

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Dr. Charles J. Martoni	-	President, District 8
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Krista Harris	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12

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

Tuesday, June 18, 2013 - 5:01 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Catanese - Director, Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director
Jack Cambest - County Solicitor

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The June 18th meeting of the Allegheny County Council will now come to order. Please rise for the Pledge to the Flag. Please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer following that.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Please be seated. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

(No response.)

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: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Ten (10) members currently present.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Tonight we're very blessed to have our Chief Executive to give us his periodical address to Allegheny County. Mr. Richard Fitzgerald.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Former president of this great council, too, by the way.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And it's always a pleasure to come back and be with my former colleagues. And I spent so many Tuesday nights here, it brings back good memories. But thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I'm here for my quarterly address. And you know, since I was here in the first quarter, you know, a few things have happened and I want to address some of them. And you recall, this is something we worked on together when I came into office a year and a half ago. We had a fund balance of \$5.7 million. And of course, the rating agencies want us to have \$40 million, which is about five percent of our operating budget.

And working together with Budget and Finance and all of us, at least the capper that came out a little over a month ago, indicated that we've raised the fund balance to \$12.2 million which is quite an accomplishment, a 112 percent increase. So we're not where we need to be, obviously. That's a long way from \$40 million. But we are --- we're moving in the right direction to putting this government on sound financial footing. One of the issues that's going to be before you tonight is the refinancing. If you remember, last year we saved about \$11 million by refinancing at lower interest rates.

We're going to be basically bringing one to you tonight about a \$176 million refinancing, and that we're going to retire some old debt and take out new debt. But it's going to stay balanced this year. There's going to be nothing on top of what we do, so there will be no additional. In doing the refinancing, we estimate we're going to have saved probably in the neighborhood of \$7 million to \$9 million, depending on where the interest rates are when we go out. And I think it's important that we probably do it quickly because the interest rates, as the economy is coming back, are starting to rise.

So anyway, you'll be seeing that tonight. And again, the County Manager and the Budget Department are really starting to --- you know, have done a good job in starting to head us in the right direction. Also, under the --- the County Manager is spearheading a cash management consolidation plan that he started to work on over the last few months. And again, it will make sure that we have proper controls, as well as maximizing our cash position and maximizing the interest rates, the

interest that we can receive on the revenue side. So it's something we want to work with your --- with County Council, with the Treasurer's Office, with the Controller's Office, to make sure that we do these things in a good manner. And I'm sure the County Manager will be glad to fill you in on some of all those details.

So that's kind of on the budgetary side, and then we'll get into some of the good things that are happening in our region on --- kind of on the economic development side of things. Some recent studies that came out over the past couple months, again, look --- make this region continue to look very good. One that came out and might seem a little whimsical, but the U-Haul Corporation did a study and said that more people are arriving in Pittsburgh than any other city that they serve, which is pretty interesting that people are moving here at a good time. And then just last week, the Census Bureau put out statistics that said that the under-five-year-old population, which is over the last two years, the under-five population nationally has gone down to one percent. In the State of Pennsylvania, it has gone down one percent, but in Allegheny County, it has gone up one percent. So we're so glad that those three and four year olds have had the good sense to move to Allegheny County.

No. What it says is that the 20 and 30 year olds that are moving here in big numbers right now are having children. And we're actually --- our birth rate is exceeding our death rate for the first time in decades. So those are good statistics to see that we're doing some good things. Some big events that we're --- we've had and are going to have --- we hosted the Frozen Four, you know, the Final Four in NCAA hockey, which was here. It was a great thing for this region. It brought a lot of people here. Just this last week, we hosted over 1,000 people, Americans for the Arts, the first time they came to Pittsburgh in their 35-year history, again, bringing a lot of folks here, kind of along with the Arts Festival that occurs every year.

Just next week we're going to be hosting the Senior PGA, the Constellation-sponsored event. Next week we're going to be hosting the National --- next year, the National Championship of USA Gymnastics, which is basically the prelude to Olympic gymnastics. And then Deer Lakes Park, a year from now, is going to be hosting the National Championship in Frisbee golf, bringing over

400 people from --- 400 golfers and all their families and support staff and support members that come with them. Denver had it this year. We were able to get it next year. So it's something we can be pretty proud of. We've got a lot of good economic news that's happening throughout the region. You probably saw a week ago that Dick's Sporting Goods announced they're going to expand on their airport site, the Northfield site, adding about 73 acres and another 180,000 square feet of office space. Now they haven't put numbers as to what those --- how many jobs that would be, but I can tell you that's going to be a significant amount of jobs that will continue to happen as Dick's continues to expand nationwide. And we're very lucky that they're headquartered right here in Allegheny County.

You probably saw a month or so ago that Chevron announced buying the old Kmart site out in Robinson Township, meaning that they're going to pretty much put their regional headquarters right here in western Pennsylvania. Again, we don't know how many jobs that's going to be, we don't know exactly what they're going to build, but it's obviously a good sign that we're continuing to grow. In the Mon Valley, in Rankin, we just did with Mon Valley Initiative, partnering with them, eight new homes, and they were immediately purchased. It was incredible the amount of demand that's out there.

And the same is happening at the old Braddock Hospital site. Eleven (11) new single-family homes, 24 rentals, and the market is --- and 20,000 square feet of commercial space. And the market is doing very, very well. So we're getting a lot of interest, and a lot of people have already signed on for that. So there's a lot of good things happening in all parts of our county. I'll tell you a little bit about Public Works. The Brownsville-Broughton issued by Councilman Palmiere, that's supposed to be completed in October, and that's going to be six weeks ahead of schedule, if everything continues where it's going right now.

I know it's been a real inconvenience for the folks out in that corridor, and they're going to love it when that finally --- that finally opens up. The other issue I know you probably heard through Public Works and you probably get some of these complaints, was and is the slow pay that often happens with contractors and engineers who have done work. The County Managers put a program in

place where we're cleaning up a lot of that backlog. I think it will help us bring our --- bring our costs down because I think some contractors were getting a little bit leery of bidding with us. But right now, clearing that up, I think it's going to help us, you know, make sure we get good bids on all the projects that we do. The Fourth Avenue Garage is approved to be done. The bids are out. We'll be getting those back, I think, in July, and demolition on that is scheduled to start sometime in September. So that's something that will move forward. The Mansfield Bridge --- one of the major bridges, Councilman Macey, out of your district, a \$30 million project, moving along very well. It's supposed to be done by the end of next year. So we've done the Glenwood Bridge, kind of moving down the Mon River over the last ten years to Glenwood Bridge, the Homestead High Level, or now the Grays Bridge, the Rankin Bridge and then the Mansfield Bridge, much, much work done on some old bridges that really have made the Mon Valley much, much better to move over --- move across.

CNG Vehicles; we actually purchased two compressed natural gas vehicles, moving towards natural gas, seeing that the price savings will be significant for us and also, you know, making sure we're doing our part to clean up the environment. One of the other big Public Works projects that you have on your agenda tonight is something called Knit the Bridge, which I didn't know about until --- well, just recently. And I see a lot of the folks that are here tonight doing their work. We're very excited. We're going to be --- we're going to be knitting. And this uses a word that I don't know if I can use it, bomb the bridge, knit bomb? Is that what ---? What do they use?

