

COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
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
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 2, 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  
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Solicitor Counsel

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and remain standing for a moment of silent prayer or reflection? After me, ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. We'll have a roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Twelve (12) members currently present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Proclamations and Certificates. 8638-14.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation recognizing the December 6, 2014 Pittsburgh Polar Plunge at Heinz Field, hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee,

benefiting the athletes of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Council member Baker.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President. I have some of my friends here tonight from Special Olympics. This is definitely a first for 2014. We do have a mascot here tonight. We have the official polar bear for the polar plunge which is coming up this weekend, so that's pretty fun; right?

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: If I can ask all my friends from the Special Olympics and law enforcement and the polar bear, of course, to come on up, that would be great. How are you? High five. So the Special Olympics is an awesome organization. It's actually the first thing that I ever got involved with as a child. I was a volunteer. My dad was a special education teacher here in our city schools, and when I was 5, 6, 7 years old, we'd go to Special Olympic games with him and competitions and hand out cups of Gatorade to all the athletes. And fast-forward 25, 30 years later, I'm now winding down --- down from my four years on the state board for Special Olympics. I love the organization, loved these last four years, and --- beyond getting to spend time with our athletes --- and for the law enforcement, who have been unbelievable, unbelievable fundraisers, advocates, believers in Special Olympics.

I cannot go on long enough of how great law enforcement has been when it comes to Special Olympics. We're joined not only tonight by a mascot --- and I will say I'm a former mascot, so I always appreciate a mascot. I was the Allderdice Dragon back in the '90s, so I appreciate that we do have a mascot here with us tonight. Jess DeVito, from our Special Olympics staff, who does a great job with development work. We also have Commander Best here --- Commander Best --- and we also have Lieutenant Matt Porter. And we have, oh, Inspector Darrell Parker --- no, we do not. I'm sorry. We've got some great supporters and advocates for Special Olympics here tonight.

And with that, I want them to share a little bit. First of all, to get a sense of the crowd, we've got some young friends here. How many people have jumped in the river in Pittsburgh for a good --- okay, for a good reason. Okay. So this is your chance to do it. Every year we have the Polar Plunge. I've done it the last four

years and it's a really --- a lot of fun. It's fun to jump in the water, but it's especially fun because we're jumping in to support Special Olympics. The event raises a ton of money to support our athletes in our programs. And I would just encourage everyone --- if it's on your bucket list --- if you're too young for a bucket list, if it's a goal maybe for the next year, this is something to get done. It's a lot of fun, and there's warming stations, they're all kinds of ways to help you out afterwards. So we'll read the proclamation, then we'll meet our colleagues from Special Olympics.

WHEREAS, the mission of Special Olympics Pennsylvania is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympian athletes and our community; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, December 6, 2014, the Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee will host the Fifth Annual Pittsburgh Polar Bear Plunge on the North Shore right by Heinz Field; and

WHEREAS, to raise funds for SOPA, about 2,500 people are expected to plunge into the chilly Ohio River this year, including hundreds of law enforcement officers from local, state and national agencies and their families. And Jess, we're still taking registrations; right?

MS. DEVITO: Yes.

MR. BAKER: They're still taking registration;

and

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge continues to grow. Last year we raised \$430,000 for the athletes of SOPA, and this year the goal is to raise over \$450,000 for Special Olympics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council does hereby recognize the Law Enforcement Torch Run for sponsoring the Annual Pittsburgh Polar Bear Plunge, and we thank the --- we thank the Torch Run for its continuing efforts to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Pennsylvania. Sponsored by myself and passed by Council tonight. Can we all give

them a round of applause for not just the Polar Bear plunge, but everyone from Special Olympics?

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: And we're not going to expect you (indicating Polar Bear) to say anything, but if anyone wants to say anything and share ---. Commander Best, do you want to get us started here?

MR. FINNERTY: Joe, can I be a co-sponsor of that?

MR. BAKER: Thanks a lot.

COMMANDER BEST: My name is Donna Best. I've been involved with Special Olympics with the Torch Run and with the Polar Plunge for the last four years. We're expecting to raise, actually, over a million dollars total this year for Special Olympics. And I want to acknowledge Baldwin High School here, because Baldwin High School has the Summer Olympics at their school, and they are fabulous with the kids. It's a great cause. If you haven't been involved with them, then you've got to give it at least one try. These athletes are stupendous. They give you so much encouragement. We try to give them encouragement. They encourage us.

They are fantastic athletes and they go above and beyond anybody that tries for anything. I mean, they're supermen. They're supermen and superwomen. Thank you very much. Thank you, Councilman.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: All right. Everyone, we're still --- we're taking registrations, so think about Saturday. If not, we'll get you for next year. And with that, we'll take your group photo. And first mascot, Mr. President, in a long time. Have we had other mascots here?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I think throughout the years, yeah.

MR. BAKER: Okay. All right. The first in 2014, though?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8638-14 (sic).

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Ellenbogen is present. Proclamation congratulating Mr. Michael "Doc" Kulish for winning his 300th career victory as Thomas Jefferson High School boys' head soccer coach. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Come on up, Doc, please, and your son and your wife, if she'd like to come up.

Mr. President and members of Council, it's a great honor and privilege tonight to represent a couple really wonderful accomplishments by Doc Kulish here and by Baldwin High School. So I just wanted to mention, Doc Kulish has been --- well, I'll read it into the proclamation here, but when you can win 300 games and have a record of 300, 144 and 24 over a lot of years at the same school, that's just quite an accomplishment. And I'm so pleased to have him, his son and his wife here this evening. I just thought it would be really nice to recognize Doc for his wonderful accomplishment. And before I let him speak, I want to read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, on September 30th, 2014, Thomas Jefferson High School boys' head soccer coach, Michael "Doc" Kulish, won his 300th career game, battling the Jaguars for a 4 and 0 home win against rival, Elizabeth Forward, in the WPIAL Class AA game;

WHEREAS, Coach Kulish, in his 22nd season at Thomas Jefferson High School, has a record of 300, 144 and 24; and

WHEREAS, Coach Kulish led the Jaguars to three WPIAL Class AA titles and one PIAA title, as well as three WPIAL runners-up finishes and two PIAA second place finishes; and

WHEREAS, Coach Kulish has put maximum effort into building a strong soccer program and developing quality student athletes into strong leaders on and off the field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate Mr. Michael "Doc" Kulish, for winning his 300th career victory as Thomas Jefferson High School boys' head soccer coach, and we join with him in celebration of this distinguished achievement. Sponsored by myself and County Council. Doc, congratulations.

