

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Richard Fitzgerald	-	President District 11
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Chuck McCullough	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5 (Via Telephone)
John Palmiere	-	District 6
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 - 5:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Flynn - County Manager
Michael Wojcik - County Solicitor
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm going to call the meeting to order. If everybody would please rise. Welcome to the Tuesday, January 18th meeting of the Allegheny County Council. If everybody would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer or reflection.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Eleven (11) members present.

MS. LIPTAK: Mr. President, Mr. Gastgeb's on the phone.

MR. CATANESE: Councilman Gastgeb is on the phone.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Councilman Gastgeb will be present on the phone. We have the filling of the

Council vacancy and the oath of office. I'm going to ask the Caucus Chair, Chairman DeFazio of the Democratic Caucus, who will fill the appointed seat with District Six. Mr. DeFazio, is there a member present that's going to fill that seat?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I want to put the name forward. In District Six it's John Palmiere.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. We're just going to do a roll call vote on everything.

MR. DEFAZIO: Okay.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You've made a motion. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Mr. Palmiere will be sworn in. And I'll ask Mr. Catanese the process of this.

MR. CATANESE: Bring him forward.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Mr. Palmiere, if you'd come to the podium. And I believe Judge Marmo --- we'll go to that podium right over there. And if Judge Marmo would come forward. The Judge is here. Thank you, Judge Marmo. We appreciate your willingness to come on short notice and be here to swear in Councilman Palmiere.

JUDGE MARMO: Welcome, everyone. It's my pleasure to be here today. Are you ready to take the oath?

MR. PALMIERE: I am.

JUDGE MARMO: Put your hand on the Bible and raise your right hand. Repeat after me. I, John F. Palmiere, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of the Member of Council of the County of Allegheny, and I will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. PALMIERE: I, John F. Palmiere, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of the Member of Council of the County of Allegheny, and I will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE MARMO: Congratulations, Councilman.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Palmiere, if you wish to say a few words, please --- I didn't want to hurry you up. If you want to introduce who you brought with you or say a few words, you're certainly welcome to do that. Go ahead, John.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you very much. To my right here is my best friend in the whole world, my wife, Kay, and my other two best friends in the whole world, Mr. and Mrs. Padola, and my friend, Marty Schwitzer. Without their help, I wouldn't be here this evening. I'm so grateful and grateful to all of you for your vote of confidence. And I hope to fulfill the office with integrity and do the best I can at all times. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thanks, John.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: John, one last thing. We got to get one more picture of you. I hate to do all this ceremonial stuff. Judge, could you please come forward? We want to get a picture of John with Judge Marmo.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Proclamations and certificates. 6122-11.

MR. GASTGEB: Mr. Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, sir. Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: If I could say a few words, please.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes. Please, go right ahead.

MR. GASTGEB: Myself and Councilwoman Rea are precluded from being at the meeting, but we wanted to make sure, on behalf of all the Republicans, that Council Member Palmiere knows that we're excited to have him and congratulate him and welcome him to Council and we look forward to working with him.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD:
Proclamations/certificates. 6122-11.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Burn is present.

A proclamation honoring the Borough of Swissvale Police Department, Allegheny County Police Department and the County's 9-1-1 Division of Emergency Services for working collaboratively to manage a November 15, 2010

investigation in Swissvale. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni and the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Martoni. The Councilman has a lot of pull because he's got the County Executive here tonight and he thought he'd been required for his quarterly visit. Don't try to count this against your quarterly visit.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's amazing the time you have when you're not seeking re-election.

MR. MARTONI: He feels like he's on vacation now. This is truly a wonderful proclamation --- proclamations that we're presenting tonight. And this shows you the power of Allegheny County. Okay. The fact is that a local police department, in conjunction with the County Police Department, has solved some immeasurable problems. Okay. So what I wanted to do tonight --- and fortunately, the Chief Executive is here to help me do this. The fact is, I'm going to have him do most of it. Okay. I don't get the opportunity to put him to work that often, so I'm going to take full advantage. I would love if the Swissvale police officer would come with the Chief and the County people that are here.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Come on forward. Come on up. Gather around.

MR. MARTONI: I would like the Mayor and the President of Council to come here, and the Swissvale police to come. This is probably a record. I don't think we've ever, ever had this many people for a proclamation. But I want you to all feel really safe tonight. It's got to be the safest place in the State of Pennsylvania. Okay. Being I have the honor of having the Chief Executive of Allegheny County with me tonight, and that is an honor, by the way, I'm going to have him read the proclamation. We're not going to read them all, just one for each group. Okay. This is my only opportunity to put the Chief Executive to work, and I'm going to do that. Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I want to thank the Councilman, actually, for inviting me. I was kidding around about having time. But I wanted to be here for this one because of the men and women in uniform for the County and for Swissvale because this is a good example of the cooperation we have between municipalities and the County Police. And the taxpayers get a chance to see how we coordinate specialty services and policing, the County

Police and all the municipalities, and how we work closely with the local police departments so that we don't duplicate and we actually bring our resources together for the taxpayers, regardless of what municipality you're in. So Chuck, I want to thank you, Councilman Martoni for asking me to be a part of this. And I'm going to read, I guess, one of the proclamations for the County police. And then you want me to read ---?

MR. MARTONI: All those.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'm going to read the County one first and we have individual ones we'll hand out. So I'm only going to read the one.

Whereas, police departments and 9-1-1 communication response teams assist one another to complete criminal investigations.

And whereas, in the early evening of November 15, 2010, the Borough of Swissvale Police Department responded to a call of fired gun shots in a secluded alley in Swissvale.

And whereas, upon arrival, officers found a dead male and suspected the perpetrator was hiding on the premises. The Department notified County Communications personnel of a need for additional services from Allegheny County Police Department's Homicide Detectives Unit.

And whereas, when the county investigators arrived at the scene, they organized a canvassing of the neighborhood to acquire evidence.

And whereas, because of the cooperation of the departments and the units involved with the investigation, in less than 24 hours after the incident, the departments apprehended the apparent shooter, who then provided a full confession of the shooting.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council and the County Executive, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honor the Borough of Swissvale Police Department, the Allegheny County Police Department and the county's 9-1-1 Emergency Services Administration for working together and for demonstrating true professionalism to quickly and effectively manage the investigation of the November 15, 2010 homicide in Swissvale.

And let me also make a personal note to thank and congratulate the officers of both Swissvale and the county. I've had the pleasure of being here for a little over seven years, and I've got one more year to go.

Probably one of the best parts of the job is being able to have a police department as professional as Allegheny County, and they serve us well. I want to thank you for services you performed under my watch and you've been doing for years. So congratulations, everyone, including Swissvale. Councilman?

