

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

James R. Burn, Jr.	-	President District 3
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Edward Kress	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
John Palmiere	-	District 6
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, May 3, 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:

Joseph Catanese - Director, Constituent Services
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Counsel for County Council
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director

PRESIDENT BURN: I'm going to call the regular meeting of the Allegheny County Council scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 to order. Thank you for being with us. At this time, I would respectfully ask that you rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be followed by a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Here, present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'm here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Present (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Thirteen (13) members present.

PRESIDENT BURN: Proclamations and certificates.

MR. CATANESE: 6305-11. Proclamation honoring Dolores Swartworth for her continual volunteerism to community groups in Allegheny County and commending her

for receiving the 2010 Dorothy Richardson Award from NeighborhoodWorks Western Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Council Members Burn, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and DeFazio.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Thanks to my colleagues for co-sponsorship. And Ms. Swartworth, thank you for being with us as well. It's always an honor to come here and give proclamations to our student athletes and our young leaders. And it's also an honor to recognize other members of this county and other participants who have done remarkable volunteerism and leadership, and one of those is with us right now. Would you come up, please, and join me? It's good to see you. I know. I know you, too. Thank you for all your great work. Dolores is also a member of the Democratic Committee, so we've met before. And you also have a relative in the room; don't you?

MS. SWARTWORTH: Yes. My granddaughter.

PRESIDENT BURN: Your granddaughter. Could you point her out for us, please? That would be Jennifer Liptak.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Those who have not had the pleasure of working with Dolores, either through the Democratic party or in her volunteer efforts, let me just share some of the highlights of many illustrious highlights with you now. She has dedicated much of her life to serving our community. Dolores has served as a member of NeighborhoodWorks Board of Directors for 20 years. She's volunteered for the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group for over 20 years. She's also volunteered in the Pittsburgh Board of Education, Allegheny General Hospital, the Fineview Citizens Council, the Boy Scouts of America. Dolores is going to be honored in June with a lifetime achievement award from the Northside Leadership Conference. She has also remained committed to her family. Her and her husband, Robert, have 9 children, 18 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. But Dolores, it is an honor as president of this Council, on behalf of my colleagues and the residents, the citizens, the business owners and some of the grandchildren of this county to read this proclamation into the record.

Whereas, the citizens of Allegheny County routinely perform altruistic actions and volunteer their time to assist in bettering the lives of others.

And whereas, Dolores, you've been an active volunteer who is committed to serving this community, to organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, throughout the majority of your illustrious 81 years.

And whereas, as a member of the NeighborhoodWorks Western Pennsylvania Board of Directors, you have graciously contributed your volunteerism to other Allegheny County organizations, including but not limited to the Pittsburgh Board of Education and the Allegheny General Hospital.

And whereas, you are a founding member of the Fineview Citizens Council. For your unwavering dedication to Fineview, you've received the First Annual Founders Award from the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, where you volunteered, as I indicated earlier for over 20 years as a loyal Board and Committee member.

And whereas, because of your proactive volunteerism with community groups' revitalization efforts and the Boy Scouts of America, you received the 2010 Dorothy Richardson Award from NeighborhoodWorks of Western Pennsylvania.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, commends you for your --- to this community and to the community organizations mentioned, and to improving Allegheny County. This Council hopes that the citizens recognize and mirror your altruistic actions to assist in bettering this region. On behalf of all of us, congratulations. Well done.

(Applause.)

MS. SWARTWORTH: I'm truly pleased and honored to accept this award. As my husband says, I don't know how to say no. But I think I was put on this earth to serve other people. I think that's why the Lord put me here. And as long as he's on my side and he lets me do it, I'll volunteer. I'll volunteer anywhere. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Please let the record reflect that Council Member Kress is now with us. 6331-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring the Raptors Soccer Club for displaying continual excellence in

competition and winning multiple national and world championships. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: This is John McCormick and this is Lauren Thomas. I want to point out to you that the most important mission of one of ours is to go forth in other parts of the world and other parts of this globe to give recognition to our region, whether it be through doing goodwill and spreading goodwill. And there's different ways to spread goodwill, and one is through this, through the soccer clubs that also not only spread the goodwill of Allegheny County and the region as a whole throughout the world, but it also nurtures great young athletes like Lauren to go on to do great things for our region and our country.

