

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 J. Kress	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Wednesday, May 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  
Joseph Catanese - Director, Constituent Services  
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services  
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director  
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT BURN: Good evening, everyone. I would like to call the regular meeting of the Allegheny County Council scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th, 2011 to order. Good evening to all of our colleagues and our guests. Thank you for being here. I'd like to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent prayer or reflection. And in your moment of silent prayer or reflection, please remember the passing of Ross Rohbeck, Sr., Oakdale Borough mayor and past police chief of the borough.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer 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: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Eleven (11) members present.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Catanese, under proclamations and certificates, 6350-11, it's my understanding that our guests have not arrived for that one, so let's jump to 6351-11. Let's also let the record reflect that Council Members Palmiere, Futules, Rea and Kress are with us. Councilman Palmiere was here a second ago. He must have just stepped out. Thank you very much. So let's go right to 6351-11, please.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Jay Wells for being inducted into the Pennsylvania Voters Hall of Fame. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Burn. Jay Wells is coming up here. I was thinking about this proclamation yesterday, because yesterday, as you all know, we had our election. And leading up to it and actually part of the election was, at least in some news accounts, the turnout. And probably by their accounts, it would be considered low and probably lower than some of us would like to see based on us being in government and politics, so to speak, where I think we'd like to see maybe a larger turnout, maybe more excitement. The reason why I thought about that is because the gentleman sitting --- standing to my right, Jay Wells, has voted in every election for the past 50 years. I'm going to repeat that. He voted in every election ---

(Applause.)

MR. GASTGEB: --- for the past 50 years. And there's a PA Voter Hall of Fame. And when you think about that, not only does it show civic duty, but it goes deeper. I happen to know Jay for a long time from the Bethel Park area. And it's not surprising to me that beyond his affinity for being involved in the election process, it's an affinity for being involved in the community. The things that Jay Wells does in the South Hills is exactly the type of civic involvement that we see with regard to his dedication to voting in every election, whether it be with the Historical Society, whether it be just building the fiber of our community. You know, gentlemen like Mr. Wells help build communities. And voting in 50 years of straight elections is quite an accomplishment. And that's the highlight, the top of the mountain, if you will, for being in the PA Citizens Hall of Fame. It also speaks to the other things he does within the community. I think that's equally as important. So thank you. I know you voted yesterday, I'm

sure. You'll keep the record going. So let me read your proclamation, and there will be time to say a few words afterwards.

Whereas, citizens of Allegheny County exercise their rights to freedoms continually during elections by voicing their choice for our leaders.

And whereas, Dr. Jay Wells, III has voted consecutively in every primary, special and November election for the last 50 years.

And whereas, Dr. Wells has dutified and fulfilled his responsibilities as a Pennsylvania citizen by voting in all these elections.

And whereas, Dr. Wells' commitment to demonstrating his right to vote creates an unparalleled understanding of important issues and current events within our Commonwealth and within our country.

And whereas, for his lifelong efforts, Dr. Wells was inducted into the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame --- Voter Hall of Fame on February 8th, 2011 by the Pennsylvania Secretary of State. He joins over 15,000 Pennsylvania citizens in the state's Hall of Fame.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors Dr. Jay R. Wells, III for his lifelong commitment and demonstrating the freedoms that democracy could afford to the citizens and for setting an example to all the citizens for this county to admire. This Council congratulates Dr. Wells for receiving the induction into the Pennsylvania Voters Hall of Fame and hopes he continues to exercise his rights as a citizen. Sponsored by me, Vince Gastgeb. Jay, congratulations for this honor.

(Applause.)

DR. WELLS: Well, this is certainly very kind of you, Vince. And thank you all here on Council. I would certainly be remiss if I did not convey the high regard the citizens of Bethel Park and all throughout your district have for you, Vince.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you.

DR. WELLS: Vince is very active. He comes to the public meetings whenever he can to share what's going on from down here in the county. And I am very touched with this, although I must confess it doesn't take a lot of knowledge. It doesn't take a lot of ability. But it does take a little bit of time, putting in the time, just

a few moments every Election Day. And it would be something wonderful if everyone in the county would decide to do this. So thank you all very much again.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Unless there's an objection, I would respectfully ask my colleagues if we could move ahead. We do have two other proclamations, but we also have on our agenda our quarterly address from our Chief Executive, who is with us now. So unless there's an objection, I would like our Chief Executive, Dan Onorato, to join us for his quarterly address to the Allegheny County Council. Mr. Executive, good afternoon.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Thank you, Mr. President. I think this is the first time I've been here since you've been president, so congratulations.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, sir.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Last quarter, obviously, you weren't there yet. And members of County Council, I'm here pursuant to the resolution in the Charter that requires me to come in quarterly, really, to answer any questions you might have about anything that has been going on. Let me just give you a quick update on two issues, then I'm going to save most of it unless you have any questions for any particular area.

Since the last time I've been here, there was a lot of activity regarding the Port Authority. Many of you called me and talked to me or ran into me. And you know, those negotiations --- information has been exchanged. We're still waiting to hear back. But the downsizing plan, as you know, was put into effect because we did not arrive at a solution that would have helped with the funding crisis, so the plan for the downsizing had to take place to balance the books. Hopefully the legacy costs, particularly the post-retirement healthcare costs, will get addressed long term. But as of today, it has not been addressed and there's no viable plan on the table yet. But I have made it clear that I am available at any given time to meet and continue those conversations. But the legacy costs have to be on the table if we're going to start dealing with the ultimate problem of the Port Authority.

Reassessment, as you know --- many of you have asked me a few questions about the reassessment. That is an ongoing battle right now. I still take the position

that Harrisburg needs to act and deal with this statewide and come up with a unified plan. I still believe that holding Allegheny County to a separate standard is wrong. I believe it's unconstitutional. And I believe it violates the uniformity clause. And I am going to continue with the eight months I have remaining on my term the lobbying --- continue to lobby the Legislature on this issue, and I will keep you posted on where that stands as we go forward.

I know it's an issue that's been addressed in both parties' primaries, and I know both parties' nominees for this position care a lot about that particular issue. And I know there was some misinformation a couple weeks ago --- a couple days ago that might have just been an honest mistake. But let me remind everybody, we are not at a consent decree. I did not agree --- there's no consent decree to do a reassessment. We are under a court order to do a reassessment. And that court order is asking for a limitation in 12. That does not preclude me from doing what I need to do and continue to fight it in different ways through a legal system and through the Legislature, which we continue to do.

The commissary, we had some good news. The new commissary has been approved, a 43,000-square-foot facility out at the airport. It's going up for bids, and that will be moving forward. To date, \$17 million has been set aside through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation. So the commissary is online and moving forward. I know many of you have asked about that.

There's been a couple stories on jail medical, and I've asked Dr. Dixon to look into those stories that have been in one of our local newspapers and to get back to me with a report. But I would like to remind everybody before you jump to a conclusion, I was in the White House for about four hours about two weeks ago, with about 100 county officials around the country. And Allegheny County was pointed --- we were pointed out as a model for our recidivism program. And the White House officials called out Allegheny County and me particularly and gave us recognition for a program that other counties are trying to copy. So there's a lot of good things happening at that jail. You should know that. Unfortunately, that doesn't make the front page of some of our papers.

Councilman Futules, every time I'm here, you usually bring up the PennVEST program. I'll just give you

a quick update on the PennVEST --- the FireVEST. The FireVEST program. I'm sorry. The volunteer firefighters in 203 departments and companies in Allegheny County, they protect more than 910,000 people and they save the county, really, approximately \$60 million because of their volunteerism. 200 FireVEST scholarships are offered per year, 150 for new recruits in exchange for five years of service, 50 for existing volunteers in exchange for an additional five years. The FireVEST scholarship covers tuition fees and books. There's requirements to keep it going, but FireVEST students have taken 688 courses at CCAC in a variety of programs. There are currently 69 active FireVEST students enrolled in classes and seven FireVEST students who have graduated --- will graduate in '11.

Other than that, I'm not going to read through all these. This is really your time if any of you have questions for me. I'm here for the quarterly update report and answers to any questions I have.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Executive. Does anybody have any questions of our Chief Executive? Mr. Gastgeb, then Mr. Futules.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Burn. Dan, welcome. I just have a question. I think you made a comment about both party platforms in regard to the assessment issue. And I would agree with you, your assessment. And if we get to the point where we're actually physically doing appeals, the last go-around between Council and the Executive Office, we tried to do some satellite appeals for south --- at least north and south, maybe east and west. Do you see a plan being brought forth if we get to that point again? That would be an idea pursuing --- again, working with this body so that we're easing some of the appeal process so it's not totally downtown for the constituents.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Yeah. And before I get to that, I know there's some media in the room. I want to point out that we are far from that particular discussion because I'm still fighting the fact that we have to do one. But let me just say hypothetically, in a theoretical world, if we were doing one, I think it would be very important to have informal and as many satellite locations as possible to make it as easy as we can on the residents. And again, that was a theoretical answer on something that I don't believe should happen right now.