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: The proclamations basically read the same. What I'd like to do is introduce the two police chiefs to say a few words, to recognize their honorees here tonight. So first the chief of the Allegheny County Police.

MR. MOFFATT: Thank you, Councilman. Thank you, Mr. Onorato. I'd just like to say I've been doing this type of work for quite a few years now, and I've never been more pleased --- or never worked with a group of more dedicated officers than we have in the County Homicide Unit. They're headed up by Lieutenant Schurman and Sergeant Scherer and overseen by Assistant Superintendent Jim Moore. We're very good and efficient. Whenever you call them, 24/7, they come right out and do their best to solve every crime. We have a very high solve rate, contrary to what the paper says. It's in the high 60s, and we have a couple others that's in the hopper, so to speak, that we intend on getting warrants for in the very near future. So again, I'd just like to take a minute and thank the officers of the Allegheny County Homicide Division and also the Swissvale officers for the cooperation that they've shown in solving this homicide, which is a very difficult homicide. We have arrested a juvenile, but he's being charged as an adult, and it should be going to trial within the next six or eight months. Thank you again. My hat's off to the entire homicide section.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: Chief of Police in Swissvale, Greg Geppert.

MR. GEPPERT: I also would like to thank Dr. Martoni and the Chief Executive as well as all the county police officers. You guys never get any credit. You've never denied any request that we've made for you to come to Swissvale. You always do a fantastic job, as well as our dispatchers. And I think the ones we had that night are probably our top dispatchers and it has shown in how everything went that night. And also, on behalf of Mayor

Swartzwelder and Council President Petrarca, we would like to thank the County police and everything you do for us.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: The Mayor of Swissvale.

MAYOR SWARTZWELDER: I recognize you tonight, but I just want to say thank you to everyone here for taking care of business. You do it with great professionalism. And to my department, you're the best. I think so. Thank you. Thank you for making us look good. Thanks, everyone.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: President of Council, Dave Petrarca.

MR. PETRARCA: Thank you, Mr. Martoni. On behalf of all the county officials here, I would really like to thank you for your cooperation that you give to us. I know in talking with our chief, he couldn't be happier with the cooperation we get from the County. And with the limited resources we have in the municipalities, it's greatly appreciated. We hate to have these incidents, but when we do, we know we can count on you. And as far as the officers go, they know I stand behind them. I'm very proud of our police department, along with our mayor. I think our police department, as far as municipalities go, is one of the top in Allegheny County. I thank all of you for all of your efforts. And as I pray always, please stay safe. Thank you all, and thanks for this recognition.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: How we're going to do this, I don't know. We're all going to try to get in the picture.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6123-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring the 13th Annual Summit Against Racism, hosted by the Black and White Reunion. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. Today we have an opportunity to congratulate and honor some folks who have been gathering for 12 years, this will be the 13th year, to address an issue that oftentimes folks don't want to talk about, and that is how we can improve things in our society, how we can identify and end racism. And I felt it would be appropriate for us, on this 13th anniversary, to remember

that there are those who feel that eliminating racism in our county is important. And if they're willing to dedicate some time and some effort to that, I think we ought to recognize their efforts because it's a mighty task that they are attempting to address.

With us today are a few people who have helped put this reunion together over the years. Among those who are present are Bob Maddock --- and if those folks would join me here, please --- Ramona Roberts, Kenneth Miller and I see Celeste Taylor, and others of you who have been working diligently. If you would join me here. And then after I read the proclamation, if there are those of you who want to speak or if you have an official spokesperson, I'll certainly give you an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Tim Stevens? Okay. I saw him earlier this week. Tim was honored with the Homer S. Brown Law Association Drum Majors for Justice Award. Some of you may know that Judge Brown was a distinguished jurist in this community many, many years ago, and that is a very prestigious award that Mr. Stevens won, which was presented on Tuesday --- Monday, on Martin Luther King's holiday.

Whereas, organizations in Allegheny County are dedicated to achieving peace and equality in today's world.

And whereas, the Black and White Reunion, which was formed in 1996 to renew a collaborative spirit in addressing inequality and division in our society, hosts the 13th Annual Summit Against Racism on January 22nd, 2011.

And whereas, the Summit is a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is an opportunity for citizens to recommit to the struggle for civil rights, economic justice and peace for which Dr. King and many others have given their lives.

And whereas, during the summit, speakers will address attendees regarding anti-racism activism. A workshop will be offered to enhance activism awareness. And the film will be shown, What Does Trouble Mean? Nate Smith's Revolution, which chronicles the life of an important labor leader, Nate Smith.

Whereas, the summit builds off the teachings of Dr. King and exhibits one of his essential teachings: social injustice requires sacrifice, struggle and the tireless passion of dedicated individuals.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors the Black and White Reunion for hosting the 13th Annual Summit Against Racism and for raising awareness of the need to recommit ourselves to civil rights, economic justice and peace. We commend the volunteers and organizers of the summit and we hope it succeeds in bringing positive change to our region.

I want to thank Councilwoman Amanda Green Hawkins for joining me in putting this proclamation together. And also, I'm sure that there are other members of Council who share with me and our president our commitment to end racism in our particular county and to work with those groups who are striving to do so. What I'd like to do now is --- there are spokespersons for the summit. Ken Miller. If there's anyone else after Mr. Miller, please come to the mic.

MR. MILLER: I want to thank Councilman Robinson in particular. There have been many members of County Council that attended Summits Against Racism over the years. And I understand that the Summit Against Racism is the largest annual anti-racism gathering in the region every year. It's a real pleasure. There's been 13 different coordinating councils that put this together --- put them together. And each year, it's really our obligation to represent everyone who has come before us.

The Summit Against racism is a workday where people are really expected to put work and effort into thinking about how we're going to end racism. This year we have four workshops that we think are really connected. Racism isn't just an attitude. It's inequality. And one way to end racism is to make sure that everybody has bus transportation in Allegheny County. And another way is to send the police who beat Jordan Miles to jail. And another way is to have fewer prisons. And there's other ways that we're going to discuss at the Summit Against Racism. But it's not a passive activity, and it takes courage. And we urge you to attend the Summit Against Racism and figure out what you're going to do this year to take a step forward for racial equality. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. Stevens would like to make a comment. And Ms. Taylor, we need to tell folks where the summit's going to be held, the time and the whole process.

