

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President, Council-At-Large
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Edward Kress	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Dr. Charles J. Martoni	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 - 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:

William McKain - County Manager
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. The meeting will come to order. Will you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and remain standing for silent prayer --- prayer or reflection; after me ---?

(Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Here.

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?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Fourteen (14) (sic) members present.

8509-14. PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Proclamations/Certificates.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation declaring Thursday, October 16, 2014, as Amachi Pittsburgh Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to invite my friends from Amachi Pittsburgh up. We've got Anna Hollis, Crystal White, Emily Morse and Kayla Bowyer. Come on up. I'm just going to say to the crowd, how many have heard of Amachi Pittsburgh?

(Show of hands.)

MR. BAKER: Okay. Thank you. Very good. Okay. So Amachi Pittsburgh is a great organization here in our community doing --- come on up, yeah. Congratulations. They have a huge event coming up to celebrate their tenth anniversary, called Amachi Hachi Pachi, you got it, so that's the name of their event next Friday.

MS. HOLLIS: Next Thursday.

MR. BAKER: Next Thursday. And Amachi has been a good partner of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We've loved working with you guys over the years. Really, the goal of Amachi Pittsburgh is to make sure that children who have an incarcerated parents have a mentor. That's a big goal of the program. They do a great job and have been around for ten years serving that mission, and I was really proud to sponsor the proclamation to congratulate Anna, Crystal, Emily and Kayla for all their good work with Amachi Pittsburgh. So we'll read it real quickly; and then if we can hear a couple words from you about your big event coming up, but congratulations.

WHEREAS, since 2003, Amachi Pittsburgh, a nationally recognized and award-winning organization, has been on a mission to make children of incarcerated parents and their families whole through one-on-one mentoring, family strengthening and reunification support and youth leadership development programs; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, October 16th, 2014, at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Amachi Pittsburgh will host Amachi Hachi Pachi --- I've never heard an event with such a cool name --- to celebrate ten years of empowering children with incarcerated parents to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the creative, fun-filled event with special guest former Pittsburgh Steeler and Hall of Famer, Mel Blount and his wife, TiAnda, of the Mel Blount Youth Home, will provide an opportunity for the Amachi Pittsburgh --- for them to recognize and celebrate their network of children and families.

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, thanks to Amachi Pittsburgh, zero children became caught in the

cycle of generational incarceration. And because of their important work, these children have blossomed into positive, contributing citizens of our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council does hereby thank Amachi Pittsburgh for its commitment and dedication to serving children and families, and we declare next Thursday, October 16th, 2014, as Amachi Pittsburgh Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by myself and presented by Council on this 7th day of October, 2014. Can you give a big round of applause to Amachi Pittsburgh?

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: This is Anna Hollis, Executive Director.

MS. HOLLIS: Thank you so much for the opportunity. It's just a momentous occasion for us because we're celebrating ten years. And what we're really celebrating is the ability of our young people to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration. Our recent evaluation from the University of Pittsburgh has shown a 92 percent success rate with the young kids, either as juveniles and adults, not becoming involved in the system. And that's what our goal is ultimately, is to make sure that they become productive citizens of society with guidance and support through mentors. And I hope some of you agree to become a mentor, so these kids can break that cycle. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: Nobody else? Okay. We'll just do a quick group photo and thanks.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8510-14.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation naming October 4th and 5th, 2014 as Young Playwrights Days in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to ask my friends from City Theatre to come on up. We've got Kristen Link and also David Little. Kristen is the Director of Education and Accessibility for City Theatre. And David was the Young Playwrights Workshop Coordinator. So hi, Kristen, hi, David, how are you? Good to see you both. So City Theatre, we'll do another quick poll. How many people have been to City Theatre in the South Side?

(Show of hands.)

MR. BAKER: Okay. They like that. Very good. How did we do on Council? Were we 100 percent?

(Show of hands.)

MR. BAKER: Okay. Very good. So City Theatre is an amazing place. I think my wife and I have been to about 60 to 70 percent of the shows since 2003; absolutely love it, great place to have an event as well. And Kristen and David have done some incredible work with some young people in our community, young playwrights who are incredibly energetic, enthusiastic and very creative of --- all the good things that I've read online about the programs and have heard about from Kristen, as well. So we're very happy about Young Playwrights Day. I believe the actual final celebration is this weekend; right, we're coming up to?

MS. LINK: This Friday.

MR. BAKER: This Friday; okay. So a lot of good stuff going on with Young Playwrights Day. And we'll get to the proclamation, then we'll hear a little bit more from Kristen and David.

WHEREAS, for 40 years, City Theatre, located on Pittsburgh's historic South Side, has provided an artistic home for the development and production of plays for Pittsburgh audiences; and

WHEREAS, the Young Playwrights Program, City Theatre's comprehensive, dynamic approach to arts education, serving teachers and students in the Pittsburgh community and beyond, fulfills state academic standards, including language arts in English and arts in humanities;

WHEREAS, four major components of the program include the Young Playwrights teacher and student, in-school workshops, the Young Playwrights contest and the Young Playwrights festival; and

WHEREAS, for the last 15 years, the Young Playwrights Program has worked with thousands of students and produced over 100 original one-act plays by middle school and high school writers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby recognize City Theatre's Young Playwrights Program, for teaching students the art and craft of playwriting. And this council declares Saturday, October 4th, and Sunday, October 5th, so this last weekend, as Young Playwrights Days and weekend in Allegheny County. Sponsored by myself and presented this

7th day of October, 2014, from all of Council. So congratulations to City Theatre.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: And Kristen and David, if we could hear just a little about all the good work you've been up to with the Young Playwrights?

MS. LINK: Well, first, let me say thank you, and we're humbled to receive this. This is actually the 15th year of our Young Playwrights Program, and we are very fortunate that it's continued to grow. And as Tom already mentioned, at this point, we've produced over 100 original one-act plays by students from around the region. And every year we are working with thousands of students in area schools to teach them playwrighting. And really, what our program is really about, is helping young people to find and to express their voice and using playwrighting to do it. And our festival is wrapping up on this Friday and it will actually end with a free reading of three of the finalists' plays from the 2014 contest by high school students. And that's at seven o'clock at City Theatre. So if you're free, we encourage you to attend. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: Okay. Congratulations.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8511-14 will be read into the record, along with all the other ones, the rest of them.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation naming Saturday, October 11, 2014, as Day of the Girl in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Baker.

8512-14. Proclamation honoring Mr. Taris Vrcek, Executive Director of the McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation, for his outstanding efforts to revitalize the Borough of McKees Rocks. Sponsored by Council member Finnerty.

8513-14. Certificate of Recognition congratulating St. Philip School of Crafton upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

8514-14. Proclamation congratulating Busy Beaver for the grand opening of its Lawrenceville store on Saturday, October 11, 2014. Sponsored by Council Member Green Hawkins.

8515-14. Proclamation declaring the week of October 13th, 2014, as Conflict Resolution Week in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Heidelbaugh.

8516-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to the Mon Yough Community Service, Incorporated, upon the occasion of its 45th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

8517-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Patricia Spencer, upon the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

8518-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Fred and Linda Cuadrado, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

8519-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. and Rita Wassel, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

8520-14. Proclamation congratulating the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon, for earning national accreditation in 2014 for its Main Street Program. Sponsored by Council Member Means.

8521-14. Proclamation congratulating the Upper St. Clair Volunteer Fire Department, upon the occasion of their 75th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Means.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. At this time, we'll have the Chief Executive's Address on the 2015 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan and Budget.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will be presenting this legislation for you to --- ask you to put this on the agenda for this evening when I'm finished. Before I start with the budget address, I want to recognize a couple of folks here who have really been doing some great work, Warren Finkel and Pete Schepis. Warren Finkel is retiring at the end of this year, or actually, early next year, after 44 years in the Budget Department. He's done 44 budgets. Pete Schepis, a little bit sooner, 26 years. But when Pete took over the budget, the DHS Budget, that's really what he specializes in, that budget was \$300 million. It's now over \$700 million. They are probably two people that are really irreplaceable.