MR. GASTGEB: And my question was very theoretical. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I want to make a theoretical, too, in regard to what he was talking about, the reassessment. If, by chance we --- we don't want to do it, of course. But will we be ready if we have to in 2012, is the question.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Well, you know, we walk the fine line here because we are under court order. And the County Manager and the Department of Administrative Services, they do what they always do. But in this particular case, they're also preparing numbers and then going and doing their updates. That will be healthy regardless if we do it or not, because of --- you guys will have these things ready to go, because people do appeals every year anyway even if you don't do the reassessment. But if you're asking me, will we be prepared and ready to go by a certain date? I can't give you a date at this point in time. There's been delays already in trying to do this. It's a big county, and I wouldn't even want to try to guess on what date anything will be ready.

MR. FUTULES: I think I might have a silly question, but are we going to have to vote on that as this Council, or is it something that's just going to take place?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Well, right now the court order has made that decision for us, so there's no vote at this particular time. However, based on history of prior fights, I have come to Council probably, I don't know, five or six times with pieces of legislation. So there's probably a good chance that, in the future, I might be coming up with certain types of options, solutions, proposals that I'm going to ask for your support on. So that could happen, yes.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Finnerty, then Councilwoman Green and then Mr. Drozd.

MR. FINNERTY: Thanks for being here, Chief. My question is also about the assessments. I know we have a timeline on it, theoretical or whatever, but my understanding was that this August, the people should receive something in regard to the assessment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Now, the only timeline that's ever been discussed in the court order --- the County Manager's here; I guess that he can correct me if I'm wrong on this --- is that the court order wanted a reassessment done in time to be used for the 2012 year. How we get there is sort of gray. But that sort of implementation date was to be used for the 2012 year. As you know, tax bills normally go out in late February or March of a given year, but they have gone out later in other years due to either appeals or things that were going on. So there is some wiggle room in an implementation date. The year is specific, '12.

MR. FINNERTY: Right.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: But I will remind everybody here we have a court order that dictated a reassessment to be in place for 2006 that we collectively managed to avoid by coming up with other options and holding the line on taxes and not doing the reassessment. And that's why it's been almost ten years since we've done a reassessment. We've been successful in sort of doing other things and avoiding a destructive reassessment.

MR. FINNERTY: It's my understanding that we're proceeding on this plan that the assessment on properties is going to go out and the people are going to be able to see it, and then have an informal meeting in regard to it or something, then come back and find they're going to go out as a tax bill.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: The court order requires certain members and employees of the county to generate numbers. That type of activity is going on. But there is absolutely no decision made on release dates of numbers or appeal dates for numbers or if the numbers get used. But there are people working on numbers because that's required by the court order. That's all that's going on right now.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. I do have one more question because I know somebody's going to ask it, so I might as well ask it and get it over with.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: I don't think they're going to ask me to resign; are they?

MR. FINNERTY: That could be.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: That's okay. I think it ended the same way the last two years.

MR. FINNERTY: I was wondering, in regard to the budget, the \$4 million that was --- we have that

supposedly we're going to come up with this \$4 million from ---

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Non-profits.

MR. FINNERTY: --- non-profits or charitables or whatever ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Well, you are right.

MR. FINNERTY: We may get it?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: But you are right that we anticipated that somebody would ask that question. It's the only thing that's been put on that paper. The answer is yes. It's coming in different ways than we anticipated, but at least we're making some progress on it. You all approved recently a grant that we received from Highmark for \$200,000, and that was for wound care at the Kane Hospitals. In the May invoice, negotiating with Highmark, they just gave us a \$1.5 million credit off of the current contract. So right now, we received about \$1.7 million out of the \$4 million that I'm trying to go after for this particular year. So we're making progress. We're not at \$4 million yet, but we've got a good hard \$1.7 million that's real money. And my goal is to get up to \$4 million by the end of the year.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Great. Just glad to hear that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Drozd, followed by Councilwoman Green Hawkins.

MR. DROZD: I defer to Councilwoman Green. She was next.

PRESIDENT BURN: I'm sorry, Councilwoman.

MR. DROZD: Ladies are always first.

PRESIDENT BURN: Ms. Green Hawkins, followed by Council Member Drozd.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Drozd. And thank you, Chief Executive, for being here tonight. Ever since the non-discrimination ordinance was passed and we formed the HRC, Human Relations Commission, many of our constituents have been asking questions about provision of domestic partner benefits. And I understand that the commission has also recommended that they be provided. What can we tell our constituents about the provision of those benefits and what's the status of that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Yeah. And as you know and as you sponsored --- the prime sponsor and supporter of getting the anti-discrimination language up and

running, you passed here on Council and signed into law, the HRC has been up and running to the point of --- I've asked the HRC to actually look at this issue. I think you're familiar with that. They have made some recommendations. My administration is still sitting down with some members from the HRC to find out what exactly it means for implementation. Let me say that I will come back to Council between now and the next time I'm supposed to be here and give you better specifics of where that stands and what's happening. But the conversation is going on, it's being analyzed, and HRC will be part of that discussion.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd.

MR. DROZD: You don't think I would have let you go without a question and ruin my record or yours. First and foremost, I want you to know that, yeah, what I felt before and during the election was one thing. But I just want to firstly say I wanted you to stay the course and finish your term, and I'm glad you did. Secondly, I want you to know that I support your efforts and what you're doing in the Port Authority and, you know, holding your ground and Mr. Bland holding his ground. And one area that you might want to look at, I mentioned to Mr. Bland, was how we could pick up the service on the peak hours, the offset hours on those days --- maybe instead of eliminating lines on some lines where there are less traffic. He said he was going to look at that. It's being analyzed. Maybe you could accelerate that to look at that so we could serve more people of Allegheny County.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Okay.

MR. DROZD: Other areas in contractual arrangements --- and I'm not negotiating the contract, but it's the small bus routes. You see all the empty big buses and diesel fuel being burned. And if we use smaller buses --- again, you know, you have to use the more expensive ---. That's another thing you have to look at. The second thing I'd like to mention is, you know, to go over that fact, you know, I think we have to look within the county now not only at reassessments or what we're doing with the reassessments, but I think we have to look at some of our programs where we're diverting our monies to do the most impact. I attended when we had the liaison report that Probation's Control Center out in --- it just opened up. It's fabulous what they're doing. They're

getting to the problem of what's happening to these prisoners coming out and trying to work with them. You might want to look at what they're doing.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Okay.

MR. DROZD: I would ask you one very --- this thing is really important. I commend you on those areas and support you in what you're doing on those areas. I want you to know that. And whatever differences we might have had in the past, there were a lot of similarities we agreed upon. I want you to know that, too. And I'm here to support any good efforts that you might want to do. I know my fellow Council members will also.

PRESIDENT BURN: Anyone else have any questions? Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chief Executive. I'm sitting here thinking about a Chartiers Valley meeting that was held almost nine years ago. Mike, you might have been there. Well, no. When you was running for Chief Executive the first time, you stood up in front of all the leaders in the Chartiers Valley and told everybody what was going to happen on the Port Authority and that you were going to take it on. Now, how you had that awareness, I have no idea. But I remember you standing there and were very strong about how you felt about it. And you were right because here we are today. I don't hear a lot from the Board itself. I know I appreciate the efforts of the things that you tried to do. I think that there were a lot of things that were hung around your neck. It really wasn't fair because you were trying to do the right thing. And like I said, it sticks in my mind because I remember that meeting very clearly and I remember how adamant you were and people were arguing with you on that. And you were saying we're going to be exactly where we are today, and here we are.

So the point is I read in the media that the union feels that they're not being negotiated with fairly, and I don't hear much on the other side. And I guess what I'm asking you is --- because I can't get a straight answer from anybody. You know, is there any progress in terms of all this being settled? Is there any movement? Are we still where we were a couple months ago?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: After the date that the Port Authority implemented the 15-percent cuts and the 180 layoffs, when that took effect because we couldn't reach an agreement, we had a meeting the following week,

the union and the Port Authority management, in my office, and I was there. And it ran an hour long and at the end of the meeting, what was resolved is that the union wants more information. And we asked them to send us in writing what exactly they want. They did that. Port Authority responded to the request and gave them all the information. And now we're sort of waiting for a response from all that.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: And you'll have to excuse me. Anything more than three years ago is a little shaky. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Futules and then Mr. Drozd again.