MS. POMEROY: Yarn bombing.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yarn bombing. I'm sorry, yarn bombing; yarn bombing the Warhol Bridge. And it's going to be the first major bridge in a metropolitan area to be done in the country, something that we should be very excited about. These folks that are knitting, 600 panels are going to be placed on that bridge, 116 square feet of yarn on the bridge, 600 miles of yarn and 1,300 individuals participating to help that get done. It's going to be beautiful once it occurs, and it's going to bring us some national --- some national recognition; you know, kind of talking about the great arts community that

we have here, and we really do, and this is going to be something very exciting. And obviously, it's on the agenda tonight. We would appreciate your support on that.

I want to also talk a little bit about property assessment, one of our favorite subjects I know everybody loves to talk about. But we made an announcement the last time I was here that we were going to be sending out letters to our non-profits basically asking them to reapply for their tax exempt status. And that was something that this Council did --- I think it was Councilman DeFazio. He introduced this a number of years ago when I was on Council. I supported it. It passed overwhelmingly. And since those letters have gone out, we've actually had --- already had 20 property owners say, yep, I'm not tax exempt anymore. \$8.7 million is going back on the tax rolls from people, just from those letters.

We're obviously going through many more parcels than that. We've got over 300 people that aren't challenging it just yet, which would put another \$270 million back on the tax rolls. So we're going through that process, and I think it's a healthy thing for us to get our recordkeeping up to date. The other thing we talked about over the years is the Homestead Exemption; you know, people that are double-dipping on the Homestead Exemption. It was very frustrating to me when I was on Council, trying to figure out a way to do it. And the Department and Director Tyskiewicz have already removed 339 people who were double-dipping and are now off the rolls. And we probably have another 10,000 to 15,000 that need to be looked at in a closer way. The names are close, double owning, that type of thing. So that's something that we're very excited about.

You may have seen in the paper just a week or two ago when we made this announcement --- that the Health Department has found a new Executive Director, Dr. Karen Hacker. You know, we looked over a year to fill that position, and I need to thank Grant Oliphant, Edie Shapira and the whole search committee that did a nationwide search, and finding someone with the stature of Dr. Karen Hacker, a Yale graduate, a professor at Harvard who's the number two person in the Boston/Cambridge Health Department System.

To be able to get her here, it's tremendous. And when she's in town --- she's not going to be starting

until September. And the Board of Health, of course, has to approve her. But assuming everything goes smoothly, we want to bring her in and have her talk to you about some of the good initiatives that we need to do to move that --- move public health forward in a big way in our communities.

I want to talk to you a little bit about the parks. You know, we talked about Go Ape. You guys approved the Go Ape thing that we're doing out at North Park. It's going --- it's been tremendously successful, the participation, the lines. The amount of people that really like using that has been tremendous. It hasn't cost the county anything. In fact, we're getting rent from the company that's doing it, and they've actually cleaned up a part of our park that needed a little bit of --- needed a little bit of TLC. So that was good.

We also opened just this week the Great Allegheny Passage. It finally opened up over at Sandcastle. Councilman Macey and Councilwoman Danko were over there for the ribbon cutting, now linking the 300 and some miles from Washington, D.C. to Point State Park. And it was quite an event. We had almost 2,000 people show up. I think about 1,500 of them rode their bikes from Sandcastle on the Waterfront, all the way down through the South Side in Oakland, all the way down to Point State Park. And again, it was just --- it just shows some of the vitality and dynamism of this region, that there are so many people that, you know, want to do so many things.

We also have tonight from the Parks --- and I think they're all at your stations --- a fun guide, kind of showing all the activities that are going on in our parks this year. The Parks Department put that together so you're able to see, you know, what's going on in your district and things that would interest you, the different concerts, different events, you know, things that are going on. So we're excited about that. Also, along the trails, we're running trails at an event through McKees Rocks and Stowe that's going to link the --- connecting the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to the Montour Trail in Councilman Finnerty's district.

People out there are very, very excited about, you know, the access of the trails that they're going to have. I want to talk a little bit about the airport. You know, we're still concerned about the U.S. Airways-American merger that's coming up. We'll try to do

everything we can, obviously, to save the jobs out there. One thing that we have been able to do over the last few months is add some new flights from Greater --- from Pittsburgh International Airport, PIT. We have a flight now to L.A., another flight to L.A., another to Boston and added national and Houston service to --- for direct flights. And that's helping the business community do what they're doing. Another exciting announcement we made the other day, that we're going to be working with the Tuskegee Airmen Association. I don't know if a lot of people realize, but the Tuskegee Airmen, which was an African-American flying fighter --- flying fighters back in World War II, western Pennsylvania had more members in that squadron than any other place in the country. So we will be dedicating on September the 15th a memorial in Sewickley --- Sewickley Cemetery.

It's going to be a tremendous event. Obviously, you'll all be invited. It's something that we've worked with them. We've all provided a little bit of funding for them, a little bit of help, a little bit of support, something that we can be very, very proud of, that these young men, back in the '40s, were willing to fight for freedom, you know, in many ways not having the freedom even in our country that they probably should have had way back when. So that's something exciting coming up to memorialize the great work that those heroes did.

The Consol drilling at the airport scene is continuing to move along very well. Appreciate the support of that. It's been very, very positive in many, many ways. You may have seen that our --- the airport bond rating has increased, in large part because of the new revenues that are coming into that. They're going through the due diligence process. And my understanding is, if everything continues to move forward, that they will start moving some dirt the middle of next year and probably begin drilling by the end of next year. One other thing dealing with drilling that you've seen recently --- and the stories that --- I know I've talked to some of you about this, but out at Deer Lakes Park, all the area around Deer Lakes Park, the land around Deer Lakes Park, has been leased for drilling in those areas.

And we've been contacted to be understanding that drilling was going to begin in two or three different pads in those private area lands out around there. We've been talking to some of the groups out there in Deer Lakes

Park to see if there was some improvements that they might grow to like, or if they would be supportive if the county decided to participate. I would say preliminarily --- if I could say that right --- that they --- that there's some support to having this done, because the drilling --- from our understanding, it's going to occur anyway, no matter what the county does. But if we would like to participate on some of the drilling that could occur, you know, underground ---. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to ask the Law Department to put out an RFP to see what kind of opportunities, dollar-wise and other, that we could take a look at. Then obviously, we would bring it --- bring it back to Council to see if it was something that --- that's worthwhile. We're not sure what the dollars would be just yet with --- you know, different numbers, but I want to see exactly what it might be worth to take a look at in this county.

And it's something we'll take a look at. It would not be drilling --- I want to just be clear. It would not be drilling on parkland. It would be drilling on lands outside the parks that's going to occur anyway. And it just is a matter of where those laterals might run underneath --- underneath the parks. And with that, Washington County has been doing this, and the Washington County commissioners talked about some of the drilling that they've done in and around their parks. And we're going to try to set up a visit. I'd like to go down and talk to some of their folks; their Parks people, their Law Department, how they've done the leases. The commissioners have invited us to come down. So we're going to try and set something up with your schedules.