COACH KULISH: Thank you very much.  
(Applause.)

MR. PALMIERE: Wonderful to have you here. This (indicating) is for you, and if you would like to say a few words, be my guest.

COACH KULISH: First of all, I'd like to take this time to thank John DeFazio and the Council members for this recognition of one of the milestones in my soccer

career. I'd especially like to thank John Palmiere for all his work --- hard work in coordinating this effort for myself, as well as the team. We had an exciting year. I always look at it, the wins only come with the participation, obviously, of the players that you have. I've been fortunate enough over the years to have some outstanding soccer players, and that made my job a lot easier.

So I do appreciate this. You've got to be around a long time to procure those kind of victories. This is my 22nd year, and I plan on coaching, God willing, for a few more years. But I do want to thank you so much. I want to thank County Council, obviously. I'd like to take the time to thank our superintendent, Dr. Panza, our athletic director, Bill Cherpak, who's also an outstanding coach of our football team, as well as his athletic secretary, Stephanie Campano. And I do want to thank the school board for West Jefferson Hills, that they had recognition like the day we did beat another team past the 300 game. I do appreciate all the effort from the school board, as well as my parents that I've worked with over the years and the T.J. Soccer Boosters. So with that, I would like to take this time to thank you guys for all the hard work that you do in recognizing all these fine individuals that are here for all these different achievements. Congratulations to the girls' volleyball team.

I know how hard it is to get to where you are, especially with a 19 and 0 win season. And maybe your coach will be up here some day getting his 300th win. All right. Thank you so much.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8640-14.

MR. CATANESE: Certificate of Achievement awarded to the Baldwin High School girls' volleyball team for winning the 2014 WPIAL Class AAA girls' volleyball championship. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Again, it's an honor and privilege to be here this evening to have an opportunity to recognize the wonderful accomplishment of the girls' volleyball team at Baldwin. I'm going to ask Mr. Sortino, the athletic director, to come up. And I wanted to --- he's going to

name you girls, each one of you; okay, so you all get recognized here.

DIRECTOR SORTINO: Well, John was on the school board that hired me well over 25 years ago. So thank you, John, and thank you, Council, for inviting me to the program, the girls, the coaches out here this evening. The girls not only are great athletes, they're great student athletes. And each one of them make us very, very proud at Baldwin of their accomplishments, first in the classroom and secondly on the volleyball court. And it was a great season, 19 and 0, undefeated season. We lost in the state semi-final. You probably didn't want me to bring that up, but I wanted to bring it up because we're going to win state semi-final and the final next year. So it's a goal that we'll shoot for. First, I'd like to introduce our head coach, Mr. Chris Kelly, assistant coach Adam Foote.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR SORTINO: The assistant coach is not here this evening, Julie Leaf. First student athlete, Sydney Kaercher --- Sydney, come up --- Hannah Scott, Miranda Hampsay, Erin Ferrari, Sydney Yanchik, Abigail Walker, Victoria Dadig, Victoria Sgattoni, Madison Sgattoni, Mikaela Thorne, Ria Price, Mallory O'Brien, Mackenzie Voelker, Sierra Colbert, Sarah Welsh, Emma Dongilli --- oh, and I wanted to save the best for last, Delaney Kelly. I'm sorry I skipped over you, Delaney. I also wanted to mention Coach Chris Kelly was also selected as the Quad-A Coach of the Year this year.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR SORTINO: And Madison, raise your hand. Madison was the Quad-A Player of the Year for all of girls' volleyball. Congratulations to both of them. Once again, thank you very much to Council for having our team here. And thank you, Mr. Palmiere, for having us up.

MR. PALMIERE: It's been my pleasure. Thank you very much, and girls, again, congratulations. It's wonderful that you all showed up today. And you know, a lot of times we have people we honor and, you know, a few come and some don't come, and so on and so forth. It's a real honor to have you all here this evening, and that really shows --- it speaks well for you and for this organization, the team and the school and everyone connected; and particularly, your parents.

I just wanted to mention, Madison, your grandparents --- your grandfather I know longer than I care to admit. We go way back. And congratulations, girls, on all your success; and Madison, keep up the good work. We're looking forward to a couple more years with you, kind of leading the way, I hope.

MS. M. SGATTONI: Thank you.

MR. PALMIERE: All right. I'm going to just read this proclamation. This Certificate of Achievement is awarded to the 2014-2015 Baldwin High School --- School girls' volleyball team, in recognition of winning the 2014 WPIAL Class AAA girls' volleyball championship. We commend and recognize each player and coach whose determination and resolve led to this achievement. The team has set a positive example of excellence for all of Allegheny County, continuing evidence that this is the county of champions. This achievement has conferred honor on this county, and it's an accomplishment in which the entire community can be proud. This is sponsored by myself, my colleagues on County Council. And I just want to say one other thing, ladies. As my colleague, Mr. Robinson, would tell you, you're champions. That's something you'll carry with you the rest of your life. You can be proud of that and no one can take that away from you. So congratulations, again, and we're going to take a picture now. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8641-14, and the rest will be read.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Kress is present. Proclamation congratulating New Voice Pittsburgh: Women of Color for Reproductive Justice, upon the occasion of its tenth anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Green Hawkins.

8642-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to the McKeesport Model Railroad Club upon the occasion of its 65th anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8643-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Flo Ganchuk upon the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8644-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and Sharon Luzier upon the occasion

of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8645-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Nikki Turley upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8646-14. Proclamation congratulating Mr. Michael Delehanty for winning first place for his self-portrait in InSights 2014, a national competition hosted by the American Printing House for the Blind. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

8647-14. Certificate of Recognition congratulating Keener Hardware of Brentwood upon the occasion of his 75th wedding (sic) anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

8648-14. Certificate of Recognition congratulating Mr. Morton Parker, upon the occasion of his 95th birthday. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

8649-14. Certificate of Recognition congratulating Mr. Felix Bucci upon the occasion of his 94th birthday. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

8650-14. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Joan Zukiewicz upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council member Palmiere.

8651-14. Proclamation congratulating Fire Marshal Charles J. Belgie, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 68 years of dedicated service with the Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company. Sponsored by Council member Baker.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Next we'll have Public Comment. The first speaker is Jonathan Robison --- Robison (changes pronunciation).

MR. ROBISON: Robison (corrects pronunciation).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Robison (changes pronunciation).