MR. STEVENS: Good afternoon --- good evening, everybody. Thank you, Mr. Robinson, and all of Council. It's our pleasure to be with you today. The summit --- the doors open at 8:00. The summit starts at 8:30 and ends by 3:00 at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. We have --- what's the starting fee? \$25, and we have some lower fees for students and people with limited incomes. \$10, if I'm correct. But I just wanted to acknowledge this gentleman publicly for --- his commitment of this particular summit has been ruthless. We would not have a 13th Annual Summit. I want to thank Ken Miller for his leadership and some of our new partners coming on board for make this happening once again in that this county, this city, this region have an ongoing commitment to equality, opportunity, diversity and great human relations. So we thank you and we hope to see you all there on Saturday morning at 8:30. If you want to come at 7:00 Friday and help put the packages together, you can do that. I'll be there. Mr. Strickland, always good to see you.

MR. STRICKLAND: I wanted to take a special moment and acknowledge County President Rich Fitzgerald. One of the workshops that we're doing is related to the City League, the Pittsburgh public schools and the sports joining with the WPIAL. And I know this is an area that President Fitzgerald has talked about for years, as well as a number of us. And it means a lot to the city kids and the suburban kids. They interact on a day-to-day basis, you know, through their school at extracurricular activities and their sports. And we've got to really learn how to play well together, and I think this is one of the things that will impact on the workshop and bring out a lot of discussion. I hope we can see more people arrive.

MR. ROBINSON: Remember, the summit is Saturday, January 22nd, Saturday, January 22nd, East Liberty Presbyterian Church in the City of Pittsburgh. All are welcome. Doors open at 8:00. Please find some time to come out and participate, learn and share, just to help our region become the place that we think it is and we know it can be, someplace special and someplace where it's good for everybody to live. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6124-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Robert Mill for his lifetime of contribution to CCAC and for his dedication to our region's labor community. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson, Martoni, Burn, DeFazio, Fitzgerald, Green Hawkins, Macey and Futules.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. If Bob and Candice Mill will please join me here as I prepare to read this proclamation. Oftentimes you've heard me jokingly refer to Bob Mill as the number one cheerleader for the Community College of Allegheny County and referring to myself as the number two cheerleader. You've never seen the two cheerleaders together. So I thought it was a good idea we bring ourselves here and show you why we love the Community College and particularly to show you Robert Mill.

Bob's been honored in many situations. He's more than worthy of the honors he's received. One thing I like about Bob Mill is he's not trying to draw attention to himself. He's always giving attention to the things he loves and cares about, his family and the Community College. Bob was one of our first students and one of our first graduates at the Community College. He served on the board of our foundation. He served on the Board of Trustees for the college in a leadership position. So it's just a pleasure for me to do this. And I won't pour it on too much about Bob. But he's a good friend and ---.

Whereas, citizens of Allegheny County expend enormous efforts to improve the quality of our educational institutions and to assist in the fair treatment of our area's labor professionals.

And whereas, Robert M. Mill is a lifelong supporter of CCAC. He was a member of the inaugural class in 1966, was the first student government president and was a member of the Board of Trustees for 25 years, serving as chair from 1981 to 1987.

Whereas, Mr. Mill abdicated for the creation of the Community College of Allegheny County Educational Foundation and the formation of the Community College Alumni Association. Both entities have since become vital pieces of CCAC's operation.

And whereas, Mr. Mill, along with his wife, Candice, have been generous supporters of CCAC by donating personally to the college and by sponsoring events at the school.

And whereas, Mr. Mill's productive efforts in spearheading labor relations and organized labor benefits have served our county well. For his professional dedication to these causes, CCAC has named the Pittsburgh Labor and Management Past and Future Lecture Series in his honor. I should mention that a sheriff college is in the process of being established. This is something that you don't find at very many community colleges in the United States. So once again, we're in the forefront.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors Mr. Robert M. Mill for his commitment to assisting CCAC in his efforts to bolster the education of citizens in our region and for his dedication to working productively to promote the benefits of organized labor. Ladies and gentlemen, Robert Mill.

(Applause.)

MR. MILL: Thank you, Bill, Mr. President and members of Council. Thank you very much for this honor. I really do appreciate it. Chances are that if you're walking down the street some day and you see a fencepost and there's a turtle sitting on top of it, there's a good chance that turtle didn't get there by himself. And there were a lot of people that have helped me during my time involved with the Community College. I refer to myself as the man who came to dinner. I showed up on Allegheny Campus in 1966 and I just never left. And I've been having a great time ever since.

Lending my name to this lecture series is a great honor. I have spent most of my life involved with organized labor and management. And I am truly believing that our labor management relations here in Allegheny County is as much a regional asset as any of those stadiums or those arenas. For the Community College, it's just as important because together we've grown this city and this region to great levels.

And the point of the lecture series is to bring back those people who left in the '70s. We may not get those who left, those steelworkers who left, but we may get their kin to come back to Pittsburgh, come back to Allegheny County, come back to western Pennsylvania, because it's a great place to be. And for that reason alone, I lent my name to this project.

I want to thank you, the members of Council, and also the Executive for your tireless efforts to fund the

college. It's important. Without the Community College, I would not be standing here today. Thank you for your efforts.

(Applause.)

MR. DROZD: I'd like to be added to that proclamation for Bob Mill because I saw firsthand in action at one of the receptions what you do. That's really great, what you do. You know that? I mean, it's really good. I'd like to lend my name, too.

MR. MILL: This is my son, Brian. He's very nervous right now because he's the voice of the Penguins, and they're dropping the puck pretty soon.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6126-11 --- sorry, 6125-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Jesse Fife, Jr. for his lifetime of service to our county, to CCAC and to the Manchester Bidwell Corporation and for his efforts to improve the social services offered in our region and country. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson, Martoni, Burn, DeFazio, Fitzgerald, Green Hawkins, Macey and Futules.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. Certainly I want any other members who would like to sign on to this proclamation. It's good to have so many representatives here today from the Community College. Only by coincidence, Bob Mill and Jesse Fife are being recognized on this day. That's another testament to the goodness of our college, a college that one day is going to be great. We're not there yet. But these two gentlemen have done a lot in their lifetime to move us in that direction. So I want to thank the trustees who are here. I want to thank the administrators who are here. And our president of the Community College, Dr. Alex Johnson, is here. And he will play a part, with your leave, Mr. President, in our program today.

I'm not going to read all the proclamation. I'll make a couple comments and then be on my way. Mrs. Valerie Fife is here, Jesse's wife, children, family members, and they'll have an opportunity to share with us their love of Jesse Fife. As many of you know, Mr. Fife is no longer with us physically, but he's with us in spirit.

All of you probably know what the term ambassador without portfolio means. In government, that's someone who has the kind of privilege and honor and responsibility to travel on behalf of the president, the governor, the queen or the king, to do those things that need to be done and to do them in competence and secrecy. Jesse Fife was an ambassador without a portfolio. He traveled about our state and our county and this country performing tasks that were given to him by people in high places.