MR. FUTULES: It's a simple question. We had a conversation with Amy Griser a while back about energy saving, I guess changing light bulbs or fixtures in the county. She talked about a \$4.5 million savings for the county. Is that program under way or ---?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Well, I don't know what specific discussion that was, but we are in the middle of and are continuing to do an entire energy audit throughout the buildings that we own. And a few years ago, we did a total renovation of all bulbs at the jail, and the payback was in five years, and it goes another 15 after that. The cost recovery was 5, plus another 15 in savings. The airport's currently looking at the same thing on lighting, and we're doing that in all our buildings. So what I could do is get all of you an update on where the audits stand, the implementation and the findings for energy efficiencies in all the publicly-owned buildings that are going on right now. And we're working with the municipalities to do the same thing with buildings they own. And a lot of this is being done with federal grants that we received.

MR. FUTULES: And just recently, I was able to tour Harrison Hill Park with the Friends of the Park. And I was really impressed with the volunteers that work there, Friends of the Park, and I think they are a very active group. And I saw some nice things. I saw two baby owls. They took us in the woods and it was really nice. Andy was there with us. I think recognizing the volunteers of Allegheny County in a very important thing, and it's very active as far as that. I plan on doing something in the future with some volunteers of our parks, such as our ski patrols and volunteers, to add to possibly

be with the firemen as far as the skiing and things. I would like to implement something with them in the future to thank them for their services for the county.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: The volunteers at county parks are critical. I'd just say that anything we want to do to try to recognize them, if it involves a monetary item, we just have to make sure we analyze the budget impact.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I'd like to talk with you about that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yeah. I just wanted to make you aware of --- you know, I'm glad you brought up about the volunteer firefighters. It may be a little bigger when we talked, but they're saving \$60 million in Coraopolis alone they estimated at that small company. If you multiply 214, whatever, companies across Allegheny, we're talking \$2 million just for that. They're hurting for recruitment and retention. I go to their meetings, and the fire chief --- we hear it all the time. I'm really concerned. We've really go to look at maybe doing some PR about our monies in the media.

The other area I want you to be aware of and everybody should be aware of when I say this --- we have a school board member, Mr. Brentley, here tonight. We'll present him with a proclamation. Our youth are really hurting. And because of the cuts from the state in the social programs, those social workers and those probation, those monies --- all the monies we save in the short term, we're going to really hurt in the long term, and it costs us a lot more. It's going to really hit us hard. If you listen to what the young people are saying in those schools and the needs they have in the home life ---. And the schools and the teachers, they're going the best they can, the administration and Board members. They're thankless jobs. But I have to say this. You know, you really have to look and drill down within our services and how those monies were coming down and where we do spend and how we channel them in there and to speak up more on behalf of this, because, you know, I can hear America whispering, I really do, not just our county. You can see it if you walk the city. When I was on the school board, I never did. Now, when I walk in the shoes, I see, and I'm really determined. Thank you. Thank you again for coming today, Dan.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Drozd.  
Councilwoman Rea, followed by Councilwoman Danko.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Chief Executive. I have a question about the field in North Park. And my question is, I think, and I may be mistaken, that the majority of the time that someone uses that field, it's a school that's moving outside of Allegheny County. And I wonder, how do we resolve the fact that we'll have a field that's being built for a school that's actually missing, and what do we do with a contract like that? Is that up to Council? Is that up to you? Who is that up to?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: First of all, the North Park Field is used by many schools. But North Catholic has a priority on the field for years on Friday night for their home games. A lot of schools use it on Sunday and Saturday, and a lot of them are Catholic grade schools throughout the county that use them. And it's not being built for North Catholic or for any of those grade schools. It's actually being built for all of us and it's used by taxpayers that live in Allegheny County. And we should be careful about picking and choosing if somebody lives in the county or right over the border or if a building's in the county or over the border because a lot of money going into this park is state money, too. And all the residents of Pennsylvania pay the tax dollars, and we use facilities in their counties. So the contract you're referring to, because this is county-owned land, anything that's county owned, whatever it involves, at least, if not I'm mistaken, County Council has to be involved in leasing county property. That's part of the charter. So yes, in this particular case, you will be involved. All our contracts, obviously, are not part of County Council's purview, but the land that we own is, yes.

MS. REA: Okay. So if we would want to renegotiate that contract --- and I may be mistaken, but I thought 65 percent of the time it was occupied by one school. We can renegotiate that? We can bring that contract and renegotiate it?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Yeah. The County's Exec's Office and the Law Department will negotiate a contract that would come here for approval, correct.

MS. REA: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Councilwoman Danko?

MS. DANKO: Yes. It's been almost two years since we passed the Human Relations Commission ordinance. And it was actually almost a year ago that the Human Relations Commission made a recommendation to your staff about the domestic partner benefits. And you know, I've been sitting on the Commission. We have a hardworking commission. There's been a lack of urgency in dealing with this. And every month we have a meeting. And basically, we get the same answer. And I just think you need to feel the urgency the Commission members are feeling. We've lost one Commission member already. We may lose another one this month. There's a lot of opportunities also for city/county working together on these issues, you know, contractually. And I would like to get it higher up on their agenda.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Okay. I appreciate the comments, but please keep in perspective that the City of Pittsburgh went about 20 years between when we adopted HRC and then they had domestic benefits. I can assure you I'm not looking at 20 years. And Allegheny County, with the help of the councilmen over there, is the only --- one of two counties in the state that actually has the anti-discrimination policy and HRC. So you should all take a lot of pride in that you're ahead of the curb on this as it relates to county governments dealing with this issue.

And yes, the HRC did make a recommendation in very little detail other than they support it and think it's a good idea to do it. But saying you support something and then the implementation of it, you've got to make sure we've got all of our ducks lined up and what does it mean, how we implement it, you know, again, because you have union contracts that are involved, too. So all those things are being reviewed as we speak. And I will get back to all of you within the next --- before the next period I come here to give you an update on where it stands and what's going on. But it is being reviewed. There's been a lot of progress made in the last two years on these issues, and people are working on it now. So I will make sure that the HRC knows where we are, too, on this issue. And those two people that are resigning, we'll make sure we replace them, too, getting new members on the board.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to say, in reference to Councilwoman Danko's comments, that one of

the issues that I had with the creation of the Commission itself was there exists in Pittsburgh a State Human Relations Commission, so that may be a place to start in terms of making --- working with them or seeing what they might have to offer or not, or --- you know.

MS. DANKO: I've already done that.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Oh, you've already done that?

MS. DANKO: Yes.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: The other problem with doing that is that the state doesn't have a anti-discrimination bill, and therefore, their HRC can't oversee any possible complaints that would come here. That's why there's a separate HRC.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: One other thing. I'd be remiss if I didn't take an opportunity to thank your directors and their deputies for the excellent help that they give myself and I know a lot of my colleagues in terms of issues that we have to deal with all day. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say I appreciate the hard work that you folks put into it and you've accumulated under the direction of Mr. Flynn and an excellent staff. And I know that any issue that I personally have ever had to deal with, it's always been dealt with very professionally and very quickly, and I'm very grateful, and thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Any other questions? Any other questions? Mr. Executive, thank you for being here.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ONORATO: Mr. President, thank you, members.

PRESIDENT BURN: Proclamations and certificates.  
6350-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation commending Pittsburgh Public Schools for hosting the 13th annual Take Your Father to School Day. Sponsored by Council Members Drozd, Burn, DeFazio, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Kress, Martoni, Palmiere.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council Member Drozd.

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. I want you to know this is something near and dear --- and anybody else is welcome up here at the podium. Anybody that sponsored this bill is welcome to come and share and to give acknowledgment to these gentlemen. Mark's the one that started it. He's on the Board. And of course, people like this gentleman here has really helped in making this go forward. You know,

when you go into the schools and we walk into the schools and you talk to those youth, you wouldn't believe the messages and what they say and what's hurting them in their heart. A lot of them --- you know, we go home. We go home to our children and we raise our kids. And a lot of children out there go home to families, and there are a lot that do not. A lot are being raised by their grandmother. They're being raised by their aunt. They're being raised by people other than their parents. Some of them even have told me, some of them are living on their own. If you attended --- and I attended with the superintendent one day the homeless children in America. And the population of those homeless children has gone up significantly over the years.

What's lacking is the role models that they so badly need, those of us that had in our homes the parenting that we have. And one of the areas that a lot of young people don't have is their father. Of if they do, there's not the interaction, because a lot of times it may not be the fault of the father or the parent. They just are so busy in what they do. But they really do need those figures and they need those role models because if they don't, they're going to get it somewhere else and that can be on the streets. And that's where troubles come and that's where hurt comes and that's where --- you just can't believe the stories that I hear. You know, I heard even today --- it's just absolutely mind-boggling. It hurts when you hear this. It hurts me to see that there are children in this country that really don't have the love that they so badly need and so badly want. They just want someone just to say they care and someone to be here that says they care, and they just aren't there always.

And what Mr. Brentley and his Board members and this gentleman has helped to do --- and I'm going to let them speak a little more on behalf of this program. It's brought something that's maybe brought more forth to interact in that in their lives that they didn't have before. But it only touches the tip of the iceberg. It doesn't get to the bottom, where we really need to get, and we're so far behind today.