The Raptors Soccer Club consists of five teams in different age groups that specialize in youth three-on-three tournaments in leagues, and that's three-on-three, three players on three players. Can you imagine running all over a soccer field with only three players and nobody else there to help you? Size of a basketball court. Okay. It's still big. At least you have five on a basketball team.

Throughout its history, the club has won the three-on-three championship seven times, three times when the tournament was designated as a national championship and four times after it became the world championship. The club has been honored by local, city and state representatives. And players have gone on to college and professional organizations. It's recognized in the community as one of the finest in the world and this country.

The proclamation reads, whereas, youth sports teams contribute to Allegheny County's long legacy of sports champions by performing extraordinarily in national and world competitions.

Whereas, the Raptors Soccer Club has won seven three-on-three championships, which includes capturing three national championships and four world champions. Additionally, at the three by three --- three-on-three championships, the club has finished in second place twice, in third place three times and in fourth place once. And that means always in the top five they finished. That's amazing.

Whereas, in 2006, the 18-year-old boys' team and the 16-year-old girls' team and the 15-year-old boys' team each won the three by three (sic) world championships. That's amazing. All three of them. And teams from ten countries and 120 cities participated all across this land.

Whereas, as an indoor club, the Raptors have an all-time record of 294 wins. Can you imagine that, 294? And they have recorded 13 undefeated seasons out of 15 seasons played.

And whereas, Director of Coaching and founder John McCormick and fellow coaches John Michael McCormick, Nick Basara, Krissy Edmonds, Don Dodge and Jim Marino have set a standard of excellence and of expert guidance that have instilled the qualities of teamwork, accountability and determination in the Raptors' young athletes, many who advance to the collegiate level as prospects.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of all the citizens of Allegheny County, over 1.2 million, does hereby honor the Raptors Soccer Club for winning the three-on-three championships seven times throughout its history, and for its coaches' and athletes' continual display of brilliance and good play, I must say. This Council congratulates the club for its success and commends it for contributing to our region's great sporting history and the nurturing and development of very, very good youth throughout this land.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCORMICK: I just want to thank Matt for putting this together for us and everybody here on council for having us here today. I will tell you that everywhere we go across the country and wherever we play, when you mention you're from western Pennsylvania and you talk with someone who you've met and they've been to western Pennsylvania, there's always a smile and a certain little twinkle in their eye. And usually that's because they know how precious of an area this is here. And I want to thank you guys for making that area such a precious element within our community. You've done a tremendous job, so thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. DROZD: How about you join in and say something?

MS. THOMAS: I guess I'll just go with my coach here, but I'd like to thank you for honoring me as well.

It's an opportunity to play for this man. He set this whole thing up. And like he said, you helped us with that, too. But I guess thank you again, and thanks for having us.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Please also let the record reflect that Councilwoman Green is now with us and has joined the meeting. 6332-11.

MR. CATANESE: Certificates of Recognition honoring the graduates of the Message Carriers of Pennsylvania Inside/Outside Program. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council Member Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. As some of you remember, last year we took some time out from our busy schedules to do something that we had never done before. Again this year we're going to take some time out from our busy schedule to do something we only did once before. The Message Carriers were kind enough and thought enough of us to ask us to be a part of their graduation ceremony last year. They've asked us to do the same this year. We have seven of the individuals who have successfully completed the program, those who we recognized last year, gone all the way through the program, and no one has fallen off a cliff. Everybody is still with us.

If you're not familiar with Message Carriers, you will be soon. And I certainly want to thank all the folks who graduated from this program. I don't know whose constituents they are, and it probably is not terribly important. But these are our constituents. These are our people in our county who are doing something to improve their life, and we're a part of it. And they're going to remember that we took some time to graduate them, to recognize what they have done. And they're going to be obligated to us and the people of this county to keep moving in a positive direction.

The young lady who directed this last year, this ceremony, once I step aside, is with us again, Ms. Robin Horston Spencer. When she comes forward, she is going to bring those people to us who she needs to be a part of the program. Some representatives of our county jail were part of this effort. She will bring them forward, and I

believe two individuals who participated into the program who are graduating today.