MR. ROBISON: I'm Jonathan Robison of 154 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15213. I am a member of Pittsburghers For Public Transit and Vice President of the Allegheny County Transit Council and Secretary of the 4th Ward Democratic Committee. I am here to strongly urge you, ladies and gentlemen, to amend the county budget to include use of the drink tax to restore bus service to some communities that lost it totally, in Baldwin Borough, in Moon Township. These were routes that were cancelled

by the Port Authority not because they weren't needed, not because the Port Authority wanted to cancel them, but because there was no money.

Finally, after years of effort by a number of people, including yours truly, they approved some state funding with matching county money, but that was supposed to go first for badly overdue preventive maintenance --- maintenance and also to pay some debts. And a small amount was left over for restoring the service, not enough to restore more than a little of it. Now the County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, who I consider a good friend, as well as having supported him over the years, says that he --- he's for transit, but he doesn't want to use drink tax money unless there's a state match. The law specifically says that we can use it to support Port Authority operations and that we can use it on a non-matched basis for capital grants, which is being planned for a million dollars of the drink tax money. We can certainly use some of it to restore the service to places where people are now having to walk a mile or more on roads with no sidewalks and risking their lives in order to get places. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Thank you. Joni Rabinowitz?

MS. RABINOWITZ: I'm Joni Rabinowitz. I live at 7721 Edgerton Avenue in Pittsburgh. I'm here to tell you that the residents of Allegheny County, your constituents, don't want any fracking in or under county parks. They want you to vote yes for this ordinance. It's not often we ask you to vote yes. How do I know this? In a few weeks, we organized 45 volunteers to petition for the ordinance you will introduce this evening, an ordinance to wait and see about fracking under Deer Lakes Park until we have a chance to evaluate Deer Lakes.

Several of these volunteers who carried these petitions approached us unsolicited and asked to circulate these petitions. That's how much they cared about it. It's not often that you have the opportunity to consider an ordinance proposed by actual citizens, constituents of yours. You should consider it carefully and vote yes. Although only 500 signatures were required, in less than three weeks, these volunteers got 1,800 signatures from registered voters in Allegheny County, from 83 different municipalities. That is 82 municipalities besides the

City of Pittsburgh; 82 municipalities besides the City of Pittsburgh, two thirds of the total municipalities in the county.

This includes North Versailles and Dravosburg and McKeesport, as well as West Deer and Penn Hills and Tarentum. These include municipalities in every single one of your districts, so there are signers of these petitions that were in every single one of your districts. Well, what does that say to you? I think the conclusion is clear. No matter where people live in the county, they don't want their parks to be industrialized. They don't want fracking in their parks. Will you listen to these voices? Protect our Parks embarked on this project because several of you Council members told us that they would support such an ordinance --- you would support such an ordinance, that you agreed with the wait-and-see approach. And we believe you, even Rich Fitzgerald said so. So you should pass this ordinance. You should vote yes for a wait and see on future fracking --- decision about fracking in the county parks. There's only one reason I can think of that you would go back on your promise. Fitzgerald is pressuring you to vote no, and you don't have the balls to stand up against him.

(Applause.)

MS. RABINOWITZ: Because we know that regardless of what he says one day, the next day he turns around and denies it. We see that he's already threatened to go back on his word and veto this legislation, which hasn't even gotten to his desk yet. So I urge you to move this ordinance quickly through committee and vote yes. And I have an article here. Mr. Ellenbogen, you might be interested in this --- from yesterday's paper, Gas Flare to Light City, Light Sky in Washington County. And this is about where that's going to be going up in Washington County and the key thing I want to point out here is that they expect sustained decibel levels between 90 and 95, which can result in permanent hearing loss, but the workers will be equipped with ear protection, so they won't get --- they won't get permanent hearing loss. Okay.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You know, for all the rest of the speakers, I didn't say anything, but watch your language when you're up here. We usually don't have

anyone that does this, so from here on in, let's watch our language. Peter Wray?

MR. WRAY: Good evening. My name is Peter Wray and I live in Churchill Borough. First, I wish to thank Council for considering the citizen petition created ordinance. As you know, such a petition requires 500 signatures of eligible county voters. I personally agreed to solicit 20 signatures, so I ventured forth on Saturday morning and visited my immediate neighbors. I was not sure what response I would get from the neighbors, because I had no previous occasion to discuss the issue of fracking in the county parks with any of them.

To my surprise and relief, my neighbors at least know about fracking in general, and some even were aware of the county allowing fracking beneath the county park. After explaining what the petition is --- what the petitioned ordinance was about, I was pleased to find that every single neighbor was willing to sign the petition without hesitation. Not a single vote of dissent. They all thought it would make eminent sense to place a hold on any further leases for two years. I don't know if they were pro or anti-fracking. That was not the issue. They just understood that fracking was a controversial issue, and that it makes sense to understand the risks before the county approved fracking near or beneath any additional parks. I wonder what members of Council would discover if they did what I did in their own neighborhoods.

My guess is that you would get a similar result to mine. For this proposed hold is a fair and sensible approach to a controversial matter with risks that need more time to understand. I urge you to listen to the people you represent and to vote for this ordinance. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: George Jucha --- Jucha (changes pronunciation).

MR. JUCHA: Believe it or not, we pronounce that Jucha (corrects pronunciation). I don't know how they managed that with, J-U-C-H-A, nonetheless, my name is George Jucha. I live at 203 Essex Knoll Drive, Moon Township, Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let me ask you, how do you spell your last name?

MR. JUCHA: J-U-C-H-A.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Put the microphone lower.

MR. JUCHA: You got it. Thank you. First, I'd like to thank everybody for making me an official friend of Deer Lakes Park. It's a real honor and I plan to do the best possible job I can. And it's not just because of the fracking issues that I would do that. I'm a friend of every park there is and I want you to know that. So I've had a little bit of issues contacting anyone directly to be able to meet with somebody there, so if you could help me out a little bit with a name or someone to contact, that would be wonderful. Nonetheless, the reason that I'm here tonight is to chat with you with respect to the ordinance that was put in front of you.

It was very easy for us to get all these signatures. I got 30 signatures personally. I asked no one to sign it, no one. I had 30 people within my family. Friends knew that I was involved in the organization, that had no hesitation, were completely behind it. Yesterday, the Business Journal of Pittsburgh came out with a little online survey with respect to a ban on fracking in the parks for two years. And of the 476 people that responded, 376 of them, 79 percent, supported a ban on fracking. Now what I'd like to chat with you about is one thing that --- I've come to an important distinction on terminology. Natural gas development is actually incorrectly said. It's actually natural gas industrialization. And that's an important distinction when we speak toward our parks. You look at the different areas. I had the opportunity to chat with the person that ran Theodore Roosevelt National Park out in North Dakota that I saw it personally. You wouldn't call it a park. And when international visitors see what's going on, they're shocked as to what's going on there. I know there are a certain number of people here that would be against this ordinance. I understand why.