We'll probably have to replace them with a few more than one for one, probably two. They've done the work of two people; you know, 70 years of budget services, and we can be very proud of the budget they've done, going back to the commissioners, other county executives and this county executive. And I would ask that they stand and be recognized for the great work that they've done.

(Applause.)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We were lucky to have them, and they're going to be missed. All right. So let me --- let me begin tonight, the budget, the operating budget, I'll start there. For the 13th time in the last 14 years, we're going to be not asking for a millage increase. We're going to keep the millage the same as what it was last year, at 4.73, keeping all other revenues, drink tax, car rental tax, other taxes in there, the same. The budget we're going to be presenting is an \$839 million budget, which is a 2.7 percent increase over last year; pretty much a cost-of-living increase. And most of the departments are going to be kept in line from what they were last year, and I'll talk about some of the minor changes we're going to be proposing as we move forward. But let me put that 13 times in 14 years without an inflation adjustment to the millage --- 2002, going back to the last time we had the double reassessment, if you owned a \$100,000 house in Allegheny County, you paid \$422 in county property taxes.

Sixteen (16) years later --- excuse me, 14 years later --- next year, in 2015, you will pay \$482, if you haven't moved, you're still in the same house. It's a 14 percent increase in 14 years, 1 percent a year. Let's compare that to the average person in 2002 that made \$40,000 in wages and paid a three-percent income tax to the state. The state makes a great claim that they don't, quote, unquote, raise taxes. Well, in 2015, that same individual would be paying, just with a 2.5 percent inflationary adjustment every year, \$1,650 in state income tax, 38 percent more, three times as much as the millage has gone up over those last 14 years, less than any other county around us has gone up. And I think it's something we can --- we can be very proud of. It's brought a lot of stability, it's brought a lot of investment and it's brought a lot of property value increases for the folks that --- that we represent.

In this budget for the third year in a row, we're not going to ask for any one-time revenue sources. That was one of the things that I --- I committed to try to do every year, and we've been able to do it three years in a row. The fund balance when we took over was \$5.7 million. After the first year, it went up to \$12 million. After the second year, it went up to \$26 million. And this year --- at the end of this year, we're hoping it's going to be around \$35 or \$36 million. That is still below the five percent minimum that the rating agencies recommend. We need to be at \$42 million in an \$839 million budget, but we're heading in the right direction.

We've had three bond rating upgrades over that period of time from Standard and Poor's and Moody's. And again, we still have work to do, but we are --- we're definitely heading in the right direction. The last two years I had asked this council to approve \$2 million worth of fund balance enhancements. We're not going to have that in the budget this year and you'll see that reflected in the non-departmental expenses that we're asking for. We're going to be able to use some of the environmental enhancement money that we're going to get up in the Deer Lakes area to be able to help with some of the fund balance on that. Some of the changes that you will see, we're going to be asking for \$400,000 for park rangers. It's something I talked about last time I was here, and it's something I've been talking about, to enhance programming in the parks and, probably but more importantly, to be able to re-deploy --- those 45 county police officers that are assigned strictly to the park, to be able to re-deploy them in some areas of the county that have some more needs than we do right now.

I know last year some individuals talked about increasing the DA's budget, I think, 12 percent, to try to impact some of those areas. We were able to, you know, come to an agreement to get some things done without going up that high, but this is a way in which we can provide those services in those areas. That's not to say we are taking the police totally out of the county parks. They are still going to be assigned there for certain --- for certain instances, whether they be special events, concerts, whether at South Park or up in Hartwood Acres or in, possibly, trouble spots that may --- that may occur. They will still be there, but not --- approximately a quarter of the force will be kept there and nowhere else.

We're also going to continue to max out our local sheriff to the Port Authority. We're one of only three counties of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania that puts a maximum amount of local share into the transit budget to leverage the maximum amount of money that we can get from the state, to draw down the maximum amount of money we can get from the state. We've done that the last couple of years, and my budget reflects that. We're going to continue to do that. We also are going to --- you'll see in the budget some efficiencies that we've been able to do over the last couple of years. You approved this last week --- our last meeting, which we appreciate, and that's to do some consolidation with the --- the former Recorder of Deeds Office in real estate under administrative services.

We anticipate that could save as much as \$250,000 and possibly a little bit more. You will also see if you look --- when you look through the items, areas like facilities, public works, parks, Kanes, jail, there will be some minor adjustments as we provide some flexibility on some of our building trades --- our carpenters, our painters, our electricians, our plumbers --- to be able to move them around as needed, as opposed to maybe having them just in one area. And sometimes they wouldn't be busy, and they would be sitting around, so this is a way in which we can keep them in the different areas in which they're needed. And that will be reflected in that area. I also have some more money in here tonight for restaurant inspectors, and I'm going to be talking about them a little bit.

There's legislation that the Board of Health passed. I think they passed it 6 to 1 or 7 to 1 a month or so ago. We're presenting that tonight. It's on the agenda, so there will be a little bit more money in that for enhancement there.

So that is pretty much it on the operating budget. I will say, again, these efficiencies we've been able to find over the last few years, one bit of savings I do want to highlight, we've done some refinancing of bonds. I think we've done two of them in the last couple of years. That has saved us \$52 million in debt service payments over five years. So you know, those kind of efficiencies and those kind of savings that we're able to find, have been able to keep the property tax rates lower

than they probably would have been under normal inflationary circumstances.

Let me move on to the capital budget. The capital budget is going to have a few things in it that are a little bit different this year, some of our normal road and bridge projects. But one of the items that we have in here, the environmental protection lease that we're doing up in Frazer and West Deer, we were able to get an extra \$2 million into the Deer Lakes Parks budget. We also have a Parks Improvement Fund for all nine of our county parks, and you'll see that reflected in \$133,000 per park, including \$133,000 for Deer Lakes, so that would take their appropriation to 2.133. We certainly need this in our parks, and one of the things that --- you know, to kind of go back to the operating budget just a little bit, you know, we have not maintained our buildings and our structures probably over the last 20 years.

And while the taxpayers have benefited in some way with holding the line on millage, our buildings and our grounds have suffered. We had to tear down a Fourth Avenue garage this year because we didn't fix the roof, we didn't fix the --- maintain the building, and it had to be taken down. We have four buildings in South Park that we're taking down as we speak, again, because they just weren't maintained. They were just let go. Animals moved into them. They became taken over, literally. And I think if we're going to continue along that path, it's not going to leave a legacy for us as the next generation comes along, if we let our assets deteriorate. Whether they're our roads, our bridges, our buildings or our parks, I think we want to make sure that we invest in them and fix up the ones that are possible. So that's going to be in --- in the capital budget tonight.

We also have in here a \$1 million capital request for the BRT. The bus rapid transit line between Oakland and downtown is the number one priority of this region when it comes to transit and transit improvements going forward. It will be about a \$200 million project, and a million dollars this year. We had a million in there last year. It's going to continue to leverage the dollars that we got. And one of the things I will say about the BRT, we know Oakland and downtown continue to grow. They're growing at tremendous rates. The vacancy rates are extremely low in both areas. But if we're going to continue to grow, we've got to have efficient ways to

get people in and out of both of those areas. It will also help develop the uptown neighborhood that, you know, could use a little --- little help along those areas.

But one other thing that it will do is if you come down Fifth Avenue or leave Forbes Avenue, you know just about every bus in the East End comes through that corridor, and there's, you know, 30, 40, 50 buses an hour that come through that area. If we have a BRT line in there, the BRT will basically take up all the riders that we need there, and we'll be able to deploy bus service into other areas that don't have it right now. And I know people are clamoring to get their bus service back that was lost over the cuts that occurred years ago. This is an opportunity to let that happen, so we hope that we'll get some support for the capital budget for the BRT.

