we need an answer.

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

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

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Will have
16 the final say.

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

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So
22 what you're saying is that if I say, as
23 an example in my district, if I say Happy
24 Hollow and you say Belfield Recreation
25 Center and we don't come to an agreement

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 and then you put forward a list and then
3 Belfield is on the list, Happy Hollow is
4 not on the list, so then what?

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

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

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

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

23 (Witness approached witness
24 table.)

25 MR. ABERNATHY: Councilwoman,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 if I may, Brian Abernathy, First Deputy
3 Managing Director.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Hi, Brian.

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

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

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2 other. Let's just --

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

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

17 MR. ABERNATHY: No.

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

22 MR. ABERNATHY: No. We will
23 not prepare that program statement in a
24 vacuum. We are going to prepare that
25 program statement in cooperation with

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2 Council, just like we do today, just like
3 the Capital Program is managed today. We
4 will not be going around Council's back.
5 We will be working with Council on every
6 step of the process in order to get this
7 project done. We understand that you
8 represent your community. We understand
9 that you understand your district better
10 than we do.

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

16 MR. ABERNATHY: Understood.

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

21 MR. ABERNATHY: And I think
22 what we are saying is that we are going
23 to do this in consultation with the
24 District Councilmember and your
25 constituents. I think we're saying if

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2 not the same thing, very gosh darn close.

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

5 MR. ABERNATHY: Fair enough.
6 Thank you, ma'am.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
8 (Audience members yelling out.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Folks -- hold on one second,
11 Councilwoman.

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

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

18 So question: So regarding
19 community input, one of my frustrations
20 with the initial proposal is that
21 community input, involvement, just the
22 Rebuild team working with folks to let
23 them know, alert them what's going to be
24 happening, how to get their input into
25 what to expect in their neighborhood, the

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2 details just have been lax, and I'm just
3 going to throw that out there. The
4 initial community input on the proposed
5 Rebuild process that was just provided by
6 the Administration, it does not appear to
7 be in the early stages of conversations
8 and planning and involvement around
9 implementation of these projects. And so
10 I'm wondering like what is the community
11 engagement? When is it going to happen?
12 What are we going to see? People are
13 asking. We're out -- I'm out almost
14 every night doing Rebuild briefings, but
15 it really does, in my opinion, require
16 the Administration to -- this is your
17 plan, this is your project -- to get on
18 out here and talk to folks, answer their
19 questions.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: So community
24 engagement is one of the three pillars of
25 Rebuild. It is core. So when a site is

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2 selected, a project user has to have
3 provided -- a project user in order to do
4 work at the site has to have a plan for
5 engaging the community. We think what
6 that means is first going to the people
7 who have been already working at that
8 site for years, the people who are in the
9 "friends of" group, the people who are in
10 the Recreation Advisory Council. Those
11 people have earned the right to have
12 major say in what happens at that site,
13 and they will be the first people we go
14 to.

15 It's also important to broaden
16 the tent, those people who have been
17 working really hard, and we want to
18 lighten their load by bringing more
19 people into the conversation. So what
20 we're looking for is the project user to
21 develop a community engagement plan that
22 allows for not just sort of typical we're
23 going to have a charrette on a 6 o'clock
24 at the local church, but making sure that
25 there's a wide variety of ways for people

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2 to get involved to meet people where they
3 are.

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

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So the
23 Rebuild team is not going to do outreach
24 essentially is what I'm hearing, that the
25 outreach and the community engagement is

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2 going to come from the project users.
3 And from the document that I have in
4 front of me, which was from the
5 Administration, it states that applicants
6 or applications may include plans for,
7 "may," which is optional, may include
8 plans for community engagement, diversity
9 and inclusion, and the anticipated scale
10 of the improvements.

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

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

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

25 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, it should

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 be "must."

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. All
4 right.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Councilwoman?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Am I out of
8 time?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Yeah.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
12 Sorry.

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

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

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

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilwoman Parker.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 And good afternoon to each of

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 you. Let me start by saying that since
3 we began this discussion regarding
4 Rebuild, I know I have and many of my
5 colleagues -- and I know it's like I've
6 been beating a dead horse -- have been
7 unapologetic about seeing the employment
8 opportunity here as a vehicle to provide
9 African Americans, women, other
10 minorities with a systemic way into the
11 building trades so that they can
12 acquire --

13 (Applause.)

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

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: With that

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

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

19 MS. WESTERMAN: The number of
20 jobs is going to depend on which sites
21 are selected and what the scope of work
22 is. We don't have a good estimate yet.
23 We think it's in the hundreds.

24 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So we
25 think it's in the hundreds, and we should

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2 talk about that. So that 5,000 number
3 that -- no. We're talking about over the
4 life of Rebuild, when we talk about the
5 total amount of jobs created, we're
6 talking about it could be, what, maybe
7 150, 100, 150, 175. You're not exactly
8 sure, but you know in the hundreds?

9 MS. WESTERMAN: We don't know.
10 We think it's in the hundreds.

11 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: In the
12 hundreds.

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

24 At the same time, we do have
25 really ambitious goals for the

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2 apprentice-ready program, because we
3 think that we can partner with
4 institutions and private employers and
5 that what Rebuild is doing can be a
6 model.

7 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And I'm
8 glad you just -- I want you to put a pin
9 in that, Rebuild being a model, because
10 my hope is -- and we're going to get into
11 my questions relative to the workforce,
12 where they come from, how are they
13 recruited, how do they get into the
14 system, but when you talk about sort of
15 it being sort of a model, my hope is that
16 when we look at Rebuild and we talk about
17 this big bad \$500 million, I'm hoping
18 that the pipeline for this workforce gets
19 to parlay in the \$11 to \$12 billion worth
20 of private industry work that has been
21 done over the last two years and will
22 continue into the next 18 months from
23 resources that I've heard. If you look
24 at the Schuylkill project along with what
25 Councilwoman Blackwell did, Penn, Drexel,

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2 and other areas, the hope is that if they
3 get into a pipeline to get those skills
4 and they get access to that card, we want
5 them working in neighborhoods too.

6 So with that being said, with
7 that being said, I want you to tell us.
8 You described in response to Councilman
9 Jones' question three points of entry for
10 people to access the pipeline to get to
11 the trades, and I want to make sure that
12 I have it correctly. You described the
13 model that Councilwoman Blackwell created
14 via the Pennvest model, and that would be
15 CTE. So that's for high school students
16 via the trades; is that accurate? And
17 you also described that PennAssist model
18 as being a vehicle for grown men and
19 women who need to access, so not just CTE
20 but also adult. So that's two vehicles
21 for two -- one vehicle but being used by
22 two different constituencies. And then
23 we, in essence, heard two more.
24 Actually, not just one, because you
25 talked about the PPR. So that's the

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2 Parks and Rec. That's 40. We did that
3 via the budget. We're waiting for the
4 litigation to move. But then we talked
5 about the creation of a pipeline via the
6 RDA.

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

20 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Do you
22 have any numbers that you can attribute
23 to how many you're talking about for the
24 first cohort? And the reason why it's so
25 important, even if you can't give us

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2 exact numbers -- and I'm not going to be
3 unfair and tell you you should be able to
4 give me exact numbers right now, because
5 we're debating back and forth what is
6 going to be done at what sites, and to be
7 quite frank, I don't want you telling me
8 that you know what it's going to cost to
9 do X at a center in the Ninth, because we
10 haven't come to that decision yet.

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

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

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

23 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: And the
24 cohort would be yearly. So every year
25 that would be a new group.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So every
3 year there would be a new group of 30
4 that could consist of young people coming
5 through CTE and adults who are past that
6 stage but going through that training
7 process?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

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

16 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: For the
17 PRA piece?

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So that
20 one is a little more vague because we
21 have to see how many projects through
22 Rebuild would go to the PRA for work
23 through them. So I think that one is a
24 little more in flux, but we will do no
25 less than 30 on the first cohort for the

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2 PennAssist model.

3 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: And you
4 said the cohort would last a year, the
5 training process would be approximately a
6 year?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yes.

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

23 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So number
24 one would be City resident. I mean, that
25 would be the number one piece. The rest

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2 of it, once we -- I mean, something like
3 that will be CTE students, but also folks
4 that are not in a CTE program. They
5 would come in through Philadelphia Works,
6 through either a CareerLinks or another
7 facility that we would set up for intake,
8 and then we would do a skills assessment
9 on those individuals to see kind of where
10 they are with skills they may have, if
11 they need a driver's license, and if they
12 don't have a driver's license, which is
13 important for a trade job because it's
14 mobile, we would then have -- we would
15 provide funding to get that person a
16 driver's license, because that's the
17 number one thing.

18 And then we would go through --
19 they would also once they're selected in
20 the program, for the two to three weeks
21 that they're going to be trained with
22 OSHA 10 and look for additional math and
23 work training, they would then be paid a
24 stipend for those couple weeks that would
25 cover transportation and food for those

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 weeks. And then once they came through
3 that piece of it, they would be put on a
4 Rebuild job and would be getting paid a
5 salary to be working on a Rebuild job
6 site.

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

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

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2 don't know that that has ever happened.

3 (Applause.)

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

13 (Applause.)

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

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Finally
24 for me, only because of the history or
25 confidence in the process, I've been anal

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2 about how are we going to report in
3 realtime the status of those who are
4 trying to enter into the process? How
5 will we know how many people apply? How
6 will we know the zip codes of where they
7 live in? How will we know whether or not
8 they got directed into the program, if
9 they were directed somewhere else? How
10 will we keep up with that?

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

25 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So,

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2 again, I know we will have the
3 opportunity, as I've heard from my
4 colleagues, that we will talk more about
5 this at a later date. I just want to
6 reinforce what I know sounds like a
7 broken record, is that I am 1,001 percent
8 behind empowering and/or positioning
9 Philadelphians who currently don't have
10 access to union jobs that will allow them
11 to get retirement security, that will
12 allow them to get healthcare that they
13 are paying for so they don't have to
14 worry about the Affordable Care Act, they
15 can pay for it out of money that they
16 earned on a regular basis.

17 In addition to that, I'm going
18 to share with my colleagues and share
19 with you a report regarding diversity in
20 the New York City union and non-union
21 construction sectors. And we all know
22 this group. I've worked with them and
23 known for working in Harrisburg. I also
24 know them from my work with retirement
25 security. It's called the Economic

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 Policy Institute, and although this is
3 not based on Philadelphia, this is a
4 study that they've conducted in New York
5 about how African Americans and other
6 minorities have been able to gain access
7 to the building trades and/or the
8 non-union construction sector and what
9 has been advantageous for each.

10 Again, I want to state for the
11 record that I want to see people of color
12 have, this process, to have an
13 opportunity to enter into the trades, but
14 for anyone who is attempting to convince
15 me that, Cherelle, this process is going
16 to fall apart, they're never going to do
17 this, the only way you are going to see
18 diversity in the trades is if you get
19 companies that are not affiliated with
20 unions, and that's the only way people of
21 color are going to work, I want to say to
22 you, as I've said to my colleagues and to
23 the public before, I don't support it.
24 What I've seen happen in that instance --
25 and this report says it. So this is not

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 just Cherelle Parker giving her
3 experience in Logan when she was a
4 staffer for Tasco, but it says that New
5 York City's union construction sector
6 employs a greater share of black workers
7 and pays them more than non-union
8 construction sectors and that unions are
9 drawing more black people into the
10 construction through what you sort of
11 just outlined here, which is why I and so
12 many other people are skeptical that this
13 is really going to happen, because it's
14 never occurred before.

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

25 So let me tell you how they

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 manipulate the process. This report, not
3 Cherelle Parker, says Hispanic workers
4 make up a growing share of the non-union
5 construction sector where there are
6 relative youth, lower levels of
7 education, and more recent immigrant
8 status means that they are paying far
9 more less than union sectors.

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

23 So we're going to get to the
24 meat at another time. The devil is in
25 the details, and I'll see what the end

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2 looks like, but please, I want to see a
3 path to union membership, not that we got
4 to get somewhere else.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
7 you, Councilwoman.

8 Councilman Green.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 We've had a lot of
12 conversations this afternoon and there's
13 been a lot of discussion about inclusion
14 and getting into the building trades, and
15 some of the questions I have about this
16 initiative and something that we have not
17 addressed in this conversation is that
18 one of the ways that people get involved
19 in unions is that they are sponsored
20 through their union. And as I've had
21 many, many conversations with
22 representatives of Rebuild, I've invited
23 you to the Capital Consortium meetings
24 and other initiatives on how we brought
25 access to credit to small businesses, but

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2 what's been lacking in this conversation
3 is how Rebuild will provide the growth of
4 minority union contractors.

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

17 Now, when you're talking about
18 this initiative regarding PRA and from
19 what I'm understanding is that if I was
20 Derek Green, a 36-year-old person who
21 went through various programs, that I
22 went through the DAP program and the PREP
23 program and all these apprenticeship
24 programs, if I have a certain skill set
25 where I know how to do carpentry,

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2 electrical work, plumbing work, what I'm
3 hearing is that I have an opportunity to
4 come into the trades based on my past
5 experience through this middle set that
6 Councilwoman Parker and others talked
7 about while I'll be hired by PRA,
8 correct?