Two things I'd like you to understand from a non-environmental standpoint. Number one, gas prices are at a low point right now. And unless we see exponential increases, which would be detrimental to our economy --- right now, the fuel price is down. It is an \$1,100 annual savings to people. So right now it's not prudent for us to invest tons of money in rapid expansion, particularly in non-industrial-zoned areas. What I'd also like to make sure that we understand is, you know, when we look at the potential issues that exist here, it goes past just --- if there's a problem in any of these --- we are potentially

exposed, not just to a financial burden, that's separate, but to the loss of a park or a natural preserved area. So from my standpoint, I would like everybody to open their minds to consider waiting, because there is one thing everybody in this room is smart enough and old enough to understand. Experience is the best teacher. And one thing that we also know is the rapid great growth of technology. Things tend to get better with technology; don't they? Waiting two years, pads may be smaller, take up less, go farther. And that's what's happening. The Utica well that Joni spoke with goes down deep. That well is going to be 75 feet high. That's crazy. We need to make sure that the other component, the infrastructure, is there before we get into that level of development. Please vote yes on this to protect our parks. I appreciate your time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Lawrence Wolfson ---  
Wolfson?

MR. CATANESE: You missed Aaron Booz.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, I'm sorry. Aaron Booz first; okay. Yeah.

MR. BOOZ: Larry can go first, if you'd like.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, he's coming up.

MR. BOOZ: So I'm Aaron Booz, 3181 Bel Air Drive in Whitehall. And members of Council, you already know where I stand. I've been here before you more times than I can count since this idea of fracking county parks was first floated by the administration. So you know what we've been telling you, that shale gas fracking is a harmful process, that it's done in a completely safe and sustainable way, at best, rarely, more likely, never; also, that instances of contamination, illness, loss of property value and degradation of quality of life to neighbors are not the exception but generally the rule.

But I'm not here to talk about all that tonight. Tonight I don't need you to be convinced by the evidence the Protect Our Parks group has given you in the past year and a half. Tonight I'm here to try to find some common ground with you, to ask if you can meet us part way. So last May you voted by a fairly narrow majority to lease Deer Lakes Park. We don't think that was a good idea, as you're very well aware. But I and we are here today to ask you to take a wait-and-see approach before considering the leasing of more land for fracking. Over a ten-month

period, many hundreds of statements were made from this podium about what would happen if you did, in fact, lease --- if you did, in fact --- in fact, frack Deer Lakes Park.

We told you about the harms, and then late in the game, some industry mobilized to come promise jobs, local jobs, and to say that the process was safe, doesn't have any mishaps and that you'd be happy with how your royalty payments were calculated. So how about waiting to see which side was right before taking more action? As it's often said, the gas isn't going anywhere. If you think you have free money under the other county parks, why not let Range, CONSOL, Fitzgerald, et al., prove their case to you with results before making any more risky decisions with public land. Speaking of Mr. Fitzgerald, he said last spring that he wants to make Allegheny County the capital of the Marcellus industry, but I doubt that all of you agree with that ambition.

I've been coming to these meetings for 18 months now, and I've been impressed. You ladies and gentlemen care about things that are great in this county, and you want to protect them. You argue about how to do those things, but you really do care. You have a passion for education, for the arts, for excellent healthcare, for green spaces. I don't believe that most of you share Mr. Fitzgerald's emphasis on heavy industrialization in our county, in our urban and suburban settings. I'm asking you to make that clear by affirming the will of the voters in this county through this legislation.

So let me talk about that. This measure came from the people. It's the first of its kind under this county charter. Other groups working on other issues have, in the past, attempted to bring this kind of ordinance before you. None of them have been successful. This one succeeded by a large margin. It needed 500 but got over 1,800 signatures with days left to spare on the gathering. Why was that? Because it's just common sense. People know it's not worth the promises of money and political favors. They understand the sanctity of public funds. And I wasn't just in the middle of Pittsburgh getting these signatures. I was at public events in the North Hills and the South Hills, two different places, just asking anybody who I ran across. And overwhelmingly, people said yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Try to wrap it up because ---.

MR. BOOZ: Yes, sir. So I just want to say vote yes, protect our parks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Hold on a second. I'd like you to take the sign down now. Everybody has a sign they're holding, and they should be holding this one, too. It shouldn't be staying up there.

(Sign removed from podium.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Lawrence?

MR. WOLFSON: My name is Larry Wolfson. I live at 2408 East Springwood Drive, Shaler. In the debate over drilling under Deer Lakes Park, we've been through the arguments many times on both sides, and the points on each side are clear by now. However, the outcome may be less clear, even for those who voted yes. With the vote to frack at the park taken in the mix of argument, political pressures, procedures need to move forward, the outcome leaves questions for many. This ordinance is a chance to clarify those obscure promises and reduce the risks of drilling in Deer Lakes Park, and we should embrace it.

Fracking has already demonstrated potential for major and irreversible damage. All that this new ordinance says is that the lease must play out the way we have been led to expect before other parks are fracked. Instead of having to guess how all the provisions of the drilling lease will play out, this ordinance says wait and see how that happens before fracking other parks. Given the demonstrated dangers from fracking, this ordinance should be embraced by all members of this council. It is common sense and it is prudent.

In the debate on the fracking lease, Mr. Kress, my representative on Council, spoke about the movie The Oxbow Incident. I'm not clear what point he was making, maybe that voting for fracking is Henry Fonda standing against the group. Think mob. Or maybe not. I don't know, but I agree that the movie is a good analogy for the vote on fracking Deer Lakes Park. The men in the posse, for the most part, were each of them, individually firm in their convictions, passionately intent on getting justice for a friend they were sure had been murdered, and the accused man had possession of the murdered friend's cattle without a Bill of Sale.

He must be guilty. What other facts could be needed? Perhaps there were other facts, but they would not change the judgment. This was the best judgment they could make, and it was the right one. It sounds like the arguments for a yes vote for fracking at Deer Lakes Park, promise of jobs and lots of money for the county, slim possibility of dangers, and those can be handled. What more facts could be needed? But this position is, at best, uncertain. There may be no additional jobs. There may be little money. There may be considerable infrastructure damage at county expense. Our air and water may be permanently damaged, so I am not sure where the yes vote on fracking Deer Lakes Park fits in this cast. I do know that the Oxbow Incident, the movie, did not end well for that posse or their arguments. Don't let fracking also put us in an irreversibly bad place. This ordinance is a chance for us all to wait for the sheriff, and it would be foolish not to take it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Terri Supowitz?

