

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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

Tuesday, June 7, 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 of Constituent Services  
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services  
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director  
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT BURN: I would like to call to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Allegheny County Council, scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th, 2011. I'd like to thank my team of colleagues and our guests for all being in attendance. We will begin this meeting with our Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent prayer or reflection.

(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?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Fourteen (14) members present.

PRESIDENT BURN: Proclamations and Certificates.

I understand that 6376-11 is here, so without objection; we'll proceed to 6376-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring distinguished CCAC alumna, Sharon Young, for her excellence in business management. Sponsored by Council members Robinson and Martoni.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council members Robinson and Martoni.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. While Dr. Martoni is joining me, let me just say, once again, that one of the things we'd want to do is to continually bring to you outstanding individuals who are affiliated with the community college, outstanding individuals who have graduated from our community college. And they are a reflection of the goodness and greatness of our community. And whenever we hear good things about Allegheny County, Pittsburgh or the surrounding community, more often than not, a CCAC affiliation is present. So Dr. Martoni and I have done this on numerous occasions. We thank you for your patience, and we thank you for the effort at the college through our Alumni Affairs Department, to continually search out people who are fine representatives of what we're doing at the college. I'm going to read and Doc is going to give me moral support. And then we're going to have --- in fact, let me have Ms. Young, if she'll come forth, please. She can stand here while I'm reading this.

As you know, we're always surprised, Doc and I, at the people who we see and we interact with all the time, who are alumni of our college. But we want to reiterate that 95 to maybe 98 percent of our graduates are still here in our county. They're here working and productive, and the person we're recognizing this evening is no exception.

WHEREAS, Ms. Sharon Young, a 1975 graduate of the Community College of Allegheny County's Humanities Program, has exemplified the definition of a dedicated citizen for our great county, with her demonstration of professional, civic and community leadership throughout her career and as an honor and sponsor --- operator, not sponsor, operator of McGinnis Sisters Specialty Foods Stores; and

WHEREAS, following graduation with CCAC, Ms. Young continued her business education at the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University and Robert Morris College, where she utilizes skills and education acquired

at CCAC to further her career as a business professional;  
and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Ms. Young became involved in managing McGinnis Sisters Specialty Food Stores, utilizing her business education to develop and implement, over the years, a viable marketing and public relations campaign, to increase business and store visibility; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Young's efforts established the grocery as a model for properly managing and independently, a family operated store. The grocery reaches and exceeds its goals through the strategic planning of its management team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Young was honored by CCAC in 2009 as a legend in leadership outstanding alumni. She has been a Board member of the CCAC Educational Foundation since 2009 and is a steering committee member for CCAC's Imagine and Achieve Campaign. Her unyielding efforts to give back to the institution, to benefit her are commendable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, recognizes Ms. Sharon Young, a 1975 graduate of the Community College of Allegheny County, for utilizing her business education to assist McGinnis Sisters Specialty Food Stores, to become a business model for others locally, to follow and for serving CCAC proactively and honorably. Her fine leadership should be adopted by residents of the county for the betterment of our community. And certainly, we congratulate her for staying in Allegheny County. If you've ever been to one of her stores, you know of the fine products they have there. Thank you. Here she is.

(Applause.)

MS. YOUNG: I only have a few comments because I know you have incredibly important business to move on to. I wanted to thank Councilman Robinson and Councilman Martoni for really helping out the community college and the community college system, as well as yourselves. I know it's real difficult to vote on --- you know, to give that school money when things are so tight. But we really appreciate it. But one thing about community college is, it really allowed my husband and I to live the American dream. My husband graduated in the first class, 1969, South Campus, and went on to get several Master's degrees, several Certificates. He became a lifelong teacher and

educator. He is so dedicated to that college. It's all he talks about. And the funny thing is, is they wouldn't hire him because he's not qualified to teach there, so he has the wrong kind of Master's degrees. But, you know, he's still dedicated to that school. And when he talks about his college experience, the first thing he says is, I took the accreditation test for community college. I got that school accredited. There were seven students in his class. And he was a bright, bright, bright man, but he just didn't have that opportunity coming through. His dad was a carpenter. You know, he ended up in community. I went to community. I actually was a pretty good athlete. You can tell I'm a pretty big gal. And I had a free ride to Penn State, and I had a free ride to Pitt. And I knew I wasn't ready. I was not ready. I hadn't even had a basic math class. I don't know how I graduated from high school.

So two days before school, my sister, Norma, --- my dad said, get her in somewhere, you know, because you have to go to school. That's what you do. My dad had an eighth grade education. My mother had a tenth grade education. All of his children will be educated. She knew someone that knew someone, made a couple phone calls. I was embraced by the community college system. I went to school in McKeesport, hitchhiked, had a sign; will pay gas to take to McKeesport. I survived. I rode my bike both ways uphill, you know. It was a struggle to get there. But one of my most prideful days in my whole life was when --- I think it was Tom Foerster but I'm not positive, it may be Kaylee Bogardner (phonetic). They built South Campus. We had a real school. And I actually feel --- I cried the first day I went there because we had a real school. But I still wasn't smart enough to get into Building B, which was the Science Building. We had two buildings there. And, you know, all the kids just loved it. We went down ---. So then I started taking remedial math classes, and I mean remedial; you know, A plus B equals C. You know, I was surprised at how --- I won't say dumb --- not smart --- I was. And they got me through. Those community college teachers were fabulous. They got me through, and then I actually went on, you know, to become an accountant; you know, run the financial business in our store. I do all the accounting, the legal. Anything that has to do with professional ethics at our store, I take care of all that. And 36 years ago,

I didn't know that A plus B equals C. If C equals D, I'm not quite sure. But I didn't know how to do any of that. So that college saved my life, and I don't want to say where I would end up, but it saved my life; it saved my family's life.