9 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

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

12 MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: My concern
14 is what happens when the money runs out?
15 When you look at the programs we've had
16 over the years, from the Convention
17 Center and the Convention Center
18 expansion, from the Eagles stadium and
19 the Phillies stadium, we've had all these
20 programs to help people go through an
21 apprentice program, but once the public
22 dollars run out, there's no additional
23 work for people who go through these
24 programs. So my question is, what's
25 going to be the process that if you go

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2 through this initiative, you'll be
3 getting work, especially on the
4 multi-billion-dollar backlog of projects
5 we have in City capital projects?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So,
7 Councilman, if you go through the process
8 and you come out and you are in an
9 apprenticeship, you'll be pulled off on
10 any job that -- any job in the City or in
11 the counties or anywhere that a specific
12 union or contractor would go on. So if
13 you would -- if we have through this
14 first cohort, you know, a few folks that
15 go into the electrical union, then they
16 will be an apprentice in that local and
17 then they'll get pulled. So if Joe Smith
18 Electrical has a job at Comcast and they
19 need people on an apprentice list, that
20 person will be on the list and will be
21 pulled. And as we know with talking with
22 the building trades, there's no -- at
23 this point, there's so much work going on
24 that there's no shortage, and apprentices
25 are always first to be pulled. So

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2 they'll be in that process and they'll be
3 able to work on any other job, not just
4 on Rebuild, after they're in the --

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But that's
6 the apprentice piece. I'm talking about
7 someone that has been working for a
8 number of years and have gone through
9 multiple training programs. And now
10 you're saying through the PRA concept,
11 they're going to get hired, but that's
12 going to be a subset probably, what, 40,
13 50, 60, 70?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yeah. So
15 the other piece that we're looking at
16 now, we're slowly looking at it, is
17 expanding more of our own capital
18 projects and allowing PRA to do work on
19 those projects. So we're continuing to
20 move that. So along with -- we're going
21 to do Rebuild, but we're also looking to
22 move capital projects to that as well to
23 continue to open up the amount of jobs.
24 So after Rebuild, there's always going to
25 be capital projects coming through the

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2 pipeline.

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right, but
4 that's just a subset of people that are
5 now part of that union that are employees
6 of PRA.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Right.

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

18 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So what I
19 would think and what we -- that's why
20 when I spoke with Councilwoman Parker's
21 question was, we are trying to model
22 after the other institutions, so that we
23 can put people on other -- the program
24 will continue. I mean, this is a
25 building trade-sponsored program as well

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2 with the City and Penn. This is a
3 separate model, but we are trying to do
4 the same thing that we can continue that
5 pipeline to continue to move without --
6 so when Rebuild is over, we could use
7 this program on capital projects as well,
8 so the program would continue to go, and
9 we would still work with Philadelphia
10 Works, who is helping us fund it through
11 state and federal money through TANF and
12 (unintelligible).

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

25 The other piece is that our

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2 support of the businesses will help them
3 to grow and grow their own workforces, so
4 that there will be more job
5 opportunities.

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

11 MS. WESTERMAN: So --

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

18 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We were
19 looking at that option.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: -- Public
21 Property projects?

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

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But that's

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2 still only at most maybe 50 to 100
3 people. What about people who have
4 gone -- because my concern is the people
5 that go through this apprentice program,
6 they're going to work possibly to become
7 an apprentice, work on Rebuild for a
8 period of time, but then when Rebuild is
9 done and all the other capital projects
10 we have, they're not going to be working
11 on that and we're going to be back in the
12 same situation where people have gotten
13 frustrated.

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

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right.

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

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2 anybody else that's in that.

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

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

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: How do we
12 know we're not going to be in the same
13 situation where someone that went through
14 an apprenticeship program and now is an
15 apprentice and they don't get called or
16 get pulled off the list because someone
17 else gets pulled off the list, and they
18 look at the situation like they may have
19 gone through other training programs or
20 saw older relatives go through similar
21 training programs and get frustrated
22 because they went through this training
23 and never got hired. So they never got
24 pulled out of the union hall, where
25 someone else got pulled out of the union

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2 hall, and we're back in the same
3 situation we've had over and over and
4 over again, which brings me back to my
5 initial statement of how are we going to
6 grow firms of color who are minority
7 union contractors who they can pull
8 people out of the training hall to
9 continue to get work?

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

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But this
25 goes back to what Councilwoman Sanchez

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2 was saying also. How are you going to
3 put pressure on those other entities?
4 Are you going to be willing to stop
5 projects if you see people not being
6 employed?

7 MS. WESTERMAN: The project
8 users?

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right.

10 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. So I
11 think we need to have -- we would have
12 sort of a set of escalating interventions
13 that would occur if a project user isn't
14 meeting their EOP. So the first piece is
15 that the monitor tries to help them
16 achieve it, and we will have more tools
17 in our toolbox to do that because of the
18 apprentice-ready program and because of
19 the business supports. The second piece
20 of that is realtime monitoring. Another
21 piece is having a milestone where the EOP
22 monitor is reporting to the District
23 Councilperson and the Administration on
24 whether the project user is on track to
25 meet the EOP. If not, that's when we

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2 figure out what the intervention is, and
3 we make sure that the grant agreements
4 have levers allowing us to do that, so
5 allowing us to stop payment to the
6 project user and allowing the project
7 user to fire the contractor.

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

17 MS. WESTERMAN: I think we
18 have -- our ability to impact the
19 long-term demand for minority and female
20 apprentices has to do with us doing a
21 really great job with Rebuild. So we
22 grow our participation through Rebuild,
23 we demonstrate to other employers and
24 project owners in Philadelphia that those
25 high participation rates are achievable,

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2 and then they will be pressured to have
3 equally high or higher participation
4 rates. And so then there will be demand
5 for those minorities and women on job
6 sites throughout Philadelphia.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. I
8 mean, you're talking about things that
9 have never happened in the past, and part
10 of the reason that it has not happened in
11 the past is that we do not have -- we
12 have not helped grow the capacity of
13 minority contractors in the City of
14 Philadelphia by a real participation way.
15 You're talking about going through
16 apprentice programs and training, but at
17 the same point, we're not demonstrating
18 how we're going to make sure that people
19 get pulled from these training halls to
20 get work, not only just on Rebuild but on
21 the capital projects in the City of
22 Philadelphia. So how are we going to
23 help that occur? How are we going to
24 help grow capacity of firms of color in
25 the City of Philadelphia so they will be

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2 able to bring people from apprentice
3 training halls to work on projects they
4 have so that we can grow their capacity,
5 so they can bid on larger and larger
6 contracts and reduce poverty in the City
7 of Philadelphia?

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

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

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2 less experienced.

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

18 So one of our premises is, this
19 is a seven-year program, and seven years
20 is enough time to really give some
21 supports to businesses to allow them to
22 increase their credit score, for example,
23 to increase their capacity to do larger
24 projects or increase their ability to
25 access capital even from a private bank,

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2 for example, instead of from a CDFI, for
3 example. So we want to have an
4 assessment process where we work together
5 with businesses to establish where are
6 they and where do you, business owner,
7 where do you want to get to over one,
8 three, seven years of Rebuild and how do
9 we help you get there.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We've been
11 talking about this issue for well over a
12 year, but I haven't seen any of the
13 things that we've talked about kind of
14 written down in some type of proposal
15 that we can then start to have a
16 conversation with small business owners
17 that, listen, 18 months from now, 24
18 months from now, six months from now,
19 Rebuild is coming, these are some of the
20 things that you can do to prepare
21 yourself so you can bid on the contract,
22 here's access to credit, here's technical
23 assistance, so we can help with
24 businesses in the City of Philadelphia to
25 grow using Rebuild and capital as a

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2 catalyst, so that way, they will be able
3 to become a modern union contractor going
4 forward and continue to get work from the
5 City of Philadelphia.

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

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

18 We've also, as you know, been
19 working with the Capital Consortium, and
20 we were at Councilman Johnson's Open for
21 Business event last week. We've been
22 speaking with Chambers of Commerce, and
23 over the summer, we're hoping -- we're
24 not hoping. We will be getting out to
25 different parts of the City to talk with

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2 vendors about Rebuild. Hopefully we'll
3 have ordinances passed so we'll be able
4 to be specific about how they'll be able
5 to access contract opportunities, and
6 then let them know what -- how to be
7 ready, and if they're not ready today,
8 how can they get ready. There's also
9 actually an event tomorrow, a vendor
10 event at Temple, where we will also be
11 getting the word out.

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

22 MS. WESTERMAN: So we will be
23 holding project users accountable for
24 their EOPs and we will have levers in the
25 grant agreement, like stopping payment to

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2 the project user if they are not
3 complying with their own EOP.

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

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

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. But
24 then how do we not have a situation like
25 we've had in other projects where you

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2 have a construction manager, CM, like on
3 the Eagles and Phillies stadium, point at
4 the subcontractor and the subcontractor
5 points at the CM and nothing gets done?

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

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

22 MS. WESTERMAN: So the --

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Because
24 that's historically been the issue.
25 Historically the issue has been, well, we

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2 can't remove this entity because we're
3 too far along in the project, we've got
4 to get this project done, the community
5 wants the rec center, the library, and as
6 a result, we can't stop. And so, once
7 again, we have another situation where we
8 have not used our power to enforce
9 minority participation, and then we go
10 around again to the next project where
11 we're going to have this participation
12 project again and things don't get done.

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

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I mean, I
24 have a very long memory, so I will hold
25 you accountable to that.

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2 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you, Councilman.

5 Councilman Oh, please.

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

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

22 I do think, however, that
23 Rebuild can be different if you
24 articulate it in the ordinance, that if
25 you put in a mechanism whereby the

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2 private entities or the general
3 contractors agree to not being paid,
4 having their work stopped, if there isn't
5 a meeting of the disparity agreement, if
6 you are not in fact -- if you don't have
7 the numbers, then a third-party entity,
8 like OEO or another entity, comes in and
9 puts the workers on the job. And it just
10 has to be something where someone, other
11 than who wants to see this work get done,
12 just stops the work, and that's when you
13 show people that you really do prioritize
14 inclusion. Because if inclusion is not
15 met, no money flows. Everything is done.
16 It stops. It's over.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN OH: And I think
19 that is important.

20 I have written a bill, as you
21 know. I've introduced it. I've asked
22 people to look at it as a reference
23 point. But I would support Rebuild if it
24 had a trigger mechanism that said
25 diversity and inclusion where it has been

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2 proven in the Disparity Study is that
3 important to us, that if anyone does not
4 meet these goals, then our public
5 service, our public interest is not being
6 met and we will halt the entire project.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you,
9 Councilman.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you, Councilman.

13 All right, folks. Hold it
14 down.

15 Councilman Domb, please.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 Good afternoon.

19 MS. WESTERMAN: Good afternoon.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: So it would be
24 less than \$500 million of construction
25 work. Some portion of it will be for

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2 design work and other soft costs. We
3 also intend to spend some money ensuring
4 that the community engagement portion of
5 Rebuild is more robust than you have seen
6 in the past, and then we do plan to
7 invest in this apprentice-ready program
8 and in the business supports we've been
9 talking about.

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

17 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, sir.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: We don't have
24 confirmed plans. We do definitely need
25 assistance ensuring that these dollars

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2 are spent effectively, ensuring that we
3 have adequate project controls in place,
4 and especially ensuring that design and
5 construction are occurring consistent
6 with what we've intended and with
7 integrity.

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

21 The other is, if you can just
22 give me an idea -- I'm sitting here, I'm
23 listening to everything and I'm saying to
24 myself, when would the public actually
25 expect the first park -- the work on the

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2 first recreational facility actually to
3 start?

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

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So is that a
17 year from now?

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

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Fall of this
22 year?

23 MS. WESTERMAN: Potentially, if
24 we are able to move forward expeditiously
25 with site selection and with project user

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2 qualifications.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: One other
4 question on the finances. What are the
5 costs for the -- we're issuing \$300
6 million of bonds. We're doing it at \$100
7 million sections basically. Do we have
8 an idea as to the legal counsel,
9 administrative costs, and the financing
10 costs on those bonds?

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

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

17 MS. JOHNSON: For legal
18 counsel? No.

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

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

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: All right.

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

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

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

20 Thank you.

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

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you, Councilman.

3 Councilwoman Bass.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

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

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

23 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Sure,
24 Councilwoman. So it would work in the
25 same mindset and process as PennAssist,

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2 for the most part. People would come in
3 through -- it would be recommended
4 through neighborhood organizations,
5 community groups, other organizations
6 like CAP or YouthBuild. They would come
7 through Philadelphia Works and then they
8 would get a skills assessment and see
9 kind of what trade or interest that
10 person has, what skills they have, and
11 then whether they have a driver's license
12 or not at that point. If they don't,
13 then Philadelphia Works would pay for
14 that person to get that driver's license.

15 After that piece, then they
16 would go to a two- to three-week
17 training, or also known as the boot camp.
18 We would look at the OSHA 10 training and
19 give them additional math and reading or
20 work training to try to help them -- the
21 big issue is teach them to the test. And
22 then as they are participating in that
23 two- to three-week process, they'll also
24 get paid a stipend to pay for
25 transportation to the facility and also

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2 where the training is and also for lunch
3 or any type of food for that day. And
4 during that process, the participant will
5 then decide, based on what they've gone
6 through, what trade they're interested
7 in, if it's electrician, a sheet metal
8 worker, a carpenter, and then they'll
9 be -- after that, the participant will
10 sign a commitment letter and then they'll
11 start the work on a Rebuild or City
12 capital project site. They'll work on a
13 site doing that in that field that they
14 chose. At that point, a participant will
15 then be able to take a test for that
16 respective trade within that 12 months.
17 The goal will be to try to fit that into
18 the schedule, but if another date has to
19 be made to take the test, that will be
20 accommodated. And then if they pass the
21 apprentice test, they will then be placed
22 in the proper trades apprentice class for
23 that upcoming year and then go from there
24 with the teaching any other apprentice
25 would get and be a --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So from the
3 start of the boot camp until admittance
4 to the trades, what is the timeline?