It will probably occur sometime like maybe in August, that we can go down and take a look at some of the things that they are doing. And with that, I want to open it up to any questions you might have.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Any questions? Go ahead, first.

MR. FUTULES: It's not necessarily a question, but this could be the first time your speech --- we knitted about ten blankets during your speech.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And if it gets cold tonight, we might need some of them.

MR. FUTULES: And you'd done due diligence on what you're doing, and I appreciate what you're doing and it's very ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Michael?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. Chief Executive, when we're talking about drilling at Deer Lakes, there's not going to be any rigs in the park?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: That would be --- I mean, again, that would be our decision. But I would say no, that would be --- I mean, my answer would be no to that, Councilman. And I don't ---.

MR. FINNERTY: I mean at Deer Lakes.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: My understanding is that the preliminary discussions we've had with some of those companies that lease some of that land, is they have no interest in putting rigs on park land.

MR. FINNERTY: So they're going to extract it from drilling down and going underneath?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Correct.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And we can put that, you know, in the park --- any ordinance, that we would have to approve it.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Who else? Jim?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I want to say something on that.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I just want to --- I just want to piggyback with what Mike had said. You know, sometimes these things take a life of their own. And then we end up with 8,000,000 articles about fracking and about this and that. I think it's important or perhaps --- I don't know. If it can't be used to elaborate on the properties that are around the park and how the people feel about that, and how the --- you had mentioned yourself, it's going to happen anyway. I think it's very important to mention that, if you would.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yeah. I think it's one of those opportunities, if they decide to drill out there --- or for the property owners that don't wish to participate --- it's probably an opportunity that would be lost and probably lost, you know, maybe forever. I don't know. Because once they leave, they won't be coming back if they've already taken the gas out of all the other lands.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: But what I'm saying is, it's my understanding that this is highly supported by the property owners that are all around this.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: And I think that's important where they weren't --- that if the county decides to do this, we're not ramming anything down that community's throat. They want this. And we're the ones that are --- that haven't signed on.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I think we're probably the only property owner out there that has not participated.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: That's what I was trying to get you to say, that it's important that the people want this, the property owners all want this, that we're the last ones to decide whether we want it or not. And in that, it happens anyway. And I think that's a very valid, important thing that needs to be said. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else have their hand up here? Matt?

MR. DROZD: Thank you. Thank you for coming before us, Mr. Chief Executive. On the drilling in the park area, first, I'd like to ask --- in the essence of why I believe strongly and also supported the airport, was because it was a local headquartered company that employs 6,000 to 10,000 people who are domiciled right here. They're our neighbors. And I was very, very strongly in favor of them doing that because of that fact. Sometimes when you bid in other parts of the country and one of our neighboring states, actually, some of those bidders get a percentage because they're domiciled there.

You know, they have a commitment to that region. So I would hope to think that we're going to give a pretty heavy consideration to those companies that are employing our people, who've been here a long time, are headquartered here in the region, at least if not in our county. Do you have any projections? The second thing is that, you know, I don't --- I want to see ---. Some of those monies in Alaska, you know, that people --- that gas belongs to the people of Allegheny County. That's really who it belongs to. And in Alaska, they get a check, actually, for the oil. I understand it can be as much as \$1,000 per person, per year, per family member.

So I think what I'm saying is, those additional monies, I'd like to see those monies geared towards ---

especially with the assessments and what's happening in that --- geared towards alleviating the tax burden on the people of Allegheny County, not creating new initiatives, new programs. Let's try to do that for where those monies will be used. And that's very important, I think, to the people of Allegheny County, to make it more palatable there. They're going to see some results. And they've always seen --- people say, where is the casino money? Where's this, where's that? They don't see it and they don't feel it in their pocketbook. That's my first question. Do you want to respond?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No, I agree. And I don't think we have any interest in putting new programs or new departments in place. We've always --- it's been my philosophy to always look for other revenues, so that we can keep holding the line on property tax. And that's, you know, where I think we definitely want to ---. Now if we ever get to the position where we have no property tax like they do in Alaska, and now we're making so much money that we can give people money back, I would certainly agree with that, Councilman. But I don't know that we're anywhere near that position yet. I mean, if we're drilling on 1,100 acres --- I think that's what the money is in --- or the acreage is in Deer Lakes Park, and the average is, you know, \$2,000 to \$3,000, \$4,000 an acre, you're talking about \$3,000,000. I don't know, in an \$800,000,000 budget, that we're going to be able to, you know, have enough money to give --- give money back.

MR. DROZD: I'm sorry. How many acres is out there?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: About 1,100.

MR. DROZD: Yeah, it's about \$96,000 on the low side per mc, total mcf is 96,000 per those thousand acres, \$96,000 a month without the upfront royalties ---

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Uh-huh (yes).

MR. DROZD: --- is what I estimated them to be. The second thing I'd like to ask you, is there anything --- in the essence on this insurance, you know, still --- and I want to see us where we can save money on healthcare insurance and that. Is there any more new developments, or is that time-wise? And did we, in essence, save the taxpayers any money on that and advance the services for our people?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'll tell you --- I'll be honest with you. I got to tell you, the County

Manager and budget staff did an absolutely terrific job in renewing the contract for healthcare with almost no increase, which is unheard of in today's marketplace. So it did give the employees, you know, decent coverage. There is some match that now has kind of become part of, you know, the part and parcel of what happens in the healthcare community. But we negotiated a very, very hard and fast way to try to keep the costs down, and they did a heck of a job doing it.

MR. DROZD: Third question. The bond issues that you're going through, is there monies in there? My concern is --- and I'm sure fellow council members --- we don't want to fund operations out of debt service. We don't want to get into the position that Allegheny County now has built up a debt and we're funding our operations from debt. In that bond issue, is there additional monies that you're floating to fund budgetary concerns or gaps in the budget?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No. In fact, that's one of the things, when --- County Manager and Dennis Davin, the Economic Development Director, we went to the bond agencies --- rating agencies a year ago. And one of the things that they were concerned about, in addition to the \$5.7 million fund balance, was the fact that this county had been relying on one-time revenue sources, PennDOT reimbursements and capital money, to do just what you're saying. We made a commitment that we would not do that, and the budget that you passed this year didn't have any of that. And our interest is not --- is to continue that practice, so that when we take out capital debt, it's for capital projects, not to fund operations.

MR. DROZD: Last thing. It's important that we see you and your staff, even equally important that we see your staff. And as Councilman Robinson wrote the ordinance, you need to appear to us quarterly. In September, December and March --- I think that's the dates, September of last year, December of last year and March. And not only is it important to see you but to see your staff members, because they get a chance to interact with us and we interact with them. And just I know you're busy. We all are busy. We all have busy schedules. And I appreciate, I think, along with my fellow council members, when we see you on those definite scheduled dates of once a quarter, including maybe some additional times

when maybe Councilman Robinson sometimes has sent letters to the former chief executive to appear before us to ask questions.