Some of you experienced Jesse Fife in that role. You probably didn't recognize him as an ambassador without portfolio. He had a job. He had a place of work. And we probably did not view him as an ambassador without portfolio, one of those persons who shied away from personal recognition, which is probably one of the major criteria for being an ambassador without portfolio. Today a new governor was sworn in in Harrisburg. That governor will need an ambassador without portfolio. Jesse Fife is not available. And our Commonwealth suffers because of that. He's not available to our mayor and the city, Council, to the Chief Executive, to corporate people in high places that want to get things done to improve our community. Think of him that way, as well as in other ways, an ambassador without portfolio, a man who went on many missions, came back and was successful.

I'll tell you one quick story that's somewhat humorous about Jesse and then I'll read the rest of this proclamation. When I was in Harrisburg in the Legislature, part of my legislative district covered the North Side. And Jesse and Bill Strickland came to Harrisburg seeking the help of the Commonwealth to make sure that Bidwell would be alive and well to serve the people of this region. They could train and educate folks. But like many institutions, their financial situation was not all they wanted it to be. They sat with a number of us and invited us to come out and look at the Bidwell facility, and we did. And some of us said that we would do what we could to help, and we did. One day I was given a check for \$250,000 and told to take it to the Bidwell and let them know this was just part of our commitment to help them, that another check would be on the way.

And I called Jesse and I said, Jesse, I have good news. He said, well, what is that? I said, I have a

check for \$250,000 to assist Bidwell, and he said, fine. He said, when can we get it? I said, well, it's Wednesday, and I'll be in from Harrisburg this evening, and I'll bring it over in the morning at ten o'clock. He said, fine, fine. So I go over, anticipating that Jesse and I are going to have coffee, a little conversation. I give him the check. I feel good. He feels good. I get over to Bidwell, pull up, and here's Jesse standing in front of the building with his trench coat on. And I said, you're not going somewhere? So I get out of the car. And before I can get to the door, he's coming towards me with his hand out. I said, well --- I thought he wanted to shake my hand. He was reaching for the check. And then he starts to walk away. I said, where are you going? I said, I thought we'd have some coffee. He said, oh, no, not now, man. They're getting ready to turn out the lights. I got to get back here for payroll. I got to get this job done. And he just walked off and left me.

When I came back with the second \$250,000, he was a little more gracious. He invited me in. But he was there to do whatever had to be done. He didn't send an assistant. He didn't send a secretary. He didn't send Bill Strickland. He took the check, went to the bank and paid everybody. And nobody knew anything different because he didn't ask for any recognition. And I want to remember him, too, as that gracious kind of person that would get the job done, ambassador without portfolio.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of its citizens in Allegheny County, honors the late Jesse Fife, Jr. for his unswerving efforts to improve the social services offered in our region and to assist the less fortunate. Mr. Fife never ceased in his vision to help the disadvantaged, and we hope his legacy of persistence, compassion and steadfastness are adopted by others across the country working to help the needy. Jesse Fife.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: If I might, Mr. President, with your indulgence --- as I said, the president of the Community College, Dr. Alex Johnson, is here for a presentation. And then we'd like to have Mrs. Fife and her family recognized. Dr. Johnson, if you would come forward, please.

DR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Councilman Robinson, and good afternoon, members of County Council. And thank all of you so very much for taking this time out of your busy schedules to honor and recognize the achievements of a truly great individual. To the family and to the many friends of Mr. Jesse Fife who are assembled here this evening, let me thank you for allowing Jesse to spend time with CCAC and provide us with the support that we need to advance. He was instrumental in the development of the college in many different ways, but most importantly, as our ambassador, as our supporter and one who helped us reach our potential as it relates to workforce development. And we want to thank you for that.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that there are other members of our Board of Trustees who are assembled here this evening as well. They were Jesse's colleagues, and I'd like for them to be recognized formally. First of all, Ms. Amy Kuntz is back from PNC. We're delighted to have her. Dr. Elayne Arrington from the University of Pittsburgh, distinguished member of our trustees as well. Did I miss any trustees? Jim? Oh, there he is. How could I overlook you? Mr. Jim Flynn, as you know, our County Manager, also a distinguished member of our Board of Trustees and from our Foundation Board here with us this evening. Mr. Jerry Lopes. That's what happens when you can't even recognize the individuals. And also Ms. Candice Mill, who appeared ---. Let me sit down before I make any other mistakes. But before I do, I'm going to read the resolution that honors Trustee Jesse Fife, Jr.

Whereas, with great sadness, the Community College of Allegheny County marked the passing of Trustee Jesse W. Fife, Jr. on December 5th of 2011 (sic).

And whereas, Mr. Fife dedicated many years of faithful service on the CCAC Board of Trustees and as Chair of the Board's Workforce Development Committee, helping to guide the development of key CCAC initiatives.

And whereas, Mr. Fife expressed his community engagement through his professional life, most significantly in his long-term tenure with Manchester Bidwell Corporation.

And whereas, Mr. Fife's service to the region is additionally expressed in his involvement with organizations, including the Citizen Advisory Committee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of City-County

Government, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation and the City of Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees and the president of the Community College of Allegheny County recognize Mr. Fife's commitment to CCAC and to the community and express their sincere condolences to his family and friends in their time of loss. This was signed on the 6th day of January in the year 2011, William R. Robinson, Chair, CCAC Board of Trustees, Alex Johnson, President, Community College of Allegheny County. Thank you so very much for allowing us to do this.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: We thank Dr. Johnson and the CCAC family. At this point, I'd like to have Mrs. Valerie Fife come forward with her family. She will introduce those people who are here, part of their family. And if Mrs. Fife wants to have words, obviously she can. And I will give her the opportunity to identify others in her family and then we'll have pictures. Mrs. Fife.

MRS. FIFE: Thank you so much, Councilman Robinson. If you'd just all bear with me. It's a very hard time. Jesse just was the type of person that always wanted to and was always willing to do whatever he could to give back to the community and to all of those that helped him to be a stepping stone for the others to come forward. Our family is very proud and we're honored to accept this proclamation and to thank Councilman Robinson, Mr. President, all the Council members and President Alex Johnson for your recognition of Jesse. Thank you again.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, do you want to be added?

MR. DROZD: Yeah, I wanted to be added and just make a quick comment. I have to disagree with Mr. Robinson on one point, although he always strives for better and he's such a great guy. I'm going to say we have a great community college. And what makes it great is those thousand points of light, which includes Councilman Robinson as well as your family member and Bob here. And also, I want to note Bill Strickland in the office, who helped start Bidwell. He is Mr. Bidwell. And all these trustees, those volunteers, that's what makes it so great. Nothing to strive for to be better, you know.