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

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

23 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: It will be
24 based on whatever trade that specific
25 individual --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So if
3 there's an abundance of folks who are
4 interested in being plumbers or
5 electricians or carpenters, let's say if
6 you have like 30 to 50 people for each
7 specific trade, that does not mean that
8 they would open up a training program or
9 an apprentice program at that time?

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

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: While he's
18 coming forward, I have another question
19 for you, and, that is, it states in your
20 suggested MOU that each candidate would
21 have to sign a commitment letter
22 acknowledging their responsibility, such
23 as arriving at work every day on time and
24 performing required tasks, which I have
25 to tell you, I felt that arriving at work

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2 every day on time was a little insulting.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we took
4 that from the PennAssist model for more
5 CTE students. So I corrected the MOU,
6 because it's not -- it's more for
7 students. That was more for a student
8 who has never worked on a job site
9 before. So that would be more of -- so
10 that was a typo on my part.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And can you
12 give us an idea of also -- because one of
13 the other things -- and I don't know if
14 this came from the PennAssist program
15 also, but it said each candidate will be
16 requested to identify a support system or
17 mentor. What is that? Is that someone
18 who has to sponsor them into membership?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yeah.
20 That would be someone -- and that, again,
21 was more geared towards the CTE student.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So that's
23 not a requirement?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Because
25 this will be part of -- because our

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2 program can take CTE students but also
3 would take adults as well. So this would
4 be more geared towards the student.

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

9 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: For
11 sponsorship into the trades?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Correct.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All right.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
15 Mr. Wigglesworth, you want to come
16 forward and answer. Just identify
17 yourself formally for the record, please.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

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

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Did you
25 hear the Councilwoman's question?

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2 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: If you
3 wouldn't mind repeating it, especially
4 given the two questions that have been
5 answered since. So I want to make sure
6 that the question you want to ask is the
7 one that I answer.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I just
9 wanted to get an idea of how this process
10 is going to flow, because it's
11 frustrating that we're a year in on
12 Rebuild, on planning for Rebuild, and we
13 still have so little in terms of detail.
14 And so what I'm trying to find out is if
15 we have started this boot camp and let's
16 say we have 50 people who want to be
17 carpenters who come out of the boot camp
18 and 50 who want to be plumbers and
19 another 50 who want to be electricians,
20 at what point will the trades have their
21 apprentice program? So like is it once
22 it reaches a certain number or is it
23 just -- what is the determination in
24 terms of, well, we have this particular
25 group of people who are interested, and

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2 so now that we have the size of the class
3 that we need, we're going to open it up,
4 or is it something else?

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

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

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

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

17 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: The current
18 idea is that individuals who are
19 interested in jobs through Rebuild will
20 go through our CareerLinks process, be
21 assessed, get some information regarding
22 the individual trades. And I would
23 hasten to add that there are 17 different
24 internationals and 54 locals within the
25 Building Trades Council. So it's not a

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2 simple answer to give you regarding when
3 apprenticeship tests actually occur,
4 because there's 54 different sets. But
5 the process would be, individuals will be
6 assessed and when there are enough
7 individuals to conduct a boot camp, a
8 boot camp would be conducted, as Rich
9 said, under contract through Philadelphia
10 Works. Those boot camps would last two
11 to three weeks. The intention would be
12 to do an assessment of individuals,
13 figure out their skills, figure out where
14 they want to end up, figure out whether
15 or not their skills permit the
16 opportunity for them to end up there, and
17 also deliver an OSHA 10 program, which is
18 required for work on construction
19 projects for the health and safety of the
20 employees that will be there.

21 So the answer to your core
22 question regarding the boot camp is,
23 they'll be put together as needed around
24 cohorts of individuals, and they will not
25 be trade specific, because we're not

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2 going to wait to get X number of folks
3 here and Y number of folks there. We're
4 going to run boot camps as we have enough
5 people, and the boot camp itself is not
6 craft specific.

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

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

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Sure.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can we go
24 back to the -- Rich, can we go back to
25 the CareerLinks program and how that --

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2 like what's the length of time on the
3 CareerLinks? Because when we went
4 through the timeline before, we didn't
5 include that. So we didn't include --
6 you said it was roughly three weeks
7 for --

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

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

16 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we
17 would have -- I guess it would be -- that
18 piece would be where we would have folks
19 refer or that would come into a
20 CareerLink and we would have folks at the
21 CareerLink specifically for the Rebuild
22 program so they wouldn't be diverted.
23 They would go right and talk to a person,
24 give all the information they need, and
25 that's when they would go through the

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2 screening.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

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

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

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

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
18 how do we -- when we talk about
19 inclusion, one of the things that drives
20 me a little nuts here is that getting the
21 information -- because like I'm not on
22 every work site, you're not on every work
23 site, none of us is on every work site,
24 but we do know right now in Philadelphia
25 we have a major problem, and so fixing

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2 that problem really requires not just the
3 will but also the information, the data.
4 And so we still don't have from the
5 Administration a plan to properly collect
6 the appropriate data that we need so that
7 we know who has been hired. It's not an
8 MOU. It hasn't been presented at all by
9 the Administration. So how will we ever
10 have any sort of idea in terms of who has
11 been hired?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So that
13 was one of our main reasons why we will
14 be working with Philadelphia Works. So
15 they will track everybody that comes
16 through this program and will track them
17 through the whole process and help them
18 through that through a case manager, so
19 if there's any supports needed, we will
20 give that to them. And also we'll track
21 them after the fact to make sure that
22 they were placed and they're on some of
23 the job sites. So we will have -- by the
24 end of the first cohort, we'll be able to
25 show numbers on how the program went,

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2 where people ended up. All that
3 information will be collected through the
4 first process with Philadelphia Works'
5 involvement.

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

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

24 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Thank you,
25 Councilwoman.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you, Councilwoman.

4 Councilman Henon, please.

5 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

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

20 I grew up in the park at a rec
21 center. I grew up in Wissinoming Park.
22 I was the first one out. Al was my rec
23 leader. I depended on him. He's
24 reliable, and Parks and Recreation do a
25 tremendous job, and it was a safe place

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2 that my parents and/or those who have
3 guardians or whomever knows that you're
4 going to go. We need to make that safe
5 again. We need to make people like me,
6 people that's in Mount Airy, people in
7 West Philly, people in Southwest Philly
8 need to feel safe going to our rec
9 centers again, and we need to do it in a
10 different way. We need to do it where
11 people can co-exist and not have to worry
12 about not having camera surveillances,
13 not having any kind of other devices that
14 are detections of any kind of guns. We
15 need to have our police being a part of
16 the safe walks. And I think that's all a
17 part of Rebuild. And a part of Rebuild
18 is rebuilding our communities and getting
19 them back to work in addition to, and the
20 only way we have those safe places is if
21 we do create opportunities for people.
22 And I think, in my opinion, we need to
23 all agree. And I think we're really
24 close. We're real close on legislation
25 on Rebuild, on getting there, and I think

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2 we will get there, as we always do,
3 because that's what this Council always
4 does. We come, we know we're 17
5 different independent elected officials
6 who represent different constituencies
7 who have different concerns, who actually
8 have different upbringings. I know what
9 it's like. I know what it's like to be
10 in school and be afraid that when
11 somebody from the admissions office is
12 going to come down and say the parents
13 didn't pay the tuition. I know what it's
14 like. I know what it's like to have a
15 bill at the corner store, but always
16 relied on the park, where we can --
17 everybody can come together, and we need
18 to rebuild them.

19 A couple things, one on time.
20 We've been talking about this for a long
21 time. I'm going to start with the MOU.
22 The MOU has been circulating around here
23 for how long? This question is going to
24 be to Deputy Mayor Rich Lazer. How long
25 has it been circulated?

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: So we
3 worked on it, but then we first showed it
4 in, I think, the briefing in February.
5 We added it into a packet in February.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: In February.
7 And it has transformed into something I
8 think that, in my opinion, in a draft
9 form, although it may not be final as we
10 sit here today, but could be within the
11 next few days or a week. I think that --
12 I'm proud of it, because coming from
13 building trades, coming from middle
14 class, working neighborhood, I see things
15 and I've seen things in a draft form that
16 I've never seen before, like stipends,
17 like trying to -- life skills, and not
18 just finding a prospective craft for an
19 individual, and if they don't pass the
20 test, they're not out. They get a chance
21 and an opportunity to work on where they
22 fell short on and have another chance and
23 another opportunity, because we're really
24 going the extra step to make sure that we
25 have Philadelphia people into the trades.

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2 I think that the Pennvest model
3 of Councilwoman Blackwell is historic,
4 but Rebuild is just a small part. I
5 mean, we're talking about \$300 million in
6 a bond. I don't know what our capital
7 budget is. I do know what it is. It's a
8 lot more than \$300 million every single
9 year. It's in the billions. It's a B.
10 So we're talking about \$300 million of
11 bond resources that we need to be
12 responsible for, and I think we're taking
13 those steps. And we're not there. We're
14 going to work it out, and this is what we
15 do in the City of Philadelphia. We
16 disagree on some things, but we
17 compromise on the things that are
18 important, and that's really providing
19 the opportunities. And I've never seen
20 the building trades, I've never seen the
21 City of Philadelphia, I've never seen
22 City Council members be so involved and
23 so engaged in providing their advice,
24 their challenges, their concerns from
25 their citizens that they represent to get

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2 to the place that we are today.

3 I heard some things today about
4 the business world and the business
5 community. This wouldn't be happening in
6 the business community. The business
7 community don't need us. The business
8 world, the business community will just
9 go build. They need approvals, of
10 course, for certain things, but they
11 don't have to do this. So we are being
12 the example, is the reason why I'm saying
13 that, using Rebuild just as a small part
14 of a bigger picture. We're sending the
15 message to the business community,
16 anybody who wants to develop in the City
17 of Philadelphia, that we mean business,
18 that we want to employ our kids, we want
19 to make sure that they use CareerLink and
20 that Philadelphia Works is a part of it,
21 that the PRA has direct access for
22 building trades members directly to help
23 those who may not have the skill sets to
24 test in but have the experience for the
25 last 20 years. I mean, Council President

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2 is spot on when he's talking about using
3 the PRA as an opportunity.

4 So I think that we're
5 discussing a lot of things here, but
6 there's the big picture. Let's not lose
7 the fact that the big picture -- this is
8 just a microcosm of how Philadelphia is
9 taking the lead nationally on how to do
10 business in the City of Philadelphia
11 collectively.

12 You talked about community
13 engagement and the community engagement
14 part. I just want to -- and you may not
15 have stated it correctly, and this is
16 just constructive criticism. District
17 Councilmembers know who the partners are,
18 so I would hope it starts with the
19 District Councilperson, not the Advisory
20 Committee. The Advisory Committee may be
21 a part of it, community groups will be a
22 part of it, but the District
23 Councilperson really knows the partners
24 that are involved in the planning of our
25 parks and recreation centers. So I hope

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2 you really -- you take that in
3 consideration as we move forward.

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

7 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes, sir.

8 COUNCILMAN HENON: It has
9 quarterly progress reports, when you get
10 to 25 percent of the project. That's on
11 the build and spend, is that correct, and
12 the EOP and --

13 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes. Exactly.
14 So for 25 percent of contract spend on
15 the contract participation side and 25
16 percent of projected hours on the
17 workforce side. And that's not to say
18 that all of the regular sort of daily,
19 weekly, monthly, quarterly monitoring
20 isn't going on. It is also. We're just
21 saying that District Councilmembers will
22 expect and receive a specific
23 recommendation from the EOP monitor as to
24 whether that project is on track.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: As we

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2 should. And that's historic, because
3 that hasn't happened here. I mean, year
4 after year, we argue about this on what
5 are the numbers when it comes to
6 participation during our budget process.
7 So it would be more frequent and it would
8 be in realtime; is that correct?

9 MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: That's good
11 to hear.

12 And for the record, when it
13 comes to -- we were talking about -- I
14 think Councilwoman Sanchez was talking
15 about disbarred contractors. The City
16 has been very lenient or understanding or
17 liberal when it comes to disbarring
18 contractors. There are thousands of
19 contractors -- I'm not going to say
20 thousands. There are a lot of
21 contractors in the City of Philadelphia
22 who should be disbarred right now as we
23 speak for not pulling permits, for not
24 paying taxes, and who are not providing
25 the work to the scope of what they agreed

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2 to. So I would hope that this is just a
3 reminder that there are contractors out
4 there now who don't meet the
5 qualifications of having OSHA trained
6 workers on the work site, and I got
7 them -- I'm going to also remind that
8 there are only two types of workers on
9 the work site. There's a licensed
10 contractor or an employer -- or an
11 employee of a licensed contractor, and
12 they have to be OSHA 10 trained. And the
13 MOU that is 99.9 percent there, but not
14 final or executed yet, requires that
15 they're OSHA trained. So people are
16 going to get trained to be safe and
17 perform safe work for the general public.