We're going to run through some rocky, bumpy roads ahead, and we'll need you. And we need everybody to pull their oar and I'm just really glad to see our great staff members here and our ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Councilman, I will. I believe I came four times last year, each quarter, and this is the second quarter. I've been here twice this year, and I'll be here in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter, God willing.

MR. DROZD: I know you missed March and ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, I was here in February, I think.

MR. DROZD: I think Councilman Robinson even had something on that, and that's why ---. That's not to put you on the spot. I'm not trying to put you on the spot. I'm just trying to say that we need you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I know.

MR. DROZD: And take it as a compliment. I like to see you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I will.

MR. DROZD: We all like to see you, and we like to hear from you and your staff.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And I would never skirt the --- and I was on Council when we did the quarterly ordinance, and I think it's the right thing to do and I will continue to be here.

MR. DROZD: One last thing I want to say is to the staff members here, the directors of those parties. I really enjoyed my interaction with you. It's been very professional, you know, in the time we've had you here. And to the County Manager, as well as everyone else with their staff, you know, I want to compliment and commend you for that in your response to serve those that we serve. I really appreciate that response, and I'm glad to see you here and I want you to know that. We appreciate you being here, not just today, but we appreciate when we call you and you answer that phone on the other end. And I thank you on behalf of our constituents. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you, Mr. Drozd. Mr. Ellenbogen, do you want to say something? Anyone else before I ---?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I do. I just was ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I'm sorry.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Precursorily, I wanted to say, I see them guys more than I see my kids. They're very available. And I have to tell you, my experience with your people has been very positive and very helpful. And you, yourself --- I mean, you've made yourself more than available. I probably talk to you more than ---. And I've been doing this all my life, and I talk to you more than all the other ones put together. The point I wanted to bring up is, you know, we're talking about all this --- new folks moving in and the energy surge and the gas and all that. Now I was born and raised in this town, and I have --- which I'm sure some of my colleagues --- but I have resumes coming out of my ears from people that were born and raised here. I think it's great people move here. I've seen --- I've met more Texans and Oklahomans and Alabamans and Georgians in the last year than in my entire life, because they're bringing all these in.

And what my point is, I would hope that when we negotiate these kind of things, that it's important for our people who were born and raised here and forged this town, to have an opportunity to some of these jobs, also. I think it's great we're getting all these new cultures and all these new folks coming in, it's great. But it's also important for our people to not be left out.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I agree.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: And I hope you would make that part of your argument.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: You're absolutely right. And I know Mr. Davin and his department, any time we're doing a development, one of the first things he puts on the table is we need to first hire --- needs to be our local --- our local folks.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, Director Davin ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Whether we're doing development in the Mon Valley, or wherever it might be, we want those folks to get the first crack at the jobs.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. Director Davin --- I have a reasonable level of comfort, because I know he's like a pit bull when he gets going, so I'm happy with that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else; any other questions for the wonderful executive?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I want to thank you, Mr. President --- thank you, members of Council ---

for having me again. And I'll be glad to see you down the road.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You're always welcome.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We're going to just hold up a few minutes.

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

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7642-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation recognizing Dr. Charles Blocksidge's achievements, thanking him for his service to the Community College of Allegheny County and wishing him the very best in his retirement. Sponsored by Council members Martoni, Finnerty, Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Harris, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MR. FINNERTY: Charlie, would you join us, please?

DR. BLOCKSIDGE: Thank you.

MR. FINNERTY: Dr. Blocksidge, it's always great to see you. And you know, as I read the proclamation, you'll see that Charlie has done about everything in the county and has really been of great service to all the people of Allegheny County and our departments. But more important than that, Charlie is a great person. We're going to miss you. So let me read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, Charlie --- Charles T. Blocksidge, Ph.D., has provided leadership at the County --- excuse me --- Community College of Allegheny County for more than three decades, including six years as an adjunct instructor, 14 years as a member of CCAC Board of Trustees, 11 years as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blocksidge has served in the CCAC administration in varied leadership roles, including Dean, Vice President of Organizational Development, Executive Assistant to the President, Executive Director of the CCAC-Allegheny County Workforce Alliance and currently as Executive Director of local, county and state government relations and special projects; and

WHEREAS, he has spearheaded numerous initiatives at CCAC to promote student success and the betterment of the larger community, including the CCAC-Allegheny County Workforce Alliance, the Career Transition Center for

Dislocated Workers, the FireVEST Scholarship Program and the Robert M. Mill Labor Management Institute and Lecture Series; and

WHEREAS, he served as CCAC's CAPS, a distinguished career in education and public service as a school superintendent and other administrative positions in several local school districts, as Director of Budget and Finance and Director of Assessments for Allegheny County, and as a football official for the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and Division I-AA, National Collegiate Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, he remains active in various boards, including the Kutztown University Council of Trustees, the Regional Industrial Development Authority, Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson, Allegheny County Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review, Local Government Academy and Veterans Leadership Program. What haven't you done?

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby recognize Dr. Charles Blocksidge's achievements and thanks him for his service at CCAC and Allegheny County. We wish him and his wife, Bonnie, all the best on his well-deserved retirement. Enjoy your children and grandchildren in celebrating this momentous --- celebrating this momentous occasion with him. And it's signed by President Chuck Martoni.

(Applause.)

DR. BLOCKSIDGE: Well, the only thing that Mike missed is that I was Captain of the Safety Patrol in eighth grade. I really captured a number of positions and a number of activities and a number of accomplishments over many, many years. But I'm truly grateful for this proclamation. And over time --- over the time that I've been at the college, I certainly am grateful for the support received from County Council. I think it's the kind of association that we've had with Council that is really unique in Pennsylvania. The support that the college received from Allegheny County is significant, in that it exceeds in many respects the support from other sponsoring agencies from colleges in Pennsylvania. And for that, I am truly grateful.

Back in 1977, I started my career here in Allegheny County. I sat in the room as a director. So I've got a long-standing relationship, fond memories and a

rich history of this room as a public official. And I was privileged to serve with many of you in a number of other capacities and other roles, and for that I'm certainly very grateful. Over the time that I've been at the college, I think this kind of relationship that we've had with Allegheny County has really been significant, not only in the support but the kind of partnerships that we've been able to create with respect to programs. I think the program that we developed in cooperation with the County dealing with dislocated and unemployed workers and dealing with firefighters in Allegheny County and dealing with those individuals in the county who are less fortunate and --- that allowed the college to be that safety net for them to pursue other training and other careers.

I worked closely with President --- Council Trustee, Mr. Robinson, and also served with Mr. Robinson as a member of the trustee. And of course, the relationship we have with Dr. Martoni, who has been a long-standing employee and of great service not only to the college but also to Allegheny County; and of course, Mike Finnerty, here, my co-sponsor in Council. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Joe Catanese, who's really been the glue. He's been the guy that's really served as the liaison between Council and the college and really has established --- has really played an integral role in these programs that we've been able to develop in conjunction with each other.