We have 13 of my immediate family --- are community college people. I send my children to community college. They say the best teachers they've ever had are community college teachers. And I've had children who've gone on to Yale, Duquesne, West Virginia, Pitt, CMU, Robert Morris. And they'll say, the best teachers I ever had were community college. So I can't say enough about them. I have a niece who --- she just turned down a \$48,000 scholarship. She's going to go to CCAC South. Start on the medical track. You know, that was the best choice for her.

I'm really so honored for this award here, but it's my second most favorite, because we are big Allegheny County people. Our family's been here over 170 years, you know. And I've been Entrepreneur of the Year, Family Business of the Year, Top Ten Women in Business. I seem to be the poster child for awards of women my age. But my most important degree and the one I have hanging up is my CCAC, you know, because that's the one I worked hardest for, you know. And they showed me that I wasn't that slow girl; you know, I wasn't the slow girl in the slow group, in the turtle group. You know, I really could do whatever I wanted to do. CCAC showed me how to do that. And I would say that the business school there, we're surviving, you know. And everything I learned in business, I got at community college. And I do think it does help ---. I have 280 employees. I tell all of those young kids who come to work for me --- the kids that I get are kids who work because their families need the money. You know, they're not the rich kids from St. Clair. They're the kids from Brentwood and Bellevue and Monroeville. And they're working to pay for shoes. And I tell them all; you know, go to community college. Get a start. I can get you in. I know Dr. Johnson. He'll take you; you know, he will give you the start. So it is such a fabulous place.

And doing business here in Pittsburgh, you can't beat it. You know, I talk to a lot of women around the country, and they'll say, you know, people are anti-women, people are anti-women business. I have never once

experienced that here. I'm so glad I stayed. I have a fabulous bank, PNC. You know, Sy Holzer gave me money when no one else would, you know, so I would never leave this county or leave that bank. You know, my law firm is here, Dot Davis. She's not quite an Allegheny County girl, but we've brought her back. We brought her down from Eckert Seamans. But I do all my business in Allegheny County. The shop local thing that everyone in the country's doing, we've been doing for 30 years. So I'll hang this right next to my community college and my husband's community college degree. And that Yale Degree, I'm going to put next to that. But I'm so honored and I thank you all.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: I also want to mention that on County Council, we're honored to have a faculty member of the community college, Barbara Danko. Barbara's a great teacher. And the heart and soul of any college and any school is the teaching faculty, so Barbara, thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: 6375-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation commending the Obediah Cole Foundation for Prostate Cancer, for raising prostate cancer awareness and for hosting its 9th Annual Father's Day 5k/10k/Run/Walk. Sponsored by Council members Burn, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Danko and the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Catanese, and thank you to my fellow members of Council. I'd like to invite the recipients of the proclamation. I understand that Mr. Livingston is here, the vice president of the Obediah Cole Foundation, if you would join me. Because after I review a few points regarding this organization, I would invite Mr. Livingston to say a few remarks this evening. Every year about 230,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. As this organization continues to remind us, receiving regular screenings is the most effective prevention method for men to combat this disease. The Obediah Cole Foundation was founded in 2006 and provides support for men diagnosed with prostate cancer, and it educates and encourages diligence for those who have not --- who do not have the disease.

The 9th Annual Father's Day Run/Walk has become the premiere awareness event in Pittsburgh, growing yearly and touching the lives of thousands. This coming week, next week, the courthouse fountain, as is tradition now in Allegheny County, will be turned blue for Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. And this will be done ahead of the June 19th Run/Walk. And before I invite my good friend, Mr. Livingston, who comes every year to speak to us on this issue, I would like to read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, nearly 230,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, and about one in six men has a lifetime risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Obediah Cole Foundation for Prostate Cancer was founded in 2006 by prostate cancer survivors, Jerry Bortman, Jerry Livingston and former Pittsburgh Steelers player, Robin Cole; and

WHEREAS, the foundation is dedicated to educating others about prostate cancer and raising awareness of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the foundation will host its 9th Annual Father's Day 5k/10k/Run/Walk on June 19th, 2011, at the North Shore Riverfront Park in Heinz Field. Thousands of people are expected to participate; and

WHEREAS, because of the efforts of the organization, men have become more aware of the importance of being tested for this deadly disease and, as a result, they live longer and healthier lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County. Recognizes the Obediah Cole Foundation for Prostate Cancer for its continual efforts to raise awareness of prostate cancer and proclaims the week of June 13th as Prostate Cancer Awareness Week in Allegheny County. We hope the foundation continues its impressive efforts to fight prostate cancer. On behalf of all of our colleagues here on Council, our Chief Executive, the residents and business owners of Allegheny County, thank you very much for your great work.

(Applause.)