18 And I know I'm saying a lot,
19 but I wanted to get a few things out
20 while I had the opportunity. I'm sure
21 we'll have more rounds here or more
22 conversation, but this isn't no joke.
23 This is a real opportunity to show the
24 nation and show the City of Philadelphia
25 we make tough decisions. And I remind

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2 you that we made tough decisions with the
3 soda tax. I made a tough decision with
4 the soda tax. Not a lot of people --
5 people are angry out there. So I want
6 this to be built. I want it to be built
7 responsibly and I want to make sure that
8 the constituents that I represent are
9 seeing the product of our hard and tough
10 decisions, and that's being responsible,
11 that's giving people opportunities, and
12 that's not playing politics with people,
13 not playing politics with the past. So
14 if the past didn't work -- and it
15 obviously hasn't worked -- and some
16 people have been around, they may have
17 not had the opportunity or chances to
18 change it, but we're changing it right
19 now, like it or not. It's going to
20 change and it's going to change for the
21 best.

22 So I really -- I guess I didn't
23 have a question there. It was a
24 ten-minute -- it was a ten-minute
25 statement.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

3 Statement, yes.

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

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

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

14 Next, Councilwoman Sanchez,
15 please.

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

19 So going back to this workforce
20 issue, and I didn't want to get into the
21 MOU, but as we started talking about
22 trade opportunities and the local access,
23 in the language of the MOU -- and some of
24 us have seen the MOU for a couple of
25 months, and I will have to disagree with

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2 Councilman Henon. It is not 99 percent
3 there, because I still think there's some
4 really critical details that are missing
5 here that I think people need to
6 understand. As Councilwoman Parker says,
7 how do we manage expectations, right?

8 So in these programs,
9 everything in the MOU talks about the
10 initiative and it talks about folks
11 having access. So there is a scenario
12 where we are going to put people through
13 a program, but ultimately they still have
14 to pass the building trades exam, right,
15 based on their choice of building trades?
16 Why isn't it possible for folks to work
17 through this process and get an
18 assessment that is not just a test?

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Each union's
21 apprenticeship program is governed
22 through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
23 through the Bureau of Apprenticeship
24 Training. That specifies hours of
25 instruction. It also specifies hours to

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2 be worked in conjunction with the hours
3 of instruction. Each one of those
4 apprenticeship plans, by the way, whether
5 they're union or non-union, requires and
6 has a test at the front end.

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

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

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

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2 pass that test and --

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

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

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And I
25 appreciate that, because I do think --

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2 and let me tell you, my kudos to the
3 Mayor. We want to make this work.
4 There's still a lot of details around all
5 of those things, right? Because it's
6 about expectations, right? So there is a
7 scenario where someone goes through all
8 of this process, doesn't pass the test.
9 Why do we need that test if you're
10 sponsoring these young people, or whoever
11 it is, and you see that they can do the
12 work? Why can't we come up with a
13 different assessment model that is not
14 that test?

15 (Audience members yelling.)

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: The only
18 response that I have is that the building
19 trades unions have agreed to an awful lot
20 in the way -- and I'm not from the
21 building trades. I do, however, partner
22 with them on labor management
23 programming. So I'm not speaking for the
24 building trades. I'm speaking for my
25 organization and our experience. And

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2 what we are doing here is attempting to
3 come up with a process that opens up
4 access to our building trades unions but,
5 at the end of the day, provides for a
6 career for individuals, because what
7 unions provide to their employers is the
8 control of the quality and the
9 consistency of the labor product.

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The
16 reason we're here is because we want that
17 access, right? We value what you've
18 created, right? We just want access to
19 it, right? We're not devaluing what
20 you've created, the institutions that
21 you've created. What is troubling to me
22 and even in this version that we have is
23 everything -- there's nothing here that
24 says a certain percentage are going to
25 get accepted, there's a commitment to a

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2 certain number of jobs, there's a
3 commitment to a certain number of union
4 positions. Everything still says
5 building trades. They still got to take
6 the test. It is up to the building
7 trades to set up the apprentice program.
8 It is up to the building trades to accept
9 or not accept. So I don't know what
10 we're getting here that's different than
11 what people could do right now if they
12 had the capacity, and that's the part I'm
13 struggling with.

14 I want this to work, right? We
15 have a lot of folks who are skills
16 tradespeople who have not in the past had
17 access. And so that's the part that I'm
18 still struggling with, because it says
19 people may, people can apply. There's
20 nothing of we're committed to taking 80
21 percent of the people that go through the
22 program and we're committing to make them
23 union, no matter what. There's nothing
24 that gives me numbers or guarantees. And
25 nothing is guaranteed but death in this

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2 life, but there has to be something
3 stronger. And so that's why there's
4 still so much work in this document that
5 needs to be done.

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

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

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yeah,
22 they'll sign onto this MOU, but we can't
23 sign onto this MOU because it doesn't
24 have numbers. It has aspirational goals.
25 Even if we -- even if we did the

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2 maintenance team and the PRA, if we did
3 the maintenance team, we're talking about
4 80 jobs.

5 (Audience member yelling out.)

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, sir,
7 sir.

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

10 So I want folks to know it's
11 not that we don't want this to work.
12 It's not that we are not committed to
13 helping the Mayor. It is not that we --
14 as Councilman Jones says, he likes
15 cutting ribbons. I like cutting ribbons.
16 But ultimately we have to -- it has to
17 pass Councilman Jones' barber shop test.
18 We have to be able to say that at the end
19 of this, there's a pathway, an
20 institutional pathway, for the 10 billion
21 Capital Program, and it's still not
22 there. It's still not there for me, and
23 we want this to work. All I see is
24 aspirational goals, Philadelphia Works
25 doing some stuff. And some of our folks

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2 have been through these apprentice
3 programs, and it hasn't left there.

4 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you, Councilwoman.

7 Councilman Jones, please.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

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

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

22 You have an opportunity right
23 now with this process to create more
24 input and access than we've ever had in
25 the history of contracting in this city.

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2 That's if we pay attention to the
3 details. But if we don't -- and I've
4 heard in these hallways, and I listen to
5 everybody, that there are people ready to
6 say that if there are 154 locals, why not
7 create the 155th local and start their
8 own union? Start their own union.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what I
11 would hope is to take this opportunity to
12 get this right, and I'm going to tell you
13 why. Because what I think you said,
14 Rich -- Mr. Lazer. I'm sorry. I
15 actually met your kids -- that this is a
16 beta test, that 300 million is a small
17 quantity, because right next door with
18 the public schools is 4.2 billion, with a
19 B. So if this model -- if somehow in the
20 next year we actually work this out and
21 there are young people coming from barber
22 shops and trade schools and reentry going
23 to actual jobs or actual businesses or
24 actual City employment, we take this
25 model right over to the School District

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2 and replicate it.

3 If we talk about the fact that
4 we have \$10 billion a year in backlogs
5 for the capital project, if this works
6 with PAID, if this works with the
7 Memorandum of Understanding, if all of
8 these things actually work in unison, we
9 take that and start sending more of our
10 projects over to that model, if all of
11 the questions that my colleagues that
12 raised it -- so what should be the
13 message today is that no one is trying to
14 take food off of anyone's plate, any of
15 those locals. We just need to expand the
16 plate, and here is the opportunity to
17 expand the plate to let all people
18 benefit from this economic -- this is
19 better than Obama stimulus package. We
20 have within our own means to stimulate
21 our own local economy. And with the
22 prospect of Trump and his skinny budget,
23 we need to get this right. We need to
24 get this right.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you. Thank you, Councilman.

5 Councilman Domb.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 A couple of follow-up
9 questions. I wanted to make sure I
10 understood the financing. What's the
11 life expectancy of these renovations
12 we're going to be doing? Is it 20 years,
13 15 years?

14 MS. JOHNSON: Based on the
15 potential various projects, we estimate a
16 20-year life for the bonds.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Twenty-year
18 life of the bonds?

19 MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And so the
21 time of the bonds matches basically the
22 financing -- actually the time of the
23 renovations? Twenty years from now we're
24 going to have to revisit this again, fix
25 up these parks again? In other words,

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2 how long are these renovations going to
3 last for?

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

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

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

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So I guess my

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2 concern is, I want to make sure that we
3 don't have to revisit this 15 years while
4 we're still paying for the debt of what
5 we did today. I'm thinking down the road
6 15, 20 years.

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

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: On the
25 financing, the rate of financing, ball

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2 park, what's the range of the interest
3 rate on the financing?

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

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Four percent?

9 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because when
11 you look at it, we're borrowing basically
12 300 million, 100 million in each section
13 basically.

14 MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

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

24 MS. JOHNSON: No. The way it's
25 set up, we will be paying principal every

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2 year. So at the end of 20 years, there's
3 no balloon payment or anything.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It will be
5 all paid off?

6 MS. JOHNSON: It will be all
7 paid off.

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

25 I'm in favor of everything. I

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2 just want to make sure that we're very
3 careful with how we invest the money and
4 we do it in a smart way.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
8 you, Councilman.

9 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

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

25 (Applause.)

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

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

22 So the PRA is a part of the
23 MOU, but the MOU is a broader document
24 that will cover the workforce piece, the
25 PLA piece and also the RDA also. So I

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2 think that's why we wanted to do the --
3 that was the idea about going behind the
4 MOU. So they both have teeth, but -- in
5 the MOU it says if certain -- if we don't
6 feel that certain things are done, the
7 PLA could be void. So it does say that,
8 but PLA talks about specific -- in the
9 PLA it does talk about specific
10 participation numbers.

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So then
16 that goes to the very concern raised by
17 both Councilman Jones, Sanchez, and
18 Green. To punctuate the point, I learned
19 today in doing my own homework that there
20 are about 300 men trained at PHA in some
21 of the trades who are sitting and waiting
22 for an opportunity to do work. And so
23 for me the question is, where is the
24 missing link? Why haven't we looped
25 those men that have been trained and

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2 waiting with opportunities before
3 Rebuild? That becomes an in-your-face
4 example of how we have not done well and
5 some would say failed at the very issues
6 we're trying to resolve with this new
7 enormous \$300 million opportunity. Quite
8 frankly, I don't care if it's 3 million,
9 30 million, 300 million. People want an
10 opportunity to work.

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

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

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

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So we
23 should never assume anything. What do
24 you anticipate the yield of those
25 discussions will be?

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: I think
3 because there are -- we can pull from
4 that pool, I think that's another piece
5 for the PRA as well, is there's qualified
6 candidates there already trained that we
7 can look to pull from. So I think the
8 PRA piece is where there's a big hopeful
9 there and then also through this program
10 and see what the skills are and how we
11 can move forward with them on that.

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

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes, yes,
25 yes. And this is certainly not to

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2 exclude another potential pool, but to be
3 as inclusive as we can and get it in
4 writing -- because for me if it's not in
5 writing, it doesn't exist -- to include
6 them as well.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: We can
8 look at that.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please.

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

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
13 then. I thank you.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you, Councilwoman.

19 Councilman Henon.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 I just want to touch back on --
23 there was a conversation and there's
24 always been conversation about Council
25 approval. For the record, I don't want

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2 to approve anything when it comes to
3 contracts. That's not my job. But I
4 certainly want to sign off on priority of
5 projects based on need and facilities and
6 the amount of capital investment that's
7 required in my district.

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

17 So a resolution will be
18 introduced in the beginning of the year
19 or however, fiscal year or whatnot, and
20 it will have projects or sites, because
21 I'm going to call Rebuild the project.
22 There will be sites that will be in
23 districts. I'm going to use my district.
24 So there will be sites in my district
25 that I will be working with the Rebuild

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2 team; is that correct?

3 MS. WESTERMAN: Right.

4 COUNCILMAN HENON: And a
5 financial allocation based on the scope
6 of work or whatever the project, the site
7 project entails will be included in on
8 that; is that correct?

9 MS. WESTERMAN: That's correct.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: So every
11 year not only will there be a quarterly
12 progress report on the 25 percent of the
13 work and whether there's overruns or
14 challenges that are unexpected,
15 unforeseen challenges, like they
16 discovered some underlying infrastructure
17 issues or something like that. So
18 Council will have the final say anyway,
19 right, because it has to be a resolution?

20 MS. WESTERMAN: So Council
21 would approve an annual budget and annual
22 program statement and an annual list of
23 sites to be leased.

24 COUNCILMAN HENON: So annual
25 budget based on the selection of the

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2 sites?

3 MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

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

7 MS. WESTERMAN: Right.

8 COUNCILMAN HENON: And what
9 else?

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

14 COUNCILMAN HENON: The
15 community engagement plan.

16 MS. WESTERMAN: The
17 workforce -- the apprentice-ready
18 program.

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

23 MS. WESTERMAN: It has to start
24 with the District Councilmember,
25 absolutely.

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2 COUNCILMAN HENON: And so that
3 will be in the form of a resolution?

4 MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

5 COUNCILMAN HENON: And all this
6 will be public and transparent?

7 MS. WESTERMAN: Correct.

8 Annual program statement, annual budget.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Annual
10 program statement, annual budget
11 allocation line item.

12 MS. WESTERMAN: An annual list
13 of sites to be leased.

14 COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay. All
15 right. Thank you.

16 MS. WESTERMAN: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
18 Councilman.

19 Councilman Domb.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I just wanted
21 to follow up on a question. On the
22 financing, I was wrong in this out
23 number. I used 30 year. If you have 20
24 year, it's going to be close to 460 to
25 470, but you're sure you can get a 4

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2 percent interest rate on this?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Am I guaranteeing

4 the 4 percent interest rate right now?

5 No, because interest rates are rising as

6 well as market conditions. So I just --

7 that's where we were, and we budgeted

8 some buffer in for the fiscal year. But

9 that's where we were the last time.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is that

11 fixed rates?