One last thing that I will say, and I know that is not in the budget tonight, there is nothing in the capital budget or the operating budget for the August Wilson Center. And I know I've been falsely accused by Councilwoman Heidelbaugh of putting county money into that. There is no county money going into that center. There was no county money going in there last year. In fact, I know there were some folks that wanted to put \$500,000 into that last year. Had that been done, that money would have been gone and we'd be paying for that for the next 20 years. There was no way that that was going to save it, so there is no county money that's going to go into those private entities. We put our county capital money into roads, bridges, buildings and parks.

And with that --- oh, let me just go into the restaurant thing very quickly, and then we can talk about how we do it. Restaurant inspection. The Board of Health passed this, like I said, a month or so ago at their results --- at their board meeting. We are making no changes to the requirements when it comes to testing, when it comes to how many wash basins you have to have, when it comes to the temperature of the --- of the refrigeration, et cetera. All we are doing is taking something that is already public, this inspection report that is done, and putting a grade to it. Think about when your --- if your child comes home from school and brings their test home and hands it to you, and you say to your son or daughter, what grade did you get? I don't know.

Then you have to go, as the parent, and start checking them off, seeing what they got right, seeing what

they got wrong. This is already public. There's nothing different about what we're doing. I have three tests I'm going to show here tonight. This test now would have a grade, and this is a restaurant in the North Hills that got its first grade. It got a 68, and it got a D. That was not put --- that would not have been put ---. Under the system we have, that would not have been put on the door. They would not have had to put that on the door. They would have gotten a reinspection. In fact, they did get a reinspection.

And when this operation got a reinspection, all they did was go back and check what they got wrong the first time. If they got it right the first time, they don't get checked again. They just go back and see what they got wrong the first time. This restaurant got a reinspection, and the second time around it fixed some things. It got an 82, or a B. That would be on the door. Now what they could do --- in fact, what they did do in this case, is they paid for another inspection, a third inspection. Within a week they got that done. On that inspection, same restaurant, they got 100 percent and they got an A. They got 100 --- they fixed their corrections. All we're asking you to do is give information to the public, and that's really all we're doing. We're not changing the requirements, we're not changing the testing; we're not changing what's going down. We're just making it easier for folks to see.

I really encourage --- and I know we've done this in the past --- Councilman Finnerty, when we did the smoking ban about eight years ago, had a lot of hearings. I would just encourage you to get a lot of information. I see our friends in the restaurant association are here. We've been meeting with them, really, the last couple of years, trying to work some things out on the --- how things get done. And I think Dr. Hacker and the Board of Health and Dr. Harrison, the Chair of the Board --- I think they've really done a good job. They've put a lot of work and a lot of thought into this. And I think it's certainly worthwhile for you to go through the process, have hearings, have a lot of information. And again, it's something I support, but ultimately, you will make the decision on what policy will be borne out by that.

With that, Mr. President, I'm going to open it up for any questions people might have on the budget or anything else.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone have a question, raise your hand. Sue?

MS. MEANS: Hi, Mr. Fitzgerald. It's nice to see you this evening. How do you think our budget process will fare with our --- with the projected reassessments of property taxes? Later tonight we're going to vote on some property that --- four parcels of land that we will be selling for about \$2,000, but they were assessed at over \$25,000. So this worries me, that --- that we have such a disparity between what --- you know, how we're going to sell this property under the --- you know, under the --- what it's already assessed at.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm not sure which properties you're talking about to be honest with you, Councilwoman, but the only thing I can say --- and maybe I can ask --- I don't know if it's Dennis Davin or which department this was in. Dennis, do you want to come up and talk about that? Many times, Councilwoman, what happens is we go out for R&P and that's the highest bid we get. So our opportunity then is to not sell it at all, but if we could put it on for a higher use, we often do it. But I'm going to ask Dennis to address that.

MR. DAVIN: Sure.

MS. MEANS: But just to clarify that, the property belongs, I think, to the Municipality of Wall, but we're approving the sale of --- you know, we're approving it. It belongs to the municipality, but we're going to sell it to individuals.

MR. DAVIN: No, that's not correct. It belongs to the three taxing bodies.

MS. MEANS: Okay.

MR. DAVIN: It belongs to Wall, I think South Allegheny School District and Allegheny County. We were approached by the school district to sell these properties to this gentleman. It was assessed. The assessments are all over the place for the four properties, but we looked at it. We looked at market values for like properties around there --- which essentially these are hillsides, for the most part. And we agreed with the school district and municipality to sell them for \$500 apiece pending your approval.

MS. MEANS: But that's my point. I just feel like our last assessment --- I don't want to do another bad assessment, but my point is, here we have such a disparity over what the county has said these properties

are worth. And then we're selling them for less than --- and then how does that affect --- like we anticipate that we'll get about \$335 million from our property tax. But how will they reassess the ---? When people apply for reassessment or challenge in the appeals process, they could greatly diminish how much we're ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, there's no question. And that was one of the things we had to wrestle with a couple of years ago after the last court-ordered reassessment. And you see that other taxing bodies have not done it right.

MS. MEANS: Uh-huh (yes).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: In fact, the Act 47 coordinator in the City of Pittsburgh has indicated that the city set their millage too low a couple of years ago, and now they've got to do adjustments. The city school district, City of Pittsburgh School District, already did their re-adjustment last year. So you know, again, praising the folks that I did earlier on, Warren and his team scrubbed those numbers again and again and again. And I know they met with the folks who were on Council at the time, many, many times going through the numbers. And a lot of it is an estimate. You estimate what a reduction in challenged properties, in essence, are, particularly, some of the big buildings in downtown, when people go in and challenge their assessment.

And they were pretty right on. We've been able to, you know, not have to do an adjustment. We kept it at 4.73. But some communities are seeing big losses. I know out in West Mifflin, Century III Mall was assessed at a high number. They went in and challenged it because of some of the losses that have occurred out there, and that reassessment went way, way down. That had a big impact on the municipality and the school district in their taxing --- the amount of money that they have in taxes. And you could probably go to every municipality and give an example of a big commercial entity that was able to go in and challenge their assessment and get a reduction. And for the folks that try to set those millages, it was a --- a difficult process.

MS. MEANS: Am I allowed to ask another question, or do you want someone else to get a turn?

MR. FINNERTY: Let me ask.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, let's wait. Let's see. Let's give someone else a shot.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to --- first of all, I believe Councilwoman Means was at the meeting.

MS. MEANS: I was.

MR. FINNERTY: You were. And I think it was explained at that time that these properties, number one, never paid taxes. They were not on the tax roll. And for that reason, the gentleman that's buying them has taken care of these properties. And also, that Wall and the school district have okayed the sale. We're the last ones that are due in this. If they were assessed and somebody was paying taxes on them, I think that would have been appealed, without a doubt, because you know and I know that there's a hillside that goes straight up right behind them, and there's no way those lots can be used for anything the way they sit. Mr. Hurley (phonetic) brought in the pictures and showed us that, so they were way over-assessed. We know that and the people in Walls (sic) know it and the people in the school district also know that. That's why they okayed it, because they want them back on the tax rolls. And that's what's going to happen. But what I really would like to ask you is what exactly is the capital budget, what amount?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, we got \$70 --- I want to say \$79 million, but I want to make sure.

MR. DAVIN: \$79.9.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: \$79.9.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other questions? Wait a minute, Sue, we'll get back to you.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes, Mr. Fitzgerald. Once again, you have falsely accused me of falsely accusing you ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: You held a press conference at which you said I was putting county money in the August Wilson Center.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Let me ask you a question, since this is my time to ask you the question. Okay. So I'm looking here at my little computer at an article dated July 7th, in which you were quoted in many publications as saying that you were going to provide \$1 million from Allegheny County to the August Wilson. Now if you were

misquoted, you might have a beef with the reporters who misquoted you, but you certainly don't have a beef with me, and you sit here and accuse me of falsely accusing you in front of an entire television audience and everyone here, when it's stated right here in this article in Philanthropy News, as well as the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Tribune-Review, that you told people you were providing \$1 million in Allegheny County funds.