MS. SUPOWITZ: Hi, I'm Terri Supowitz, and I live at 310 Hay Street. There's no fracking in my back yard. When I look out my back door, I see two 60-foot Blue Spruces, and in the spring, hundreds of daffodils, roses, coneflowers and lilies. On your website you say, Allegheny County, a great place to live, work, play and home of America's most livable city. For me at 310 Hay Street, that statement is true. But it won't be for long if you continue fracking. Livable and fracking are mutually exclusive; they clash. They are incongruent. You still have the opportunity to reverse the course that you are on and stop fracking.

Fracking increases air pollution. We all breathe the same air. You can't go to the grocery store and buy bottles of it. Pittsburgh ranks 48th in pollution when compared to 50 other cities. Our air is bad. It contributes to low birth weights and early deliveries. It exacerbates heart and lung disease, causing scores of people to die. Pittsburgh is 17th in the nation for its number of neighborhoods with a high cancer risk. Allegheny County ranks in the top two percent of counties in the U.S. for cancer risk from hazardous air pollutants.

Last of all, more than a quarter million people in the Pittsburgh region suffer from asthma, including 50,000 children. One of the most alarming reports was

from the American Lung Association. They said for each of the past six years, the Pittsburgh metropolitan statistical area has landed among the five worst cities for year-round and short-term particulate pollution in the U.S. How much is all of this costing us? How much do our residents have to suffer? How many people have to die? And you want to continue fracking? You want to frack in our county parks? Are you kidding?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Gwen Chute?

MS. CHUTE: Gwen Chute, 904 Valleyview Road, Mt. Lebanon, 15243. I am Vice Chair of the Allegheny Group Sierra Club and a member of Protect Our Parks. Thank you once again for the opportunity to express my views on this very important issue. On May 6th of this year, the majority of you voted to approve hydraulic fracturing under Deer Lakes Park. Following that vote, some of you stated that there was no plan to subject other county parks to a fate similar to that of Deer Lakes. Now you have before you a citizens' ordinance, the first ever to be successfully brought for your consideration, having demonstrated support of almost 2,000 residents from various municipalities in Allegheny County and members of several environmental and health-related non-profits.

This ordinance addresses the question of whether you, the elected representatives of all Allegheny County residents, will allow, on the heels of the Deer Lakes' decision, fracking in any other county park. I remind you that the vote on drilling under Deer Lakes Park was made based on misinformation presented by the very companies who stand to make millions of dollars from the venture and others, such as the County Executive, a politician with a clear vested interest in the company's pursuit of unlimited profit.

Legitimate scientists with real data on the dangers of fracking were not permitted to speak here. And when Councilwoman Sue Means arranged a special information session with several real scientists, the absence of most members of this council was highly conspicuous. This ordinance is not a radical piece of work. It is, rather, a reasoned request for caution, a wait-and-see approach. The supporters of drilling under Deer Lakes Park argued that what seemed to us, its opposition, rash and reckless, an obscene rush to more profits at the expense of clean water, pure air and access to a place for recreation,

solitude and enjoyment, was not only safe, but positively beneficial. Why not test that assertion, for an assertion minus scientific data is all that it was, before proceeding to a place --- to place at risk another of our county parks, and then another and another.

This is all that this ordinance asks. I remind you that the county parks belong to the citizens of Allegheny County. Demonstrate to those citizens that you, as their elected representatives, have a sincere desire to protect their rights, as set forth in the Pennsylvania constitution. Use caution. Wait and see. Please vote yes for the citizens' ordinance. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. John Detwiler?

MR. DETWILER: John Detwiler, 5723 Solway Street, Pittsburgh. There's a saying, maybe from the riverboat gambling days, that when a man with money --- that's the way I heard the story. Maybe it doesn't apply to women. When a man with money meets a man with experience, the man with experience gets the money, and the man with the money gets the experience. Allegheny County is in a situation like that. We have natural gas, but no experience. So while someone else is getting the gas, we're about to get the experience. In all the back and forth over Deer Lakes Park, there was at least one fact that most of us can agree on.

The county's lease with Range Resources is, in many ways, unprecedented. Now I take a more skeptical view of that lease than some of you, but none of us have seen how an agreement quite like this one works out in its actual experience. As I see it, what's truly unique about this first lease is the huge gap between the verbal promises that has been given versus the power that the county has retained to actually deliver on those promises. Last fall we heard a lot from the county solicitor about the protections that were written into the county's request for proposals. What we couldn't know until after the final lease had been signed and after the Executive allowed the Range Resources' proposal to be read, is that Range Resources took categorical exception to virtually every one of those provisions.

Then they negotiated some weasel words back in. But what remains of all the brave talk in the RFP is, essentially a bit of lipstick on a one-sided typical gas industry contract. You heard Mr. Szefi defending the

proposed lease, say again and again, if we had insisted on this or that provision, there would have been no lease. It's clear. This administration wanted a lease, no matter what they had to give up to get it. So having caved on almost everything that they boasted about in the RFP, should we assume that this same administration will suddenly rise up on its feet to use the very feeble tools that are left for it in the final contract? More than that, if this administration will be pushing for even more fracking deals, how can we take it for granted that, in an election year, they will even acknowledge, let alone take strong action on any lessons learned at Deer Lakes Park. So one thing that we, as citizens, can do and will do through this wait-and-see ordinance is to require our elected officials to take care of what's already on their plate before they come back for another helping. Council didn't listen to or wasn't allowed to hear the experience of other communities across the country before it authorized that first lease at Deer Lakes Park, but even with an unproven lease for fracking one park, we don't have to foolishly double down on all our other parks.

Right now we have parks but no experience. Let's wait and see and be sure that we gain from some experience while we still have some parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Edward Chute?

MR. CHUTE: Ed Chute, 904 Valleyview Road, Mt. Lebanon. As usual, you may call me Nobody. Thomas Jefferson often used the phrase, good government. He used the term to describe what he thought was the most basic function of government, as well as a leading purpose behind the so-called American Revolution. Specifically, he was of the opinion that it was the primary purpose of government to secure the rights of the people, to promote their happiness and to do the will of the people. In fact, Jefferson even said, and I quote, the care of human life and happiness and not their destruction, is the only legitimate object of good government.