12 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. We are

13 doing fixed rate, tax-exempt fixed rate.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank

15 you very much.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 I know you want to be here even

20 longer talking to us, but that seems to

21 be the end of the questions here. So

22 we're going to go into -- so, again,

23 thank you. Thank you for all your time

24 here.

25 We're now going to go into the

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2 rest of the public who has asked to
3 speak. Like I said, we have a long list
4 here. As the Council President said
5 earlier, we want to limit everybody,
6 because we want to give everybody a
7 chance before it gets too late, to two
8 minutes for your testimony, two minutes.

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

14 Ethelind Baylor, Gregory
15 Holston. I think I saw him. Yes.
16 Minister Rodney Muhammad. Is he still
17 here? I'm sorry. Please come up.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

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

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: She left?

3 Okay.

4 Jihad Ali? Come on up.

5 (Witness approached witness
6 table.)

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

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

21 I would just say I was -- most
22 of what I was going to say today has
23 changed based on the testimony that just
24 happened, but there's five points I think
25 that POWER is really concerned with

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2 around this project. One of them being
3 that this city for the last at least 30,
4 40 years that I've been around here has
5 struggled in a very tangible way with
6 minority participation on any building
7 project, whether it's University of
8 Pennsylvania or the Liacouras Center, all
9 the way back to all of the different
10 types of stadiums that are down at the
11 stadium area. We have always struggled
12 with real minority participation.

13 And I think one of the most
14 powerful things I heard -- and I think it
15 came from one of the union people -- is
16 simply the -- the simple statement that
17 he said, which was "then we will," the
18 union, "place them on a job." It means
19 the union does have the power to place
20 people on jobs. It means the union can
21 determine in their own way and in their
22 own fashion what people get on jobs.
23 That is probably, again, the strongest
24 statement made, because of all the
25 workforce development things and all of

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2 the guidelines and training programs and
3 everything that was mentioned about
4 everything, the reality is, that power
5 still remains in that union.

6 (Applause.)

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

16 (Applause.)

17 REVEREND HOLSTON: And if this
18 Council hears that statement and does not
19 do everything in its power, particularly
20 putting those standards, as Councilman Oh
21 suggested, actually in ordinance, not
22 just for Rebuild but for every project
23 involving any City dollar any place in
24 this city, if this Council does not
25 demand that union to be able to put

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2 people of color on their job sites, then
3 we need to do whatever is necessary to
4 make sure that every dollar in this city
5 is used to help African Americans in
6 every way. And if that names other means
7 and other methods, then we have to do
8 that.

9 And so this is my final note to
10 this. Councilperson Bass said that she
11 wanted the final say in all the projects
12 that are going on in Rebuild. Well, I'm
13 in complete and POWER is in complete
14 agreement with that, that every
15 Councilperson should have final say in
16 every project. Why do I say that? Not
17 simply because I'm appreciative of the
18 needs and the concerns of Council, but I
19 want to make sure, POWER wants to make
20 sure that we clearly have the people who
21 are identified as responsible for making
22 sure those projects have African American
23 people on it, and if the Councilpeople
24 want to take on that responsibility to
25 make sure that every project in their

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2 district has African American people in
3 the right numbers and the numbers are
4 high enough to represent their districts,
5 I'm glad they want to take that challenge
6 on, and I want to support them. They
7 should not approve any project that the
8 people where the unions, where the
9 companies do not already have enough
10 African Americans and people of color
11 that are in that union and on that job
12 site.

13 Thank you so much.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
16 you.

17 Mr. Muhammad, please.

18 MR. ALI: Good afternoon.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jihad?
20 Okay. Go ahead.

21 MR. ALI: Good afternoon,
22 members of Council and members of the
23 audience. I'm delighted to be up here
24 with these two leaders in the community.
25 My name is Jihad Ali. I'm the President

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2 of the Contractors' Roundtable, which is
3 an organization of African American
4 contractors.

5 I would like to follow up on
6 something that the pastor said. In fact,
7 we have been on this issue since 1950,
8 since we built the Municipal Service
9 Building. And, again, 58 years later in
10 2008, we were on this issue when we got
11 ready to build the Convention Center.
12 And here we are today, June 7, 2017,
13 still struggling with this issue.

14 Also we're approving a project
15 labor agreement, which, as the pastor
16 said, talks about the -- we talked about
17 the demographics of the City, but we need
18 to really change the language. And the
19 language is we're talking about a
20 workforce, and if we're talking about
21 workforce, think back a couple years ago,
22 maybe 40 years ago, when we used to have
23 the trolley car line, the SEPTA line, the
24 subway line. There were no blacks on
25 there. But then as we have other leaders

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2 came forth, Cecil B. Moore and the rest
3 of them and the Honorable Dr. Martin
4 Luther King and all those, they started
5 looking at the workforce. And so the
6 state, the government -- because we're
7 talking about labor. Labor is ruled by
8 the U.S. Department of Labor, not City
9 Council, not the Rebuild, not the
10 Disparity Study. And the Department of
11 Labor indicates that the workforce in
12 Philadelphia has a number, and that
13 number is -- let's just say for my
14 argument there's 1,880,000, and of that
15 1,880,000 of the workforce, which is
16 defined as those people that are working
17 and people that have looked for work in
18 the last three months, that is the
19 workforce in Philadelphia County. And if
20 Philadelphia County -- if that workforce
21 consists of 20 percent African Americans
22 or minorities for this case and 40
23 percent women, then anything that we look
24 at, any field, any profession should have
25 those same ratios, 20 percent and 40

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2 percent. That is workforce.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. ALI: And so going forward,

5 if we're going to have a criteria, we

6 need to look at that criteria of

7 workforce and we ought to have that.

8 And just in conclusion, I'd

9 like to say that, you know, when

10 Councilwoman Sanchez asked the fellow

11 from PALM a question, and he said to her

12 something that wasn't an accurate

13 statement, and he said that -- he told

14 you through his own language that the

15 U.S. Department of Labor, which is the

16 regulatory agency for labor, empowers the

17 state local agency, which is the

18 Department of Labor and Industry in

19 Pennsylvania, which empowers the

20 Pennsylvania Apprentice Council, and in

21 that Council, he said that whoever has an

22 apprentice program, which is the

23 language, that if you have an apprentice

24 program, you have to take a test, but in

25 fact what the law says, if you're going

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2 to have an apprentice program, a program
3 consists of two components. One is the
4 work component, which is you have to work
5 2,000 hours, and the other is you need
6 144 hours of classroom instruction. You
7 don't need a test, because for that 144
8 hours of classroom instruction, you have
9 to identify a third-party provider to
10 provide you with -- to provide the
11 classroom training. So you get a student
12 in there for the classroom training.
13 They do 144 hours, and you're going to
14 give them the work when they come out.

15 And then thinking about that
16 program -- and I'll finish with this one
17 point. So we're talking about -- you
18 said about -- let's talk about direct
19 entry into the CTE program, which the CTE
20 program is approved by the U.S.
21 Department of Labor and we have people in
22 class four years in a row. Every year
23 they're tested by former union members.
24 They file a program of instruction
25 according to ONET. ONET is the national

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2 database of employment. So their
3 construction -- whatever field they're
4 following, it has a construction code,
5 like a Social Security number, and it has
6 a code that identifies that construction.
7 They get tested. They go up to the next
8 level. They're tested up to the next
9 level, all the way up to the fourth year.
10 So when they come out of that fourth
11 year, if they're carpenters, HVAC,
12 whatever they are, they know what they
13 want to do. Why won't we give them a
14 test, an assessment to see what you want
15 to do and you can spend four years doing
16 that?

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. ALI: So that makes no
19 sense.

20 So you're on the right track.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jihad, I
22 have to call you.

23 MR. ALI: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
25 otherwise we'll never get through this.

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2 Mr. Muhammad, please.

3 MINISTER MUHAMMAD:

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

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

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

20 I've lived in this city for
21 over 25 years, and the work sites that I
22 have seen, I've seen they got more work
23 here than workers, and when they have
24 less workers, they're bringing people
25 from Virginia and North Carolina, and

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2 that's morally wrong. And, you know, I
3 just want to say that when you go out of
4 this state to get workers, it's telling
5 me that we're unwanted. So we have to
6 come to the party uninvited, and that's
7 the way we are here.

8 Much of the urban blight that
9 we see today is the result of moral
10 decay, because we are failing in our
11 moral responsibility. High inequality of
12 wealth, high doses of income inequality
13 have left our communities in a state of
14 ruin. And I remind us in history that in
15 1865 at the end of the Civil War, the
16 only skilled tradesmen in this country
17 were black men, not minorities.

18 Minorities is a term that
19 troubles me because it's not illegal to
20 include everyone, but minorities weren't
21 enslaved. It wasn't minorities that had
22 to sit at the end of a whip, and it was
23 black men in particular that were the
24 skilled labor in this country.
25 Systemically we were moved out of that,

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2 and now we're trying to find our way back
3 in.

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

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Wait.
21 Hold on. I have a list here. Are you --
22 the next three names I have, Kim Riddick,
23 Ozetta Jones, and Reverend Chester
24 Williams and Rena Graves. Any of them
25 here?

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 You are who?

3 MR. RIDDICK: Kim Riddick.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

5 Please, have a seat.

6 What's your name, sir?

7 MR. TROTTER: Charles Shaka

8 Trotter. I'm going to take the place of
9 somebody that's not here.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, are
11 you on the list?

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

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

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

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

22 No? Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
23 Please, come up.

24 Sir, if you could yield the
25 seat so the people whose names are

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 called --

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

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You can
6 sign up.

7 MR. TROTTER: I did sign up
8 already.

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

14 Sorry, sir.

15 MR. RIDDICK: Yes, sir.

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

18 MS. JONES: I'm Ozetta Jones.
19 Rena is not here.

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

22 Mr. Riddick, please, identify
23 yourself and proceed.

24 MR. RIDDICK: Yes. My name is
25 Kim Riddick.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on,
3 please.

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

6 I'm sorry.

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

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

22 What I propose is to take the
23 union completely out of this and allow an
24 independent group to sit and study this
25 and come back with a better solution,

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2 because it's not going to work.

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

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

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

13 Ms. Jones is it?

14 MS. JONES: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes,
16 please.

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

21 We are to rebuild --

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: State
23 your name.

24 MS. JONES: I'm sorry. My name
25 is Ozetta Jones and I'm from the CBNC,

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2 Chew and Belfield Neighbors Association
3 in the Eighth Councilmanic District.
4 Reverend Williams is our founder.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you.

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

20 These dollars should be put in
21 the hands of responsible stakeholders and
22 residents in these councilmanic districts
23 and to responsible community
24 organizations, such as Reverend Williams
25 and others, many others, who have a

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2 40-year or more track record in serving
3 their community, because they have a
4 vested interest in their community. They
5 live there and, therefore, they can
6 maintain, they can monitor their
7 investment, which is in themselves, which
8 are the things that are in the community,
9 such as their homes and houses, the
10 blocks, the parks, the playgrounds, the
11 school, the businesses. You get the
12 picture. And that brings me to a point,
13 that there are too many people,
14 especially elderly, in the urban
15 community who cannot fix up their homes.
16 Part of this is due to redlining in the
17 City also.

18 So we need people who can put
19 money into the hands of people, the
20 residents, who need to do this block by
21 block. I mean, it can be paid directly
22 to contractors in the form of Block
23 Grants where the homeowner doesn't have
24 to get the money directly, so there's an
25 accountability, but approved contractors,

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2 and it can be with minority contractors
3 who are fixing up their own communities.
4 The people who live there are doing the
5 work and reaping the benefits of that
6 project and they will also maintain that
7 project, so that block by block the
8 community overall is looking better,
9 safer, cleaner, reducing crime, and
10 instead of putting guns and drugs into
11 the hands and putting that in the reach
12 of our young black males and young males
13 in the City, we need to be putting, as we
14 were explaining earlier, the tools of the
15 trade and business industry into their
16 hands and that knowledge.

17 So Block Grants, business
18 corridor improvements, that any business
19 in any corridor, they should be made or
20 be held accountable to form an
21 association and maintain that corridor in
22 terms of safety and cleanliness and also
23 a uniformity, so people know that this is
24 a business corridor and that they're
25 responsible for the upkeep of that

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2 corridor and safety to the residents and
3 the shoppers there, especially if they're
4 getting tax breaks from the City.

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

9 MS. JONES: Okay.

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

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

23 MS. JONES: And connecting with
24 the houses of worship where a lot of the
25 responsible people --

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
3 I'm going to have to cut you off, just to
4 give everybody a fair chance.

5 MS. JONES: Okay.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Reverend Williams, please.

9 REVEREND WILLIAMS: Good
10 evening, everyone.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
12 evening.

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

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

22 (Applause.)

23 REVEREND WILLIAMS: If they
24 can't choose the people from the
25 community and make them quality, I

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 support City Council to tell them you got
3 to go somewhere else. This is our
4 community. If we cannot serve the people
5 that you live with and next door to, you
6 need to go. I'm saying it blunt because
7 God knows the truth.

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

15 (Tear down this wall.)

16 REVEREND WILLIAMS: Tear down
17 this wall.

18 (Tear down this wall.)

19 REVEREND WILLIAMS: Tear down
20 this wall.

21 (Tear down this wall.)

22 REVEREND WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

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

6 Okay. Come on up.

7 Jamal Johnson and Shaka
8 Trotter.

9 (Witnesses approached witness
10 table.)