I left the Martin Luther King Elementary just a little while ago, and I want to tell you something. Those

kids, they have dreams. And what you do with these volunteers is what makes those dreams, including Councilman Robinson and all you here today. It means so much to those kids. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Add Mr. Finnerty. Add Mr. Ellenbogen. Add Ms. Green Hawkins. Add Mr. McCullough. Add Mr. Palmiere.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6126-11.

MR. CATANESE: The remainder will be read into the record.

Certificate of Achievement honoring Joseph Henkels of Boy Scout Troop 225 for earning his Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

6127-11. Proclamation honoring Barbara Bolas of the Upper St. Clair School District for receiving recognition from the Pennsylvania School Board Association for her services as an educational administrator. Sponsored by Council Member Gastgeb.

6128-11. Certificates of Achievement honoring the Clairton High School football team for winning the WPIAL Class A and PIAA championships. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6129-11. Proclamation honoring former Allegheny County Jail Warden Ramon Rustin for his service to Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson, DeFazio, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Macey and Martoni.

6130-11. A proclamation commemorating the service of the late Tom Foerster for his dedicated work to CCAC and Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson and Martoni.

6131-11. A proclamation honoring Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC for celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public comment on agenda items. We have two speakers this evening. The first one is Ms. Jeanne Clark. Ms. Clark, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. CLARK: My name is Jeanne Clark. I live at 414 Stratton Lane in Shadyside. And I'm director of communications for Penn Future. As per my New Year's resolution, I'm going to try to get more with honey than I

do with vinegar. So I have presents for all of you to start.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Barker will distribute those to ---.

MS. CLARK: There are more for staff also.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay.

MS. CLARK: As you can see, these say, breathe easy, stay healthy. And that's really what you want to be able to do here in Allegheny County. But right now it's not possible for us to do that because we have very dirty air. According to the Mapping Mortality series in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, between 12,000 and 15,000 more people die in the region from dirty air than would have if our air had been clean.

Together, you're going to do one of the few things that County Council can actually do about clean air, and that's to approve the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee. I have no doubt that the people that you're approving will do their job. But this is a very solemn time because we've had year after year of reports of deathly air and we've had virtually no action on it. It's not the air you can see that's killing you. It's what you can't see that's killing us. And it's not just nameless people. It's our grandparents, our parents, our children with asthma. It's my husband who died suddenly in his sleep three years ago. He worked in a steel mill when he was young and he had grown up in this area, dealing with the dirty air all the time. It's people with names. And we need to take action.

Because of an artifact, the way County government is set up, County Council and indeed even the County Executive don't have a whole lot of power to deal with this. It all resides with the County Board of Health. But there are some actions that County Council can take. You can develop the rules so that we have clarity in how the permits are given and we have a way to appeal those permits whenever we don't like what happens. For instance, Penn Future today filed suit against the Chester Power Plant because they intend to operate with absolutely no controls.

There are other things you can do. You can make sure that the money is being spent right. You can make sure that everything is being done that possibly can be done, because frankly, we've been waiting too long and we can't lose more people. People's lives are in your hands

and I trust that you will take that as a sacred trust.
Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Clark.
Patrick McMahon. Mr. McMahon, if you'd come forward and
state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. MCMAHON: Thank you. Thank you for giving
me the opportunity to speak. My name is Patrick McMahon,
president and business agent of Local 85, the Amalgamated
Transit Union. I represent all the employees who are
employed by the Port Authority of Allegheny County. What
did you need? My address? Did you say address?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Your business address,
yes.

MR. MCMAHON: 2022 Chateau Street, Pittsburgh,
15233. I'm here today --- tonight to speak on the
Resolution 6137, the agenda number. And that resolution
is authorizing County Council to do an investigation into
some of the aspects of the Port Authority operation. As
you know, that was a result of some of the bad publicity
that was out there and the allegations that the Port
Authority employees are deliberating slowing down and not
running the schedule properly due to retaliation of
discipline. And I'm here to tell you we, as a local union
and as the representative of those employees, welcome, we
welcome the investigation. In fact, I believe it's long
overdue. I know that County Executive Onorato and Council
President Rich Fitzgerald were on the news and said that
they would go forward with this. They can get subpoena
power if they need it. I'm here to say you won't need a
subpoena to get us to the table. This is long overdue.

And just a little background on this thing. The
only one that oversees the rail system here in Allegheny
County is PennDOT. And they come in periodically and they
do safety audits and they do reports on the operation.
And the latest report came out and said that our
operators, 40 percent that they reviewed were speeding or
not operating under the operating procedures. And I can
tell you that that was probably true. And I don't think
that any one of us wants our operators and the operation
of those vehicles speeding to keep schedules. And I think
if you do a thorough investigation, what you're going to
find is because of the financial crisis that we've been in
over the past several years, the Port Authority has been
cutting the schedules dramatically.

And we have been bringing this to their attention. And it's not just on the rail system. It's on the bus system. The overcrowded buses causes delay. The schedules. Quite simply, if you're going to do an investigation, I challenge you, get on a run. Start at point A and go to point B, get a schedule, watch the speed limits and you watch and see if it can be done. It physically cannot be done. And we welcome the Port Authority --- as always, they put it on the back of the worker and they blame the worker. And we're just sick and tired of it. And I think it's time for this group --- we'd welcome it. I would hope that the Public Safety Committee would take this up and do a thorough investigation.

And I'm sorry for taking too much time. It's just very important to us. I think it's important to the community and the citizens of Allegheny County that we have a safe transit system, even though it's diminishing over the years, and going forward it's a gray area what we're going to have left. But no matter what we have left, it should be operated safely for those who do use it. And we'd welcome, once again, an investigation. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. McMahon. Approval of minutes. 6132-11.