What this proclamation reads is so --- not nearly captures is what they're trying to do, not only in this program but other programs. You know, when they say --- you know, we always say, well --- and then you hear

people make comments it's the teachers or it's the school or whatever. It's just simply not true. It's in the home life. And those dollars are now being cut. I've seen great teachers. I've seen great administrators. I've seen great Board members and I've seen great volunteers who really care and are really trying to do everything they can. But they need more help. They need us.

When you go home, when you go home to your families, look outside your families. Try to do something a little bit for someone outside your family, and you're going to get such an exhilarating feeling like you've never --- feeling that you'll never believe in your life. Talking about it is not enough. You've got to walk the walk. The proclamation reads, but again, doesn't nearly capture what these people are going, these gentlemen are doing and what the schools are doing.

Whereas, children benefit from father figures who display interest in their lives and provide them with guidance and opportunities to grow.

And whereas, Take Your Father to School Day, an initiative within the Pittsburgh Public School System, founded by Pittsburgh Board of Education Member Mark Brentley, Sr., here today, along with his gentlemen that volunteer, who you'll also hear from, allows father figures to accompany children to school and to become involved in children's lives.

And whereas, the 13th Annual Take Your Father to School Day occurs on May 20th --- that's this coming --- today's Thursday --- Friday, 2011.

And whereas, the theme for the 13th Annual Day is, Yes Eye Can, which instructs participants to bring with them non-perishable food items as a donation to local food banks and used eyeglasses as a donation to those who cannot afford corrective lenses.

And whereas, by participating in the Yes Eye Can theme of Take Your Father to School Day, fathers show their children responsibility and a passion and a desire to assist others, setting a positive example that children may follow for years to come and pass on to others for years to come.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of all our citizens and constituents of Allegheny County, over one million people, commends the Pittsburgh Board of Education for hosting the 13th Annual Take Your Father to School Day on May 20th,

2011. The Board's initiative involved father figures --- father figures, again, I emphasize, in children's lives, will benefit our community and greatly enhance future generations. For that, this Council honors the Board, Pittsburgh Public Schools and father figures of the community. And I'd like to add that those mothers and those grandparents, too, I commend them for all that they do for their family and for their children. And I thank them.

(Applause.)

MR. BRENTLEY: Good afternoon, Mr. President, members of Council. I thank you so much, Councilman Drozd. As you mentioned, the 13th Annual is scheduled for this Friday. And just a couple of points that we have to clarify, because every year we have to make sure that nobody gets it twisted. And that is this event is not an anti-anything. It's not an anti-anybody. It is simply a call to men to stand up, get up and get out and get involved in the lives of their children's education. We are not against parents. We're not against mothers or anything of that sort. I mentioned before that if our mothers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools decided to take a day off, the Pittsburgh Public School District would fail yesterday because they are holding down the PTOs, the PSCCs, PTAs. They are doing their job. But it takes two to raise a child, so our Take a Father to School Day is nothing more but a call to men to come on out and get involved.

So this Friday, if you decide that you have some time, stop in any of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, primarily the elementary and middle schools. High school is a little difficult because we don't get as many at the high schools. But nevertheless, they're also providing activities. Just go in and just sign the registration so that we can count you. And you can participate in the activities that are scheduled for that particular day. This is the 2nd Annual where we're working on the Yes, Eye, E-Y-E, Can campaign. We found out that a lot of our students order are to get to school, but a lot of times, because of their family situations, they're not getting a good meal. And so we decided --- we had over 5,000 men last year. And if we encourage at least half of them to bring a canned good, we're then going to put that together to go into a local food bank that will turn around and then donate it to those families that are in need.

The eyes is a situation that we found out a little later that a lot of the kids who are the class clowns are not necessarily the class clowns, but the fact is they can't see the board. And that's a very real issue. So we are partnering with a couple organizations who can recycle glasses. I don't know how they do it, but they're capable of doing it. And we hope to donate our glasses.

Finally, on that day, I have the power and the authority to change the definition of fathers. Our definition of fathers, just for that day, is a positive male role model in that child's life. There are millions of children who don't have a father. So we're just asking men to stand in for any children who needs or wants a stand-in.

Thank you so much for the proclamation. We're excited. Over 5,000 last year. We're going to work hard to try to beat that number. I would encourage Council members --- I believe this is the secret weapon to going after some of those kids. And what we found out, when we had open discussions with some of them, they will talk open and honestly. How do I be a man? Teach me how to do that. What happens to my body? And so we are able to start that discussion.

The Take Your Father to School Day Committee is made up of about seven or eight men who volunteer. And when I put the word out and get everyone who's able to attend. And Mike Nichols will say a few words.

MR. NICHOLS: The poster that Councilman Drozd is holding is my son. On Friday, February 11th, this year, he had a double-lung transplant. He is the first sickle cell kid in history to have a double-lung transplant. And you see here it's sponsored by the City of Pittsburgh. We're going to do a blood drive Thursday, June 2nd, 8:30 at the City-County Building, Sixth Floor. I would like to have --- if the County Council would sponsor a blood drive. I left some posters right here with my son's face on it if you want to take a few. And it's a historic event. It was in The Courier in February when it happened.

I happen to be a volunteer of the city schools. I've been reading to the kids for about 19 years. And I worked for the City of Pittsburgh for 23 years. And once I get out to kids, if they ask me, well, what story do you want to hear? For those kids, I'm not teachers. One

might say, Mr. Mike, we want to hear Abby Young. I give it to them. I give them anything they want because those stories get them excited. And most of my stories are towards African-Americans and their heroes because they're not being told enough at the schools. But I take my time out of my night-urn job to go over and read to the kids. And I've been doing it for --- next year will be 20 years. So I urge anybody who wants to join me in the city schools, please let me know.

But as I said before, that's my son right there, who's 19 at the end of the month. And he's the first sickle cell kid to receive a double-lung transplant. It took ten hours, ten long hours. And I just came from the hospital today. You know, he has to get some treatments, but he's doing pretty good. He's a 19-year-old kid. So I encourage everybody to please donate blood. It can be a friend or family member. But my slogan is every child has a right to live. Thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: 6352-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Mort Parker for his volunteerism and community service. Sponsored by Councilman Palmiere.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President and fellow Council members. Ironically enough, this is just piggybacking on Councilman Drozd's comments about role models. The gentleman I'm here to honor tonight is a real role model and has been for me for a lot of years. I've told Mort on several occasions I want to be just like him when I grow up. He's a wonderful, wonderful person and wonderful individual, and he exemplifies what good citizenship and what being a role model is all about. I just want to read a couple things. Mort, you want to come on up, please?

I just read a few things that Mort is responsible for and what he's been doing with his lifetime achievements. God bless him. Mort has volunteered throughout his life in our community. He has dedicated much of his time to helping other people. He's 91 years old, but he has the spirit of someone 70 years younger than him. He has served, among other organizations, the following: the U.S. Navy. He was a pilot in World War II. Member of the Whitehall Civic Association, the Baldwin-

Whitehall Friends of the Theater Arts --- I had the pleasure of serving with Mort on that board --- Baldwin-Whitehall School District Budget Committee, the AARP Tax Aide Program and Whitehall's Elections Division. He continues to find new ways to help others in our community. What's interesting about the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Budget Committee, that's when I first met Mort many years ago. And we had a lot of spirited discussions about taxes and so on and so forth. And since then, he's become a wonderful advocate of public education, and he's helped us --- when I was on the Board, he's helped many, many times in displaying to the elderly people in the community what exactly we're trying to do and what we could and what we could not do legally.

So he's been a wonderful inspiration to me and I'm just so proud to be able to honor him tonight. And we have some of the theater arts group here. We have Mayor Jim Nowalk from Whitehall. We have Ms. Renee Stockey and her son. They're also serving on the Board. And of course, we have Mrs. Parker. Would you please come on up here, Peggy, please? Come on up here. You stand by Mort, and you've been doing that for a lot of years. I want to read the proclamation, please, if I may.

Whereas, volunteers within Allegheny County are dedicated tirelessly to serving and assisting in the community.

And whereas, Mr. Mort Parker of Whitehall has been volunteering in Allegheny County for nearly 60 years.

And whereas, after serving as a flight instructor and naval aviator in the United States Naval Corps during World War II, Mr. Parker moved to Allegheny County, attending Whitehall Borough Council and Baldwin-Whitehall School Board meetings and joined the Baldwin-Whitehall School District's Budget Committee to share insight and advice.

And whereas, upon retirement, Mr. Parker went on to serve AARP's Tax Aide Program, to join the Baldwin-Whitehall Friends of the Theater Arts, and to act as majority inspector of elections in District 16 for Whitehall Borough.