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

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
14 Mr. Lumpkin, you want to --

15 MR. TROTTER: He's not here.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Mr. Johnson.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You're
18 Jamal Johnson, okay.

19 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Jamal
20 Johnson.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
22 right.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you for
24 bringing this up today. One of the
25 issues that we'd like to bring -- first

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2 we want to thank all the Councilpersons
3 for making this happen and what our input
4 into the MOU that's come before
5 Philadelphia today.

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

15 MR. TROTTER: Opportunity.

16 MR. JOHNSON: We were doing
17 six-digit contracts, six- and seven-digit
18 contracts, but on the invent of the PLA,
19 the project labor agreement, the City --
20 we thought it was actually a
21 discriminatory move that excluded African
22 American contractors, because the PLA
23 said that -- made the City signator to
24 the unions, and historically we haven't
25 been in the unions. So with that PLA, it

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2 pretty much eliminated the large
3 participation of African American
4 contractor with City projects, because we
5 were doing the public works projects. So
6 with the invent of the PLA, it kind of
7 like took us out of that picture, and we
8 were the main employers of the African
9 American young boys in the community. We
10 were hiring them. You know, the young
11 boys was working. And then with the
12 invent of the PLA, we kind of like -- our
13 public works projects kind of like got
14 real almost with a zero.

15 So this is an opportunity now
16 to bring us back into the play, to bring
17 the African American contractor back into
18 play, because we honor the young boys
19 that's in the community. They ask us to
20 work. They ask us to take them on jobs.
21 We can't really give them adequate,
22 decent jobs because we don't have the
23 six- and seven-digit contracts to give
24 them employment. We're doing a lot of
25 small jobs, and those small jobs doesn't

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2 give us the ability to hire a lot of
3 young boys. So with this MOU, we hope
4 that we have principals that know about
5 the problems that we have as African
6 American contractors put some input in
7 this MOU.

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

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

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

25 MR. JOHNSON: And if we can

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2 somehow become part of the solution,
3 become part of delivering suggestions on
4 how we can solve this problem, we'd like
5 to.

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

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

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
19 right. Sir --

20 MR. JOHNSON: So what we'd like
21 to do in closing, what we'd like to do is
22 come up with some kind of language that
23 says, okay, if you're certified, you
24 don't have to be union to get on the
25 project. I mean, we need things like

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2 that to help us out so we can employ our
3 young boys, because you got guys in the
4 union with 65 family members working.
5 Everybody and their mother working on
6 City public-funded jobs, but when it come
7 to us, we got to look at them and they
8 say, This is a union-only job. So we
9 like to --

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

12 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

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

16 MR. TROTTER: My name is
17 Charles Shaka Trotter and I'm with the
18 Contractors' Roundtable. First and
19 foremost, I'd like to thank Councilwoman
20 Cindy Bass and Councilwoman Jannie
21 Blackwell. They have been our sojourner
22 truth and Harriet Tubman to black
23 contractors in Philadelphia. One
24 speaking the truth, dissect the trick
25 from the truth, and the other leading us

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2 in the direction away from this economic
3 apartheid that black men find themselves
4 in in the black community.

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

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

16 Two things. One, with this
17 license that -- we know who is pulling
18 the strings. We know Papa Doc is pulling
19 the strings. With this license, the same
20 way they use identification to vote, to
21 suppress the voter turnout, is the same
22 way they use this license to suppress the
23 turnout for black men. We are the most
24 racially identified driving while black,
25 stop, give us a ticket, we don't have no

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2 job, can't pay the ticket, we don't have
3 no license, so now we can't get in the
4 union and build.

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

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

19 You go back, and they say, You
20 failed the test. Now, how you going to
21 fail the test? It's an intellectual
22 assumption that something is wrong. It's
23 not that you're too stupid to pass the
24 test, but you're too black to get in the
25 union.

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2 Now, you go there and say, Let
3 me see my test. I know I ain't fail.
4 And they tell you, I'm not going to give
5 you the test, because the information is
6 privy to the organization. So you never
7 see the test. So now we got to trust the
8 union --

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, have
10 a seat.

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

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

20 There's got to be a change.
21 And I just want to thank the City Council
22 for taking the heart and audacity to
23 stand on the right side of history. It's
24 overdue. Thank God. Now my
25 grandchildren -- I mean, it's like will

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2 the real City Council please stand up.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you, sir.

5 MR. TROTTER: Thank you so very
6 much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
9 right. Our next three, Imam Kenneth
10 Nuriddin -- Nuriddin. I'm sorry.
11 Rochelle Bilal.

12 (Witnesses approached witness
13 table.)

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

16 MR. HANAFI: Muhammad Hanafi.

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

20 Rochelle is coming up.
21 Emanuelle Bussie, is he here? I saw him
22 earlier. Here he comes. Okay.

23 (Witness approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All

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2 right. Please, Imam, please start. Just
3 identify yourself and proceed, please.

4 IMAM NURIDDIN: Good afternoon,
5 City Council. I am Imam Kenneth
6 Nuriddin, the Imam of the Philadelphia
7 Masjid, Clara Muhammad School, and I have
8 to speak very quickly, but first I would
9 like to commend all of the Councilmembers
10 for this reason here. The Muslim
11 community is now in the midst of its
12 Ramadan fasting, and in about two weeks,
13 we're going to have an EID recognition,
14 which Council did a lot to help us make
15 something recognized by the City, but EID
16 also stands -- EID, equality, inclusion,
17 and diversity. And let us take these
18 words very seriously, because this has
19 really been EID Recognition Day for
20 equality, inclusion, and diversity.

21 I will say one thing. The
22 vehicle that is used when we have a PLA
23 means that we give a monopoly the right
24 to determine which lines are used to
25 deliver to construction sites, and they

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2 call themselves locals. They originate
3 many times in the suburbs. They are
4 full, and by the time they get to the
5 inner city neighborhoods, they go right
6 by us. And so in reality, they aren't
7 locals. They are express lines that pass
8 right by the inner city community.

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

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2 as that.

3 So, again, thank you very much.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you. Thank you, sir.

6 (Applause.)

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

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

21 I raised other kids in the
22 City. Public service and inner city --
23 and I will be 60 years old this month.
24 That means I've been here. I've been
25 here when they raised the rent, they

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2 changed the water, they changed the
3 policies. You Councilpeople, it's on
4 you, because poverty has increased on
5 your watch. It's increased. It didn't
6 go down. It went up.

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

24 I don't want to get upset,
25 because we've been doing this for too

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2 long.

3 I got 15 seconds. Other people
4 have four and a half minutes and now
5 you're going to check me.

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

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

25 Thank y'all.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please,
6 state your name and proceed.

7 MR. BUSSIE: Good evening,
8 everyone. My name is Emanuelle Bussie.
9 I'm the Director of Operations for the
10 Coalition of African American
11 Organizations, also represent a group
12 called Professionals for Progress and,
13 more importantly, I'm a different kind of
14 democrat.

15 MS. BILAL: So am I.

16 MR. BUSSIE: So I stand here
17 encouraged. So when you see me come in
18 Council and I'm all passionate, I'm
19 passionate because I'm actually
20 encouraged, because this is the most
21 sophisticated, well-educated,
22 well-informed, studious City Council I've
23 ever seen, and me and Councilman Clarke
24 go back about 26 years. This is a
25 dynamite City Council.

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2 The problem in our community is
3 not that we don't hit our targets,
4 because we actually can hit our targets.
5 The problem is, we aim too daggone low.
6 What I'm encouraged and this
7 sophisticated, savvy, informative -- and
8 I'm really encouraged by Derek Green. I
9 mean, I've been watching him and been
10 checking him out. This Council is
11 dynamite. I just think that we need to
12 aim a little bit higher. If it ain't 50
13 percent black and brown, it shouldn't go
14 down, right? We not just talking about
15 jobs. We always talking about servicing
16 the black community, servicing the brown
17 community, but if you expand contracting
18 opportunities for black and brown and
19 make contracting opportunities fair,
20 guess what? Black contractors hire black
21 people. Brown contractors hire brown
22 people.

23 We have to stop talking about
24 this in terms of jobs and talk about
25 contracting and employment and

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2 professional services. We have to expand
3 the gamut in terms of opportunity for our
4 people in the City, because what happens
5 is, if you expand opportunities for black
6 and brown people, you expand opportunity
7 for Philadelphia. Because as
8 Philadelphia go, as black and brown
9 people go, Philadelphia goes, because as
10 Rochelle said, we're actually -- black
11 and brown people are not the minority.
12 Black and brown people are the majority.
13 So what you have a situation is the
14 minority, white people, actually
15 supporting the majority, brown people and
16 black people, when you lock them out.
17 When you lock black and brown people out,
18 you actually do a disservice to the City
19 of Philadelphia. Don't look at it and
20 the unions shouldn't look at it as a
21 situation where if I give black and brown
22 people a bigger slice of the pie, that
23 means it's less pie for me. You know
24 what you do? Bake another daggone pie.
25 Because you're never going to run out of

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2 enough dough and water.

3 What we need to do is expand
4 opportunity, not just access but
5 opportunity. And I'm going to tell City
6 Council -- I'm going to share this with
7 City Council, that if you -- the question
8 is about capacity, how do we do it, how
9 do we do it, do we have black contractors
10 able to get these kind of jobs. I
11 guarantee you if you hold up the
12 contracts of \$500 million contracts or \$1
13 billion worth of contracts for white
14 people until they find black contractors,
15 until they find black people that can do
16 the work, I bet you they'll find some way
17 to find black people with the capacity to
18 do that work.

19 I just think it's up to this
20 body. This is a rare moment in time, and
21 I'm really optimistic about this because
22 of the leadership that we have in
23 Council. I mean, we always look to
24 denigrate Council, but this is a dynamite
25 Council, and Council has an opportunity

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2 at this space in time to actually change
3 the dynamics of Philadelphia in terms of
4 opportunity for black and brown people,
5 and I'm really looking forward to you
6 guys. When you see me all passionate,
7 it's because I really want you guys to
8 seize this opportunity.

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

16 I thank you guys.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

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

22 Albert Hicks? No? Okay.

23 Muhammad Hanafi.

24 MR. HANAFI: That's me.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Your turn

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2 now.

3 MR. HANAFI: That's right.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And
5 Denise Whittaker. Is Denise Whittaker
6 here? Okay. Come on up.

7 (Witnesses approached witness
8 table.)

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

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

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

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's my
17 constituent.

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

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

24 Mr. Hicks, why don't you sit
25 there.

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2 Okay. Ms. Toler, please.

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

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

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

25 I have two parks around me

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

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

22 We actually violate a need in
23 this children -- in the limbo of these
24 things that y'all don't even care about.
25 You don't even show them the love about

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2 it.

3 So if we about America, let's
4 be about it and let's get it together and
5 get it done together. It's with the
6 numbers, and I'm not hearing the number.
7 George is here. So is Olivia. They
8 calling down here to back them up. I'm
9 backing them up. And I'm here to back
10 the Councilpeople up too and these wonder
11 womens y'all got down here. All of them
12 are sitting with you. They're all women
13 of color and all women to take us there.
14 Y'all need to back them too.

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

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

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

20 Mr. Hicks.

21 MR. HICKS: Good evening. My
22 name is Albert Hicks and I'm actually
23 here present in City Council Chambers in
24 the capacity of an officer/member of
25 Hawthorne's Advisory Council.

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2 Our Advisory Council has stood
3 with the Parks Alliance lobbying with
4 Mayor Kenney's passage of the soda tax
5 since our Mayor announced it at the Olney
6 Rec Center.

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

16 Hawthorne's basketball court,
17 as Ms. Gwen had just described, had
18 developed large depressed craters and
19 cracks, along with eruptions of asphalt,
20 small hills sticking up on one side of
21 the court. It seemed like a subterranean
22 problem might exist. With the many pleas
23 and complaints going to our Councilman's
24 office concerning the severe damage
25 present upon Hawthorne's basketball

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2 courts, it prompted our illustrious
3 Councilman, the Honorable Kenyatta
4 Johnson, to investigate what was going
5 on. The City's engineering team was
6 called to study the subterranean possible
7 cause or causes.

8 The ordinance of Bill No.
9 170206 addressing the bond issue, we
10 surely urge our Council to pass this bill
11 so that we can fund the reconstruction of
12 the court and playground area.

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

19 In closing, I would like to
20 remind the Council that they supported
21 the view of Mayor Kenney's soda tax. The
22 benefits of Rebuild surely outweighs the
23 soda industry and their opponents to rid
24 our city's proposed new ability to
25 enhance our recreation center, our

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2 libraries, and our parks and to aid in
3 the parents with the kindergartners.

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

14 Listen, I've been a black
15 contractor for quite a few years, and
16 after sitting here listening to what was
17 going on in reference to hiring
18 minorities, I hired, just like gentleman
19 and people already that talked before me,
20 many people that look like me in the
21 community, and I made sure that as a
22 black contractor, I had to follow the
23 rules verbatim, because I got called on
24 by various agencies quite a few times
25 trying to kick me off the jobs, but I was

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2 savvy enough to maintain.

3 My contention is that Rebuild
4 have been meeting with the City's PRAC
5 organization, and I've sat with Mr. Gould
6 and several of his colleagues, and we
7 talked about this very thing, about
8 hiring people of color, what we can do as
9 an RCO to oversee, I guess, projects
10 that's coming into the community. Some
11 of the answers they gave me at these
12 meetings were similar to what we have
13 here. Because they're still new, they
14 don't have it all down pat, but you got
15 to start somewhere. So I am still behind
16 the fact that we need Rebuild to do what
17 they have to do.