MR. LIVINGSTON: Thank you very much for having us back again this year. And thank you, Councilman, for sponsoring this resolution. This is our ninth year. I brought a brochure for everyone. We are about hope. I

talked to you last year about this. A lot of the guys were my age --- I'm 65 --- and I've had prostate cancer two times, the first time in '99 with no symptoms. The second time it came back in 2002. We started a Father's Day race with 400 people. Last year we had 2,500 people, and this year we'll have 3,000 people down there. And it's all about hope, and it's also a memory for those we've lost. I've lost three volunteers in the last year. I am touched by speaking with you this evening. I must mention that I just had a moving e-mail from a widow, Eileen Shirley (phonetic). Her 50th anniversary will be this Friday, June 10th. David won't be here to celebrate that with her. He will be here in spirit, of course, with all of us. He was with us from the first day. And that's the kind of messages that we were training people; that doesn't have to be. David could have been here for his 50th anniversary, had he been screened, had he not waited too long before it metastasized and it eventually took his life.

We've had many guys that have been diagnosed. We screened 37 guys last week, all uninsured. I work for Pittsburgh Transportation part time sometimes on the weekends, among other things, and we screened 35 --- 37 people over there last week. We don't have the results back yet, but we know the odds are one in six. In the time it took to write the proclamation, three guys were diagnosed with prostate cancer. We had more deaths from breast cancer. 230,000 is the --- maybe more.

So we're all about saving lives and hope for people. And we're kind of really excited. This coming Thursday, a special event is going to happen in front of the Carnegie Science Center, something that is an achievement for all of us. We're not telling the press, because we want to surprise them. But if you promise not to tell anyone, I'll tell you.

PRESIDENT BURN: He's right there.

MR. LIVINGSTON: Are you here? You'll find out if you come on Thursday. It's a big thing that's going to happen for us. It's something that's symbolic. And as it happens throughout the city, it will remind people the importance of getting tested, getting screened. You don't have to die. This is graduation time; this is prom time; this is wedding time. And our new concept we started last year is called Man Up, which means, be a man. Stand up and get yourself tested. Don't leave your family in a

lurch because you're too proud to be tested. You owe too much to admit that you have a problem. And by doing so, you end up leaving a lot of people alone. One that's close to my heart right now, and that doesn't have to be. So the three of us will receive the Jefferson Award. Last year, two of us got it, me and Jerry Bortman got the Jefferson Award. This year, Brian Urban, who lost his father to prostate cancer, received the Jefferson Award from Highmark. So we're pleased with those honors. It's good for the foundation; it's good for our image. And it's good for the City of Pittsburgh. We are the spokesperson for prostate cancer in western Pennsylvania, and we are blazing the trail. And some day we will be like the --- we will be just like the Jefferson, yeah, the Koman race with 34,000 people in Schenley Park. We've already had to move from the Riverfront, because we thought somebody was going to fall in the river because there was too many people. We're already up on North Shore Road. And there will be a day soon, and you will see it in your lifetime and in mine, that we have that many people.

And while raising that money, we'll bring awareness to prostate cancer, like we're going to do in September with our Health Conference. We're bringing in national speakers, and it's going to be at WQED, October 1st. And we're going to honor and pay attention to men's health. So thank you very much. The fountain is symbolic to all of us. It's hope for all of us. It's hope for all the families, and when people see it, you make them feel good and you make a statement. Thank you very much for having me. Thank you, Joe, and everyone for turning the fountains blue. Thank you for having us here today. And come out, it's a family event, it's a family function and you're serving a good cause. We take all of our money and do screenings. We screened 800 or more last year. We'll screen 1,000 this year. We find three to five percent have a problem, and we tell them and we save their lives. And you help me do that. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: 6377-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring the late Nate Smith for his contributions to the local and national civil rights and labor movements. Sponsored by Council members Robinson and Green Hawkins.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council members Robinson and Green Hawkins.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I'm going to ask Councilwoman Green Hawkins to join me. I'm going to also ask her to read this proclamation, and I'll make the connection soon as to why it's appropriate for her to do that. Much of the labor history of this community and this country centered here in Pittsburgh. Many of us know that. The Community College of Allegheny County has recently initiated a lecture series dedicated to Bob Mill. It deals with labor management issues. But several of our national labor organizations have their roots right here in Pittsburgh. We've been at the heart of people organizing to improve the lives of themselves and their families. It's not always been nice or pretty or easy. And even though we recognize many of these men and women on Labor Day with a parade, picnics and other kind of festivities, there are a lot of people who are not in the parade; some because they were casualties in the struggle between labor and management; some because they've moved on to other pursuits or perhaps other cities. And then there are some who are no longer with us, yet their spirit has brought us this far.

Councilwoman Green Hawkins and I were in a meeting recently concerning how to create more opportunities for women and people of color in our trade unions here in this area. And during that meeting, someone said, you know, if Nate Smith were alive, he wouldn't be very pleased with what's going on. And I took issue with that. I said no, I think if Nate Smith were alive, he would be glad that we were in this room. He'd be glad that people are sitting down, both black and white, male and female, trying to find ways to continue his dream to its conclusion, to make sure that men and women who want to work, who want to work in the trades, can do that, and they can do that in their hometown. I think he'd be very proud of us.