I'm also pleased to have with me this evening my wife, Bonnie, and my administrative assistant, Joan Follen, who has been with me throughout my career at the college and served in a capacity of administrative assistant not only skillfully but with great loyalty and great faithfulness not only to me but also to the college. So again, I'm really really privileged. I'm honored to receive this proclamation, and some of the roles that I continue to serve in and some of the boards that I continue to serve on --- I'm not going away and rolling over. I'm just --- I'm going to continue to be involved in community, and I continue --- I want to continue to remain active. And I look forward to working with the County Council in the future on other endeavors. So again, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The remaining proclamations will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: 7643-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Dolores Kugler, upon the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7644-13. Proclamation declaring June 17th, 2013, La Roche College Day in Allegheny County, upon the 50th anniversary of the college's founding. Sponsored by Councilwoman Rea.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have eight.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Read the first name. I don't have it with me.

MR. CATANESE: Amanda Gross. Amanda, will you come up? Please state your name and address for the record.

MS. GROSS: I'm Amanda Gross. Is there something else I'm supposed to state?

MR. FUTULES: Address.

MS. GROSS: 529 North Euclid Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15206.

MR. FUTULES: You got it.

MS. GROSS: I am the lead artist for the Knit the Bridge Project, and Knit the Bridge is happening because over 1,000 people have embraced the project and have contributed their own yarn, energy, time and love into creating something for and in the community. In southwestern Pennsylvania, bridges divide us as often as they connect us. People say that they don't like to cross bridges or go through tunnels; and two bridges, forget it. But since we began, people have been crossing bridges, both literally and metaphorically. From our youngest knitter at the Children's Museum to our most elder crocheter at the senior center, this project has captured imaginations.

People want to be a part of something big, something brilliant, something positive, for where they live. Knit the Bridge keeps growing in its forward momentum. Since we've opened our community workshop space at Spinning Plate in East Liberty, an average of 20 people a day stop by to point out their panels or sit down and stitch for a moment. Just the other day, an Amoco mechanic dropped in because his wife just had to know what

in the world was going on. Knit the Bridge has been a tremendous opportunity for people to meet each other and deepen relationships, through working together on a common goal. Likewise, Knit the Bridge is an opportunity for you, our local elected officials, to work alongside the community to create a bright, positive, public artwork. We have had overwhelming support from knitters, crocheters, arts organizations, community centers, from the Executive's Office, from funders, from unions to rating companies, from public works to the legal department and risk management, all working together to make this possible. And now it's your turn. We need you to help knit the bridge. I also will add that this is an act of the participation that we have from Allegheny County municipalities, so each municipality that you see that has a ten in it is a township or borough that we have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Jean Thomas?

MS. THOMAS: I'm Jean Thomas. I live at 6114 Callery Street, and I thank you for the opportunity. I want to address my remarks to Mr. Ellenbogen. I have to confess, I'm a person from Oklahoma, but we drove 200 miles, and I don't know that we ever crossed a bridge. We'd make right turns without thinking. And we had fireworks only once a year, as far as I remember. But I want you to know that I'm enthusiastic.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'll accept anyone as far as you, but no Dallas.

MS. THOMAS: So I've been taking visitors to Mount Washington and saying what a great city we have. And so, you know, this particular idea of decorating our sister bridges are just jewels in the county. And the idea of decorating one of them is sort of like an ongoing fireworks that we'll have on the bridge. So I think that when I talk to people about this idea, they say, you want to do what? And then they say, really? And then they say, wow, can I participate? So you've got people, women, children, men in each one of your Council districts who have become very enthusiastic about this project.

And I just want to say one word about the organization, the Fiberarts Guild, from --- the idea from there is much more widespread than that. But we have, I think, a pretty impressive track record. Right now there are two major museums that are centers for the arts and the Society for Contemporary Craft. Also Fiberarts

International, this is really an impressive international show. It's a juried show and so, you know, you have to be really, really good to get in. But it operates on a budget. A very significant budget for us is \$130,000. We have --- it's only every three years we have recovered --- but it's ---. I think the --- okay. Sorry.

MR. CATANESE: You've got one minute.

MR. FUTULES: That's okay.

MS. THOMAS: I just wanted to say that this is an ambitious undertaking and that the volunteers that we've been able to attract everywhere are enthusiastic about this. It's the wow effect. And so we are just asking you, County Council, to give us the green light. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Mac Howison?

MR. HOWISON: Good evening. I'm Mac Howison. I live at 2526 South Braddock Avenue, in Swissvale, 15218. Thank you, Council, for the opportunity to speak tonight. Again, I'm Mac Howison. I'm actually representing the organization called The Sprout Fund. The Sprout Fund is the region's leading agency supporting innovative ideas that are catalyzing change in the region. And since 2001, Sprout has supported over 500 small projects, investing \$1.7 million in innovative community projects and ideas that support people, projects and organizations that are at the edge of innovative thinking in the region.

But I'm speaking on behalf of Sprout in support of Knit the Bridge. In 2012, Sprout Fund made a Seed Award grant to Knit the Bridge, in their effort to engage Pittsburgh's community to create a vibrant art installation, knit panels decorating one of the iconic Three Sisters Bridges, which now would be the Warhol Bridge. This project is dedicated to involving all walks of life, including a wide diversity of ages, socio and economic backgrounds, ethnicities, genders.

This project engaged the community groups and organizations in over 100 knitting circles, through more than 70 of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods in Allegheny County's many neighboring localities, to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to knit and even learn to knit a panel. You can actually see this evidence in real time here tonight. Sprout's Seed Award Program uses a community decision-making model where we engage representative members of the community to make decisions on our grants, and they recommend support. They

recommended the modest grant of less than \$10,000 to Knit the Bridge, that it would ensure that motivated and energized project managers who we see here tonight, could reach every corner of Pittsburgh through their outreach. And those committee members from The Sprout Fund who are emerging civic leaders, social workers and experts in art, activism and engagement, felt that Knit the Bridge positively represents innovation and connectivity in Pittsburgh on both the local and national scale. So I'm here tonight to voice those change-makers and innovative support of Knit the Bridge in their efforts to have permission to place innovative public art on the Andy Warhol Bridge.

The Sprout Fund believes that the bridge, decorated in vibrant knit panels, will demonstrate Pittsburgh's flourishing arts community, as well as the city's incredible propensity for innovation. So I thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of this unique idea and for your consideration in the ordinance. Thank you, all.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Donnie Pomeroy? Donnie Pomeroy?

MS. POMEROY: Hi. I'm Donnie Pomeroy and I'm from East Liberty, 5720 Friendship Avenue, 15206. And I live in the city and help secure the gallery as our launch place in the follow-up work to do. I did want to briefly say that I've been fortunate enough to lead two national leadership programs, and that put me in 10 to 12 cities around the country. And so I got to see different community art projects, and I am by far the most impressed with this art project than all the different art projects I got to have the experience of participating in across the country.

This has reached more people, had more volunteers, every age group, every ethnicity, as can --- other people have reported, and yet --- we just brought the county map. We've got one from, I think, Kentucky, that is the grandmother of somebody. And we're in New York, and we're in Delaware. And it's all relatives to people who wanted to participate because they have a relative living here, so ---. And we also --- the Huffington Post picked us up. And because of that, we got over 100-some blog hits from Russia. So it is reaching out there. It's a viable project; it's a beautiful project. And I hope that you will seriously consider

finalizing the approval of this project. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. The next person, if I fumble on a name, please correct me when you come up. Ngani Ndimbie, Ndimbie (changes pronunciation). Correct me.