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

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

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, sir. Thank you very much.

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2 Please. State your name for
3 the record and proceed.

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

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

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

18 Here's the problem: I hear
19 people talking about apprentice-ready.
20 That's still not an apprentice program.
21 That means you're still at the mercy of
22 the unions, and I don't care if you pass
23 the test, because you haven't passed the
24 number one test, and that means that it's
25 predominantly white. So that's the test

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2 that need to be passed, black or white.
3 We need our own black unions.
4 It's just that simple. We need to
5 develop apprenticeship programs that are
6 certified by the Department of Labor
7 under all 16 locals. I'm not speaking
8 about Local 332, because Local 332 is a
9 representation of a real union that
10 reflects the demographics of the City.
11 It just so happened that the laborers
12 union is the lowest paid union in the
13 City, but that's not the point. The
14 other 16 don't care about black people.
15 And if you don't believe me, go on the
16 Local 98 web page right now, the IBEW 98.
17 It's a picture that is horrifying. It's
18 a picture of white men, like about 90
19 white men, sitting there staring at you.
20 They look like the ones that lynched my
21 grandfather down South. They look like
22 gangsters. They look like criminals who
23 will kill you if you try to get in that
24 union. Now, why would you put that on
25 your web page in the year 2017 in the

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2 City of Philadelphia, if that's not an
3 intimidation tactic to tell black people
4 and Puerto Ricans and Hispanics to stay
5 out.

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

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
22 Ms. Whittaker, if you want to come up,
23 and we'll call two more names.
24 Ms. Whittaker, please come on up. And
25 then I have Mike Abdullah, is he here?

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2 Okay. And Greg Allen? Okay. Come on
3 up, please.

4 (Witnesses approached witness
5 table.)

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

9 MS. WHITTAKER: Good evening.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
11 evening.

12 MS. WHITTAKER: My name is
13 Denise Whittaker. I'm the Vice President
14 of Community Action Group. I would like
15 to thank City Council for the opportunity
16 today to give testimony why Rebuild and
17 supporting the Philadelphia Parks
18 Alliance is important to my community.

19 I live in the Northwest section
20 of North Philadelphia. I'm sure you will
21 recognize that area as Allegheny West.
22 However, several years ago my
23 organization adopted the name of
24 Swampoodle Heights because we are
25 situated between the historically named

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2 section of Swampoodle, East Falls, and
3 Paradise. I could talk more about that,
4 but that is not what this conversation is
5 about today.

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

19 When we formed this
20 organization, providing educational and
21 recreational activities has always been
22 very important to us. The one constant
23 problem we have always had is the space
24 to function in a way that would best
25 serve our community. Our community

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2 recreation center is a one-room facility
3 that is not conducive to serve the young
4 or the seasoned members of the community
5 in a way that they deserve. Because of
6 the lack of space, we cannot have more
7 than one activity going on at the same
8 time. For example, chess practice, arts
9 and crafts, and homework help cannot
10 operate in the same room at the same
11 time.

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

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

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 activity.

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

14 Thank you.

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

19 MS. WHITTAKER: Yes, for Shuler
20 Recreation.

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

24 MS. WHITTAKER: All right.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

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2 Please, whoever would like to
3 go next.

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

19 In the last year I have
20 attended plenty of press events and
21 visited lots of rec centers, but the one
22 that I testified a year ago was the one,
23 like Councilman Henon, that I live across
24 the street from, which is Tustin
25 Playground where a young man, Bernard

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 Scott, was murdered in the field through
3 no fault of his own, through nothing to
4 do with Tustin Playground. And another
5 man in our community named James Patrick
6 Stuhlman, who was murdered walking his
7 dog by two young men who had been playing
8 at a playground nearby.

9 These events, in my experience,
10 could have been prevented if those young
11 people had more active, more engaging
12 things to do. And over the last year, as
13 a Commissioner of Parks and Recreation,
14 here's what I've seen, here's what I
15 know: Like you, the conditions in most
16 of our rec centers are really
17 challenging. Rebuild is not just about
18 unions and jobs and facilities. It's
19 about neighborhoods. Like Councilman
20 Jones, I encourage you to think of it as
21 the Philadelphia Neighborhood
22 Reinvestment Act, because when
23 cleanliness, Philly 311, neighborhood
24 services, and public safety and
25 recreation facilities all come together,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 it has the potential to completely change
3 the neighborhood, like our Overbrook
4 neighborhood, where you can Google. You
5 see some of the things that have been
6 happening and how they can be changed
7 through Rebuild.

8 The other thing I've seen is
9 that --

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

12 MR. ALLEN: Yup.

13 -- is that residents, visitors,
14 and staff are anxious. They're not real
15 sure -- like Council President Clarke
16 says, is the money going to be available.
17 We're not sure. We're going to convince
18 them that it is. Time is urgent. Time
19 for us to move forward. I encourage you
20 to do so with post haste. I also
21 encourage you on the diversity and
22 inclusion of workforce parts. I've had
23 the pleasure of working with Kathryn Ott
24 Lovell and George at the Parks Alliance
25 and PRAC, Mike McCrea. I know that they

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 all intend well. And I want to
3 congratulate you on being bold to take on
4 this initiative. I support Rebuild
5 everywhere I go.

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

8 MR. ALLEN: I use that hashtag.
9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you. Thank you, sir.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

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

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just
19 state your name.

20 MR. ABDULLAH: I'm Assistant
21 Imam at Masjid Muhammad. I'm working
22 with 12th and Cambria Community
23 Recreation Center as well as the
24 community at-large in that area. We
25 started out -- and I'm sort of like the

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 gentleman came up earlier who said I
3 believe in do for self, and what I'm
4 telling you is that when I came into this
5 community and start working around 12th
6 and Cambria Street area, we started out
7 with an area that had a lot of trouble in
8 it, shooting, gun killings all over the
9 place. Within three-year period of time
10 after we started working with the
11 community center, we was 85 percent no
12 crime. Why? Because we start cleaning
13 up the area by our own self efforts. We
14 started placing cameras in the community,
15 cameras around the community center, over
16 32 cameras. We started creating
17 programs, after-school programs. We
18 started creating job programs. We
19 started creating college programs where
20 you actually come in, get your records
21 expunged. We did so many different
22 efforts around the community, bringing
23 the community together, unwed mothers
24 together, elderly people together,
25 bringing them all into this recreation

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 center, which was only one room space, a
3 small room space. We don't have many
4 rooms in the recreation center, but one
5 of the greatest things that I think we
6 did was the fact that we bundled with the
7 school and we started doing -- we built
8 the computer room a library, where now we
9 have the school teachers coming into the
10 recreation center, giving help to have
11 after-school programs. But we did all
12 this according to our own efforts.

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

23 Me myself, with praises be to
24 God, I walk to the corners, actually talk
25 to young men, say, You have sisters in

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 here, you have babies inside this
3 recreation center. If you're going to
4 sell, go far from here. Don't do it
5 around here where kids might get shot or
6 hurt. They agreed with me and moved from
7 those areas. I didn't stop them from
8 selling, but they moved from the area so
9 that in that neighborhood, we had 85
10 percent less crime.

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

20 Now, this is a fact, and you
21 can ask your President of the Councilman.
22 He's been there. This is his district,
23 the Fifth District. So he had been with
24 us all the things that I'm saying that we
25 did.

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2 What I have to say today in
3 plain and short is a story that we always
4 said in our Islam. It's called Wellasa
5 (ph), and that Wellasa refers to the fact
6 that surely by time, men is their loss.
7 And if we do not use our time well --

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, you
9 have to --

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

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

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 you. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

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

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think
11 he left.

12 (Witness approached witness
13 table.)

14 MS. LEVITT: I'll correct you.

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

19 Please, Ms. Levitt, did I --

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

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Go ahead.

24 MS. LEVITT: My name is Nora,
25 N-O-R-A, last name is L-E-V as in Victor,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 I-T as in Tom, T as in Tom. That's Nora
3 Levitt. And I didn't write that.

4 My name is Nora Levitt and my
5 neighborhood is Wynnefield, and I am a
6 longtime resident. I am President of
7 Wynnefield Cultural Center Advisory
8 Council at John C. Anderson Cultural
9 Center, a member of Friends of Wynnefield
10 Library, and member of the Board of
11 Directors of Wynnefield Residents
12 Association.

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

19 Wynnefield,
20 W-Y-N-N-E-F-I-E-L-D, was founded in 1690.
21 You heard that right, 1690, and named for
22 Thomas Wynne, physician to William Penn
23 and the first speaker of the Pennsylvania
24 Assembly. Wynne had a house built in
25 1689 to '90 that was known as Wynnestay,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 W-Y-N-N-E-S as in Sam, T as in Tom, A-Y,
3 a Welsh word meaning Wynne's field. The
4 Thomas Wynne house is the oldest
5 continuously occupied house in
6 Philadelphia and it is located at 52nd
7 Street and Woodbine Avenue.

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

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

25 The library and cultural center

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 are in need of the following repairs and
3 renovations that have not been made in
4 many years due to the City's lack of
5 funds. The John C. Anderson Cultural
6 Center needs new steps to the basement
7 where the Girl Scouts room and dance room
8 are located; repair of a wall that is
9 often wet and causes mildew problems; a
10 replacement pump to prevent flooding,
11 which has happened many times in the
12 past; a new roof and gutters; replace
13 central air conditioning, which hasn't
14 worked for 25 years, and no AC units are
15 usable for the halls, steps, and the
16 basement classrooms; security cameras
17 inside and outside --

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

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

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, no.
25 I'm trying to be fair to everybody.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 MS. LEVITT: Wynnefield Library
3 needs a new roof, new carpeting,
4 especially in the large meeting room, and
5 a courtyard to be made level, landscaping
6 designed and set up, activity space
7 created.

8 For your information,
9 Wynnefield has never had a recreation
10 center. The residents have wanted a
11 large environmentally green recreation
12 center for activities to be used by
13 children, teens, and adults to be built
14 at 53rd and Euclid Streets. Councilman
15 Curtis Jones, Jr. took over the
16 responsibility of the future recreation
17 center. He prevented the sale of the
18 building along vacant former synagogue,
19 turned alternative school and annex for
20 Beeber Junior High School. He also made
21 possible the resurfacing of the outdoor
22 basketball court. I thank him for that.
23 Now, however --

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
25 I'm going to have to ask you to --

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 MS. LEVITT: I'm finishing up,
3 sir.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You get
5 ten seconds. Ten seconds. Go ahead.

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

12 The Wynnefield community has
13 been ignored for too many years.
14 Wynnefield needs to be included in the
15 Rebuild Philadelphia plans. That is why
16 I support City Council's Ordinances
17 170207 and 170206, support the Mayor's
18 budget initiatives --

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

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

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

24 MS. LEVITT: Now I'm done.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 next speaker, please.

3 MS. LEVITT: Don't intimidate
4 me.

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

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

12 I'm here to speak in support of
13 the two bills, even though we're just
14 talking about 170206 today, because of
15 their importance to advancing the Rebuild
16 initiative. When the residents of Cedar
17 Park began discussing renovations of our
18 park, we realized that the park was
19 located right in the center of our
20 community. We knew it would take a while
21 to get all the funding needed to complete
22 the renovations, so we started with small
23 but noticeable changes. First we
24 established a garden. Then we removed
25 the old fencing and so on.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 What began to happen was that
3 small changes and improvements while they
4 were being made, the residents began to
5 see the park in a different light. They
6 began utilizing the park different. They
7 cleaned up trash. They helped us weed,
8 and they were conscious of the work that
9 was being put into the park, even on a
10 small scale, while we waited on larger
11 renovation dollars. This is what we're
12 asking Council to do. No, not all the
13 funds are in place, but if we start by
14 passing these ordinances, the community
15 will see some of what we were told was
16 going to happen with Rebuild. As more
17 funding becomes available, residents will
18 continue to buy into the process.

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

23 Once projects are started, they
24 need to move quickly and efficiently
25 without experiencing delays that a lot of

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 projects in the City have experienced in
3 the past. We have high-quality
4 non-profit entities that can ensure our
5 parks, recreation centers, and libraries
6 get the improvements they deserve. And
7 it's important to use existing data in
8 choosing the sites for the funding. Too
9 often in this city money follows money,
10 and in this instance, we need to ensure
11 that the sites are in neighborhoods that
12 need the most investment.

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

21 Finally, community leaders --
22 as a community leader, we're asking that
23 you embrace the Administration's
24 diversity program and work closely to
25 ensure the success of partnering with the

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 building trades so that 40 percent of all
3 contracts are awarded to black, brown,
4 and women in these businesses.

5 The hard part is already done.
6 You made the difficult decision to
7 support the tax, and now we need you to
8 take the next step to approve these
9 ordinances and move this forward.

10 Thank you.

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

13 Please.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. LANCASTER: I'm MaryAnn --

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And we
17 have your handout here.

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

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

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

25 I'm sorry.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

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

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

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

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

25 I passed this out. We never

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 did find out who wrote this, but I want
3 you as you make decisions about which
4 buildings will get what they need, which
5 ones don't need it, which parks will be
6 renewed and replenished, I want you to
7 think about all of our children that go
8 through these parks every day.