Then I said, no one promised Nate Smith he would see his dream to its conclusion. We have an obligation to continue that. This proclamation is a small tribute to a big man who did a lot of heavy lifting for many of us, who upset some people, who pleased some people, yet his legacy lingers on. And it goes throughout this city, this county, and you see men and women of color --- and women.

They're there in large measure because of the hard work of Nate Smith, a man who was willing to risk his life. A man who does not take advantage of his advantage and walk away, but turned to help others. Joining us today are his son, Nate Smith, Jr., and his daughter, Dr. Renee Clark, who teaches at our community college and is the administrator at our South Campus. Okay. And I thank them for being here. Mr. Smith passed away recently. There is a movie. I want to call it --- yeah, it's a movie. It's a documentary movie about his life and times. One thing I want to say about that documentary, it doesn't tell the whole story. But a narrative can't give you everything, and so it gives you something about Nate Smith. His daughter and son are here, so Nate Smith is still here. If you want to know certain things, you can ask them.

Why it's important for Councilwoman Green Hawkins to join me and to read this, she's one of our own on this Council. She came into our community from another community. But in the tradition of a Nate Smith, she's in the labor movement, a very distinguished position with the steelworkers. And I thank her for all her help and prospective, as we continue Nate Smith's dream, that anybody who wants to work in the construction industry, and is capable of working, can work. And if she'll do me the honor of reading this proclamation, then I'll feel very proud.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: I will. WHEREAS, citizens of Allegheny County contribute finally to the development and enrichment of our communities and its citizens' well being; and

WHEREAS, Nate Smith, an influential activist who organized marches and demonstrations to increase minorities' access to trade unions, was a key figure in this country's civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was known as an unflinching, charming and persistent leader who would fight for those without a voice, who would lie in the path of bulldozers to protest and who would encourage others to defend themselves and their rights as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith challenged the labor unions of Pittsburgh to employ and train minorities and women in construction and labor positions during the booming renaissance in the city in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, because of the spirit and enthusiasm throughout his life, Mr. Smith became nationally recognized as a successful and inspirational civil rights activist. He opened doors for many, and he fundamentally changed the way our country's society view equality and human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, hereby commends the late Nate Smith, for his lifelong successful efforts to increase minority participation in trade unions and labor positions. Mr. Smith's leadership and persistence forever changed this country. And this Council remembers him for his passionate work to improve our society. Sponsored by myself and Councilman Robinson.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: I thank Council for its indulgence. I want to ask Dr. Clark and Mr. Smith if they'd come forward and say a few words. There was an honor recently provided to Nate Smith and his family, relative to his civil rights leadership, a national recognition. I want them to comment on that. And also, as children of an icon, I want them to just tell us a few things about their dad that perhaps we don't know, something about his dedication. Oftentimes we see our leaders, political or otherwise, in front of the cameras, in the newspaper. And we hear the good, and we hear the bad. But we don't go home with them; they go home to their families who love them. And oftentimes, there's a burden that's carried by the family, but also a sense of pride.

So I'm glad Dr. Clark and Mr. Smith are here, and I ask both of them to come forward and say some comments on behalf of their dad.

DR. CLARK: Thank you. Good afternoon, gentlemen and ladies. I'm Renee Clark, and my brother is Nate, Junior. Let me tell you about Nate. We lived with him, and it wasn't Nate that we'd fear, it was me that we feared. Nate was a kind person. He wanted to negotiate with us. He would say, don't you think you should listen to reason? Don't you want to negotiate? My mother would say, I'm not negotiating, let me at her, let me at him. It's not a negotiation, Nate. He was a very gentle person. He was a very loving person. He taught us how to swim.

I wrote an article for the Thomas Merton Newsletter, and they asked me to give some ---. In fact, we used to live down on Tustin Street. I don't know if any of you know where Tustin is. It's down where the old Mercy Hospital ---. That's where we grew up, my brother did and I did. And in part of that tribute to my dad, I remember that street contained Germans and Italians and there were gypsies on our street, there were blacks. And we used to swim up in the pool up on the corner of Kirkpatrick. And that was a segregated pool, and my dad said, well, you don't have to swim in the segregated pool, I looked at him. My kids are going to swim wherever they want. You will not swim in, quote, the ink well. That's a prejudice name; that's a prejudice pool. We'll shut down every pool in the City of Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County until all children can swim where they want to swim. I was too young to really get that. You know, we were too busy turning on the fire hydrants. You know how you turn on the fire hydrants and you ran through them. And when the firemen came, you all scattered. So that was our fun, okay. The swimming pool was no big deal.

But I remember throughout my life, my dad would remind me and my brother that you need to stand up, because if you're going to die, die on your feet. Do not die on your knees, because you're going to die anyway. So those are the kind of lessons that ---. I'm 61 years old. My birthday's tomorrow. And he lives inside of me. My mom lives inside of me. I can hear her many times saying right now --- she passed away six weeks before my dad. So you know, we became --- we call ourselves the orphans. We're the orphans, but they're always with us. They taught us how to live. They taught us how to respect.

I grew up with Chuck Martoni. Chuck was my boss. I've known Chuck Martoni for 50 years, Chuck?

MR. MARTONI: A long time.

DR. CLARK: A long time. And as Chuck knows, I carry myself, my brother carries himself the way Nate taught us how to carry ourselves. And we will continue to honor his name and her name and keep hope alive. Nate, do you want to say anything?