MS. NDIMBIE: Hi. I'm Ngani Ndimbie; so ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I was close.

MR. FINNERTY: Say that again for me.

MS. NDIMBIE: Ngani Ndimbie.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Thanks.

MS. NDIMBIE: I'm here to support Knit the Bridge, as well. And I'm here as a private citizen. I live at 344 Garnet Way in Pittsburgh, 15224. But even though I'm here as a private citizen, I would be remiss to not mention that I serve on the Propel Pittsburgh Commission as the vice chair. It's a commission that's dedicated to meeting the needs and concerns of young people ages 20 to 34 in the city of Pittsburgh. I also serve as the chair of our arts and culture committee, and I've been regularly updating the commission on the progress of Knit the Bridge because I think it's one of the most fantastic things I've ever heard about here in the city.

So I grew up here in Pittsburgh, first in Highland Park and then a few blocks up from our County Executive in Squirrel Hill. And I have been a part of our arts community for as long as I've been here, and I am really thrilled about this project and its wonderful opportunity for us as a community. Professionally, I'm a community organizer for the ACLU of Pennsylvania. And nothing gives me greater joy than an activity that brings people together. So this project literally will sow the work of many people throughout the region together.

And so Knit the Bridge is really the idea, so it's all parts of county, socio-economic, people of socio-economic backgrounds, different races, different political affiliations all coming together. So this is a project that regardless of your race or class or your physical ability, you're able to enjoy and participate in it. And it's going to be a visible manifestation of the unity that we want to see in our communities. So I just really think that people across this county really seek this type of a demonstration of how we are, in fact,

unified. And it just is something so critical and wonderful here in Pittsburgh. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Barbara Grossman? Barbara Grossman? Is Barbara here?

MR. FINNERTY: No, she's not here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Not here; okay. Raymond Robinson? Raymond? I see Raymond is here.

MR. ROBINSON: Yes. I'm Raymond Robinson, 3016 Circle Drive, Brentwood, 15227. I'm also here to speak in support of Knit the Bridge. I support it as a private citizen as well, but I wanted to share briefly the Shuman Center connection to this project. And so a couple weeks ago, one of our educators, Ms. Paula Cox (phonetic), approached me with the Knit the Bridge project, explained to me what it was and how ambitious it was. And I pledged my full support, so Ms. Cox, along with some of our recreation staff, first showed several of our youth how to knit and crochet. Some of them already knew how to. And then they worked to create several panels for the Knit the Bridge project.

And they knew about the whole thing, from not just the art piece but also the follow-up with plans to take those pieces and provide blankets for those less fortunate. At Shuman Center, we've been looking for avenues where we can show some of the talents that our youth have. So obviously, our youth oftentimes are overlooked because of decisions and situations that lead them to our doors. And while many of them have made some poor decisions, I would not negate the fact that they also have considerable talents that they can share with the community.

While the youth are with us, we strive to foster an environment that is conducive to youth development, so projects like Knit the Bridge give our youth the opportunity to make a positive impact on the community. One of the staples of juvenile justice is accountability to the community, as well as the victim. So this project, while allowing them to individually express themselves in a creative fashion, it also serves as an opportunity to unite them with their greater community. Those ties to the community can go a far way in ensuring that they refrain from re-offending when they return to the community, and that's research-based. If you have a greater tie to your community, more likely you're going to be more respectful and less likely to re-offend. So in

addition, I just want to again thank you all for considering this ordinance, and I look forward to seeing the bridge later this summer. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you, Raymond. Mary Martin? Mary Martin? Mary?

MS. MARTIN: Mary Martin, 839 Gearing Avenue, Beltzhoover. Good evening. As part of Pittsburgh's artists' educator community, I thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and support of the much-anticipated installation of Knit the Bridge. I am present today due to a series of interwoven events. It's true that I'm one of the many that have been involved in the project. I, too, was sold immediately by the idea of helping bring together Pittsburgh natives from all walks of life in order to bind our souls with the hopes of bleeding together the gaps found throughout our city that were often ignored.

While researching potential art projects for my public arts class, I stumbled upon Amanda Gross and her initiative and was immediately captivated by her imagination and determination. Graciously, she agreed to come to Winchester Thurston School to give us a crash course in knitting. My job, after realizing I could not really knit, was to become the recruiter and to bring together a body of students to help out with this enormous collaborative effort. To put this in perspective of today's purpose, I want to reiterate how much this project was an inspiration for my students.

It isn't every day that youths have the opportunity to work alongside the artists and community activists on a project that has such a colossal scale. In class we had studied numerous examples of public artwork throughout history. But I reminded my students each time we met that this was a rare opportunity, that once installed, would be experienced by many but for only a short window of time. The idea of it being temporary intrigued my students. So why could we --- how could we pass up an opportunity to adorn the Warhol Bridge with our own knitted labors of love?

It was an easy sell, and the Knitwit Student Club was born. Every Wednesday at ten o'clock, we, the knitwits met in a classroom, of all places, with a common bond and a determined willpower. This project became the catalyst to bond with the students that normally would not be connected. This project allowed each student an

opportunity to be part of a larger unit, for the love of yarn, the love of collaboration or simply the love of making our city just a tad more colorful. This has been a tremendous effort by Amanda Gross and her fearless team of organizers. It has inspired many, young and old, and it will be that hope that will go into our artistic scrapbooks of greatest memories.

I hope that it continues to bring joy, hope and even warmth to those that are lucky enough to inherit the remains long after the project is over. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. And thank all of you for all of your hard work. 7645-13.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council, held on May 22nd, 2013.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have a motion and a second. Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.
7558-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Austin A. Davis, to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2016. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. This appointment was released from committee with a unanimous affirmative vote, and I'd like to make a motion for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have a motion and a second. Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Opposed.

MR. CATANESE: She's opposed.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Did you get that?

MR. CATANESE: Yeah.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. We've got it recorded; okay. 7629-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of John H. Thatcher to serve as a member of the Allegheny

County Conservation District, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2016. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: This reappointment was also put out of committee with an affirmative recommendation, and I make a motion to approve.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have a motion ---

MR. PALMIERE: I'll second it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: --- and a second. Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.

Committee on Budget and Finance, Second Reading. 7632-13.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, amending the 2013 capital budget for Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Robinson.

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

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and seconded. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: 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: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 11, noes, 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7631-13.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1, an Act amending Title 20 Descendants (sic), Estates and Fiduciaries, Chapter 74, Transportation, Chapter 75, Vehicles, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, and encouraging the General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign this legislation with all due speed. Sponsored by Council members Macey, the Chief Executive, Councilman Burn, Green Hawkins, Robinson, Martoni, Palmiere, Futules and Finnerty.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Noticing there's a number of Council persons absent today, I would like to hold this resolution --- ordinance.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. The ordinance will be held. Committee on Public Works, Second Reading. 7634-13.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the grant of a temporary license agreement to the Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, in conjunction with the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh, Incorporated, for the purpose of staging a community-based art project known as Knit the Bridge on the Andy Warhol Bridge. Sponsored by the Chief Executive, Council member Macey and Danko.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. When I first heard about this project, I was completely excited. I thought it would be, you know, a great project, especially learning that it was going to be the first time that this was going to be held in the United States, and Pittsburgh was the place to do it. The Public Works Committee met on June 11th, and this ordinance was sent to a full Council with affirmative recommendation. I move.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and seconded. Question? Mr. Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to say that I think this is a great project and ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: All right.