Previously, I invited this council to apply Cicero's cui bono, who profits, smell and stink test to the County Executive's proposal to allow the leasing and industrialization of the publicly owned land of Deer Lakes Park. I now ask you to apply the same sort of test to your own personal sense of honor versus your earlier decision in favor of the Chief Executive's choice of

commodity. Specifically, I suggest that you, one, seriously consider whether or not you are favoring the will of the people, rather than the will of the county executive. Two, seriously consider whether or not you are favoring destruction of the people's will, rather than blindly accepting the County Executive's threatened veto of the people's ordinance. Three, seriously consider whether or not you are passing Thomas Jefferson's only legitimate test of good government, rather than slaves acquiescing to the call of man. Four, seriously consider whether or not you are free men and women, who can think independently and deliberate honestly, rather than programmed robots and non-thinkers who prefer the politically expedient approach to your responsibility under the home charter of Allegheny County.

In short, are you just elected political hacks or wannabes who think they are more important than the will of their constituents, and who don't know how or want to listen honestly and fairly to people's voices? Therefore, I, as a resident, citizen, voter of Allegheny County, call upon you individually and collectively to pass Thomas Jefferson's only legitimate test for good government, not reject it. Further, I call upon you to listen to the will of the people of Allegheny County and pass the citizens' ordinance which only invites the county government to wait and see and for you to listen to the will of your constituents.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anthony Stewart?

MR. STEWART: Hello. My name is Anthony Stewart. I am the President and Environmental Director of DECO Resources, which is at 744 East Warrington, and I'm a resident of Greenfield. I have over ten years of experience in water resource management; specifically, with pre-drill water quality assessment. My family background goes into the field of water testing, pretty much back to the beginning. I came here tonight to say that our parks are an asset and a place of conservation for future generations. I think that this is a time for us to assess the water quality and the environmental quality of the parks, because once you perform any industrial activity, there's no way to go back and see what you had.

So this is the golden opportunity to actually see what's the existing state of the parks. And so I would support the ordinance. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mel Packer?

MR. PACKER: Mel Packer, 623 Kirtland Street, 15208. What we're about to lay before you is a news story reporting on a newly released British government study of fracking, in which the United Kingdom's top scientist compares the risks from fracking to those famous environmental and human disasters of thalidomide and asbestos, both of which eventually maimed and killed tens of thousands of innocent victims. I need not say more about this, but I hope you'll read it. We, meaning about 2,000 residents of Allegheny County and Protect Our Parks, have put before you today an ordinance placing a moratorium on fracking Allegheny County parks, other than Deer Lakes, as you already approved the process there.

This ordinance simply echoes statements many of you have made privately to some of us, that you would not support fracking in the remaining county parks. Rich Fitzgerald has already publicly issued his marching orders to those who worship at his throne, by stating that he will veto this ordinance if it passes. Be clear. Voting against the ordinance says very clearly to all Allegheny County residents that you are voting for fracking all of our parks and in favor of industrializing our natural resources and playgrounds, despite massive medical and scientific warnings that the caution flag should go up.

And despite lawsuits now being brought by individuals injured by fracking against not only the fracking companies, but against those who leased the lands to them, which will put Allegheny County in the future position of having to pay damages to those injured by fracking county lands. So watch out, the Judge is on the way. Finally, I'm going to show you three posters. This one is a child cancer victim, something none of us like to see. This one is a very happy and healthy child, a condition that we wish for all of our children. This one is Rich Fitzgerald, looking smiling, happy and appearing quite smug, frankly. I'll lay that down for you to look at.

Perhaps his happiness had to do with the tens of thousands of dollars that show up in his campaign coffers from the fracking industry and the job or jobs that at

least one of his daughters got with that same industry while still a college student. What we can be sure of is that Rich Fitzgerald marches to only one drummer, and that's the one with the biggest pockets. Rich Fitzgerald doesn't give a damn about giving kids cancer. He'll be richer and gone by the time they're dying. I gather that some of you who claim to care for children aren't really worrying about it, either, as you consistently insist that fracking is harmless and seem to support Rich Fitzgerald, as if he knows more about it than the world's top scientists. Sometimes, fantasy tops reality when money and political advancement is the goal. After all, those kids don't donate to campaigns; do they? I will now spend my remaining few seconds in silence to commemorate those past child cancer victims and those yet to come from the effects of fracking and invite you to focus on those posters and decide where your loyalties lie, Rich Fitzgerald or our children.

(Moments of silence.)

MR. PACKER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Kyle Pattison?

MR. PATTISON: Kyle Pattison, 4123 Beehner Road, Pittsburgh. I'm here in support of Protect Our Parks' ordinance to put a halt on any further public lands in Allegheny County ---.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.

MR. PATTISON: I attended Council meetings a year ago when the discussions were being made whether to drill Deer Lakes Park. I heard our County Executive use Cross Creek County Park in Washington County as a good example of how drilling and parklands can co-exist. Knowing very well the integrity of that man, I went to Cross Creek County Park for myself to see what it looked like. For those on the council who have not taken a drive down to Washington County, I can assure you it is exactly what you would expect it to be. It is an industrial waste zone.

You find pipelines as soon as you enter, gathering lines. I found mysterious spills at the entrance of well pads. I saw a well about every 50 yards. I quit counting after a dozen. I'm a man who takes great care in my health. I do not get headaches. I had a splitting, nauseous headache after walking about a quarter mile on an otherwise beautiful, sunny day. What got me

the most were the fences and the No Trespassing signs everywhere. It was like you were being tunneled through, what I can only describe as an invasion of our public land. Then I went and met the residents around the entrance of Cross Creek County Park. I just started knocking on doors and explained why I was there.

I found the sweetest people you could ever imagine, despite the years of hell they've been through. Most of the homes have the same eerie stack of polar jugs as you walk into their house, and most of the residents offered me a bottle of water. The industry or the government has no help for those families who don't sign leases, and so when their wells show up with carcinogenic chemicals, they're left to fend for themselves, supplying themselves with all the water they need, five gallons at a time. I will never forgive Fitzgerald for the lies that he spread in my community and for the harm that he's now putting my loved ones under by allowing drilling in Deer Lakes Park. I will never forgive this council for the harm that they're putting my family under for the drilling under Deer Lakes Park. I'd accept --- I'd ask you to please accept this ordinance and confine the shame of Allegheny County to only one of its parks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike Stout?