MR. SMITH: Yeah, two things I want to say. I really appreciate what you guys did for my dad. And there's two things that I'll always remember for the rest of my life. One was, Jimmy Carter was president. My dad was going to meet with him. My dad wanted to take me.

Secret Service said, no, you can't bring your son. My dad told the President of the United States, you take Amy anywhere you want to go, and if I can't bring my son, I'm not coming. The President called back ten minutes later and said, what's your son's Social Security number? I'll never forget it. I'll never forget what happened. When Jesse Jackson was running for president, I had just graduated from high school. He told me when you get out of high school, you going to have the summer to enjoy yourself. My dad said no. You're going to go with them. You're going to be on their entourage. I don't want to be on their entourage, Dad, what is that? But as I got older, I seen something I never seen before I had Secret Service. I was young but really it didn't bother me. But as I got older and I seen all the presidents, how it's all done now, I went up after my dad, because if he didn't make me go, I would never got that experience. And those two things are always in the back of my mind. I didn't really want to do but I loved it. So I want to thank you guys for helping my dad out and doing the things that you did. So thank you, sir. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DR. CLARK: Mr. Robinson asked me to make --- and that's that my dad has been inducted into the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. And I mean, that is an honor that you don't get; every civil rights leader from the beginning of time. And we're going to go down and, you know, have a good time. I'm going to have a good time in Memphis, but we're going to go down and, you know, be a part of that ceremony. I mean, that's the kind of legacy that we live with, and we will continue to honor his name. Thank you very much for this proclamation.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

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

MR. CATANESE: Yes. Let the record show that Councilwoman Green Hawkins is present.

6378-11. Proclamation honoring Ed Kirin for his career of service to the Millvale Volunteer Fire Department. Sponsored by Council member Burn.

6379-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring Staci Sutermaster, Carly Charchak, Libby Coleman, Cassandra Wozniak and Samantha Wildman, of Girl Scout

Troop 51429, for earning their Gold Award. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

6380-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring Zachary Trylko of Boy Scout Troop 225, for earning the Eagle Scout ranking. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

6381-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring the 50th anniversary of Blair and Carolyn Twale. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6382-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh, upon its 100th anniversary. Sponsored by Council members Macey, Burn, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Kress, Martoni and Palmiere.

6383-11. Proclamation honoring White Oak EMS for receiving accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Approval of Minutes. 6384-11.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 3rd, 2011 regular meeting of Council. Motion to approve?

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Opposed? The minutes are approved. Presentation of Appointments.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Unfinished Business. Committee on Government Reform, Second Reading. 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 Council members Macey, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Burn, Green Hawkins, Kress, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea, Robinson and Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council member Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. The Committee on Government Reform

met and moved this bill to the full Council with affirmative recommendation, and I make a motion we approve it.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Any discussion on the motion? Any discussion? Is this roll call or yeas and nays?

MR. DEFAZIO: Roll call.

PRESIDENT BURN: Roll call? 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 Parks, Second Reading. 6376-11 (sic) --- 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: Mr. Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you. The Parks meeting was held on May 25th with affirmative recommendation that there will be received around \$70,000 to \$80,000 in improvements for the BMX track here at South Park, and I make a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved in second. Any discussion? Any discussion? 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: Does anyone have anything under liaison reports? Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Burn. I want to remind everybody that we're having the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony this Thursday, which would be June 9th, at one o'clock at the Flag Retirement Plaza located in Allegheny County South Park. This was something that came our way by a constituent, Mr. John Kovach, Jr., to properly retire our badly torn American flag. It sort of turned into --- I want to say what's the national type of program, where you can go to a website and you can see those authors that have written and patriots that have written about something that humbly started here in Allegheny County. I know over the past four or five years or so, many of my colleagues have been there, and Mr. Palmiere is co-host this year, and I'm glad to work with him and Mr. Futules, if many of you come out. We do have programs that have been placed in front of the dais here. And I think one of the neat things about this is, certainly, the administration's been a great partner. To get the plaza built, Chief Executive Onorato was most helpful, and Mr. Baechle, as well, our Parks Director, and Mr. Olczak and Mr. Donatello, before him. But you know, County Council --- a lot of them work here, Joe Catanese and his staff and Matt Mateski (phonetic), to help us, I think, foster our relationship not just with our constituency but also with local officials who are invited, some of our state reps and state senators who were invited.

And I just want to read a portion of this from the program. And if you're able to come out, you're viewing this on TV or if you're around here that you may be going, the Flag Retirement Plaza at South Park is a one-of-a-kind facility. It provides a location for the proper retirement of flags of our nation that have flown in various locations throughout our country that have become worn and tattered with age. The plaza was designed with the help of Mr. John Kovach, Jr., a retired United States Marine, named by a North Catholic High School student Natalie Sippel of McCandless. It includes a hexagon plaza where flags are incinerated by groups of individuals approved by the county. It is surrounded by seven flagpoles, one for each branch of the military and

one for the American flag. The initial dedication of the plaza occurred on Flag Day, June 14, 2006. Annual ceremonies have been conducted since then.