MR. FINNERTY: I think it's a great project and you presented this in committee, and it was --- it got to be a greater project by your presentation. And I'd like to added as a co-sponsor to this.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Would you add him, please?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anything else? Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you very much. I do not serve on the Public Works Committee, so I was wondering if one of my colleagues or perhaps a member of the administration can answer a few questions the community may have, that I need to know prior to my vote. When will the installation go up? How long will it be there? Has there been a determination as to driving and safety? And has there been a consideration if it rains while it's up, you know, what will happen?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Macey, you were at the committee meeting.

MR. MACEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. At the risk of misspeaking, I did attend all of the Public Works meetings with regard to Knit the Bridge. I would like to have Darla Cravotta come up and speak on this, because she has been the coordinating person from the administration. And any time I need some information, I go to Darla.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Darla, would you mind getting up in front of the mic and respond to the questions?

MS. CRAVOTTA: Sure. I'm sorry. Could you repeat those?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sure.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: When is the installation going up?

MS. CRAVOTTA: We expect the installation to be the second weekend of August, August 9th and 10th, and then it will be removed the 7th and 8th of September. So it will be up for four weeks during the period of the Tri-Annual.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Was there any safety analysis in regard to the cars going over the bridge at the time?

MS. CRAVOTTA: We have provided the public ---. Well, let me just say this. We worked very closely with Steve Shanley from the Department of Public Works, and our

Law Department, to put together an incredibly thorough plan, in terms of both installation, monitoring and to the installation of the piece. So we feel fairly confident that we've covered a lot of the bases --- all of the bases, actually. We have engineering reports that deal with the --- any kind of load. The yarn is actually acrylic, so it doesn't hold water very much. They've dealt with issues related to how it's going to be installed, how it will stay there and how it's rigged. Amanda has done such an amazing job at working with her partners. And the rigging company is on 24-hour 7-day-a-week call during the installation period, for any emergencies.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Do we have a name of a person in the county who's given us a final sign-off on safety issues?

MS. CRAVOTTA: Yes, Andy Szefi and Steve Shanley from Public Works.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Steve is ---?

MS. CRAVOTTA: He's the Assistant Director of Construction and Management for the Department of Public Works.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And do we have a cost estimate on what the county is spending on this?

MS. CRAVOTTA: We're not spending anything.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No ---?

MS. CRAVOTTA: The Knit the Bridge has successfully raised the money to --- the Knit the Bridge has successfully raised the money to install and remove and monitor the pieces, which is a total of \$72,000. And they're also raising additional funds to assist with all the other incidentals, including paying Amanda, who's been doing this for free the entire year that they approached us.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So in terms of rain, nobody anticipates any problem if it rains? It's not going to --- it won't fall or there won't be anything that would come down on the cars?

MS. CRAVOTTA: No.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And the bridge will be open for car traffic the entire ---?

MS. CRAVOTTA: The bridge will be open for car ---. We will close for installation. Like you would close for a banner installation, we'll close for installation. And the panels on the tower are attached to

construction fencing, and the ties that will be attached to the towers are being donated by the I.B.E.W. folks so ---. And we gave all this information to Public Works so they could vet it, and they felt very comfortable with it. The panels that will be attached to the side of the bridge, which is the walkway, are going to be double-faced, attached to, again, ties on the top of the railing and on the sides. So they feel pretty confident that this is going to work.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Those are all the questions I have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I wanted to say that, you know, the enthusiasm of this is just absolutely wonderful. I think it's fantastic, you know, of what you folks are doing, putting aside the fact that I try not to mess with people who have such dexterity with sharp objects. And being that the gentle lady from Oklahoma put me in my place, I will ask to be a co-sponsor of this bill.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We ought to make that lady a consultant.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: She got me good. I ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yeah. I especially like the idea from --- it was Shuman, right, involving encompassing those young people, which they really do need an outlet. I wish this would have been --- maybe, we should have done this through some of the schools in some of those areas where those kids really could have used, you know, some of that encompassing ---. And they did; that's great. That's really a plus here that we should look at; you know, the youth that's going to be involved with this. That's really great. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Anyone else?
Mr. ---?

MR. MACEY: Just one more comment. During the display of Knit the Bridge, we will be needing monitors to help monitor the facility, the bridge, and make sure that nobody takes any privilege of borrowing one of the afghans, if you will. And I think we could contact Amanda, and she'll put you on the schedule. I just think it's another opportunity to be a part of Pittsburgh and to be a volunteer, which adds some quality of our communities. Question on a motion.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Question called;
okay. That's a roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: 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: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 11, noes, 0. The bill
passes.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Liaison Reports. Mr.
Finnerty, why don't you start?

MR. FINNERTY: Actually, I don't have anything.
Oh, I do have to mention the flag retirement; I forgot.
It was a great ceremony, and we had some excellent
speeches by --- Councilwoman Harris had a great speech
there. And it was well put together, and I have to thank
our staff, Joe and Aaron and Bethany. They did a great
job of putting that together and coordinating it. And we
had a variety of speakers there. And it's always a great
event, but it seems like it was getting better and better
every year and just more coordinated every year. And I
really enjoyed it, so I thank the staff for putting it
together right away.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes. I would be remiss if I
didn't just offer this comment. Having come from a state
next to the great state of Oklahoma about 25 years ago,

and having chosen Pittsburgh as my home, and chosen to raise my family here, I just want to caution my colleagues who I know have the best intention of hiring folks who were born and raised here, but immigration is a great thing. Great cities have great histories of immigration. Immigration is not solely from outside the country; immigration is also simply intrastate. And so I just want to make sure that, when we're talking about these issues, that we remember, for us to grow and prosper, we need people to move here. And we certainly don't want to indicate that they're going to be in the back of the line.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Very thoughtful. Thank you. Anyone else before we move on?

MR. MACEY: Chuck?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes, Bob.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Just some background as to what Ms. Heidelbaugh has said. Remember, a lot of these people who come from out of state are here to teach us, too. So that's important because this is a new industry for us, and we certainly welcome those people that teach us and to provide that information when employing many of our people.

Okay. On another note, I had the pleasure of being with Councilwoman Barbara Daly Danko as well as John Palmiere. We visited the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in my district. You know, when you visit the food bank --- and I've been there over a dozen times, it's like riding the trails. You can go down there many times, but each time you go there you see something different.