I want to recognize a good friend of mine, Harold Blye. Harold and I have known each other for at least 52 years. That's how long we've been friends. I was so pleased when he stopped me earlier this year and indicated I had received some communication from Message Carriers and that he was very much a part of what they were trying to do. I have tremendous respect for him, not only as a friend, but someone who has worked here in this community. I trust his sincerity. His wife and he and I are good friends. And I'm just so glad that he is here to be a part of this program.

All right. Having said that, having given all the congratulations to everybody that's touched anybody in this program, I want to bring forward now Robin Horston Spencer. And I told her I'd stand close by in case she needed my assistance. But there's one other thing I need to do. I need to read this proclamation; right?

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Okay.

MR. ROBINSON: There is a proclamation here --- let me make sure I'm calling it correctly --- Certificate of Recognition for all the participants. Some could not join us this evening, but each of them will receive their certificate. We're awarding the 2011 graduates of Message Carriers of Pennsylvania's Inside/Out Program.

Allegheny County Council is honored to present this Certificate of Recognition to the 2011 graduates of the Inside/Out Re-entry Program for successfully completing Message Carriers of Pennsylvania's curriculum. Your steadfast commitment and sincere effort to better your life is evident today as you stand before us as official graduates. For actively engaging in this program, you rejoin our society as productive citizens. Your impressive dedication to your personal improvement is to be commended and highly praised by all citizens of Allegheny County. This Council wishes you the best of luck as you embark on a new frontier.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Thank you, Councilman Robinson. It gives me great pleasure to know that this county believes in the reintegration of those who have had some trials and tribulations along the path and have been able to overcome them and become productive members in our society. And what I do know is that when we are not

causing harm to our society, we're actually making a better community. And we have someone from all parts of Allegheny County that have been a part of this program. And to set the record straight, it was 2009 when we had our first graduation. Because of some other issues, we could not have one last year. And thanks to you, Councilman Robinson, again for honoring that.

This year I bring to you to say a few words --- because we believe that when we encourage those on the right path and allow our county to understand and know that these people want to be a part of and not stigmatized or discriminated against, which is why this is so important. And the impact is that this year there were 40 people who actually successfully completed the program and 11 people committed to come this year. And so that's a big to-do right there in itself. There's something about coming back down to the court systems. They kind of, like, scare some people, which is --- but we want to try to overflow this room one year in another graduation. But this year I ask our executive director, Mr. Marc Cherna, to say a few words because of his funding of our program and also because we're working with Allegheny County Jail. In the interim of the warden, we asked Deputy Grogan. And I would like these two gentlemen to come first to speak to my graduates.

(Applause.)

MR. CHERNA: Thanks, Robin. It's an honor to be here and to congratulate all of the graduates for getting through the program and staying on the road to recovery. We're very fortunate in this county, with the support of County Council and the Chief Executive, that we invest in programs for folks in our county jail to stop the revolving door and stop the recidivism and give people opportunities to get their lives back on track. We have seen much better results that way. And we're here to get those results. And I figure that it's a really important thing to come out and to congratulate you and to tell you that we continue to support you and that we're really proud of you. And I know how difficult it is to overcome addiction, and it's a constant thing every day. And you know, stay humble, keep going to meetings and one day at a time and just stay on the path. And hopefully we'll continue doing this every year and have many more graduates and many less people go into county jail because

folks are being productive members of society. So I'm really pleased to be here.

(Applause.)

DEPUTY GROGAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Warden Burns and the administration of the Bureau of Corrections, we certainly congratulate the graduates. It is a major accomplishment and a major stepping stone in your lives. Also, congratulations to Message Carriers for doing such a wonderful job. The mentoring component is something we are very much involved with and want to incorporate as often as we possibly can in a lot of the reintegration projects that the jail is now undertaking. So in terms of programming, Message Carriers seems to have a pretty good handle on it. We hope to emulate their success. Once again, congratulations to the graduates, and thank you very much for not getting back to the jail.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Just a few more moments of your time. Before we pass out --- I'm going to invite my Board Chair, Mr. Harold Blye --- did you want to say something? Because I wanted to get one of the awardees to say a few words. And then we're going to pass out the ---.

MR. BLYE: They've earned the right to do this.