I think it's also important to note how many veterans come out current and past veterans from, really, all over the county. How many high school students have been involved in this over the years and how many scouts, whether the Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts, have taken participation in this. So I think it's a great thing that we've done for the county as a service and this Council. It's really a shining star, I think, that we've done it, as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council member Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. As Chairman of the Election Board this year, taking the place of John, who is running, so he can't be there this year. I'd just like to report that we have certified the primary election on Monday this week. And just a general total for you, there's 882,980 registered voters in Allegheny County. Of that, the ballot cast total was 178,027. The total printout was 20.16 percent, which is very low, and there were no irregularities in the election. And the recounts that was mandated by the state in relation to a Judge's race, was performed, and it was --- seemed to be correct. And that's all. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Drozd.

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President. I think we should be remiss, and I know we aren't, and I know the Council joins me in this, is a lot of veterans marching in parades across Allegheny County. I was in two and stopped at a lot of VFWs across the county. Soldiers and Sailors --- our Soldiers and Sailors had a nice function that day. I was out there towards the end of the day. I was outside. Our hats off and they would salute our veterans every time and so many out there proudly marching. Not only that, I want to commend all those people that turned out with the kids. They were along side. They were cheering on. A lot of these people had served, and I think we all have to bow our heads in prayer to those we've lost, not only in battle and on the battlefield, but those that served so valiantly and recently, you know, passing away, many of which are World War II vets, by the minute, by the hour.

So it was a great day for all of us, a beautiful day across our community, a beautiful day for our country. Thank you very much for allowing those groups.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Drozd. Anyone else with a liaison report? New Business; Ordinances and Resolutions. 6385-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requiring that the County Manager and Department of Public Works conduct an evaluation of the suitability of County-owned bridges of greater than 20 feet in length for the placement of advertising, naming rights or sponsorship notices, in accordance with Section 5-705.03 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, relating to sponsorship of County property by external entities, as a means of generating supplemental revenue for the county. Sponsored by Council members Kress and Martoni.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before this bill is referred, do any sponsors --- would any of the sponsors care to comment? Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yeah. I'd like to say, first of all, thank you, Councilman Martoni, Councilman Macey, for co-sponsoring my bill. I really appreciate that. The reason why I'm doing this bill, I think it's highly important that we maintain our infrastructure. People forget how important our infrastructure is. I was watching a reality show called Coal. And basically in Coal, they're going around in Coal. But there's a bridge that wasn't being maintained. And because it wasn't being maintained properly, it could only fill the trucks up halfway. Now what would only take one load is now taking two loads, and people forget that the cost of our failure to maintain infrastructure is a business cost. People were talking about --- oh, we don't want to raise taxes on businesses. If we don't maintain our infrastructure, it's also a cost on business, and we fail to see that.

And the reason why I decided to bring this ordinance through is because in other places in the world, they're already advertising on bridges. And we need to do something similar, because any way to bring money in to maintain our bridges without going to the taxpayers is something we need to look at and explore. And that's the reason why I brought this ordinance to the County's attention, and hopefully we can get it passed. Thank you.

MR. DROZD: I would like to add my name to that.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please add Council member Drozd as a co-sponsor to this proposed legislation, and Council member Gastgeb, Mr. Robinson, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Palmiere. Okay.

MR. KRESS: I'd just like to say thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: You're welcome, Mr. Kress. Thanks for another great idea you're presenting to this body for discussion. I see Public Works in here. Mr. Macey, would your committee like this bill? It can go to either Government Reform or Public Works. Would you like it?

MR. MACEY: Absolutely.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Public Works.

MR. MACEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: 6386-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Division I of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, entitled Administrative Code, Article 210, entitled Assessment Standards and Practices, Section 5-210.02, entitled Valuation; method of valuation, in order to provide for the uniform assessment of homes constructed within developments within Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council members Finnerty, Martoni and Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before this bill is referred, would any of the sponsors like to comment on it? Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Just briefly. It's come to my attention that we have some problems in some of our --- I guess you would call them cookie cutter neighborhoods that are being built. And I think it would be best vetted into it.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir. We'll refer that to the Committee on Government Reform.

MR. FINNERTY: I think rather Economic Development.

PRESIDENT BURN: You want it in Economic Development?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT BURN: Do you want it in your backyard? Refer to the Committee on Economic Development.

MR. FINNERTY: And Housing.

PRESIDENT BURN: And Housing; yes, sir. So done. Very good. 6387-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of its (1) General Obligation Bonds, Series C-67, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$48,000,000 C-67 Bonds, and (2) its General Obligation Bonds, Series C-68, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$48,620,000 (the Series C-68 Bonds, and collectively with the C-67 Bonds, the Bonds). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: I believe this would go to the Budget and Finance. Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finance. 6388-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2011 (Submission 07-11). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finance. 6389-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA), Pa. Statute 72, 4722 (1995), as amended, providing for: a program of temporary exemption from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods, resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within a specific geographic area within The Borough of McKees Rocks, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, previously determined to be a deteriorated area; establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such improvements; and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of property located within the deteriorated area, can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 6390-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA), Pa. Statute 72, Section 4722 (1995), as amended, providing for a program of temporary exemption from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods: resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within a specific geographic area within

the Township of Neville, 4801 Grand Avenue, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, previously determined to be a deteriorated area; establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such improvements; and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of property located within the deteriorated area, can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 6391-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA), Pennsylvania Statute 72, Section 4722 (1995), as amended, providing for: a program of temporary exemption for specified time periods from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods, resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within a specific geographic area of the Township of Neville, 6104 Grand Avenue, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, previously determined to be a deteriorated area; establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such improvements; and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of the property located within the deteriorated area, can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 6392-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution ratifying certain year-end transfers, pursuant to Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finance. New Business, Motions. 6396-11.