And we had the pleasure of being escorted and shown all the modern conveniences of this elite building, which is an energy --- one of the first energy-efficient buildings in the Pittsburgh region. The fact that we had someone here to speak on behalf of one of the programs, I'll just let that part go, and we'll hear what he has to say. On another note, I'd be remiss if I didn't push the West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Company Number 3, which I'm secretary of. We have a cruise every Wednesday night during the summer at 3722 Rodeo Drive in West Mifflin. DJ Glenn Raymer, he spins all your favorite songs, as well as polkas. Its cuisine is very large portions and is very affordable. And we have door prizes throughout the event, in addition to a 50-50 raffle at the end. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. One last call; any other liaisons? Yes, John.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I've got a couple things I'd like to mention. First of all, I had the privilege of running in the Obediah Cole race on Sunday. And the weather certainly didn't cooperate, but everyone else certainly did. It was a wonderful experience, and my hat goes off to Mr. Livingston and those people --- and Robin Cole. They do a wonderful job of bringing prostate awareness to the men. I've watched that race grow now. I think it's, what, the 11th year? It's grown from maybe 300 people to about 4,000 participants this past Sunday. Also, the week before or two weeks before that, I had the privilege of running in the Greenfield Glide, which is one of the oldest races in the entire county. And again, those people over there do a wonderful job, and it's always a privilege and pleasure to participate.

Two other notes, if I may, Mr. President. On July the 4th, I'm inviting anyone and everyone to come up to Brentwood, one of my districts up there. We have --- I think it's the largest 4th of July parade in Allegheny County. And you're more than welcome to come up. The festivities begin around ten o'clock. And it's also preceded by a race, which I'm not going to participate in, because I'm not going to walk in that parade all sweated up. I'm not going to do that. That's just asking a little bit too much.

And also, Mr. President, on July the 7th, I wanted to remind my colleagues that we're going to be honoring Mr. McCullough and naming --- I think it's the 16th Street Bridge after him. That's coming up on July the 7th. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much. Last call. Anything else on the liaison reports? Hearing nothing further, New Business. Ordinances and Resolutions. 7646-13.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of one; one or more series of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series C-71, or by other such names as designated by the County, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$176,020,000, the C-71 bonds, and two; one or more series of General Obligation Bonds, Series C-72, or by such other

names as designated by the County, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$49,800,000 (the C-72 bonds, and collectively with the C-71 bonds, the Bonds.) Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Budget and Finance Committee. Notification of Executive Actions. 7647-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the executive actions created through Action Tracker for all departments, from 4/1/13 to 4/30/13. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Receive and file. 7648-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the executive actions created through Action Tracker for all departments from 5/1/13 to 5/31/13. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Receive and file. Public Comment on General Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have three.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have three. William Lasko? William, are you still with us? William, are you still with us? I don't know. Last call, William Lasko. Not here. I know Les Ludwig is. I'm looking at him, so Les?

MR. LUDWIG: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

MR. LUDWIG: My name is Les Ludwig, 6589 Rosemoor Street in Squirrel Hill. And I'm an independent candidate for the mayor's position of Pittsburgh. The City of Pittsburgh Council passed my thinking regarding profit versus taxation, and they called it by a long acronym, M.B.R.O., back in February of this year. Bill Peduto was the chairman of the drafting committee, and he acknowledges my authorship and the original date of my thinking as six and a half years ago, a long period of preparation. This year's projection for income to the city is \$1,000,000, and it's waiting for the program door to open.

Next year's projection is an income of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000, as the program expands. We can look forward to a time in the immediate future to raising one quarter to a third of our city budget, which is approximately \$120,000,000 to \$150,000,000, from making the change from taxation alone to profit. Therefore, there is in sight an end of the State of Pennsylvania financial supervision, where we would be expected to partially fill the pension fund. Over time, Pittsburgh's tax level will be reduced to a level that will give an

incentive to those living in the surrounding suburbs to move into town, instead of spending an hour each way going and coming from work, and it will provide the potential for a further reduction of taxation.

And to give you an example, seven other cities are utilizing this program, and they are Garden Grove, California, Huntington Beach, California, Las Vegas, Nevada --- at \$1,000,000 a year --- Chicago, Illinois, Brazil, Indiana, Philadelphia, PA and Baltimore, Maryland. To date, the total dollars raised by my thinking --- and it's hard to get a report because of privacy --- is in the millions of dollars. And therefore, I urge this council to think seriously in terms of going after the profit that the city is going to be producing and taking advantage of. I thank you for your attention and I --- and if there are any questions, I'll be hanging around to try and get some signatures for my being placed on the ballot for mayor, from those who are not --- who are allowed to sign.

So if you have any questions for me in regards to this type of program, I'll be here for you and I hope I can help.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Chris West? Chris, are you with us? Yes, you are.

MR. WEST: Hi. Chris West, 701 Mifflin Avenue, Apartment 1, Wilksburg, 15221. And thanks, everybody, for your time with you. I appreciate it. I'm with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership, which is an initiative of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. And I wanted to just give you a little background on the partnership and focus on the Summer Food Program, which is a nutrition program I wanted to let you all know about and ways that you can help promote it, as well. So the Food Security Partnership --- it started in 2010 after a six-month-long task force at the Pittsburgh Food Bank. In 2010 it was close to 400,000 people in the 12-county region that are food insecure. So for all the great work that the food bank does, there's still --- you know, something isn't working because there's still so many people that are food insecure. So they came up with the Food Security Partnership. And we form community collaborations, so we bring together all sectors of the community; public, private, libraries, education, healthcare, job training, faith-based, to sit around the same table and see what we can do to reduce hunger. And then we also work to streamline services, so if a client

is going to an agency for one purpose, maybe they also could use food assistance. So instead of going to five different places for five different things, we're trying to consolidate so a person going one place can get multiple services.

And just to throw two numbers out at you of some of these programs how under-utilized they are --- and these are just Allegheny County. In SNAP Food Stamp Program, 119,000 eligible now participating; Summer Food, 60,000 --- 62,000, actually, eligible and now participating. So that's what we are focusing on, the gap here. So Summer Food, it's been around since the '60s. It's USDA-reimbursed, so it's a federal nutrition program. And the sites are usually located where kids are that receive free and reduced meals during the school year, in places like churches, rec centers, parks, playgrounds, community centers, anywhere where kids gather. So I think there's two things that we need to do that you all can help with, too. It's getting the word out and finding more sites. With getting the word out --- and I've got a packet with more information for all of you, too. Again, people have called 2-1-1, which is the United Way helpline, to find their local site.

This could be putting something on your website. It could be having it as a waiting message on a phone that people call out of your office. Getting out to the community whatever way you can would be very helpful. And in finding more sites, this would be looking for sites that are --- I'll finish up here. It's sites that can provide a space and volunteers to run. So that could be something concerned with the fall, and that's very lenient as well. So thank you all for your time. I do have some packets here that I'll leave. I'd be happy to work with any of you on the food program.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Pass these. We'll put them in our mailboxes.

MR. WEST: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Sir, can you have a seat and wait?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Are you going to have something for me?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have a question.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Oh, sure. Sure. Okay. And I guess we're ready for a very important part of the meeting. I make a motion to adjourn.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and seconded. Question? All in favor?

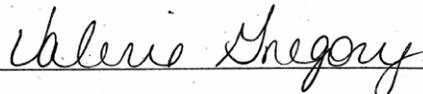
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. The meeting stands adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

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


Court Reporter