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

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

21 Children learn what they live.
22 If a child lives with criticism, he
23 learns to condemn. If a child lives with
24 hostility, he learns to fight. If a
25 child lives with ridicule, he learns to

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 be shy. If a child lives with shame, he
3 learns to feel guilty. If a child lives
4 with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

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

7 If a child lives with
8 encouragement, he learns to have
9 confidence. If a child lives with
10 praise, he learns to appreciate. If a
11 child lives with fairness -- we've got to
12 be fair with this project -- he learns
13 justice. If a child lives with security,
14 he learns to have faith.

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

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

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

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 you, ma'am. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

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

12 (Short recess.)

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

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

19 And I'm really going to mess
20 this name up. Sorry. Regina Gorzkowska.

21 She's coming back? All right.
22 We'll wait.

23 And then Christopher Morello.
24 He left? Okay.

25 Marion Johnson, why don't you

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 come up. Marion.

3 (Witnesses approached witness
4 table.)

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

7 Come on, quiet, please.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Joy?

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

12 (Witness approached witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
15 right. Please.

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

18 MR. PRIDE: Sure.

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

22 MR. PRIDE: Thank you,
23 Councilman. I know it's been a long day.
24 My name is Todd Pride and I am here
25 representing a couple --

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

3 I'm sorry.

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

7 I'm sorry.

8 MR. PRIDE: Thank you,
9 Councilman. Again, my name is Todd
10 Pride. I'm here representing a couple of
11 different hats. I am the President of
12 the Board of Directors of the Friends of
13 FDR Park in South Philadelphia. We are
14 arguably the largest park segment within
15 the Fairmount Park system with 348 acres
16 and about 120,000 visitors per year, and
17 I think just about every zip code in the
18 City FDR Park has a number of activities
19 in. And also in addition to that,
20 professionally oversee a five-state
21 organization that is based here in
22 Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Youth
23 Anglers and Outdoors Program, and I know
24 a number of our Councilmembers here have
25 been very supportive of our activities

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 and having introduced over 9,000 youth to
3 fishing and the outdoors. And while we
4 have very spirited and I think healthy
5 discussions over this last couple hours
6 regarding some of the diversity issues
7 with the Rebuild initiative, but I'm
8 speaking specifically to what this
9 initiative is poised to do. And I think
10 myself, similar to some of other
11 speakers, altered a part of our comments
12 to adjust to where I think the momentum
13 is going. And my first comment and
14 thought was, we are really at the
15 doorstep with this Rebuild initiative of
16 a loss of momentum, if I can speak to
17 that.

18 In addition to overseeing a
19 five-state organization, we're fortunate
20 to work with the OST program here in
21 Philadelphia managed by Public Health
22 Management Corporation and overseeing
23 introduction of some of these outdoor
24 activities and recreational activities at
25 172 sites and 68 non-profit organizations

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 serving almost 16,000 to 18,000 students
3 per year. And I think as we all listen
4 to the national news, I mean, this \$500
5 million initiative is here at a time when
6 millions and millions and hundreds of
7 millions of dollars are being cut out of
8 local and state budgets all over the
9 country. I mean, I left Governor Carney
10 in Delaware yesterday, and that state is
11 facing a \$400 million deficit. I was
12 asked to speak in Washington last month
13 where our President has cut millions and
14 millions of dollars from not only just
15 after-school programs, but other
16 initiatives.

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

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

24 MR. PRIDE: So I just ask you
25 to strongly consider supporting what's on

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 the table right now, because I think
3 we're at a point where we're either going
4 to advance far forward where a lot of
5 people are looking for us to fail or for
6 those of us that had made the investment
7 in the future of the City.

8 So thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you. Thank you, sir.

11 Ms. Johnson, good to see you
12 back here.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Good
14 evening. My name is Marion Johnson. I'm
15 here from the Logan area. I'm going to
16 be as brief as I possibly can, because I
17 know you need the time. And sitting in
18 back of me is Cecil Hankins, and he's
19 also in the Logan area, and we work very
20 closely in that community. We've been
21 working there for years. And I have --
22 I've been very excited because I was
23 looking forward to the Rebuild project,
24 everything being passed. We came here
25 today to speak on that and say how we

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 support that bill, and unfortunately I
3 must say I was disappointed. My
4 excitement kind of died down, faded away,
5 because I was disappointed.

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

15 (Applause.)

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

22 So I thank you all for bringing
23 those things out, because it made me
24 understand better, and I did explain as
25 much as I could to my neighbors. I have

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 petitions that I'm handing in to my
3 Council office, and I want to be able to
4 go back and inform them now so that they
5 will want to be disappointed with me
6 thinking that what's she holding back.
7 We was expecting her to come back here
8 with some good news and that they had
9 moved along on this Rebuild bill, but,
10 again, unfortunately it didn't happen.

11 So now I want to get to what's
12 really made us also determined that we
13 would support this bill is because of --
14 what happened is, the building that we
15 have for a playground -- and I refer to
16 it like that. I've been there for many
17 years. We've been up there working for
18 years. It's in deplorable condition.
19 Not that -- we who serve on that Advisory
20 Council who work up there in the
21 neighborhood all the time on our own, we
22 work, we clean, we do everything like we
23 are hired staff. Not that we don't do
24 that. We do. But the Department of
25 Recreation has been so lax in maintaining

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 that building as far as they should until
3 the building now needs to be demolished
4 and rebuilt, definitely rebuilt, because
5 of the condition it is in. The wireless,
6 the toilet facility for the children.

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

23 So although I'm saddened that
24 it's not as far gone as we had hoped,
25 that they would be no longer patching

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 this building and unnecessarily wasting
3 money on a building that they know is
4 unfit for human habitation.

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

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

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

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

23 And, lastly, I want to see
24 minorities. I want to see people of
25 color. Let me say people of color

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 employed when this project gets started,
3 white women, black women, disabled
4 people, people -- disabled human beings.
5 They're human beings too. So we have
6 places that they should be situated in
7 when this building is finally arrived at.

8 Thank you for the opportunity.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you. Good seeing you again.

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

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

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

19 I just want to say good
20 afternoon and I just want to go on to say
21 that I'm here today to explain why
22 rebuilding is needed right now. I'm
23 Acting Vice President of the Baker
24 Playground Advisory Council at 54th and
25 Lansdowne. We need a playground that

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 needs a lot of help. It looks good on
3 the outside, but the inside it's a total
4 mess. The air quality is lousy. The
5 furniture and refrigerator needs
6 upgrading badly now, and the floor is
7 leaking and needs help.

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

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

23 What happened to those children
24 and youth who have nowhere safe to go and
25 nothing constructive to do after school?

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 They need -- there needs to be
3 opportunity for them to learn more about
4 what to do out of school, regardless
5 where they live and how much money their
6 families make.

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

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

23 By working on the Advisory
24 Council with the Philadelphia Park
25 Alliance has shown me that it only takes

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 a handful of people to start the village
3 up again and again and again to bring the
4 community back to our playgrounds.

5 Would you put your child in
6 these environments, unclean and infested?
7 Let's stop turning our faces from the
8 problems in the public spaces. Let's be
9 educated. You're used to doing things
10 your own way with broken swings and
11 unsupported programs. Let your
12 conscience be your guide. Let's stop
13 putting our children's danger -- in
14 danger and instead put them in healthy
15 environments to stimulate their minds and
16 their curiosity and self-esteem.

17 The recreational centers are
18 the starting place. Rebuilding is
19 necessary. We need more for our City
20 Council to move forward and to get out
21 their comfort zone, and these ordinances
22 need to begin to the most needed, not
23 just the ones in Center City and in South
24 Philly, but we need them all. Put that
25 technology --

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, I
3 need you to wrap up now, please.

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

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

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

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

16 Thank you.

17 Mr. Clarke, hello again. God
18 bless.

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

23 (Witnesses approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please,

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 Mr. Coleman, why don't you start.

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

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

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

23 We have a tennis court. It has
24 at least six holes in it that's three
25 feet by three feet wide, and it's been

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 visible and it's been annotated on
3 numerous occasions.

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

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

24 We need for you, whoever, to
25 get off the job and come out to these

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 recreation centers and help these kids.
3 I mean, would you want your child to go
4 into a bathroom and flush the toilet and
5 it come up outside? Would you want your
6 child to be playing outside when that
7 feces or that urine comes up outside?

8 We have swings and sliding
9 boards that have chips and cracks in
10 them, and kids slide down them sometimes
11 and get cut. We had a baseball game last
12 year against Papa's Playground and one of
13 the kids fell in one of the divots on the
14 field and broke his spine.

15 This is not a healthy
16 environment. We need help. We need
17 consistency. And even with all of this
18 going on, our children have still decided
19 to put on a Juneteenth Day program
20 because they say on June 17th, we're
21 going to have a Juneteenth program
22 because they say we still live in the
23 slavery times by the way that we're being
24 treated.

25 So could you please do whatever

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 it is that you can to help the West Mill
3 Creek Recreation Center.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you.

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

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you.

21 Councilwoman Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.
23 Let me say that this a serious thing as
24 well and that we were there, I don't
25 know, what, a month ago, maybe a month

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 and a half ago we've been there. The
3 Commissioner is hearing it. She's going
4 to send our guy Frank out there tomorrow.
5 And believe me, we have -- believe me,
6 we'll deal with the issue. And I'm
7 sorry.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you, Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
11 you for coming.

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

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

20 Yes. Pulaski -- as you know,
21 Pulaski Park is Philadelphia's first pier
22 park, and now we have a row of those pier
23 parks, but we were the first. It was
24 organized in 1971 by Councilman Zachitzni
25 (ph), who somehow got discouraged a lot

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 to move to better places, move to
3 Harrisburg and we -- this park was never
4 put under Recreation. It was neglected,
5 forgotten, and it was only our generation
6 which arrived in Philadelphia after
7 solidarity, who started -- who discovered
8 the park non-existent. There was even no
9 name. And we started working on this and
10 developing the park, using our youth.
11 They were very eager to work as scouts,
12 Polish scouts, and school children were
13 brought and our (unintelligible), they
14 know how to work. No one needs to tell
15 them anything, and that's how we started
16 with the approach.

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

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,
24 I'm going to have to ask you to finish
25 now. Okay?

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 MS. GORZKOWSKA: Yeah. Okay.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All

4 right. Thank you.

5 MS. GORZKOWSKA: Just let me

6 finish.

7 So now our current needs are to

8 repair the underwater pillar, which was

9 broken during the renovation project.

10 The City guy gave us --

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,

12 you're going way over time. I'm going to

13 have to ask you to let the other

14 gentleman have his time. Okay?

15 MS. GORZKOWSKA: Okay. No

16 problem.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

18 you, ma'am.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir.

21 MS. GORZKOWSKA: So I will just

22 shake my -- the park is a gem, but it is

23 small. I need --

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am,

25 please.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 Proceed.

3 MR. JACKSON: Good evening,
4 Council President and members of Council.

5 My name is Ray Jackson. I'm from the
6 West Oak Lane community, Morris Estate.

7 I'm President of the Advisory Council
8 there. And I've sat here all afternoon

9 listening to various testimonies, and I
10 am very impressed with what's taking

11 place from City Council in regard to the
12 Rebuild. I'm also impressed with the

13 efforts to try and get a lot of the jobs
14 to the people in the communities of the

15 black and brown persuasion, but I'm more
16 impressed with the efforts in trying to

17 rebuild and reestablish a wholesome
18 recreation center in the community,

19 because without those centers, I don't
20 think our children will have the ability

21 to grow and utilize those jobs that
22 you're trying to create.

23 We have a lot of deterioration
24 in the centers. Ours is among them, but

25 we are not the worst of the centers in

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 the City of Philadelphia. But we are
3 trying to establish a kind of
4 organization or family of rec centers
5 that can promote harmony, growth, and
6 good recreations for the children in
7 these various communities. And I want to
8 thank my Councilmember and the
9 Committee -- I mean, Chair of the Rec
10 Department and Councilwoman Cindy Bass.
11 She has worked very closely with my
12 center to develop good programming.
13 She's come and sat on several of our
14 community meetings to help give us
15 guidance on how to move forward with good
16 programming, and we appreciate her for
17 that.

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

25 So at this juncture, I am in

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 support of whatever City Council is
3 doing, and whatever voice that we can
4 offer to help you make it known to
5 whoever the powers are that they need to
6 move forward with this endeavor, we are
7 all for it, and thank you very much for
8 this time.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you. Thank you, sir.

11 That completes our list of
12 testifiers.

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

18 (No response.)

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

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

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.
2 in Committee.

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

9 We will now convene the public
10 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass
12 for a motion on the amendment to Bill No.
13 170206.

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

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All those in favor of the

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 motion will signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

8 motion carries, and Bill No. 170206 has

9 been amended.

10 The Chair recognizes

11 Councilmember Bass for a motion on Bill

12 No. 170206.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

14 Mr. President. I move that the public

15 meeting on Bill No. 170206 stand in

16 recess until Monday, June 12th, 2017 at

17 1:00 p.m.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It

20 has been moved and properly seconded that

21 the public meeting of this Committee on

22 Bill No. 170206 be recessed until Monday,

23 June 12th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

24 All those in favor of the

25 motion will signify by saying aye.

1 6/7/17 - WHOLE - BILL 170206, ETC.

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 ayes have it. The motion carries. The
8 public meeting on Bill No. 170206 will
9 stand in recess until Monday, June 12th,
10 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

11 That concludes the business of
12 the Committee.

13 Thank you very much.

14 (Committee of the Whole
15 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

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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June 7, 2017

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