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Thank you. Would the lady or gentleman or both --- would you come up to say something to our County Council? This is Ms. Rebecca ---

MS. OBERNAUER: Obernauer.

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: --- Obernauer.

(Applause.)

MS. OBERNAUER: Thank you. I'm very honored to be here today. Message Carriers, in the last year of my life, has taught me that I'm employable and that I'm worthy of recovery. I have three years clean, and ---.

(Applause.)

MS. OBERNAUER: You know, they taught me not to pick up that first one. They taught me that life is going to show up no matter what, and that I don't have to run anymore. And I don't have to get high today to deal with life. My problems feel like this, but they're really like this that I'm dealing with today. That's what Message Carriers taught me. My mentor took me to my first NA meeting. When I was in there, I was scared to death because I was a newcomer there. And I got through it by

the grace of her. She's a part of me today. I don't hesitate to get my phone out and call anybody on my phone today. Thanks to Message Carriers, I'm also --- sorry. I'm very nervous. I'm a student today at CCAC. I'm going to case management ---

(Applause.)

MS. OBERNAUER: --- because I do want to make a difference in someone's life. I volunteer time. I go to high schools and I speak with them about drugs and alcohol because we need to let these kids know that that is not how you deal with life. You can't have drugs and you can't have college. You can't have education. You can't get high. You can't drink. You just can't do it. You know, Message Carriers taught me that. They gave me esteem. They gave me self-worth. They gave me a pat on my back, you know, and they gave me a hand out, not a handout. And that's ---.

(Applause.)

MR. ZELLOUS: I want to thank the Council for allowing us to be here today. My name is Harrison Zellous. I want to thank Councilman Robinson especially for saying something when he said about us being constituents and voters, so to speak. We do carry a vote in this. And I'd like --- he noted, it's more than just our vote. It's such a warm-hearted thing to say for him to me as an individual sitting over here that he's concerned about me as an individual. I really felt that. And as I look in you guys' eyes, I can see that, you know --- I see you guys on the news, and you know, I feel distant. But as I'm sitting here, I'm getting to feel a part of it.

And that's what Message Carriers is about, like, you know, bringing us back to life, so to speak, influencing us. And I think I got the best mentor in the world. His name is Cuthbert Davison. But he's been really wonderful for me. He'll come get me. I live in Monroeville. And no matter, like, distance, he comes, you know. If I have a situation where I need a ride or if I need to talk, he'll come. And he'll really want to make a difference. When I went back to prison, unfortunately, down at county jail, he came, you know. And he showed up --- he came unsolicited. I didn't ask him to come. He just showed up because he was looking for me and found where I was at, and he showed up, you know. It made a world of difference. He was around to help me put

together a plan to stay out. Not just get out, but stay out.

And I want to also thank the Deputy Warden Grogan for putting together some initiatives to help some of the inmates down at the county jail instead of just sitting around warehousing us. It's getting to the point where there's programming down there. I seen Robin down there one day with the other --- old warden. And she always, always, always makes you feel like you're up here. She never makes you feel like she's the big guy and you're the little one. If anything, she becomes the little one and makes you feel like you're the big guy. I want to thank you for that. That really is special. I've known you for a lot of years and you've always been sincere. You've always been about the people. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: We're going to pass out the certificates. Mr. Robinson, I'm just going to pass them. I would like you to shake their hand, too, as our councilman. We're going to do a line here. Let them get over here. And I'll start with you, then Zellous. And that way we can get that handshake and keep coming forward; okay? Mr. Harrison Zellous. On behalf of County Council and Message Carriers, congratulations and thank you for being a success to society.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: I was trying to get to you next, but I got Yvonne Bemar.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Wait a minute. Did you shake everybody's hand? Do you want to stand over here by Harrison, please? Okay. I'm getting a little nervous, I think. Mr. David Saunders.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: I want you guys to know I'm very proud of my people. I really am. Rebecca Obernauer.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Ms. Linda Lennon.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Mr. Thomas Kisowitz.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: Mr. Mark Harrison.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: And Ms. Shayna Conner.

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: I would just like for the Council to see the peer mentors who came to support their peers. Would you guys just stand up, my peer mentors?

(Applause.)