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County, expressing the sense of Council and urging the Pennsylvania Governor and General Assembly to both end the practice of naming Commonwealth roads and bridges for legislators and remove existing signage reflecting the naming of any Commonwealth facility after a current or former state legislator. Sponsored by Council member Drozd.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: You know, it's nice and admirable to honor people that served in whatever office it might be, but they didn't pay for the roads, the taxpayers did. And this is a sore spot with me because I go up and I see these names right along the roads, some of which I knew; you know, it's sort of admirable. But they didn't pay for the road, the taxpayers paid for it. And you know, I'm willing to throw this into committee right now. I think we really need to see into this or somebody does, because I seen a new one the other day. And that's why I really --- it made me feel that we have to do this. Why don't we name it after that person who served wherever it may be in military and government, some of our own people that did admirable work at the same time? It really needs to stop, it really does. It's not, to me --- or if we name it in the way that we're doing this, naming rights and someone sponsors it where they pay for it, and then that alleviates the tax burden on the taxpayers to maintain that road. So I'd like to throw it in committee, Mr. President. And it's a statement, I think, we need to really make. It's just getting out of hand and every time I got to cringe, and I'm sure a lot of people, when they think about it, they do, too. They say, why not me; I served, too. I'm not saying me, but people ---.

PRESIDENT BURN: Are you nominating you?

MR. DROZD: No, no. I'm not saying it's me, but I'm saying some other people that probably say, well, I did some nice things, too. Why don't they name it after me? And by the way, I put money into it, too. So we'll let government committee ---. Thanks a lot.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes, sir. We'll refer that to Committee on Government Reform. Notification of Contracts.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public Comment on General Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have three speakers.

PRESIDENT BURN: I would invite Jeanne Clark to the podium at this time. Chairwoman Clark, if you could state your name for us and your address. And I think we'll be looking forward to see you again. You have three minutes once you start.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Jim. My name is Jeanne Clark. I live at 414 Stratton Lane, in the Seventh Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, and I'm delighted to speak

today, especially since my dear friend, Barbara Daly Danko, is now up on the platform. I come to you for editor with various hats, as in the past. And today I want to talk from my position of how to get a medical administrator in Allegheny County for nine years. That was from 1979 to 1986. When I worked with Bruce Dixon at that time, I was really impressed that he was very good at public health issues and particularly during the learn of and discovery of HIV and AIDS. Pittsburgh really did well. But that was then, and this is now.

Tomorrow, the air is going to be unsafe again in Allegheny County for sensitive populations. Who are they? The elderly, the children, people who exercise outside, anybody with a chronic illness. That pretty much takes care of just about every household in Allegheny County. And why is the air dirty? Because we fail to clean it up, and Bruce Dixon has refused, frankly, to enforce the law, even though that's his responsibility as head of the Health Department. When he did an interview with The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette about the day that 14,000 people over eight years died from our dirty air in the region, his response was, well, we can have the air as clean as Montana, but then we wouldn't have any jobs. He's not the head of Economic Development, he's the head of the Health Department, and he needs to do his job. Then there's the issue of restaurants. How many years have we been waiting for public recognition of the restaurant in sections? You have no way of knowing to this day whether you risk having a food borne illness or not going into a restaurant, when just about every other health department has that.

And then there are the deaths in the jail; again, under Bruce Dixon's purview. So I think right now it's time for Bruce Dixon to retire, and it's time for us to analyze the system that created this. First off, why is a department head, a major department of government and county, not an Allegheny County employee but an employee of the University of Pittsburgh? It seems to me there's a conflict of interest there, and it's hard for him to oversee everybody when he doesn't even follow the same rules. Why is the Board of Health totally without any access to the citizens? You get to confirm with Advice and Consent, but they're not elected by anyone else. We need to look at the whole system, too.

Our health is way too important, our children's health and, frankly, our need for economic development

goes hand in hand with a clean environment; clean air, clean water and somebody who's checking our public health. So I urge you to look into this matter. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Chair. Tiffany Hickman, followed by Heather Sage.

MS. HICKMAN: Hello.

PRESIDENT BURN: Hello. Name and address.

MS. HICKMAN: Tiffany Hickman, 302 39th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15201. My name is Tiffany Hickman. I am the Western Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator for PennFuture. PennFuture is a statewide public interest membership organization that advances policies to protect and improve the state's environment and economy, with offices in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre. PennFuture's activities includes litigating cases for regulatory bodies, and in local, state and federal courts, advocating legislative action at all levels, providing public education and assisting social and public advocacy. We are facing a public health emergency in Allegheny County. People are dying from exposure to deadly air pollution, and our government is not acting. The Health Department under the leadership of Dr. Bruce Dixon, appears to be more concerned with denying culpability than protecting the people. In the past few months, Dr. Dixon has attempted to discredit any study, report or criticism of air quality in Allegheny County, including The Post-Gazette's now infamous Mapping mortality series and the Air and Lung Association's annual state of the air report, which it viewed that Pittsburgh Metro area once again with a failing rate for air quality.