MR. STOUT: My name is Mike Stout. I reside at 4223 Willow Avenue in Castle Shannon, PA, and I'd like to join with my brothers and sisters and implore you to please say and vote yes to this ordinance and take the Rich Fitzgerald wax out of your ears for a couple of hours and listen to the choir that's singing to you. And especially, I direct my remarks to John Palmiere, my representative. John, you told us publicly at two meetings in your district that you would oppose any drilling in any other park besides Deer Park. You also told me privately that you would, and you even implied you would put your body on the line. And I'm asking you to put up and to join with us and make sure that they don't frack in any more of our parks.

When I say you have wax in your ears, I mean the writing and the clues have been endless every single day, non-stop, ad nauseam. Saturday's newspaper, 2014, the warmest year on record. The Sunday newspaper, Fracking is Endangering Our National Parks, a big article imploring the government and imploring our new governor to step in.

But sometimes it feels to us like --- I don't know if you ever saw the --- you all ever saw the Steve Martin and John Candy movie, Trains, Planes and Automobiles, back in 1987. Well, there's a scene in the middle of the movie where John Candy is driving and he gets all messed up and he starts --- his car spins around and he goes down the wrong ramp. And he's going 80 miles an hour in the wrong direction.

And so people are driving along on the right side, and they're yelling at John Candy and Steve Martin, hey, you're going in the wrong direction. You're going to get killed. You're going to die. And Steve Martin and John Candy look over at them and --- they don't know where we're going. They have no idea what direction we're going in. Yeah, right. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which represents every major country in the world, 97 percent of the scientists of the world have come out with a statement and a new report saying that fracking is anathema to a livable planet, and that we are going in the wrong direction. I'm asking you to please stand up for the future of Allegheny County and for the citizens and for the children that are going to have to deal with this; and vote yes on this amendment. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Pia Colucci?

MS. COLUCCI: Pia Colucci, 4725 Wallingford Street, Shadyside. Since May 6th's meeting, it has taken me all this time to come back into these chambers to speak. I was so sickened by the way the majority voted to frack under Deer Lakes Park, I just couldn't get the stomach to see you. But this is the moment that is serious again, and we shall see how you vote once more. Here's what recently happened. We had only three weeks to gather a minimum of 500 signatures and Allegheny County voters for the ordinance petition. Fifty (50) volunteers from municipalities throughout the county, many from our --- from many council districts, stepped up to circulate the petition.

A few days before the circulation deadline, we had 1,800 signatures. That's almost four times over the number needed. The signers were from 83 municipalities; that's two thirds of the towns in Allegheny County. Both the County Executive and several Council members have said that they wanted to assess the results of Deer Lakes Park before considering leasing other parks. The County

Executive has said that he has no plans for fracking under additional county parks. Sure. Based on a very positive feedback we got from voters across the county, voters here don't want fracking-related activity near our parks, either.

In what was a political time frame of a nanosecond, Protect Our Parks was able to get the 1,800 signatures to support bringing forward a vote on banning further fracking on or under our county --- other county parks. Sorry, Deer Lakes, we tried for you. 1,800 signatures favoring a ban of fracking in our parks from your constituents, signed from a myriad of neighborhoods and towns in Allegheny County. What does this say to you all? May 6th, when Councilmen Futules, DeFazio, Macey, Finnerty, Martoni, Palmiere, Baker, Ellenbogen and Kress voted to become bedfellows with Range Resources, they all waxed poetic on what a wonderful record Range had and how safe and great a company they were. Fast forward to Dateline, September 18th, 2014, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and I quote, Range Resources will pay a \$4.15 million penalty to settle violations related to six Marcellus Shale gas drilling fracking wastewater impoundments in Washington County that contaminated soil and groundwater, state officials said.

It's the largest fine ever imposed against a Marcellus Shale gas drilling company, according to the State Department of Environmental Protection. The travesty is this is your bed. You made it. Unfortunately, we, as citizens of this Allegheny County, as taxpayers, as your constituents --- we will have to live with the decision that you made, a decision that was against our Pennsylvania state constitution. As our representatives, you have sold us down the frack wastewater river. When I say if --- when I say when, and not if, there is a failure at Deer Lakes Park due to the fracking industrial operation, I hope that your vote today to support a further ban on industrialization of our other parks at least gives us a bit of solace in the environmental damage that will occur in, under or around Deer Lakes Park. Do not allow further fracking in our parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Claudia Kirkpatrick?

MR. KIRKPATRICK: Okay. Boyce Park is the only location for downhill skiing in Allegheny County. In

addition to its very popular ski slopes, it has a ski lodge, a large recreational complex and a wave pool. In the spring, there are natural history tours and walks.

In Harrison Hills Park, there's a children's play area and an environmental learning center, providing guiding --- guided walks and nature camps that are valuable resources for families.

Hartwood Acres provides its very lovely spaces for a wide variety of cultural events, including tea parties, the Family House Polo Match and Hay Day, plus trails for horseback riding, hiking and cross country skiing.

In North Park, people play golf, use the boat house, go kayaking and ice skating. People can fish in its 75-acre lake with its handicapped access pier. Because of its Marshall Island Wildfowl Reserve, children can learn about the life cycles of wild fowl. Round Hill Park features its exhibit farm, with its Day on the Farm Program for children, plus its soccer fields and wonderful walking and bridle trails.

Settler's Cabin Park has been restored from its time of coal and oil, from its maze of abandoned open and back-filled mines, active wells and exposed oil and gas lines. Now it has reforested rolling slopes and meadows, as well as three heavily-used wave pools. It still provides the primary access in Allegheny County to a wild, rugged and unexplored area.

South Park has wonderful ball fields, a game preserve, an ice skating rink, as well as a nature center and the Allegheny County Gardens. People ride horses in South Park, boarding their horses in nearby stables; and there's a soccer field and a theater.

White Oak Park has plants that exist nowhere else in the state. Trillium, wildflowers and important types of groundcover have attracted the attention of botanists and the western border of the park is a rugged, steep hillside that only the most adventurous hikers spend time on. Some of the stands of trees are primeval. The picnic groves have tree names, such as Mountain Ash, Juniper, Beech and Sumac. Did I give you my name?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

MS. KIRKPATRICK: My name is Claudia Kirkpatrick. I live at 3763 Orpwood Street in Pittsburgh, 15213.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Bridget Shields?

MS. SHIELDS: Hello, everybody; Bridget Shields, 2329 Tilbury Avenue, Pittsburgh. Today I e-mailed each of you a link to the most current information from Cross Creek Park in Washington County with lots of up-to-date photos in hopes that you would take a look at it, familiar yourself --- familiarize yourselves on the possible impacts that could happen by allowing fracking in, on, around or under any of our county parks.