MS. HORSTON SPENCER: This success here would not happen without them. And I thank them because they go beyond and above the call to duty to ensure that these people do not recidivate, and stay on the path of recovery. I'd like to thank each and every one of you. That will be it for today. So we'll all stand up here. Everybody come stand over here, even the peer mentors. Please come up and be in this.

MR. ROBINSON: Yeah. We have lots of film, so we'll take whatever pictures we need. Our photographer, Margaret, will see to that. We'll make sure that you get a copy of the pictures, as many as you need. I'd be remiss, since I mentioned Harold Blye, if I didn't, that his wife is here. I know her as Elaine Peoples. That's how far back we go. I knew her before I knew Harold. We were in high school together. I want to thank her for coming out and being with us.

If folks will allow Margaret, our skilled photographer, to line you up, you can open up your certificates so they can be seen. And I'd just like to mention to some of my colleagues standing over here, you'd be surprised at how wide that angle is. And you may end up in a picture where you had not intended to be in. You're welcome to be in it, but when you see the picture, you might say, oh, I didn't think Margaret got me. Margaret can't see you standing there, but I see you there. But you're more than welcome if you want to.

If there are family members or others who are here who need to take pictures, Margaret will give you an opportunity to do that. And if everybody will just stand in place so whoever wants a picture can get it. If there are people taking a picture and you need to come up and be in the picture, we can accommodate you, too. I thank my colleagues because this is the second time that they've been so kind and gracious to recognize their constituents, all of them, and to give you the time that you deserve. Let's give them a hand, my colleagues.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: The remaining proclamations and certificates shall be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: 6333-11. Proclamation naming May 2011 as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

6334-11. Proclamation honoring the Borough and Township Police Association for memorializing fallen officers, and naming the week of May 15th as Police Week in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Burn, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Kress, Martoni, Palmiere, Robinson, DeFazio and Danko.

6335-11. Certificates of Achievement honoring the Montour High School boys' basketball team for winning the WPIAL AAA championship. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

6336-11. Certificates of Achievement honoring the Gateway High School boys' basketball team for winning the WPIAL AAAA championship. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni.

6337-11. Proclamation honoring Charlie Wilson for his efforts as an advocate for prostate cancer and as a supporter of proactive community initiatives, and naming May 8, 2011 as Charlie Wilson Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

6338-11. Certificate of Recognition welcoming the Ellis School to the Allegheny County Courthouse during its May 13th visit, and commending its students for displaying interest in local government. Sponsored by Councilwoman Danko.

PRESIDENT BURN: And Mr. Catanese, if you could kindly add Council Member Macey as a co-sponsor to 6334-11.

MR. MACEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: You're welcome, Mr. Macey. Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Approval of minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of our last Council meeting?

MR. ROBINSON: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Approved. Presentation of appointments.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Unfinished business.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT BURN: Liaison reports. I'd like to mention that the Chief Executive was invited here to speak to us about the first of his quarterly reports. He, along with some of our other community leaders, was invited to the White House for some conversations about business issues and other matters indigenous to this region. We have invited the Chief Executive to join us at our next regularly scheduled meeting to give his quarterly report to the County Council. Dan Onorato will be with us on Wednesday, May 18th at 5:00 p.m. That's all I have by way of liaison reports. Does anybody have anything else? Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to, just for informational sake --- Councilman Gastgeb requested information in regard to the bond issue for Carlow College. On 4/26/11 at our meeting --- the information was recorded into the minutes of the April 14th, 2011 Economic Development and Housing Committee meeting. And those minutes were sent to all members for review on April 14th, 2011. This information was re-sent to Councilman Gastgeb on --- today, actually, May 3rd. And the bond --- I think it's the bond attorney, I guess, is Buchanan, Ingersoll and Rooney. So just for your record. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Finnerty. Mr. Futules, then Mr. Drozd.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you. The FireVEST scholarship deadline is as follows for this year. May 15th will be for the 2011 admittance. And for the spring of 2012 admittance, it would be November 15th. This is for a volunteer firefighter who wishes to go to Allegheny County College --- Community College for a scholarship. The application should be sent to the Allegheny County Fire Academy. And you can find that on our website, I'm sure, and make applications for school. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Drozd, then Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President. First and foremost, we kind of missed something, me included. Today is National Teachers Day, and we would have been remiss.