And whereas, Mr. Parker received in 1999 the Governor's Silver and Gold Award for participation from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, and in 2011 The South Hills Record Citizen of the Year Award for remaining humble and committed while serving Allegheny County.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, commends Mr. Parker for his selfless dedication to serving Allegheny County. Mr. Parker's volunteerism is an inspiration to all citizens, and this Council thanks him for everything he has done throughout his life. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. PARKER: Just a little trivia. At this stage of my life, in the years I've been retired, you don't often wear a shirt and tie and a suit coat, so I had almost forgotten how to tie a tie. At any rate, I had to make a big selection tonight to pick a tie out, and you won't believe this. This tie that I have on in honor of my wife, who's been so supportive of my activities, is the tie that I wore when we were married 57 years ago.

(Applause.)

MR. PARKER: Anyway, I really am honored and overwhelmed by all the congratulations and recognition of this award, the Citizen of the Year for 2011. But I have to make it clear that The South Hills Record really --- you know, this covers Baldwin Township, Baldwin Borough, Brentwood, Whitehall, Pleasant Hills and Jefferson Hills. So there are many other citizens all over Allegheny County that certainly do make a greater contribution than I've ever done. And I think Council ought to recognize the fact that we have a whole county of citizens that I have encountered who are from all the areas. And the things that they do exceed what I've ever done in the past years. So I may be selected for 2011, but there are many citizens out there that ought to be right up here with me.

So to me what has been is the fact that as a volunteer, you come into so many people for which you have a bond. And they're great people that spend some other time and try to make things a little bit better for people that need a little hand. And I think that stems from the fact that I was born, you know, in Chicago, during the --- and went through the Depression. And I always remember that what little we had --- and we were poor and affected by the Depression --- that if someone had anything less, if you could give him a hand, you would. So this feeling has sort of stayed with me my whole life. And I just felt that this has been such a great country and a great area in Pittsburgh here that if you're able and fortunate enough to have the wherewithal to lend a hand to someone

that needs it, there are just so many ways to do it. Certainly AARP is a great place to volunteer.

So I want to say I'm just overwhelmed here tonight. And if I sound a little nervous, I am. But the way this came about is that a few weeks ago in The South Hills Record, which is a local neighborhood paper over all the areas in Allegheny County, there was an item in the paper that they wanted someone to nominate a Citizen of the Year. And you filled out the name and address and then also wrote a few lines as to why this person should be selected. So we have one great volunteer in the area who's been --- who's really inspired this Tax Aide program. And it's been a great program to do taxes for the elderly and for the people that need a little help on their taxes, particularly when they find things that they should have some benefits they're not aware of, such as property tax rebate by the state. He sets up many sites where counselors will come and, during the tax season, prepare taxes for the elderly. So I couldn't think of a better person to be selected as Citizen of the Year. So I wrote his name down and the few lines and sent it in. And then in a couple weeks, I get this telephone call by a very nice young lady whose first name is Stephanie. She's a staff writer. So when I heard her name and where she was from, I said, oh, you've selected my nominee. She said, no, Mr. Parker, we've selected you. And I nearly fell off of the chair.

So I'm still in shock, and I can only say that, you know, to be honored like this is certainly something to be remembered the rest of my life. And I really appreciate John's effort. And then I never knew who nominated me, but I have a hunch. The policy of The South Hills Record was that they're not supposed to reveal who nominated you. So anyway, it's been a week of congratulations and recognition. And I just can't say --- it's going to take me a couple of weeks to really get back to reality. So again, thanks so much for the honor, for the recognition. I'll just have thoughts about it for many weeks to come. And I do thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: The remaining proclamations and certificates shall be read into the record, starting with 6354-11. Thank you, Joe.

MR. CATANESE: Certificates of Recognition honoring police officers who are retiring from the Allegheny County Police Department. Sponsored by Council Members Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Macey and Martoni.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Council Member Finnerty as a sponsor as well, and Mr. Robinson. Thank you very much. Please continue.

MR. CATANESE: 6355-11. Certificates of Recognition honoring Alexandra and April Warble for earning the Silver Award from the Girl Scouts for their community service. Sponsored by Councilman Ellenbogen.

6356-11. Proclamation honoring the retirement of Ron Gancas from the administration of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

6357-11. Proclamation honoring Heidelberg Mayor Ken LaSota for receiving the 2010 Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

6358-11. Proclamation honoring Joyce Rothermel upon her retirement from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6359-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring the 60th anniversary of Eugene and Ann Capristo. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6360-11. Proclamation honoring Kumite Classic Entertainment for bringing national awareness to prominent health concerns, and declaring from May 27th to May 28th as Kumite Classic Fitness and Sports Days in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni.

6361-11. Certificates of Achievement honoring the Vincentian Academy boys basketball team for winning the WPIAL Class A Championship. Sponsored by Councilwoman Rea.

6362-11. Proclamation commemorating the Honus Wagner Company retail store upon its closing, and honoring the Shapiro family for successfully operating the business for the majority of its 93-year history. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson and Green Hawkins.

6363-11. Proclamation honoring the Theta Beta Citywide Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority upon its 40th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Members Robinson and Green Hawkins.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Approval of minutes. 6365-11.  
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011  
regular meeting of Council. Is there a motion?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Minutes approved. Presentation  
of appointments.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Unfinished business, Committee  
on Budget and Finance. 6328-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of  
Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget  
for 2011, Submission 06-11. Sponsored by the Chief  
Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and  
members of Council. Move for approval.

MR. GASTGEB: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Do we need a  
roll call?

MR. CATANESE: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

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. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?  
PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT BURN: Committee on Government Reform, second reading.

MR. CATANESE: 6325-11. An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing Division 4 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, entitled Finances, through the enactment of a new Chapter 485 entitled False Claims, providing for the recovery of enhanced monetary damages from persons who file false or fraudulent claims with the county, providing a procedure for persons with knowledge of such claims to inform the county, and authorizing the county, in certain circumstances, to allow such persons to commence civil action on behalf of the county, and to share in the proceeds awarded, and providing for civil penalties, attorneys' fees and costs, all under certain terms and conditions. Sponsored by Council Members Kress, Drozd, Martoni, Gastgeb, Macey, Futules and Burn.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Kress, my understanding is, sir, that you have an amendment to this?

MR. KRESS: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to amend the current legislation.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. And in that regard, do we have the amendment handy?

MR. KRESS: Yes, we do.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. Mr. Kress, what I would ask at this point is we'll wait for Mr. Barker to pass it out. And once all of our colleagues have it, perhaps you could enlighten us just with a brief synopsis of the intent of the bill and then the intent of the amendment to the bill. And then we will --- since it's been moved and seconded, we'll have a discussion on the bill itself to see if anyone has any questions. Please add Council

Member DeFazio as a co-sponsor to this legislation and Council Member ---.

MR. FINNERTY: No, I don't want added. I think before we can amend it, we have to have a motion and a second, then an amendment.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. Understood. Yes. Is there a motion to approve the bill in its original form?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT BURN: Is there a second?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. Before the yeas and nays are taken, are there any amendments? We have passed out an amendment; is that correct? Okay. And there's been a motion and a second on the amendment --- or the proposed amendment?

MR. CATANESE: Correct.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. Let's discuss that at this point. Mr. Kress, could you give us a synopsis of the intent of the bill and the intent of the amendment, sir?

MR. KRESS: Okay. The intent of the bill is to go after fraud committed against the county. This bill has been very successful at the federal level. Basically what we're doing is adopting what has occurred at the federal level. Since 1986, the federal government's been able to recoup about \$28 billion from people who defrauded the federal government. And what we're trying to do is to try to just do the same here at the county. Other municipalities, like Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami-Dade have adopted similar language like this, similar ordinances. And basically, what the ordinance is, it basically encourages people, whistleblowers, to inform the government of fraud being perpetrated against government entities. And the way they do that is that the whistleblower actually can share any proceeds that are recovered by the municipality or the government. And I think it's been a very successful piece of legislation, and I'd like to see it adopted here at the county.

PRESIDENT BURN: And Mr. Kress, the amendment, the purpose of the amendment?

MR. KRESS: The purpose of the amendment is to basically mirror the federal legislation as is. And after discussions with Attorney Andrew Stone, that was the recommendations, and we had discussed it at the committee meeting. I think this is what we need to do. And the

thing is, also, with the amendment, is to allow a person to pursue the action without the okay of the county. If the county solicitor doesn't approve it immediately, then the individual could file as a third-party action.

PRESIDENT BURN: And the amendment was vetted extensively at the May 12th, 2011 Committee on Government Reform. My opinion as the Chair of that meeting is that had there been a fifth committee Council person at that meeting, I believe that the amendment would have most likely been adopted at that time based on the question and answer and based on our guests who were in the room to answer any questions. So the bill has been introduced. There has been a motion and a second on the bill as amended. Is there any discussion on the bill as amended? Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just have a question. How does this bill affect somebody that would make that kind of a complaint in the procedures of their actual job? Or if the person is an employee of the government, that they're complaining about violations, do they also receive a monetary reward or what? That's where I'm a little bit confused.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Kress, I think you discussed that.