And I was upset that you had said that to the press and to the people that you represent, because we had a budget committee meeting in which we discussed for over an hour whether this council wanted to approve --- I'm sorry. You're laughing. I'm not sure what's funny. Let me finish my question. We all discussed whether --- it's not polite to --- to laugh at me. Maybe you disrespect women, because most of the time you --- when you disagree with the woman, you call her a name.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Just stick to the issue.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So we discussed for quite a long time whether this council wanted to vote for additional money for August Wilson, and we voted in a democratic fashion against it. So that's why I went to the --- to the Judge. I took time out from my day to go to Judge O'Toole's and to make sure that you were not making a pledge, which had not been voted properly by this council, of \$1 million for August Wilson. So please do not stand behind that podium and state that I am falsely accusing you of anything.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, first of all, it's a habit of you falsely accusing me of a lot of things, but let me just say this.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Actually, it is not.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yeah, it is. But anyway, let me just say this. I never, ever said I would be putting county capital or operating money into the August Wilson Center.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Well, if you look at ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: If you consider me supporting --- if you consider me supporting ---. Well, first of all, Councilwoman, you could give me a call and make sure and ask me if that's the case.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Well, you didn't give me a call ---

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather, ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- when you called the Post-Gazette and said that you were going to pledge \$1 million.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather. Heather, let him answer.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I didn't know I was supposed to call you to tell you that, but in any event, ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I didn't know --- I didn't know I had to call you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I didn't falsely accuse you of anything, as you did when you went to the Judge. First of all, all I said is, I would support County RAD money towards the August Wilson Center.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: That's not what you said.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: That's exactly what I said.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Believe me, it's not in any of the papers.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I have never said --- in fact, last year when this county --- this council was talking about using August Wilson money, I said I would not support that, that we do not use capital money for private --- for private enterprises. We use them for roads, bridges, buildings and parks. But I would support it through RAD, and I've said that. I had never changed my position on that, Councilwoman, regardless of what you think you may have heard.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: It's what's reported in the paper.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Okay. Well, I guess you can believe everything you read, but I never said it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Let's move on.
Amanda?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a clarification of something, again, related to the August Wilson Center. It's not necessarily related to the budget presentation, but the comment was made about money being used for the --- money that we wanted to use for the August Wilson Center. And the only bill that I'm familiar with is something that was co-sponsored by myself, Councilwoman Danko and Councilman Robinson. And if I heard you correctly at the time, what was also made was

--- it was also made that that would be money that would be gone?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: And as I recall, the bill that we proposed concerned money being given to the August Wilson Center based upon a contingency. And if the contingency did not occur, then they would not get the money. And as far as I can tell from what's been happening, the contingency did not occur, so they would not have gotten the money and the money would come back to the county. That's the bill as I recall, and I just wanted to make that point for clarification for the public record and for our record.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And Councilwoman, to your point, the bill never passed. It never came out of Council. It never came to my desk for approval, or what have you. And look, the August Wilson, as you --- if you've followed this, it's been a long journey at this point, and there's a long journey to go. There's hopefully, you know, a resolution going to happen with the URA, with the foundation community, with RAD and other entities, that are going to be supporting it. And the operation of the August Wilson Center, with a good board and executive director and governance, needs to be done. But if that's the case, then --- then that's fine. But if we had just given them \$500,000 last year, then that money would have been gobbled up and gone before any of the bankruptcy proceedings had gone forward.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: We try to be more fiscally responsible than that, so that was not the case. But I just wanted to make that point for my edification. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone else? I know I got to come back to you (indicating). Anyone else have a question? Let's go to Sue, then we'll come back to you. Sue?

MS. MEANS: Just for a point of clarification, okay, I think maybe I can explain myself well enough last time. But it was more like a general question, as I'm afraid that if people apply for reassessment and challenge their reassessment, then our income will be less than we're expecting. So it wasn't specifically --- I used that property in Wall as an example of --- you know, over-assessed property, that there's disparity.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And Councilwoman, let me just say this, that there are entities, both from the property owner and the school districts and municipalities, that challenge assessments all the time. They appeal them, and they have a right to appeal them every year. And as things change within a property --- damage to a roof, a foundation, things like that, people will appeal and get their assessment lowered. So that does occur and you're right, it will affect the revenues.

And one of the things we have to try to do is project into the future what we anticipate will happen as those changes occur.

MS. MEANS: The other comment I had, it's kind of a question and a comment --- was it's a big change to go from county police in our park system to the rangers and --- the park rangers. And I'm hoping that we'll have some public hearings and --- because I'm hearing from --- the Bethel Park municipality is worried because if the park ranger --- if the police are no longer in South Park, than they're going to have to be the first responder. So I'm sure South Park will be concerned about that as well. And I am hearing from the citizens from South Park and Bethel Park, concern about the change from having the county police there, and that the county police are there, so therefore, people aren't doing drug activity there. People feel safe there because the police are there. They have a presence there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, we've been meeting with the police, the county police and, you know, meeting with some of the other folks in the community. I think having a quarter of our law enforcement force strictly doing parks and nothing else, is not the best use of our assets. And when you look at the amount of calls that they answer in a shift --- it's like one, one and a half, 1.8. And there are communities out there that don't have the police protection that they need. And again, I just think it's a better use of our resources. And we will certainly make sure that, you know, our parks are --- is protected. And they're not going to be totally taken out of there, but to have a quarter of the force --- or almost a quarter of the force kept in there, I just don't think is the best use of our resources.

MS. MEANS: The last comment or question I had for you actually was this Pittsburgh Tea, and I wanted to say, what a great marketing idea. It seems like a great

way to market our county, but it looks like what has taken place might be in violation of our naming rights ordinance. So I was wondering if we're going to see an ordinance come forth later at some time to --- so that we can have permission to go forth with this project.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, I think we are going forth with the project, so I think our law department has vetted that and feel pretty confident about that.

MS. MEANS: Are we going to see an ordinance that you have --- we have the ability to do the naming rights ---

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No.

MS. MEANS: --- because according to our Administrative Code, it looks like there had to be an RFP process, and that there's a summary and an ordinance that come along with this deal.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm sure it was done in a proper manner.

MS. MEANS: All right. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather --- oh, wait. Well, let me get her and then I'll come back.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No, no. That's okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. DANKO: I'm noting that the money from the Deer Lakes Park lease I think was \$4 million we were talking about. And you stated that your budget is proposing \$2 million for Deer Lakes Park and \$133,000 for all of --- each of the other parks? How did you come up with the \$2 million? \$2 million is a lot of money for one park. What are you going to --- what's the plan for that \$2 million?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, we've already started to do some work up in there, and the folks from Wagman Observatory, for example, have a bathroom for the first time, and they were so ---. I wish I could have had all of you there. I was at an event there maybe a little over a month ago, and to see that they have a walkway from the observatory to the bathroom, that they have a bathroom --- families up there throwing Frisbees, kicking a ball around, a soccer ball, was really something, a great experience. You know, what I've always said in the policy that I put forth is that the park or the community that had the activity in there, you know, whether it be truck traffic or noise or, you know, all those type of things

that go there, that they deserve the lion's share of the money.