There should have been a proclamation on it. I was over at City Council today, and they did do one.

PRESIDENT BURN: Would you like to do a proc for our next meeting?

MR. DROZD: Yeah, I would like to do that.

PRESIDENT BURN: Sure.

MR. DROZD: From now on, I'm going to make sure that, you know, my procs are --- everyone get an opportunity to co-sponsor. Some things we all do, you know. That's going to be automatic. I asked Matt to do that. Secondly, I want to remind --- I say this all the time. This is so critical. This is that hat that reminds everybody that on May 20th, it's the 13th Annual Take a Father to School Day, Yes I Can. And that's in the school district. And you know, a lot of these young people, they don't have a father or even a grandfather to take. So I would encourage everyone to maybe call the school district and see if there's any young people that maybe you could spend a day with, or you know, at least the evening with and take them and be with them and just to be there for them. That's on May 20th. I'm going to do a proclamation on the 18th to recognize them for that. And I would ask all my fellow Council members to join me in that co-sponsorship. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Drozd. Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I had an issue that was brought to my attention about some of the downtown buildings and their stairwells. Now, although a lot of the buildings have free access into the actual stairwells, when you come down to the bottom floor, those doors are alarmed. So you're forced to take the elevator. I had personally called Director Huss in the City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Department maybe about three weeks ago. He never returned the call. I'm kind of concerned because there are people that would rather walk the steps. I mean, we go through these walk things. Not to mention in terms of safety issues. And there are also people who are literally afraid to get on elevators. So I would ask you if you would ask Mr. Catanese or someone you would deem appropriate to, you know --- or even ask the Allegheny County fire marshal if that's illegal to do that, whether it be for security issues or not. So I appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURN: Councilman, let's, if possible --- perhaps, if you could, after the meeting, identify some of these buildings which were the cause of concern. Then we can be more specific when we address our concerns over to the city.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: All right. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, sir. Any other liaison reports? Seeing none, new business, ordinances and resolutions.

MR. CATANESE: 6339-11. An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing Division 1 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances entitled Administrative Code through the creation of a new Article 912 entitled E-Verification in order to establish a mechanism for ensuring that labor performed pursuant to contracts to which the county is a party is not undertaken by individuals who are illegally within the United States. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer the bill, Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yeah. I'd like to say a couple words on this. First of all, I'm trying to protect American workers from illegal competition. And basically, this is what it is. It's like a contractor would have proper insurance, proper Workers' Compensation. Why should they have an unfair advantage by hiring illegal workers or illegal aliens to perform work? I believe that our county taxpayer money should go to new contractors who follow the law. And I know people are unemployed. I'm not saying the reason why they're unemployed is because of this, but it never should be because of this. And I believe in the American worker. We need to protect them. That citizenship means something. And that's the reason why I introduced this bill. The E-Verification system is a free system. They can check on it. The federal government has this. It's not an extra cost to business whatsoever. And I believe this is the right thing to do for our workers here in Allegheny County. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Kress. Your bill will be referred to the Committee on ---.

MR. DROZD: Please add me as a co-sponsor.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Mr. Drozd as a co-sponsor. The bill ---.

MR. GASTGEB: Mr. Burn?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. GASTGEB: Please add me as a co-sponsor, too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: You're welcome, Council Member Gastgeb. Please add Council Member Gastgeb as a co-sponsor as well. The bill, with its co-sponsors, will be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. 6340-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing Division 4 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances entitled Finances, Chapter 475, entitled Taxation through the creation of a new Article XII entitled Sheriff's Sales in order to provide for the prompt notification of all taxing bodies when properties are purchased through sheriff's sales. Sponsored by Councilman Kress.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this bill into committee, Mr. Kress, do you want to say a few words?