MR. KRESS: Yeah. I thought we discussed that and I thought they're actually acting as an employee of, you know, Allegheny County government. They're not subject to this. They cannot use this to gain monetary compensation because they're just doing their job.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: All right. Well, let me ask you, what if somebody makes --- and this happens. Someone doesn't like somebody and makes a false accusation. What happens?

MR. KRESS: Well, first of all, we have defamation law. But also, the County Solicitor doesn't actually have to take this --- a complaint. First of all, he could say we're not going to pursue it. But also, they could also file a motion to dismiss. So there is protections under this law so it doesn't become like parasitic where people actually are filing the claims. Also, in order to avoid a lot of these parasitic lawsuits, a person cannot file it pro se. They need an attorney to file this claim also.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, let me ask you something and give you a scenario. If you have an inspector and

he's doing his jobs and he makes a complaint and it's a false accusation, I mean, what happens? Is that person protected by this bill even though it was false accusation, or is that person subject to disciplinary from his supervisors? I guess my concerns lie around people who are actually government employees and are in the process of actually doing their job. How does this affect that?

MR. KRESS: Okay. First of all, I want to look at one section. Maybe we can ---. Paragraph C, Subsection 4. Based upon information discovered by an employee of the county, state or federal government in the course of his employment, unless such employee first reported the information to the county, and the county failed to act on the information within six months of receipt of the information. So that information --- like, for example, to the employee, that's going to be barred unless the county failed to act on the information within six months. Now, if you're asking about, are employees ---. Let me make sure I understand your question. Are you asking, are employees protected under this whistleblower statute? Or are you saying, if they make a false accusation to somebody, what happens then? I just want to make sure ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Both. If you are an employee, are you protected, period? Because whether you make an accusation that's valid or whether you make an accusation that is false, I would think that that person would still be protected under the veil of this bill.

MR. KRESS: I mean, there's retaliatory language in here in Section 48, 5-4. It says, retaliation action prohibited. No person shall discharge, demote, suspend threaten or in any other manner discriminate against any employee under the terms and conditions of employment because of lawful acts done by the employee in furtherance of an action under this chapter, including investigation or initiation of, testimony for or other assistance in an action filed or to be filed under this chapter.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: One final question.

MR. KRESS: And there's also Subparagraph 8, too. It says, any employee who's found to have suffered a retaliatory action as defined in this section shall be entitled to all relief necessary to make the employee whole. Such relief shall include reinstating with the same seniority status such employee would have had but for

the discrimination, two times the amount of back pay, interest on the back pay and compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of discrimination, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees. So there are protections for the employee.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I guess, you know, one kind of question I have. I mean, there's a lot of accusations that are made by people who really believe it. And it's not that they're making a false accusation. They genuinely believe that's what's going on, and it turns out to be false. Is that employee subject to disciplinary action from his or her supervisor? That's the main question I guess I'm asking. Are they protected by this bill even though the complaint was one that was not valid, whether it was something that they were trying to do discriminatory or whatnot or it was an innocent thought, you know?

PRESIDENT BURN: I believe there's whistleblower protection built into the language.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you. I appreciate it.

PRESIDENT BURN: Any other questions? Any other questions? I think we can do a voice vote on this. All those in favor, signify --- voting for 6325-11 as amended. On the amendment. Thank you. Okay. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Opposed? Okay. The bill has been amended. Now can we do a voice vote or a roll call?

MR. CATANESE: Roll call.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please call the roll on 6325-11 as amended.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

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. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?  
PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes

as amended.

PRESIDENT BURN: 6327-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation certain tax delinquent parcels of land for expansion of Round Hill Park, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes. Mr. Flynn came to our meeting to answer any questions of the Government Reform. All questions were answered to the satisfaction of committee. It was released with an affirmative recommendation. I would move for its approval.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?  
MS. DANKO: Aye.  
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. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?  
PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT BURN: 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 Council Members Kress, Drozd, Gastgeb, Rea, Finnerty, Futules, Macey and Burn.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President, a point of personal privilege?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: As we're fortunate enough to have Sheriff Mullen in the audience here and has been sitting here patiently, I would ask Council if they had any objections to let the Sheriff take the podium on this issue if he has any comments regarding this, as he probably could tell us more about this than anybody else.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Ellenbogen. I was going to ask procedurally if Mr. Kress was going to ask for a motion to approve, followed by a second.

MR. DEFAZIO: I want to be added to this.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. Please add Mr. DeFazio as a co-sponsor. Mr. Kress, are you requesting a motion to approve this bill?

MR. KRESS: Yes, I'm requesting a motion to approve this bill.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved and second. Mr. Kress, do you have any amendments to this bill?

MR. KRESS: Yes, I do. I have a motion to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT BURN: May we see the amendment, please? And at this point, Mr. Ellenbogen, the Sheriff. Thank you for your patience. It's good to see you, sir. If you would come up to the podium in the event any of our colleagues have any questions. And for the record, we all know who you are, and we welcome you to our meeting. If you could identify yourself for the record, sir.

SHERIFF MULLEN: William Mullen, M-U-L-L-E-N, Sheriff of Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT BURN: Good afternoon, Sheriff.

SHERIFF MULLEN: Good afternoon.

PRESIDENT BURN: Sir, have you had an opportunity to review the ordinance and the amendment to the bill, sir?

SHERIFF MULLEN: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURN: I guess, Mr. Ellenbogen, do you have any questions of the Sheriff?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No. I just want to know --- you know. I hate to put you on the spot, Bill, but do you think this is something that is valid and is needed?

SHERIFF MULLEN: I think it is. Let me give you the background on this. We were bringing this up and people have known about this for several years. And what was happening was the increase in Sheriff's sales. People were getting the property without changing the deed. Particularly with senior citizens, they were getting harassed for not paying their taxes. The tax bills kept coming to them because the deed was not changed. Mr. Kress came down shortly after he was appointed, and we talked about this. And we both agreed on the necessity to stop harassing these people and have a good deed to the proper people. It's pretty simple.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: That's good enough for me. Thank you.

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

MR. DROZD: There's something we have to be aware of, not only in this case, but did you see the article that appeared in one of the newspapers about the sale of the U.S. Steel Building and the way that manipulation goes in the essence where those people in the transfer of that property --- when they transfer the corporation, they don't pay the fee, the transfer taxes. We get no income from that, and neither does the city. The people do not get any income from that. And we really have to look at those loopholes in the law. And it's something we have to follow through from the state level. The law says about \$2 million, I think, in revenue, in the transfer of that one building alone, let alone others maybe that happen within the city because of the way it manipulates around the law. And that goes out of our pockets of our taxpayers, and then they have to pick up the difference. We really have to look at that. That's not a reflection on the Sheriff. It's not a reflection on Council. It's a reflection to take on some of the laws and the way they are read and the way they are written. We have to make sure it's changed that they can't go around that way, you know, in that essence. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Palmiere, followed by Mr. Finnerty.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President, I just want to be added to the list.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Council Member Palmiere as a co-sponsor. Council Member Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I just was wondering. What Mr. Drozd was talking about has nothing to do with this bill; does it?

PRESIDENT BURN: He's finished his comments, so we'll move on. I'm not striking it. We're not doing that. Let's move ahead. Yes, Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Would you add me as a sponsor?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir. Please add Council Member Ellenbogen as a sponsor. Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: At the meeting, we had discussed as many as 40 properties that have already --- since 2007, have not transferred their deed. And I mean, Jim could explain it to me, but he said the law requires the fact that it's maybe too late for those. And I'd like to know

if there's a possibility if we change that law to retroactive to go back to the people and force them to change that deed.

SHERIFF MULLEN: I don't believe so, but I'm not the expert in that.

PRESIDENT BURN: I could answer that, as I'm sure your counsel could. There is no ability to enforce this retroactively. The analogy we made in committee was if you were going down 28 last week at 55 miles an hour, and the speed limit were reduced this week to 35, they could not retroactively cite you for doing 55 last week. It's not fair on this type of a fact finding, but unfortunately, that's the reality.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. You said it's a matter of law, but maybe this law could be changed, but I guess not. I'm not a lawyer.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you very much. Any other questions or comments for the Sheriff? Mr. Robinson would like to be added as a co-sponsor. Councilman, thank you. Please add Councilman Robinson. Any other questions or comments for our Sheriff, Sheriff Mullen? Thank you, sir. It's good to see you.