And I think that they deserve to have that amount, and \$2 million was something that I said when I proposed it way back when. This is nothing new. I said this when I introduced the ordinance. You know, the great byproduct of protecting the environment for people up in that community was this money. You know, not only did we improve the environmental aspects of what's happening out there anyway, but we were able to get some money for our parks. And it's actually going to be \$2.133 that they're going to be getting at Deer Lakes. We want to fix up the lakes up there. Those lakes are in woeful condition. We're actually going to be putting a new treatment system in for the spray park with, again, another bathroom that could be used there. The shelters up there are in really deplorable condition, and we want to be able to give the folks up there something that they wanted, something that they supported, they asked for. And I think they're entitled to it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: If I heard you correctly --- I tried to write it down. So if I didn't write it down correctly, you'll correct me. But I believe that you said that BRT is the number one priority of this region; is that correct?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Transit, the long term transit priority; yes.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So it's the number one, long term transit priority of this region; is that what you said?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And last night I met with about ten people in Baldwin, and I'm sure you've been to Baldwin many times. It sits up on the top of the hill. It's northernmost --- southernmost --- northernmost point almost hits the city. It's a very large community. I'll be providing you and your office with some statistics about the people that live there. There are a number of elderly. Of course, our community and every community has a number of disabled people, people who don't drive. And as you are well aware, because you've been told, there is not one single bus that operates in Baldwin.

We have a county of 1.2 million people, and there is one area of our county where we don't have a

single bus. You recited that 30 to 40 buses an hour go through one single area, and that you want to make sure that they can go faster. Don't you think that the people in Baldwin deserve --- that's what you said. You said if we built a rapid transit that 30 to 40 buses could go through the area faster and that you could then deploy those buses to other areas. Well, you can check the transcript. We have a court reporter here. Don't you think that we ought to concentrate on providing a single bus to the people of Baldwin, instead of making buses go faster from Oakland to downtown, where you're trying to shave off, basically, five minutes, because a trip from Oakland to downtown takes 11 minutes and you want to shave it down to six minutes?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, let me --- there's a lot there, so let me go through it. First of all, I don't think there's probably anybody who has fought more for transit in this region than myself. I spent a lot of time up in Harrisburg last year when we were looking at a 35-percent reduction in transit service. I don't know if you were there. Maybe I missed you, lobbying the State and General Assembly, lobbying the Governor and trying to get this done. Two years ago --- three years ago when we worked out a deal that saved a \$65 million shortfall, that was another 35 percent we were able to maintain. So there are a lot of communities in this county that want service, and I want to provide that service. And before you got here, we had 15 percent cuts, 10 percent cuts, another 15 percent cut, that took us from --- and I forget the exact number --- but I want to say it was maybe 205 routes at one point, to now we're down to 102 routes that the Port Authority rides.

We max out ---. You may --- I said that. We max out our local share, one of only three counties in the state that does that. The BRT numbers, first of all, it's not --- that \$1 million could not be put into Baldwin or any other service to provide that. It's capital money. It's almost like the \$12 million we put into the subway extension across the way, that leveraged \$500 million in a project to extend our subway over to the North Shore. What the BRT is designed to do is, number one, be reliable, and yes, be faster. And it also provides development in a corridor.

And we've seen that happen in city after city, Cleveland being the most notable. So again, if we're able

to run a BRT --- and there will still probably be a couple of other buses that run through that corridor. It won't be like it is right now. But there will be some. But we will be able to free up service and free up buses to be able to go out into other communities. And I hear it not just from Baldwin. I hear it from the North Hills. I hear it from Penn Hills. I hear it from a lot of communities that do want service, and I understand their need and their desire. And we want to try and get ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: But Mr. Fitzgerald, didn't the people of Baldwin just reach out to you and beg for your help, because one of your employees, the head of the Port Authority --- you selected him; you nominated him? This council appointed him. He has --- you have --- he has a direct report to you. He's the chairman of the Port Authority. Didn't you say to the people of Baldwin, if you want service --- if you want bus service, you can go elect another county executive? Didn't you just say that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No, no. That's not what I said. What I have said is there is no money in Act 89 for new service. What there is, money in Act 89, is to maintain the service that is there. So we would love to provide service to everybody. We would love to provide a lot of services that we want to provide. You got to get revenues to do that. Again, we max out the amount of money, one of only three counties that do it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda, you're next.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to make a point about Act 89 that the County Executive just made.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone else? Real quick, Rich, let me ask you; you talked about the restaurant --- the system we're talking about, A, B, C, et cetera. You're saying, if they come in and find a violation, okay, you could --- if you correct that, when they come back, all they would check is that one violation area? They can't go around and check all the other areas that were ---?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: That's the way the reinspection inspection system is set up right now, yeah. And I think, Mr. President, I think as the chairman has hearings and gets that information --- I think those are good questions as to how the whole process works. I think it will be a good educational process for all of us to learn, you know, how they're graded, what is a violation,

how much --- how many points do you lose on a certain violation? So I think it will be a good exercise. I really do.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay; any other questions? Thank you very much.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. I appreciate it.

SHORT BREAK TAKEN

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you please be seated? We're going to start. Mike, did you raise your hand?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes, I did. I'd like to make a motion to put the millage bill on the agenda.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed?

MR. CATANESE: Should I read it first?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. CATANESE: It's an ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. We officially got it on then.

MR. CATANESE: Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike, go ahead, yeah.

MR. FINNERTY: Send it, send it to Budget and Finance?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. Do you want to make a motion to send it to Budget and Finance?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead. Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd also like to make a second motion to put the operating budget on the agenda.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MR. CATANESE: I ought to read it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an operating budget pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses of

conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2015 and ending December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. And we'll send it.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd also like to make a motion to put the capital budget on the agenda.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, go ahead and read it.

MR. CATANESE: Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a capital budget pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2015 and ending December 31st, 2015.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. We'll send it to budget and finance. Is that it, Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: No, I have one more. I'd like to make a motion to put the Grants and Special Accounts budget on the agenda.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? We'll have to read it in a second. No remarks, go ahead.

MR. CATANESE: Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the grants budget, the special accounts budget and agency funds budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2015 and ending December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. One motion, properly seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Budget and Finance Committee. Anything else?

MR. FINNERTY: That's all I have.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Now we have regular meeting agenda, the public comments. Number one would be John Graf.

MR. GRAF: President DeFazio and members of Council, my name is John Graf. I reside at 6933 Church Avenue, Borough of Ben Avon. I'm an owner of the Priory Hotel, Grand Hall at the Priory, Priory Fine Pastries over on the North Side. I'm also the immediate past president of the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association (Western Chapter). I'm here today to address the food safety grading proposal presented by the County Executive today, and I'll keep my comments brief. I know this is just being introduced to you, and there will be plenty of time to talk about this. But I just kind of wanted to set the stage for this.

First thought, you know, in our industry, food safety is paramount. We have to keep our kitchens clean and abide by procedures, not because somebody is investigating us but because we need to keep our customers safe, and we need to keep our employees safe. And it's not just me. That's virtually every operator in this county. So this needs to be underlined and underscored, that we're not coming here because we want to somehow or another protect our investments. It's a very easy argument to come in and say, okay, well, they're going to throw a letter grade up, and you know, why are you afraid of it? What are you scared of?

And it's a very delicate argument and a nuanced argument to make back to it. The thing is with this restaurant grading, it's a solution in search of a problem. It is signifying really nothing. There have been some problems identified with the Food Safety Division. And there was an article in the Post-Gazette in December of last year that indicated that nearly --- well, actually, over a quarter of the inspected facilities that they had looked at, had been inspected --- had not been inspected in the last 13 months. They're supposed to be inspected annually. And in some locations, for instance, Oakland, it was over 30 percent of the facilities that had not been inspected on an annual basis.

The article cited a study from the Center for Consumer Protection and Science that indicated that we have here in Allegheny County --- out of the 20 municipal areas that they studied, we came in number 19 in terms of the number of inspectors versus facilities. So the

problem here isn't one of needing to grade restaurants. The problem is one of management, and it's one of resources. You know, personally, I think --- and I think my colleagues will echo me, that the Food Safety Division does a pretty good job. What we need to do is make that job better and easier for those people. We need to direct resources into doing things that are going to help the public and not just go and throw a grade up on top of a restaurant based on an hour-long inspection that's going to be there for a year, because guess what?