MR. CATANESE: A motion to approve the minutes of the December 21st, 2010 and January 4th, 2011 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Unfinished business, Committee on Appointment Review, second reading. 6028-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Richard L. Shaw to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries,
Mr. Shaw is appointed. 6034-10.
MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of
Martha Isler to serve as a member of the Allegheny County
Community College Board for a term to expire April 23rd,
2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion at
this time to go along with the reappointment.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.
MR. PALMIERE: Second.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Discussion? All
in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Ms. Isler is approved. 6037-10.
MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of
James Sacco to serve as a member of the Allegheny County
Community College Board for a term to expire December
31st, 2016. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion at
this time to go along with this appointment.
MR. FINNERTY: Second.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Sacco is approved. 6040-10.
MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of
David Y. Miller to serve as a member of the Southwest
Planning Commission for a term to expire on December 31st,
2012. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion at
this time to go along with the reappointment.
MR. MARTONI: Second.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Miller is approved. 6073-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Tim Stevens to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion at this time for reappointment.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Stevens is approved. 6075-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Abass B. Kamara to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for his reappointment.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Kamara is approved. 6077-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Ronald S. Graziano to serve as a member of the Plumbing Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: At this time, I'd like to make a motion for his reappointment.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Graziano is approved. 6078-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Regis R. Claus to serve as a member of the Plumbing Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31st, 2013. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Claus is approved. 6079-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Charles L. Desmone to serve as a member of the Plumbing Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31, 2013. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: At this time, I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Desmone is approved. 6081-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Anthony H. Costa to serve as a member of the Plumbing Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31st, 2013. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Costa is approved. 6083-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Jerome W. Valenti to serve as a member of the Plumbing Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31st, 2013. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Valenti is approved. 6084-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of
Robert W. Orchowski to serve as a member of the Air
Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire
on December 31st, 2011. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to
make a motion for this reappointment.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion
carries.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Abstain.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please add an abstention
for Mr. McCullough. But Mr. Orchowski is approved.
6086-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of
Daniel K. Bricmont, Esquire to serve as a member of the
Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to
expire on December 31st, 2011. Sponsored by the Chief
Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to
make a motion for this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries.
Mr. Bricmont is approved. 6088-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of
Chester R. Babst, III to serve as a member of the Air
Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire
on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to
make a motion for this reappointment.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.
Discussion? All in favor ---.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Excuse me. Question. I
understand this individual is an attorney and partner with

the firm Babst Calland. Are they still the solicitor for ALCOSAN?

MR. DEFAZIO: I'm not sure.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I don't know.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's my understanding that they are. Given the fact that ALCOSAN has had some odor control issues in the past, I'll be voting no on this appointment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: No.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mark Mr. McCullough as a no, but Mr. Babst is approved. 6091-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Michael E. Hohman to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31st, 2011. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Hohman is approved. 6092-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Mark Nowak to serve as a member of the Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for this reappointment.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Discussion. Yes. I'm going to be abstaining on this. Not that there's any indication that there's anything wrong with Mr. Nowak, but I don't believe we need a Human Relations Commission in Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Abstain.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Add an abstention for Mr. McCullough. Mr. Nowak is approved. 6093-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Kevin P. Kinross to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Community College Board for a term to expire December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yeah. At this time I'd like to make a motion for this appointment.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Kinross is approved. 6094-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Mark Jones to serve as a member of the following authorities: the Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education and Building Authority and the Residential Finance Authority for a term to expire December 31st, 2012. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yeah. At this time, I'd like to make a motion approving this reappointment.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Jones is approved. 6095-10.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Lorina W. Wise to serve as a member of the following authorities: the Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education and Building Authority and the Residential Finance Authority for a term to expire December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yeah. At this time, I'd like to make a motion that we approve this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Ms. Wise is approved. Committee on Economic Development and Housing, second reading. 6104-10.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution approving a project for the benefit of Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit to be financed by the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt bonds to be issued in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$118 million as stated below, provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the bonds, hereinafter defined, and determining that the purpose of the financing will be to benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was released unanimously from the committee with an affirmative recommendation. And I'd like to move for approval.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Discussion? Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MS. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Abstain.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?
(No response.)
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?
MR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?
(No response.)
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes 12, noes 0, 1 abstention.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Liaison reports. Does anybody have any liaison reports this evening?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Excuse me, Rich.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. McCullough?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: I have a couple of assessment questions for the County Manager. I don't know if it'd be appropriate to bring them up now or --- they're general questions.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Why don't we wait until the ---? Liaison reports are more like if you have a report, but we'll get to a point at the end. New business, ordinances and resolutions. 6133-11.
MR. CATANESE: An ordinance amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division One, entitled Administrative Code, Article 808.A in order to reduce the rate of county taxation on the sale at retail of liquor and malt and brewed beverages within the county to five percent. Sponsored by Council Members McCullough, Gastgeb, Drozd and Rea.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. Councilman McCullough, do you want to comment?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Not at this time.
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6134-11.
MR. CATANESE: An ordinance amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division One, entitled Administrative Code, Article 808.B, rental vehicle taxation, in order to reduce the rate of county

taxation on the rental of motor vehicles within Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Gastgeb and Rea.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. Mr. Gastgeb is still --- he's not with us anymore, I guess. He's not on the phone? Okay. Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 6135-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt by the issuance of its, one, General Obligation Bond, Series C-65, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$125 million, and two, its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series C-66, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$14,600,000, the Series C-66 Bonds and collectively with the C-65 bonds. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 6136-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to enact a statewide property tax reassessment moratorium with all due speed, and in the process, to safeguard the economic stability and prosperity of the residents of the Commonwealth by providing the predictability and equity that exist with regard to property ownership in every other state. Sponsored by Council Members Fitzgerald and Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. And Mr. McCullough, it might answer your question because I will be having a meeting on this and we will bring Mr. Flynn forward. And I have introduced a series of bills. And I just wanted to get this on the record because in the last session of the Legislature in Harrisburg, House Bill 1661, which is sponsored by Majority Leader --- Minority Leader Dermody, passed 196 to 1. And what this says is no one county can be singled out for reassessment. Right now, Allegheny County is the only county in the state and the only county in the country that is singled out for reassessment.

Now, there are inequities in the assessments. I acknowledge that. There will be whether we do a reassessment, whether we do two reassessments, whether we do ten reassessments. There will be inequities. But for us to be singled out will have a chilling effect on investment in this county. So I think we're fortunate

that the leadership in Harrisburg, starting with the Governor, is from Allegheny County, just sworn in today. The majority and minority leader in the House are both from Allegheny County. The minority leader in the Senate is from Allegheny County. The speaker of the House, while not from Allegheny County, is from western Pennsylvania. And the majority leader in the Senate is also from western Pennsylvania. We are very, very fortunate in the west that we have all these leaders. And I am going to introduce this resolution or talk about it in committee. But we want them to stop this thing before it goes any further. Yes. Mr. McCullough and then Mr. DeFazio.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's a point of order, Rich. I actually --- I didn't know how you were going to play this tonight. I didn't know whether you wanted to waive the second reading or not and put it into committee. I have an amendment that I think sort of follows up on what you're talking about, perhaps puts more teeth into it. I was wondering if you could let me introduce that into committee as well.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: That would be fine. And the reason I didn't want to do it tonight, we have two leaders, Mr. Gastgeb and Ms. Rea, who weren't there. And I think it would have a lot more strength if we pass this 15 to nothing. And that's what I'm hoping to do when we bring it back for a vote.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'd like the committee to consider this as well because I think it follows up, and frankly, makes it stronger.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: That would be fine.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. 61 --- I'm sorry. Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: I'd like to be added as a sponsor also. I think this is ridiculous. We're the only county in the State of Pennsylvania and probably one of the only places in the country where they single out one county and not the rest. To me, this does not make sense whatsoever. I'd like to be added as a sponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 6137-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing a County Councilmanic Inquiry and Investigation of certain aspects of the operation of the Port Authority of Allegheny County in accordance with the provisions of