SHERIFF MULLEN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: At this time, with respect to the motion to amend 6340-11, are there any other questions on the motion to amend? Any other questions? We can do a voice vote on the motion to amend. All those in favor of amending 6340-11, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Opposed? The bill is amended. Now, on 6340-11 as amended, are there any other questions or discussion? Any other questions? Any other questions? Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

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. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?  
PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes as amended.

PRESIDENT BURN: Liaison reports. Do any of you members of Council have any liaison reports? Mr. Drozd, followed by Mr. Finnerty.

MR. DROZD: Yes. I attended, at the suggestion of Judge Manning and Judge McDaniel that appeared at committee to talk about the probation. And I was kind of disappointed that more of the news media didn't cover that event out there at the ribbon cutting ceremony to the probation and rehabilitation center. They opened another one out on Penn Avenue out towards the East Liberty area. It was really amazing to see, you know, the enthusiasm by those probation officers that were there. This is cutting edge. It really is. And you know, the recidivism rate in our county and in our state, you know, of prisoners coming back is, like, 60 percent, you know. What I've heard in our jails, 85 percent drug and alcohol related. And a lot of these people, they don't get to the root of the cause, so they go back into the prison, 60 percent of them. They come out and they're back again because they aren't getting to the root of the cause. What these centers do, if it's a job issue, if it's an employment issue, they talk about it. They look for ways to help them gain employment, and they're doing that. And if it's a drug issue or whatever it might be, they're working on ways to help them to rehabilitate.

It's really a fantastic idea in concept, and I was really --- just felt good about being there. And if any of you get an opportunity, go out and visit it. This is what we're talking about in America that we really need, you know, in essence, these type of cutting edge, outside-the-box-type initiatives. And this was founded and started by our courts here in Allegheny County. And I hope it becomes a role model throughout the United States. Visit those centers. It's just amazing what you see and the ideas and the concepts of what they're doing. They're getting to the root cause, and that's what we need to do in America, get to the root cause. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Finnerty, followed by Council Member Macey.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to put a plug in for Soldiers and Sailors. Their Memorial Day celebration is obviously May 30th, and the time is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's free admission that day. They have a variety of different events going on. One's a veterans and military remembrance, which was recording messages for our troops, and so on. They also are adding something new this year. It's called dog-friendly activities, so you can bring your dog along. They're going to have live entertainment and the 6th Regiment USCT Drum Corps demonstration, which is the drum corps that was started by Soldiers and Sailors. And it's really something to see. And if you get a chance, you should take a look at these young gentlemen and ladies in this drum corps, because they practice a lot and they're really good. And they go around all over the country and bring fame to Allegheny County and Soldiers and Sailors. And also, they're going to have children activities, food booths, beer and more. And if you want to --- somebody's cheering for that, I'd say. And if you would like to --- their website is [www.soldiersandsailorshall.org](http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org). And they will have all the information there. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Council Member Finnerty. Council Member Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I know over the last month or so, you've heard some concerns about air traffic controllers and airports and, of course, not maintaining their responsibilities. I can tell you that the Allegheny

County Airport Authority has been proactive, and we don't have that problem at the Pittsburgh International Airport. And they're going to add another air traffic controller to the Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin. So rest assured that the Allegheny County Airport Authority is on top of this and hopefully we won't have any air traffic control problems. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Anything else for the liaison reports? New business, ordinances and resolutions. 6353-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance 07-06-OR, through the addition of a new Section 3 governing long-term leases and/or permits for the use of county-owned recreational or park facilities. Sponsored by Council Members Gastgeb and Ellenbogen.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I invite either of the co-sponsors to have any remarks, would this go to Government Reform or Parks and Recreation? Government Reform, I would think. But before I refer this to Government Reform --- who wants it? Do you want it?

MR. FINNERTY: I think it goes to Parks.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. It's yours. He's getting it. Before I refer it to Parks and Recreation, Vince or Jim, do you have any remarks?

MR. GASTGEB: I'll go. Thank you, President Burn. Basically, the genesis in this is multiple, I guess, in my mind. A little tip Ms. Rea said tonight to the Chief Executive where --- you know, Council's rightful role in regard to --- for our property. On a historical basis, this Council approved legislation several years ago allowing the Public Works director and the Parks director to enter into agreements without coming back to this body, and rightfully so, because they entertain and conduct so many contractual businesses. We wouldn't want to be involved in things that were perfunctory or normal. But I think we're leaving sometimes the realm of normalcy with some of the things we're witnessing. And I think when it comes to the parks, it's a different dynamic. So I don't think --- it's not prudent in this case to look at long-term leases and long-term contracts separate from what is perfunctory and normal. That's what this bill attempts to do.

I'm also concerned from a Council perspective. This is not specific to any park or any circumstances.

But if you look at the Charter, there's no doubt the Executive Office has the ability to negotiate, award, sign or cause to be negotiated, awarded and signed on behalf of the county, all contracts, all agreements and any other instruments except as provided in Article 6, Section 2. If you read that, it says --- this is the exception --- by ordinance, lease, convey, vacate, abandon or permit to use county land, buildings, real or personal property, that conditional use that we know that we have.

And I think it's almost the tail wagging the dog where the contracts are taking a priority over what the conditional use of the land should be. And I think it should be the other way around because as a legislative body, I don't think it's good for us to get things in the ninth inning. It's good that we get it in the first inning so we're working as a team. And I think this legislation attempts to keep the integrity of what the directors need to do but brings our body into, really, the Charter, not something I personally want to do, but by the Charter, allows us to do our jobs I think a bit better.

I also think there's an issue of the covenant and where the parks started. Should parks be a certain way based upon how they were deemed or created for this county? I think in some cases we're starting to get away from that as well. And I just think it's healthy to put this in committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. In terms of the parks themselves, these parks have been created generations ago for the people of Allegheny County. Now, as the elected representatives of the people of this county, any conditional use --- and the Charter's clear on this --- of those counties or the intent of the people that left their land, left their fortunes, to create this for the citizens, these parks belong to the people. When I see leases that are --- you know, there are leases that exist in some of the parks that are 99 years old. Now, you stand, at least, that to me, you've given that piece of property away because except for the exception of maybe Mike, most of us will probably be gone.

You know, that being said, I think we have a moral obligation to make sure that these parks are there for the people and that anything that can be perceived as a change in the intent of the park or to actually have

pieces of the park appear to be used as contracts as opposed to conditional leases, and appear to be given to private entities, it's important for us to be able to review them. I don't think that any park in Allegheny County should have anything done to it without the representatives of this Council having the opportunity to review it. I mean, it's prime land. Anything can be done. These parks belong to the people of Allegheny County, and then we have an obligation to make sure that they are there for the use of the people, and that any types of change should, in the very least, come in front of this Council and at least let the citizens have an opportunity to comment whether that's something they would like to have done to their parks or not.

So I don't see anything wrong with this. The Charter makes it clear that it's us doing our job. I think this is a great piece of bipartisan legislation. And basically, what we're doing is we're just ensuring that no elected official can wholesale any park or any piece of a park to any private entity, whether it's perceived as being for the betterment of the park, without our approval and without the public having the ability to have input into what is going on there. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Ellenbogen. This bill shall be referred to the Committee on Parks and Recreation. 6364-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances through the creation of a new Chapter 680, entitled Park Signage, and requiring the regular review and, where appropriate, replacement of signage within the county parks. Sponsored by Council Members Gastgeb and Ellenbogen.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this bill to Parks and Recreation, do either of the sponsors have a comment? Mr. Ellenbogen, then Mr. Gastgeb.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes, I do. In terms of the maintenance and work that is done in the parks, that falls under the purview of the Department of Public Works. The Traffic Division, which is responsible for making the signs and doing that work, is a public works function, and I would prefer and I believe it belongs in the purview of Chairman Macey. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: You believe it should be in Public Works?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: It is a Public Works issue because Public Works, not parks ---.

MR. FUTULES: We have a committee on both, actually.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah, it could be both.

PRESIDENT BURN: I could put it into a hybrid committee.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You can do that. But all I'm saying is the Traffic Division are the ones to do this work. They do sit in the Department of Public Works. But I have no objection to Chairman Futules being part of this. We can put it in both then. If Mr. Macey wants to refer it to a hybrid committee, that's fine.

MR. MACEY: I defer to the President.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: It's your call, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: I guess from my experience, if it's in the Parks, then we're going to have to go to Public Works anyhow, like what Mr. Ellenbogen said. I don't know why we have to have both. I think you should just put it in Public Works and go from there. I do have some comments, too.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. GASTGEB: Basically, to me it's almost a safety issue. If you drive through some of the parks, there's signs that have been up since the '70s that reference things that aren't even relevant anymore. I'll give you examples. County police monitor CB Channel 9. Well, I don't know if that's from Scruffy ---.