In New York City where they do restaurant grading, the place that invented the cronut had an A prominently on its window, and it was shut down in the middle of the year because it had mouse droppings all over the place. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Kevin Joyce? Make note that Nick Futules is here.

MR. JOYCE: Good evening. My name is Kevin Joyce. I'm the owner of the Carlton Restaurant and a past president of the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association, both the local chapter as well as the state. And I'm here tonight just to, first of all, ask you to have an open mind as this process unfolds. We're not going to win any battles tonight, but we want to make sure all of you know that we are universally opposed to this proposal. Both from a state perspective and from a local perspective, the industry is entirely opposed. We're going to be talking to each and every member of Council during the coming months, and we've talked to some of you already to explain in better detail why we're opposed. But we really don't think it's a good idea. We do believe it is illegal. You know, Rich kind of glossed over the fact that the inspection is not changing. This is a 17-page matrix. This is a pretty extensive inspection process to have revised. And it's changing because, you know, if you get an 89 --- and a lot of good operators can get 89s --- the B is going to go on your door. And your only difference between you and the other guy is one point, and the A goes on their door.

And when the B goes on a door, for however short a period of time it could be, whether it's a week or two weeks, that operation is going to suffer, and the employees are going to suffer. And many times for things that are really out of control of the owner and the operator. But we believe it's illegal in the sense that

the other 66 counties in Pennsylvania have a pass-fail system. And you're all governed by the state code, and the state code says that no one inspects locally can exceed the standards of the state.

Well, we would contend --- I think anyone, any parent would know, as Rich brought up --- there's a big difference in a pass-fail and a letter grade, so we are --- you know, we're here to protect our industry because good operators that are doing their job can be made to look bad in one snapshot. And understand that a health inspection is a one-hour snapshot or a 45-minute snapshot that takes place in the context of an entire year. And that's all it is, one snapshot. So we want to engage this if we hold hearings, if we have opportunities to talk to you, we think it's a bad idea. We will tell you that we've always been under-funded in this area. We have not enough inspectors, far less than the federal requirements. This new program will dramatically increase the workload. It will be dramatically increase the number of reinspections required. We've had a high --- had a problem with high turnover in this department as well. We only have 17 inspectors inspecting over 9,000 establishments. Many start out at \$29,000 a year. They might only hold the job for a year, a year and a half, two years and they move on to something else; constant turnover in this department. But you're putting people's livelihood --- our entire lives are wrapped up in our business. And a B grade put on a place that might be a very good operator, but somebody left a block of cheese out, that's five points. Maybe the sanitizer in the dishwasher is off a little bit for a short period of time. That's five points.

Somebody forgets to fill one hand sink with a paper towel dispenser --- maybe you have five hand sinks, that's one point. You're at an 89. Thanks very much, and we look forward to talking to you in the coming weeks.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Jeff Cohen?

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

MR. COHEN: Hello. I'm Jeff Cohen, and I am the current vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association for the State of Pennsylvania. I own Smallman Street Deli which has two locations, one in Squirrel Hill and one in the Strip, and also Weiss Provisions, a federally inspected meat company. I had a

little talk though out, but when Rich said, you know, this place wasn't inspected --- we have 7,500 places in Allegheny County, so you're going to have a few that aren't going to be great. Just I don't care what you do. There's always going to be a few people that aren't going to be as good. If they had a 68, then they'd have a yellow consumer label on their door or a red label saying they're closed.

People would know, because that label would go on. You can't have a 68 score and still be in business. So I know that and I'm not saying Rich wasn't informed correctly. This thing really came along for six years and it's basically been going on because the Post-Gazette has really had the efficacy to think we have grades in Allegheny County. And as Kevin said, they come in once a year for an hour, hour and a half. They're open for 4,000 to 5,000 hours. So imagine in that one day, that one snapshot at the time --- and I can say, I have three businesses --- there's not one business any day that's perfect. I can tell you that now. There's not one any day. If I have one day that's perfect, it will be the day we don't do any business and we're actually closed. It's impossible.

So you know, you have a paper that's continually pushing very hard to have this. And what's even more, it's not the Health Department that's pushing this. If you talk internally to some of their key people that are inspectors, they don't want this. It puts too much pressure on them. I mean, they're going to --- they could really hurt someone's entire livelihood on this thing when the grade --- especially with social media today. You get one B --- let's say, for example, Eat 'n Park gets a B on their store one day. They have 100 stores. People think, oh, Eat 'n Park is a B. And at the end of the day, as we said, our most important thing in business is food safety. And they think from the Board of Health that we're going to change our thought process when they grade.

All of a sudden I'm going to change my entire thought process on how I run my business because there's an A, B or C. Well, they're 100 percent wrong. Every day we do the best we can to make sure our place is safe, and this is how it is. And it's concerning to me that, like we said, there is no problem. The Health Department does a good job based on the resources they have. The federal guidelines, 250 for each location --- we're at 450 for

each location. So no one has ever talked about food safety. They're always talking about A, B or C. So I hope in the meantime that we use common sense here and do not allow more government to be involved in your business. And thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. David Calabria?

MR. CALABRIA: Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening, Council members, and thank you for allowing me the time to express my views concerning the proposed restaurant grading system. My name is David Calabria and I'm the owner of Calabria's Restaurant in Castle Shannon. Our restaurant is operated by my two sons, my wife, me and other family members. We started in 1992. In preparing for this, I looked through some old files and found a copy of Article III, Food Protection from ACHD, Food Protection Division, that was being followed at that time. It's this book right here (indicating). It is almost identical to the current one used today and the same to be used for the proposed rating system. That's this one right here (indicating). You would think that in this time of age, you would not have to worry if a restaurant is safe in our county, state or country. I retired as the assistant district traffic engineer from PennDOT here at the Pittsburgh District Office. We had adopted guidelines from the Federal Highway Administration that were not only used in our district, but our state and all other states in the U.S. MUTCD stands for Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

And what it does is allows motorists to drive all over the country and be familiar with the same green and white directional guide signs, the same red stop signs and the same yellow and black warning signs. This can be done in the food industry, also. There's a manual adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; food code, U.S. Public Health Service, F.D.A. We need to work together and provide training for our inspectors to properly inspect facilities and educate employees and employers. This can be done by adopting a national certification program. Work with the restaurant owners to promote pride and golden standards, rather than just looking for violations to fine and penalize.

Encourage and provide incentives that would help struggling restaurants strive to achieve higher standards. Most restaurants do try, and if there is a problem, then additional visits by our inspectors are warranted until

they adhere to the standards. Don't let this type of grading system become something that can ruin businesses. In the old lettering system, B was some type of structural deficiency, not food safety. Receiving a B in this new grading system could be for minor violations not even related to food safety. Today a B grading will hurt you and will not recover in this much competitive business. Please consider voting no for this issue. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Vincent Sanzotti?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Vince wasn't able to be here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. I'll go on to the next one. Pete Landis?

MR. LANDIS: Hi, I also have a little handout. My name is Peter Landis. I am a resident of Brookline at 722 Bayridge Avenue, and I also own a business at 25 Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh called Perle, the Champagne Lounge. My concern with this is that any attitude to drastically change an already established and implemented system for the purpose of public safety should be approached with really thoughtful reflection. It's very important to have a system in place to make sure our county's restaurants are clean, and in fact, we've had a system that has been in place for years, albeit with some aspects under-utilized.