Article 309 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Fitzgerald and Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: And I'm going to ask for a waiver of the second reading tonight. And I was glad to see Mr. McMahon come forward tonight and be part of this, willing to be part of this, because I think what happened in the last few weeks, at least the publicity on it, gives a black eye to the transit system that we're trying so hard to fight and preserve. And I think it's important for public confidence that we, quote, get to the bottom of what's going on, that there are no delays. We're trying to be a customer-service-oriented transit system and we want this thing to work to the benefit of the public, not to the detriment of the public. So I'm going to ask for a motion to waive the second reading ---

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: --- and then a motion to pass it, and we will proceed into committee.

(Chorus of motions.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? Any discussion? Mr. Drozd and then Mr. Finnerty.

MR. DROZD: I agree we should be looking. As you know, I've always repeatedly said this on Council, that we need to investigate, we need to look and look deeper. But I'd ask you, Mr. Fitzgerald, most recently in a committee, I put forth an ordinance or motion, whatever, in that essence, to formulate a commission to study all our authorities. They all should be studied and reevaluated. And you voted against bringing it out of committee. You voted against it because you said it wasn't time. I don't understand. This is not much different from what I put forth. I'm going to support this because I agree. You know, we have to look at each and every authority, not just this authority. We have to look at all our authorities. And I just don't understand. Now all of a sudden you're putting this up, and very recently I put that up, cosponsored with another fellow Council member, to study all our authorities, a commission, to formulate an independent commission. We could have Council people on there, but I said an independent commission to look at all our authorities. We need to do this. And I ask you, why ---?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Well, let me respond, Mr. Drozd, because I do support the study with the commission. I support the Martoni amendment, because Chuck Martoni, I think, had a great idea. We don't necessarily need an outside commission, and I don't want to put words in Mr. Martoni's mouth, but basically we should do it ourselves. And through the committee process, we are doing just that, not just the Port Authority, but the Airport Authority and all of our authorities. And I welcome it because I have as much frustration as anybody with the authority system. So I welcome that. We may just disagree on how the commission is done. But I don't disagree with it needs to be done. But this isn't the bill we're talking about tonight. I mean, I had to respond to your allegations. Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I definitely think we should look into this and I'd like to be a cosponsor on this.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Add Mr. Finnerty. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: My question is more about method. I mean, if we're going to have an investigation, what are we going to do?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to have a committee meeting because, basically, I want to bring forth all parties who were involved, the workers that were there, the management that was there, how the system is operated. I mean, there were allegations that it took over an hour to proceed through a ten-minute trip. And I believe a lot of that probably goes through your district, if I'm not mistaken.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Right through the center of it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: And I just state for public confidence we need to, quote, get to the bottom of it, that's all.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Is this going to go through Jimmy's committee or ---?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No. It's going to go in Government Reform.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Government Reform. Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Futules and then Mr. Drozd.

MR. FUTULES: I'd like to be added as a cosponsor. And tonight I want to thank Mr. McMahon for

enlightening us on some of the issues that I really think need to be addressed. And I'm welcoming this commission.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Macey and then Mr. Drozd.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. We've seen, on more than one occasion, either through the media or on the radio as well, about how the workers have been accused of doing certain things. However, there was another element that was brought into it by Mr. McMahon this evening, and that was PennDOT. You didn't hear anything about PennDOT. You didn't hear anything about their reports. I think this is going to enlighten a lot of people that the reason why men and women who work for the Port Authority did what they were supposed to do is because they were told through PennDOT rules and regulations that they were violating rules, and so they went back to doing what they were supposed to do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: I still think, you know, in essence, this is an internal committee, so to speak, when it should be brought --- there's a wealth of knowledge out there, including ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Are you talking about the other one or this one?

MR. DROZD: This one. I'm talking about this one, which includes the other. There's a wealth of knowledge out there, you know, that people can bring to and study and should be involved, maybe some of the employees and ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, this is on this particular issue.

MR. DROZD: And I'm talking about it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm not looking at a broad ---.

MR. DROZD: I'm talking about this. I'm talking about this. This is still ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We will bring in any experts that we need to have. That's fine.

MR. DROZD: But it's still an internal. The findings will be resolved by internal whatever may be brought forth. I just don't understand, in essence, that --- why can't we include people? I think we have to gather information from the employees, from the

Administration. We have to gather all knowledge in all areas. Why should it just be formulated by Council?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Who do you suggest we do this with?

MR. DROZD: We can broaden this to bring other ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Give me your suggestions. Don't just ask questions.

MR. DROZD: Beyond this so-called --- to do this investigation.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The investigation is going to be done by this Council, Mr. Drozd. We're the elected officials that ask the appropriate questions about how our system operates.

MR. DROZD: Are you saying that we're the experts in this field? There's nothing --- including the gentleman that just ---?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No, no, no. We're the ones that ask the questions.

MR. DROZD: Ask the questions. We're the ones that ask the questions. Maybe there's better questions that can be asked by people out there that have a broad knowledge, I think.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. First of all, I'd like to be added to this as a cosponsor. Look, this is our job. If we need help from someone, we can get it. We have to make a decision. And this is our job to do it, look at this, and we'll have our own findings. If somebody else from the outside wants to do something or the Administration wants to do something, they can do it. I mean, if we need someone to explain something, we can always get it. It's our job to do this.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'd like to be, first of all, added as a cosponsor. Second of all, I probably have more experience with the T-system because I've not only probably rode them more than all of you put together, but --- and my family. And I personally experienced many of the courtesies that the drivers have had to put forth and what they have to put up with. And you know, what I don't like seeing is --- what really bothers me is to see all these drivers painted with this wide brush. It is not an easy job being a Port Authority driver. These poor guys get spit on. They get cussed at. They get aggravated. I

mean, I personally couldn't do it. They'd probably take me off the bus in cuffs, you know. I welcome this, you know, just for the sheer fact that that workforce needs to be heard and they need to be treated with respect. And I'd like to see just what is going on here because this thing has lived in the shadows too long. So please add me as a sponsor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yes. I'd like to be added as a cosponsor, too. And also, I want to commend you, Rich for doing this. I absolutely agree. This is an appropriate inquiry for Council to take. We put a significant amount of money into the Port Authority operations. These issues are called into question. I took note of Mr. McMahon's comments tonight that lead me to think that there's other issues here, possibly managerial and administrative, that we need to take a look at. I absolutely think we have an obligation to the people we represent to call everybody into the room and try to get to the bottom of it ourselves.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: I'd just like to be a cosponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Added as a cosponsor.