PRESIDENT BURN: We've got Channel 4, Mr. Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Or breaker, breaker 1-9. You know, if you go to CB 9, is anyone going to be there? We have a sign that says if someone --- does anybody even have a CB? Mr. Ellenbogen probably does, but I don't know. Mr. Robinson doesn't have a CB in front of him.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I talk to Councilman Robinson on my CB.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. We're losing control of this meeting.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: That's the preferred way we communicate on Council, through CB. Then no one can monitor us, I guess, I guess, except for the police. But

you know, we're advertising that if there is an emergency, just go there. And I don't know if that's even relevant. And there's other ones, too, to bring up. The buildings aren't even up anymore.

So you hate to think you need legislation for this, but maybe you do, because in time, there has to be something that --- and I think Valerie McDonald Roberts used the word codified --- if something's in effect, you want to make sure it continues in effect, not just sitting here. And especially that involves public safety, but we're announcing something that doesn't exist. So I just think it makes sense to do. And you know, we might all go through our parks and see what's in there besides a good laugh, I guess, at this expense. But I appreciate hearing this in the Public Works Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir. The bill shall be referred to the Committee on Public Works. 6366-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Article 705, entitled Naming Rights, through the creation of a new Section 5-705.04, entitled Adopt A Highway Program, in order to establish a countywide Adopt A Highway Program for County-owned roads and bridges. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this bill to one of our variety of committees, Mr. Macey, do you have any remarks?

MR. MACEY: I sure do. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. This particular --- we heard this evening about our volunteers. And some of our volunteers have been recognized tonight. And you know, the quality of life in our communities is certainly enhanced by our volunteers. And I certainly want to thank all of our volunteers, whether it's baseball or softball, soccer, you know, Adopt A Highway, which I'm putting together tonight. I think it's so important that we have the volunteers that we do. And I encourage everybody, whoever has the passion, who has a certain love for a particular issue, to get involved.

This particular ordinance would establish a new subset of naming rights. And to make a long story short, I've been approached by various organizations, whether it's Kiwanis, the Rotary, who want to get more involved in their community and want to be able to make a difference.

And we can do that. But I think what we need is an ordinance to provide this particular avenue for our organizations and groups to be a part of. So I make a motion to move this. We'll take it to the committee.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes. This bill will be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. Is that okay? Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I'd like to be a sponsor, also.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Council Member Finnerty.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Same with me.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Ellenbogen as well, Mr. Gastgeb, Mr. Palmiere, Councilwoman Rea, Council Member Robinson, Mr. DeFazio as well, Mr. Drozd, Mr. Kress. Unless there's an objection, I'm going to add everyone. Okay. Please add everyone as a co-sponsor. Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yeah. Just one question.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. DROZD: What highway are you going to adopt, this Council, and maintain? You skipped everybody else to do that.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd, the bill is already in the elevator heading down to the first floor, so you'll have to ask that in committee. So thank you. 6367-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, accepting a grant from the National Bicycle League, NBL, to improve the course design of the South Park BMX Track, located in the County's South Park, at no cost to the county associated with the improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to Committee on Parks and Recreation. 6368-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly and Governor to amend 16 P.S. 6171-B(A)(4)(iii), to authorize the county to revise the eligibility standards for its program establishing Senior Citizen Relief from county real property taxes, in order to render such standards consistent with those contained within the Commonwealth's Senior Citizens Rebate and Assistance Act eligibility guidelines. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this to Committee on Government Reform, Mr. Macey, do you have any comments?

MR. MACEY: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. The income eligibility standard for the county's senior citizen property tax program is at \$30,000. Now, that has been in place for ten years. I'm sure that things have changed, and I'm sure that the average income across the board has changed. It's gone up. The state has a limit of \$35,000 per household, and I would like to see it be consistent with the state's \$35,000 income per year. The resolution asks that the General Assembly --- we're asking them to amend the RAD statute to make our income eligible standard the same, that is, \$35,000, and that the Commonwealth will hopefully see the same. Now, this has to go through the State Assembly. And there may be a small reduction in county revenue. But I think it's in the best interest of the county and the state to make things consistent. \$35,000 is where I'd like to go. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: The bill shall be referred to Committee on Government Reform. Yes, Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Would you add me as a co-sponsor to Mr. Macey's bill?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir. Council Members Gastgeb, Kress, Finnerty, DeFazio, Palmiere, Drozd --- yes, Drozd. Okay. Very good. And the bill shall be referred to Committee on Government Reform. 6369-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly and the Governor to amend the Commonwealth's Real Estate Tax Sale Law, 72 P.S. Section 5860.101, in order to authorize Allegheny County to establish a tax claim bureau as a one-stop shop for tax lien information. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I refer this resolution to the Government Reform Committee, Mr. Macey, would you like to comment?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I just believe that we need a one-stop shop. In some communities, you have as many as three taxing bodies, and it can be confusing for many of our residents and homeowners. To make a long story short, I just think we need a taxing bureau where people can go at one place to get their information instead of three or four different taxing bureaus. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: This bill shall be referred to the Government Reform Committee. New business, motions. 6370-11.

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County pulling Bill Number 5889-10, an ordinance amending Section 5-1013.09 of the Administrative Code to prohibit persons covered by the terms of the County Ethics Code from accepting gifts, loans, rewards, promises of future employment, benefits or other consideration, from certain parties from committee, for an immediate final vote. Sponsored by Council Member Drozd.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council Member Drozd, before I invite you to comment on your motion, this bill was referred to Government Reform before I became Council President; is that correct?

MR. DROZD: Yes, that's correct.

PRESIDENT BURN: And you've had your hearings ---?

MR. DROZD: No hearings whatsoever.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd, since the change in presidency, if there's time available next Tuesday, either 4:00 or 5:00 on my calendar --- it's 5:00? I'm going to schedule a Government Reform Committee meeting at 5:00 to discuss some of our bills, and I will put this on the agenda, if you want to hold off on the motion, so that we can discuss it at least.

MR. DROZD: Since your becoming president, I wouldn't expect anything less from you. As a gentleman, I respect that from you, and I really appreciate that. May I comment a little bit?

PRESIDENT BURN: Sure. Please understand, just because we're going to schedule it doesn't mean it's going to, you know ---.

MR. DROZD: I understand.

PRESIDENT BURN: But we'll give you some time to talk about it.

MR. DROZD: I understand.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. You may proceed.

MR. DROZD: Why this came to light was more so last night, I attended a lot of the after victory and those that lost elections last night.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd, a point. Please just make a ---. Let's do this. I mean, the bill's in committee. We can go one of two ways. If you want a motion to move it now, then we'll have to discuss it now.

And then it could go up or it could go down. But I've given you my word that you can make the remarks that you wish to make and debate it and discuss it with some colleagues in Government Reform if you just allow me to schedule it as part of our schedule for next Tuesday. But I didn't want to talk about it now. Then we're going to have to put it on the floor now.

MR. DROZD: As far as bringing it out of committee meeting?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes. I mean, you'll have your chance to say what you want to say next week.

MR. DROZD: All right. We'll go to the committee with it. That's fine.

PRESIDENT BURN: All right. Okay. There will be a hearing next week, and part of our agenda will include this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Drozd. Notification of contracts. 6371-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from County Manager Jim Flynn submitting executive actions related to contracts for the month of April 2011. Sponsored by the County Manager.

PRESIDENT BURN: Motion to accept?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on general items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Motion to adjourn?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. PALMIERE: Point of privilege, please?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir.

MR. PALMIERE: If I may, many of you may not notice --- actually, I think this is important, so please bear with me for a minute. Many of you may notice that I've been an avid runner since 1967 and competed in many races, including three marathons throughout the year. This year I participated in the Pittsburgh Half Marathon and found it such a great experience, I felt it very fitting to send my gratitude to all the participants, volunteers, organizers and supporters of this year's

marathon. The marathon, which began in 1985, was not run from 2004 to 2008 after UPMC declined to renew its title sponsorship. When it returned in 2009, the new title sponsor became Dick's Sporting Goods. This year, approximately 18,000 runners and walkers took part in the event, which included the full 26.2 mile marathon, half marathon and the marathon relay. And about 6,000 signed up to run the marathon. Hundreds of children participated in the kids' marathon, the one-mile run. And approximately 3,500 volunteers were involved in the marathon this year. This event not only brings people into our county to run the streets of our most livable city, but it also reminds us of a great community of people we have in here in Allegheny County. And I look forward to seeing all of you next year in the race in numbers, please. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: And also, for the record, thank you for bringing that up. Congratulations to all those who made it such a success. Congratulations to you and congratulations to Jennifer Liptak, who ran the marathon in under four hours.

(Applause.)

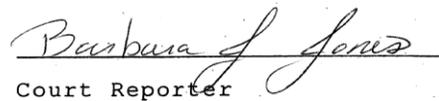
MS. DANKO: I just wanted to say that two of my children ran the half marathon and completed them.

PRESIDENT BURN: Congratulations to all competitors, win, lose or draw. Thank you all very much. Have a good evening. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:49 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