It's, of course, important to have a system in place, and the current regulations, of which everybody is right now receiving just an excerpt of the last section on the placarding and everything, they have taken into account risk factors and a method for minimizing such risks that could cause public health consequences. But it's also outlining procedure, such as the certification, the placarding and the revocation of the certifications for restaurants in the county. Now, no matter how elaborate or carefully designed the new proposed grading matrix may be, the result will not be constructive if the reason for wanting to post how restaurants are doing is of itself objectionable.

Now, as it has already been mentioned by my colleagues before me, there are already systems in place, and there are much better ways to go about doing it, utilizing the state's guidelines, which are basically already, essentially, in Allegheny County. Now there's nothing wrong with helping restaurants to work towards

meeting high standards, which is most likely to happen when restaurants experience success and failure, not as reward and punishment from a government --- governmental agency, but as information and as results from the general public. If the Health Department owes --- both diners and restaurants towards a clearer, more transparent system --- they do, actually, owe us a more transparent system --- that actually provides useful information to the people it impacts the most.

And I know that's their goal, but according to Mr. Bob Glidden of the ACHD, a C grade refers to an accumulation of points or violations wherein the Department of Health deems that the restaurant is sanitary to serve consumable food to the public. That's a C grade. The Health Department is deeming that it's sanitary. The undisputed fact that a C is still sanitarily sufficient to serve the public makes the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's requirements equivalent then to a low letter grade. Therefore, it's placing an indirect financial burden on the restaurants because we are trying to exceed, as we always should, our standards. But it's surpassing the state law. Now there already are incentivizing aspects which I think the county should look at again, that are already part of the county code; so thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Jennifer Marshall?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Not here? Patti Girasole --- Girasole (changes pronunciation)?

MS. GIRASOLE: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen for being here for us. I thought it was important for me to be here, not only to speak for the larger restaurants in the room, but also for small family-owned restaurants such as ours. My intent is to be short, to speak from my heart and try to be intelligent and meaningful. We've been in business for 15 years. We have a wonderful customer base, and I love going to work because my husband and I are there with my two sons, my two daughter-in-laws and my grandchildren, who come and go. And the youngest one is seven months, and he's been there, too.

We treat our customers as they are our guests in our own home. We want them to be safe. We want them to have a good time. We want them to enjoy everything. And we would want them to be, like, safe and care for them in our own home. We work hard to keep our establishment

clean and safe. I also want to say that we do respect the Health Department because we have learned many things from them, and they are there to help us. And I think he said --- Rich said that they are receiving more money for inspectors. That's a great, great thing. That being said, I see a problem with the grading system as it is proposed.

As careful as we are, there's always that, quote, unquote, snapshot in time when, for instance, we have a new dishwasher. They come and go. And we have a new salad person. As Kevin said, if they leave a block of cheese on the counter and that's an infraction. So if we get several small infractions and go below an A, that could be devastating to our family, to the community and to our loyal customers. Therefore, I ask that you please vote no on this proposal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Okay. I want to give the restaurant owners an A for being on --- going by the clock. I didn't have to fight with anyone tonight, so they did a heck of a good job. They understand three minutes. Okay. We're going down to 8523-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council, held on August 26, 2014.

MR. FINNERTY: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No? The ayes have it. Okay. Unfinished Business. Community on Budget ---.

MR. CATANESE: Did somebody say no?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No.

MR. CATANESE: Did you say no?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I said yes; aye, yes. Unfinished Business. Committee on Budget and Finance, Second Reading. 8501-14.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 (Submission 13-14). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was released from committee with an affirmative recommendation. I make a motion that we approve it.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Second.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none,
we'll have the roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: 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. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 14, noes, 0. The bill
passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8472-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the conveyance of the County of Allegheny's interest in four parcels known as Block 643-B, as in boy, Lot Number 207, Block 643-B, as in boy, Lot 209, Block 643-B, as in boy, Lot 215 and Block 643-B as in boy, Lot 217, the properties located in the Borough of Wall, East Allegheny School District, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania, to George Mrjenovich. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike? Oh, I'm sorry. Amanda?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Move for approval.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MS. MEANS: I'd like to make one comment. I'm going to vote no for this, because I just can't make --- reconcile the disparity between the assessed value and what we're selling the property for. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. We'll have the roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: 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. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 12, noes, 2. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8499-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance amending --- an ordinance amending Ordinance Number 41-09-OR, enacted November 17, 2009, as amended, approving the sale of certain real property owned by the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, known as 3333 Forbes Avenue, and identified as Block and Lot 28-J, as in John, 97, to an ownership/development group, for the sale price of \$4,900,000, for the purpose of restating the scope of the proposed development on the property. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Bob?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. The Public Works Committee met on September 25th, and this was sent to the full council with an affirmative recommendation. Therefore, I move for approval.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll have the roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: 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. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?
(No response.)
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Nay.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes, 1. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports? Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: I do.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: I skipped last week --- or last meeting. I'd just like to mention that Representative Nick Kotik is having a senior fair at Kennedy Fire Hall, and that's this Friday, and it will be from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. I'd also like to mention for those people that --- that don't know about the regional asset district, it's called RAD. Every year RAD has something they call RADical Days, and they've been going on all September, and they're still going on. And what they do --- this is their 20th year --- they give free admission to different venues that RAD --- the RAD tax, actually --- gives money to, so --- and this is every day. But I'm just going to give you an idea of what's going on this Saturday and not all --- there's a lot more than this. October the 11th, the Fort Pitt museum is free admission from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. Frick Art and Historical Center is free admission from 10:00 to 5:00. The Carnegie Museum has free admission from 10:00 to 5:00, and there's a variety of other things. I'm not going to mention them all. Sunday, October the 12th, Andy Warhol Museum is free admission from 10:00 to 5:00. John Heinz History Center is free admission from 10:00 to 5:00. And the Mattress Factory, which is on the North Side --- I don't know if you've ever been there, but it's really an interesting place --- is free admission from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. That's just to mention a few things.

The zoo, by the way, will be free admission, I think it's the first weekend in November, the Pittsburgh Zoo. So if you would like to go to the website, you can get a rundown of everything they're talking about when they talk about RADical Days. And the website is radworkshere.org, R-A-D-W-O-R-K-S-H-E-R-E.org. So if you go to that website, that is their website, and they will

have the whole list of different venues you can go to free. There's a lot in the cultural district, also, but I'm not going to mention them all. You can look it up, and you'll see what it is. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. We'll go with Sue, then John.

MS. MEANS: I just wanted to share that Senator Matt Smith is going to host a senior fair on October 22nd, from 10:00 to 2:00, at the Beth El Congregation Center. And on October 25th will be Mt. Lebanon hosting the Pumpkin Patch Parade from 11:00 to noon. And then afterwards, Senator Smith is going to have a safety fair for children at the Public Safety Building. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. John?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to mention --- again, I wanted --- my hat's off to people who conduct the Great Race. I had the privilege again of running in that race a week ago this past Sunday. And it just gets bigger and better every year, and my hat's off to the people who run it. I just wanted to make sure that they know that people like myself and about 15,000 other runners really appreciate what they do. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. No --- okay. Let's go to New Business, 8524-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, for proposing (sic) of establishing a Food Safety Fund, pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, 16 P.S. Section 12001, et seq. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go in the Health and Human Services Committee. 8525-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, for purpose of establishing a Food Grading System, pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, 16 P.S. Section 12001, et seq. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go in the Health and Human Services Committee. 8526-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, for the purpose of bringing the county regulations into conformity with the state and federal food codes, pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, 16 P.S. Section 12001, et seq. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go in the Health and Human Services Committee. 8527-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, setting forth a new Chapter 435 of the County Code of Ordinances, in order to improve operations of the county's MBE Program. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I'm going to put that in the Economic Development Committee. 8528-14.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 (Submission 14-14). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go into the Budget and Finance Committee. 8529-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion authorizing the establishment of a special committee to review the consent decree that forms the basis of the Transition Agreement between the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and Highmark, Incorporated (Highmark), together with the implementation of such agreement. Sponsored by Council members Kress, DeFazio and Means.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. KRESS: I'd just like to say something. I mean, this agreement between UPMC and Highmark, this is something that's been a great concern to the people of Allegheny County. It's a question about clarification, information, trying to find out what's going on. And there's been so much confusion out there. So the reason why I proposed this motion was to have hearings and try to get some information regarding this Transition Agreement, because healthcare affects all of us. And it's very vital to most people in this county, and the question is what's going to happen.