When asked by County Manager Flynn to deliver a report at a Board of Health meeting on the Health Department's progress in reviewing and implementing the recommendations of the Allegheny County Environmental Air Quality task force, Air Quality Manager Jim Thompson adopted this offensive and dismissive attitude. And basically, did a lot of talking without actually saying very much. To add insult to injury, PennFuture was recently chalk lined of the subject for testimonies at both the January and May Board of Health meetings, which work with all of the agency's slow moving progress lack of transparency and reticence to adopt the common sense recommendations of the Air Quality Task Force, had been struck from the official meeting minutes.

So apparently, the agency is happy to include the content of citizen comments when they are complimentary, but not when they are critical. And this is petty and mean-spirited and demonstrates, once again, this forum with which the department leadership considers for its citizens. We attempted to correct this problem in a letter requesting that the department restore the subject of our testimony, and that letter was basically ignored by Dr. Dixon. So he left us no choice but to sue to protect the rights of citizens to disagree with the department, and have that disagreement known. And in the process, you will cost the citizens of Allegheny County money, legal fees and time, all of which could have been prevented. There is definitely a clear problem within the department at the leadership of the Allegheny County Health Department. The agency spends more time defending itself and covering its backs than actively working to bringing the county into compliance with federal health standards. And we need the help of County Council. County Council needs to be an active participant in making the air quality program more effective. It's crucial that the Council makes air quality top priority and addresses the health department's deficiencies as they arise, especially the leadership. And it's also important that they make appointments of individuals that are wronged of our air quality issues on the Board of Health and would be achieved through you. So thank you for having me. I hope that we can work together on this.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Heather Sage, please. Good evening, ma'am. Again, if you would state your name and address and then the time will start.

MS. SAGE: Good evening. Heather Sage, 454 44th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15201. Good evening and thank you for the time to comment. My name is Heather Sage, and I'm the Vice President at PennFuture. As you likely know, PennFuture, is a membership-based public interest organization working to ensure a just future where nature, our communities and the economy thrive. In response to concerns from both industry and the public, County Executive Dan Onorato convened an air quality task force in autumn 2008, on which I served. The task force was charged with reviewing the processes and Allegheny County Health Department's air program and recommending improvements so that the program could be more effective at protecting public health, improving air quality and

ensuring that an appropriate balance of economic and environmental interests have been served.

County Council was represented on that task force by former Councilwoman Joan Cleary. Our group met monthly for over a year and issued a set of comprehensive recommendations in early 2010. Mr. Onorato accepted the report and recommendations in full and pledged to make them a priority. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. The group has not, as recommended, been convened, and the Health Department has made little progress in addressing many of the sub-standard issues recommended since that time. It became very clear through my participation on the task force, and particularly over the past year, that Dr. Bruce Dixon has failed to consider the public health impacts clearly linked to our poor air quality in this county, as the serious and deadly impacts that they are. The County's air program lacks the autonomy and the authority within the Health Department to make key decisions to be an effective public agency. Dr. Dixon routinely dismisses air quality problems in the county and in the press and has gone out of his way to refute public health data that clearly documents the severity of the problem in this county, as compared to other areas of the state and the United States. And most recently, we discovered, as we described, that the Health Department, under Dr. Dixon's leadership, is neutering its meeting minutes, in direct violation of the state's Sunshine Law.

So as the elected representatives for Allegheny County residents, I sincerely hope that this body will take a strong leadership position in favor of protecting public health, by making cleaning up our air a top priority. We can't hope for an economically thriving and growing county if our air is too dirty to meet federal standards and our people are becoming ill and dying early because our air is unhealthy. So please commit to replacing Dr. Dixon, making the County's air program as effective as possible, filling open positions on the Board of Health in this community of people who will make these issues front and center. And we look forward to working with you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you very much. Before I ask for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gastgeb, you would like to make a remark?

MR. GASTGEB: Yeah, but thank you, out of respect of the three speakers that came. I know that you know this, but I think it bears edification for people watching at home. No ordinance could take place in this county without this Council passing it. It's quite a cumbersome process because the Health Board promulgates the rules, and then comes over to our body, and then we vote yea or nay. But one of the things I found frustrating --- I'm not taking a side either way respectfully --- once it gets to our committee --- I think Mr. Palmiere is Chair of the committee and on the Health Committee. If we would make one change to it, and these could be hundred-page health promulgation rules, changing the period, even, it goes back and it starts over again. So a slow process becomes even slower. And I've often said from my seat, what could we do so that when we get the committee process, we don't have these surprises, we don't have this kickback. And whether we vote yes or no, whether we agree with whomever's decision or whatever, their needs to be a better way, because you would think in a county this size with as many health issues, we'd be voting on a half dozen, maybe, at least four health bills a year. And maybe in my whole time on Council, we voted on that many. So you know, the process, in addition to what you're saying also needs to be looked at. So again, I'm not taking a side either way, but you just can't be happy with the way the process is. It's too slow. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Gastgeb, let's talk with Jared together and talk about that process and have that conversation. We've had it before, let's have it again.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

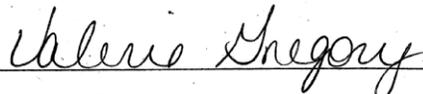
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:11 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