Okay. I'm just going to ask for a --- since we had a motion and a second to waive the second reading. I'm just going to call for a voice vote on that. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The two-thirds is passed, so the second reading having been waived, I'm going to ask for a motion to pass the resolution.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

MR. DEFAZIO: You have a resolution you're voting on?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes. We'll call the roll on this, yes, exactly. Any more discussion on this? Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MS. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?
MR. DROZD: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeber?
(No response.)
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?
MR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes 13, noes 0. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. And I will make an announcement that we will be holding the meeting next Wednesday on this on January the 26th, at which time we'll also deal with the property assessment issue as well that Mr. McCullough wanted to ask about. 6138-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the creation of a commission to study the Port Authority of Allegheny County for the purpose of evaluating the potential for incorporation into the operations of Allegheny County for privatization. Sponsored by Council Members McCullough and Rea.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman McCullough? Or excuse me. Refer to Government Reform. Councilman McCullough, do you wish to comment?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yeah. Thank you. I think this resolution is timely, especially with what Mr. McMahon had to say tonight. And I'm going to be interested in waiting --- frankly, I want to wait to see how this inquiry of ours pans out and then bring this forward because depending on what matters bring to light, I think it may

hasten the need for a separate evaluation of the Port Authority independent of some of the other authorities I've been talking about.

MR. DROZD: I'd like to cosponsor that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please add Mr. Drozd as the cosponsor. 6139-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2011, Submission 1-11. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. New business, motions? None this evening. Notification of contracts. 6140-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from County Manager Jim Flynn submitting executive actions related to contracts for the month of December 2010. Sponsored by the County Manager.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do I have a motion to receive the file?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Received in file. Mr. McCullough, do you have a comment or question for Mr. Flynn?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yeah. Jim, I have a couple of questions, general questions about assessments.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: County Manager Flynn, if you could come forward. And Mr. McCullough, your bills were in here. I've got a series of bills. This is the first in a series I'm going to be introducing regarding the reassessment, most of them dealing with stopping it. Yours are a little bit --- I think all need to be considered.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: All right. The amendment I've got is a stoppage. I'm not talking about its current process. Jim, in light of the Supreme Court Decision in 2009 and what's transpired, if somebody files an assessment appeal, say, for last year or for this year, how is that being handled? Are we applying the base year to those appeals or are we doing something different?

MR. FLYNN: No. We're applying the base year.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: So we're still applying the 2002 base year?

MR. FLYNN: That's correct.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Okay. As far as the assessment that's coming out, those values are going to be certified as to what they --- in other words, what date are we valuing property as of? Is it sometime in 2009, 2010, when?

MR. FLYNN: They'll be certified for 2012.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I understand, but there's got to be a valuation date. Do you know what that date is?

MR. FLYNN: The valuation date hasn't been determined. We're still looking at ---.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: So it could be anywhere from, like, 2009 sometime going forward; is that right?

MR. FLYNN: That's correct.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Okay. Any chance that you could go to the year prior to that? Have you given any consideration to that?

MR. FLYNN: The year prior to what, 2009?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yeah, like 2008, 2007.

MR. FLYNN: No. I think based on my understanding of assessment practices, best practices are to take a certain period, whether it's a year to a year and a half, prior to the date.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: So that's still up in the air yet?

MR. FLYNN: Yes.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: All right. I'm going to suggest to everybody that not just be handled administratively. I think that's something requiring a change in the Administrative Code and should be brought here for us. Frankly, I think if we have to do reassessment and none of these other things work, we should pick a valuation date that takes advantage of the trough, to the extent we have one, in market values in this region as opposed to an update. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You're getting ahead of me. One of the bills we're talking about that I'm working on is to amend the Administrative Code. If you recall, the Administrative Code did have a board that was in place that certified the numbers. Two were picked by the Chief Executive, one picked by Council. We had all the staff on the whole base year. Triennial came about. So that's another item which we need to look at, amending the

Administrative Code so the Council does have power of approval on those kinds of things.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Well, I'm glad to hear that because that was actually the recommendation of the Study Commission. So I'm glad to see you're looking into these issues comprehensively.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We have a lot of bills on assessment in the next few months. I'm glad, Mr. McCullough for your support. Public comment on general items. This evening we have one speaker, Ms. Tiffany Hickman. Ms. Hickman, if you could come forward and state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. HICKMAN: Tiffany Hickman, 302 39th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15209. Like my colleague, Jeanne Clark, I'm here from Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, but I have no freebies.

Penn Future is a statewide public interest membership organization that advances policies to protect and improve the state's environment and economy. We have offices in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre and Pittsburgh. And I'm here today to talk to you about air quality in Southwestern Pennsylvania and consideration of the Allegheny County Environmental Air Quality Task Force report recommendations.

We believe that we're facing a public health emergency in Allegheny County. People are dying from exposure to delay air pollution and our government is not acting. We have seen the numbers in The Post-Gazette's news report about the mortality. In Allegheny County, mortality from heart disease is 14 percent of the national average. Lung diseases is actually seven percent higher and lung cancer is ten percent higher. The risk for dying from all three of these categories is 12 percent higher than the national average for county residents. It's time to stop being shocked for all involved, and for County Executive Onorato and Council, the County Board of Health, and especially to County Health Director, Dr. Bruce Dixon, to take the action necessarily to protect the health of our families.

The path is clear thanks to the recommendations in the Air Quality Task Force report. In January of 2010, the Allegheny County Environmental Air Quality Task Force, with members from environmental groups, business, government and academia, presented its report, which was fully endorsed by County Executive Onorato. The report

recommends steps to improve regional air quality, increase services to stakeholders and boost operating efficiencies.

For reasons unexplained, this report has largely been sitting on a shelf for a year. The professionals in the Air Quality Division are doing their best, but they are hampered by micromanagement. The public and industry is hampered by a system of little transparency, few clear procedures and timetables, and no real way to appeal permits. The air program needs to be given the autonomy to manage its own processes and budget. Rules must be made transparent and fair. And a timeline insistent to appeal permits must be developed. This does not mean simply going back to Dr. Dixon for review.

The Task Force, with County Executive Onorato's agreement, recommended that these changes be implemented by June 2010, but we've been unable to discern much change at the Health Department. And the Task Force itself was never reconvened as it was meant to be. As guardians of the County's public interest, we encourage County Council to urge Dr. Dixon and the Board of Health to make the changes needed to safeguard our public health. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

Handwritten signature of Kayle Gooden in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.