This whole weekend that's what people were talking to me about. What's going on with my doctors, because a lot of people are starting to get letters now

saying, I can't go to my doctor. There was actually something in the Post-Gazette, I think, on Sunday, last Sunday, about, hey, you can use this doctor. And some doctors are saying, no, I can --- I'll accept Highmark insurance. But what I'm trying to do is get to the point. What's going on? However, based on the advice of the president, John DeFazio --- and it's my intention, with deliberate speed to get this committee formed --- I'm going to withdraw my motion and the president is going to explain the reason for my withdrawal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. The reason why I talked Ed into --- I shouldn't accept the motion is because I have the authority to erect a --- to form a committee, so we don't have to get authorization from this group. So he withdrew the motion, and I'll set up the committee. I'll make Ed the chairman and I'll be on it. And we'll get a few more people and we'll go ahead with this, just to get the information that'll help everybody.

Okay? Next is Public Comment on General Items. Dr. --- is Dr. --- how many do we have, just one?

MR. CATANESE: No, we have five.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, okay, I got it. Lester Ludwig?

MR. LUDWIG: Mr. President, my name is Les Ludwig. I live at 6589 Rosemoor Street in Squirrel Hill. At the last meeting, Jim Ellenbogen spent more than a couple of minutes addressing the issue of not being able to get home in a decent period of time. And that, in itself, started or triggered, Jim, a line of thought about --- is there a way to do something about it? And I'm saying --- I'm raising the issue because it affects each and every one of us sitting in line, literally breathing in tons of pollution that comes from the cars that are standing in line. It's a health issue and a time issue.

So I'm glad that you brought it up. Now, what is it that I'm looking at to make a change? We need a committee, probably including the city and the county, to take a look at what is a business day. I grew up in 9:00 to 5:00. Some of you, I'm sure, are 8:00 to another time. Can we, literally, by analyzing how many employees that are hitting the street and running and getting stuck in the traffic because they can't get through a tunnel, et cetera ---? Is there a way to spread the starting time of business days in order to reduce the subject that Jim raised? And it was a good question.

So in my capacity as a --- as a past candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, I'm just looking at the big picture, and no one's looking at it. No one's looking at the problem, and I'm so glad that Jim brought it to the floor. And if we can't do anything, fine. But every --- each and every one of us has stood in the line in the path and said, oh, the heck with it. I'm going to go up the shoulder of the road. Each and every one of us has done that and gotten off the highway because of the problem of traffic congestion. So now what's really needed here is for --- each and every one of us who has seen a failure of the system the way it exists today, has to start talking about it, like Jim did, so that we can do something about it, because there are things that can be done, and I thank you for your consideration. Mr. President, I hope you'll appoint a proper committee.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Sam Arnone? Sam Arnone (changes pronunciation)? Tom Barchfeld? Tom? No Tom. Joseph Zawoysky?

MR. ZAWOYSKY: Here. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue. I apologize if these go back ---. I have three issues --- four issues: Selective Service --- I got a spreadsheet on all four items; Home Rule, Combining Local Police and Road maintenance and collating (sic) state and offices (sic). I worked as a civilian for 99th ARCOM/RSC for 36 and a half years, 31 years as a reservist, PA National Guard. The information I'm requesting is relevant to my federal lawsuit claim I'm in the process of appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, and for the packet I'm sending to the Congress Oversight Committee on Municipalities to reference issues with Ross Township.

That said, the reason I'm sending it to you, my records, was to inform you to not be blindsided by several items as several times I was blindsided. I'm enclosing a spreadsheet of your topics. This is the first time at a Allegheny meeting, proper format. However, I have several road (phonetic) meetings with USAR. Selective service, you look at that spreadsheet. Selective Service; yes or no, no comment, male or female. If you're female, we required it. All government employees, if they have this. The reason I say this is I had some restaurants and young kids saying I don't sign for that. And the thing, on the back sheet, home rule. Home rule on the township, you're aware that several townships, they were paid \$5,000. The way I read it, it wasn't authorized. 2005, 2002, I

brought it up. 2012, I took them to the magistrate, they billed it for the time. Some of this stuff is going to get a little ugly in my packet. I got over 100 pages of stuff. I'm sending it for the Congressional Committee. You're going to get it, and this isn't only going to you, but it's going to all state representatives, the governor, the president, and I will send it certified mail to them. And as far as merging the services, and put on it (phonetic) February the 11, 2013, come out from governor or senator, what a merge compute is (phonetic). That was interesting. Two months ago, before that, I sent a letter to do this. And reason I say this, I was involved in Brack Eberly (phonetic), we get beyond the reserves and the government. The problem with the company --- the country is in trillions of dollars in debt. It could help it. Thank you. Any questions for me?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Okay. Does someone want to make a motion?

MR. FINNERTY: There's someone else.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, I'm sorry. It's on the other page. Hold on. Is this the middle right here? Okay. Sorry.

DR. MILLER: Yeah, right. Dr. Ronald Miller, 40 Beltzhoover Avenue, Pittsburgh, 412-381-3753. I'm a Global Intelligence Society candidate for Pennsylvania governor, 2014, and Pittsburgh mayor for 2017. I'm a member of the American Political Science Association. And in my campaign for governor, throughout the 131 municipalities of the County of Allegheny, I have asked hundreds of individuals who say that they are U.S. citizens living in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, a number of questions. One of these questions is, what would you call someone such as yourself who lives in the County of Allegheny?

Someone who lives in U.S./America we call Americans. Someone living in Pennsylvania we call Pennsylvanians. What would you call someone living in the County of Allegheny? Nine out of ten people are puzzled by the question. So I give options like you're an Alleghener, Alleghenite, Alleghenian. Nine out of ten people do not identify with any of these names. Two follow-up questions are, first, with which of the three names --- these three names do you identify most strongly, Alleghenian, American, Pittsburgher or Richlander or Richland? Whatever the adjective is, it's derived from

the name of their municipality. Ten out of ten say American.

Second, with which of the three do you identify least strongly? And nine out of ten say Alleghenian. The other main question is, what do you think is the most important thing defining the identity of the County of Allegheny? Most often chosen: Pittsburgh, Pitt, Steelers or Panthers and medicine. In my campaign for governor throughout the 66 counties outside of Allegheny, I have asked, with my staff, this pair of questions of thousands of Pennsylvanians. Responses to the first question were universally consistent. Identification with their county was least important, contrasted with our country, the U.S.A., as American, and with their local municipality.

In other words, as was true for individuals who live in the County of Allegheny, being Butlerian from the County of Butler or being Yorkian or a Yorker from the County of York, like being Alleghenian, had almost no meaning with their identities. Being part of the county was --- it didn't matter. It was vague. It didn't matter as much. The responses to the second question were also universally consistent. To those answering the question, the most important reference of identity meaning for their county came from a big university, a town, a county, a town or a city, a sports team or a business. Moreover, across the State of Pennsylvania, not excluding the County of Allegheny, nine out of ten individuals quickly said that being identified with the Democratic or Republican political parties was clear to them and mattered in the reformation or formation of their personal identities. And here's the anomaly. The state allocates resources, as we heard tonight, to municipalities primarily. But people, our people, will vote according to their political party, rather than their county. And I think that that is neurotic.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Does someone want to make a motion to adjourn?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I move.

MR. FINNERTY: I second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. We're adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 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