MR. KRESS: I would. I actually got this information from the sheriff, Sheriff Mullen. What is occurring is, from my information from the Sheriff's Office, that people are buying properties and foreclosures, tax sales, but not reporting the deeds, and therefore, not paying property taxes. And that seems to be very critical, that if somebody is buying property at a tax sale for maybe an elderly person, 80 years old, and then turn around with this loophole, not recording the deed and not pay property taxes. It seems ridiculous. And my understanding was this has been going on for years. And I'd be really happy to work with Sheriff Mullen and try to close this loophole and make sure that school districts and municipalities receive tax money, because it's bringing on the budget cuts with the school districts with a need for tax money. This shouldn't be happening. And actually, I'm very happy to be working again with the sheriff on this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Kress. This bill will be --- Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Please add me.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Mr. Drozd as a co-sponsor.

MR. GASTGEB: President Burn?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, Mr. Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Please add me, too. And if I could make a quick comment?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. GASTGEB: I think that one of the things that I learned through Council Member Kress is ---.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Gastgeb? Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: We have a need to look at laws and if there's a need for them. I think this is a good example. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: We had some trouble with the audio there. Would you mind starting over? We picked up bits and pieces of your remarks.

MR. GASTGEB: There's people who buy homes and are not paying taxes, so I think it's a real good thing to talk about. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, sir. Please add Mr. Gastgeb as a co-sponsor, Mr. Drozd and Councilwoman Rea. And Mr. Drozd, do you have a comment?

MR. DROZD: Yeah, just real quick. I think we even have to look a little farther and farther. Councilman Finnerty brought up a good issue that happened in his district about some homes that were undervalued compared to others. Some of the homes are not getting on the tax roll, you know, new homes. We really need to revisit a lot of this mass --- maybe a committee meeting to get help with the assessments and see where we are on the status, what the status is.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd, in a couple minutes I'm going to be making some remarks about the timing of scheduling this bill. Perhaps you could bring that issue up in committee, which will be very soon.

MR. DROZD: Yeah. Everybody's got to pay their fair share, all the taxpayers, the amount of money that's going out of there, most of the taxpayers --- and some don't pay.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. The bill, with the added co-sponsors, will be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. 6341-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania setting forth county policy regarding the sale of naming rights for the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. Sponsored by Councilman Kress.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this bill, Mr. Kress, would you like to say a few words?

MR. KRESS: Yes, I would. This is an oldie but goodie. I introduced this six years ago. I think the

bill had merit. I think that instead of always looking towards the taxpayers for revenue, we have to look at other sources. And if this can bring economic development at the airport, I think we need to take a look at the idea. So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BURN: I remember that bill. This bill will be referred to Committee on Government Reform.

MR. DROZD: Add me to it, Mr. Burn.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Mr. Drozd as a co-sponsor. The bill, with its new co-sponsor, will be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. 6342-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the Allegheny County Health Department to study the feasibility of increasing the Health Department's role in protecting the health, safety and well-being of the county's senior citizens by providing assistance in reviewing the compliance of long-term care facilities within the county with applicable state and federal regulations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Sponsored by Councilman Kress.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this bill, Mr. Kress, would you like to say a few words?

MR. KRESS: I would. This bill really means a lot to me. As an attorney who's visited many long-term care living facilities and actually had my own mother in a nursing home for a period of time, I think we should do the most to try to improve the care in Allegheny County for our oldest residents and probably our residents most in need, because I've seen a lot in nursing homes. And I'm not saying --- this isn't a criticism of anybody who works at a nursing home or personal care home, because I know there's a lot of good loving people there. But whatever we could do to try to improve care here in Allegheny County, I would like to see us do that. So that's the reason why I'm introducing this bill, to see what we can do. So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Kress. Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: I always like a bill that will improve health and safety of our senior citizens. Please add me.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Mr. Drozd as a co-sponsor. The bill, with its new co-sponsor, shall be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. Mr.

Barker, we have two Government Reform Committee meetings this week; is that correct?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT BURN: There's a meeting tomorrow at four o'clock?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT BURN: And there's a meeting Thursday. We have scheduled two-hour increments, 4:00 to 5:00 and 5:00 to 6:00

MR. BARKER: Uh-huh (yes).

PRESIDENT BURN: Is it within our rules and within our purview for me to schedule any of Mr. Kress' four new bills for hearing on Thursday, and if so, what do we need to do?

MR. BARKER: On Thursday, yes. The agenda will have to be amended to include the new bills. As long as that goes out at least 24 hours in advance of the start time of the meeting, that's sufficient.

PRESIDENT BURN: I'd respectfully ask you to issue the appropriate notice and please add 6342-11, 6341-11, 6340-11 and 6339-11 to the two Committee on Government --- two meetings on Government Reform, the first two in the first hour, the second two in the second hour? Or do we have to do it differently?

MR. BARKER: However you want it to appear, that's fine.

PRESIDENT BURN: Let's put them all on at 4:00.

MR. BARKER: Okay.

PRESIDENT BURN: And if we need to carry over from 5:00 to 6:00, we'll carry over from 5:00 to 6:00.

MR. BARKER: Okay. We'll get that notice out.

PRESIDENT BURN: We'll put them on at the 4:00 to 5:00 hour and we'll go from there.

MR. BARKER: Good enough. We'll get the notice out tonight.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you very much. New business, motions.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Notification of contracts.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on general items.

MR. CATANESE: We have one.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Rusty Loudermilk. Sir, would you come up to the podium? Rusty, you've been here before, so you know the procedure. We'll ask you to give your name and your address, and then you'll have three minutes to comment on general items. Welcome back to the County Council. If you'd like to say a few words. Thank you.

MR. LOUDERMILK: If I don't break the microphone first. I live at 1103 Parkway Drive, Cheswick, PA, 15024, and my name is Rusty Loudermilk, L-O-U-D-E-R-M-I-L-K. As many of you long-time Council members will remember, I've come down various times about various --- Access Paratransit, the door-to-door handicapped bus service for people with disabilities and senior citizens. And as you may know, the Port Authority gives funding to Access, and then Access subcontracts the trips out to various carriers in Allegheny County that actually do the trips. One of those seven carriers is a carrier by the name of Northern Area Metropolitan Service.

Dr. Martoni and I have met numerous turn --- times. Sorry. I'm a little nervous. I haven't been here a while. I'm rusty. No pun intended. And then Councilman Burn or Mr. President Burn, I knew him when he was just a councilman. I have also met in previous times about problems with Access. And things get better, and then they get worse, then they get better, then they get worse. And I start hearing rumors about how I should not speak to you guys about problems with the Port Authority or, in particular, Access or its carriers, such as Northern Area and many of the other ones.

And then that makes me want to come back and say, folks, I understand that this is just a part-time job for you guys, and you hire people to allocate these funds on a regular basis. I get all that. I'm not here to bash County Council. All I'm here to tell you is that there are millions of dollars trickling down from Access --- from Port Authority to Access, then from Access down to the seven carriers. Like I said, one of them is Northern Area. And they should be held accountable for your tax dollars.

I just had a conversation with Dr. Martoni before the meeting started. Dr. Martoni said, well, they're not really doing much, so you know, I've done the best I could, you know, whatever the case may be. Well, there needs to be a more serious look into not only the

Port Authority, as I'm sure you guys have heard that before, but also the Access service in general, and then make Access take these carriers, these seven different carriers --- I don't have enough time to list them all for you unless you ask me to, because I don't want Councilman Burn to throw me out. But there are seven different companies who is getting county dollars, and they're not picking people up on time. If they do pick people up on time, then they're doing something else wrong in the office, like when I call up to book a trip, they don't want to meet. They sometimes don't want me to book the trip because they know that I send out a bunch of e-mails and different things. I've got problems within Allegheny County and everything.

So I just request that you take a serious look and tell these people, if you're getting county funds, whether it's \$1 or \$1 billion, you are responsible to Allegheny County Council. Thank you very much. That's all I've got to say.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Rusty. Before I ask for a motion to adjourn --- I should have mentioned this in liaison. A special committee on public transportation will be up here Thursday. Is it 5:00 p.m. in the Gold Room or is it 4:00?

MS. LIPTAK: Tuesday, May 10th at 5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT BURN: Tuesday, the 10th. I tend to mix up the 12th and the 10th. A week from today, 5:00?

MS. LIPTAK: 5:00.

PRESIDENT BURN: Right here. And because the Governor has asked for recommendations no later than August 1st from his task force, time is of the essence. We need to get this meeting under way and get our part of this to the administration so that they have it when they consider their recommendation. So again, go to the County Council webpage if you need more information. Thank you very much. Motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:56 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.


Court Reporter