Educating ourselves on these impacts that have occurred in Cross Creek can only benefit us by making sure none of these things happen at Deer Lakes Park or anywhere else fracking has been permitted in our county. Unfortunately, many of these impacts have been occurring wherever drilling is taking place, which is why all of us are here today and are concerned and asking that you place a two-year moratorium on any further leasing in Allegheny County Parks. This is, at the very least, an intelligent measure that will protect the people and the legacy each of you will leave as representatives elected to serve and protect the people of Allegheny County.

The people living in the area of Cross Creek, many who I personally work with as a representative of Friends of the Harm, publishers of Shalefield Stories, are still without water for over five years now. And many of them have serious health issues. It's been eight years since they fracked the first well, and the health impacts are starting to turn up, and there are sick children. Their property values have been so drastically reduced, they are unable to sell their homes, so they can't move away from this industrial activity.

Hopefully, none of this will happen near the fracking that has been permitted in Allegheny County, but I doubt that. It can only help us if we are aware of what can go wrong and put precautions in place to make sure that it doesn't happen here. So I ask you to please look at the information I sent you today and visit our website at [marcellusprotest.org](http://marcellusprotest.org). Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Joy Sabl? Joy?

MS. SABL: Hi, there, Joy Sabl (changes pronunciation), 7008 Willard Street. I'm going to guess that most of you think that we come here and we're so full of our own ideas that we don't even listen to the other side half the time. That's true; right. You kind of

suspect that. But I want to prove to you that I actually have been listening. When we talked about fracking the airport, we talked about how it was already, essentially, an industrial-type site. When we talked about fracking Deer Lakes, the point was made that because all of the surrounding community had already been leased out, that there was going to be drilling passing through anyway, and therefore, it was almost a paper decision, according to the proponents, that the county might as well take the money because the drilling was going to pass through the site regardless. So the risks would not be extended and, gee, this was a wonderful way, seeing there were no additional risks --- also no additional jobs, but no additional risks --- why not use this as a test case and not touch anything else until we've seen what happened there? Also, a couple of our council members --- I think it was Councilman Kress and Councilman Macey --- live near that park, somewhat near and --- no? Okay; maybe I'm wrong. But a point was made that, you know, you were putting yourselves on the line, you and your neighbors, and you'd see firsthand if things went wrong.

And there's something about putting yourself on the line that people really respect, and that's why it's so wrong to back-pedal now and say, well, we didn't really need a test case. We didn't really mean that this was exceptional. Really, we should leave our options open for fracking everything else as well. That's not how it goes. We listened to you. We listened to the people who made you decide the way you decided. And we hope that you remember and that you will join with us in saying no to fracking until such time as we have seen what happens in the places you've already approved. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Kathleen Krebs?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Laura Leete?

MS. LEETE: Hello. My name is Laura Leete, and I live in Whitehall. Unfortunately, I'm afraid I'm going to sound like Debbie Downer from Saturday Night Live, these things that I have to say. I'm here this evening to ask you not to allow any more drilling in our county parks, with the exception of Deer Lakes Park, for two years. During those two years, we, the people from Protect Our Parks, would also like the air and water at

Deer Lakes Park to be tested every 90 days for any ill effects due to nearby fracking.

As a retired science and health teacher from the West Jefferson Hills School District, I am concerned about the health of the people who live near our county parks, the people who use these parks and the workers on the drilling sites. These parks were not designed for industrial use. Walkers, bikers, golfers, snowshoers, picnickers, boaters and people who like to fish, should not have to concern themselves with pollutants in the air and water, nosebleeds, rashes, nausea, spills, leaks, possible explosions or minor earthquakes. According to a recent presentation by Dr. Karen Hacker, the acting director of the Allegheny County Health Department, and her assistant at Baldwin High School, the cancer rates in Allegheny County are already higher than the other 66 counties in the state and in the United States. Cardiovascular deaths are also higher in Allegheny County than any other county in Pennsylvania. Do we really need to add more methane emissions to our air and more known carcinogenic chemicals to our water like benzene, toluene and formaldehyde by way of spills and/or leaks?

Are jobs really more important than the health of our families? I am looking forward to the day when more tax credits, campaign contributions and exceptions are given to promote green energy jobs for wind, solar and hydroponic industries.

(Applause.)

MS. LEETE: We can diversify our energy portfolio. Yes, gas prices are low, but so are life expectancy rates in Allegheny County. We rank 40th in the 67 counties. You can check these statistics for yourselves on a Powerpoint presentation at the Allegheny County Health Department website. Please vote no to more drilling in our parks. I thank you for listening, and I wish all of you a long, healthy life.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Stephanie Ulmer? Stephanie not here? U-L-M-E-R, Stephanie? Stephanie, how's your last name spelled?

MS. ULMER: Ulmer. I think you said it right. I just couldn't hear you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, okay. All right.

MS. ULMER: I'm Stephanie Ulmer at 427 Elmer Street, Edgewood, 15218.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Talk into the mike.

MS. ULMER: If anyone here has ever had work done on their home, they know that it is standard practice to pay a portion of the agreed-upon price before the work begins and the rest when work is finished. The Protect Our Parks ordinance is basically following this common sense business practice. Range Resources has incurred over 200 violations in Pennsylvania and paid over \$2 million in fines over the years. More recently, this careless and callous company was fined over \$4 million by the DEP. Meanwhile, in 2013 alone, Range Resources earned about \$1 billion and paid their CEO \$10 million, several times more than most of us will earn in a lifetime of labor. For Range, citations and fines are all part of doing business. For the average Allegheny County taxpayer, it is a different matter, because it is the little guy who actually pays for Range's many violations; you know, the people who don't take home fat paychecks or own second homes and country estates, the people who, perhaps, don't own their homes at all, the people who don't have or want opportunities to lease their land to the gas companies, and those who do not benefit, in fact, may be actively harmed by the presence of fracking in their communities, the people who, if they want to spend time in nature, have only the parks to turn to, in other words, most people who live in Allegheny County. We are the people who really lose out when Range Resources spills untreated fracking waste or poisons the air. Why we are doing business with this company in the first place is beyond me. But if we are, in fact, signing a lease with Range, then we must acknowledge that there's only one thing that Range Resources fears, and that is not having access to drilling sites.

Because the lifespan of a fracked well is so short, usually about eight years in the Marcellus, and because well production declines so dramatically after the first year --- production in the second year of drilling usually drops by about 70 percent from the first. Gas companies must be constantly drilling new wells in order to maintain their incomes. In exchange for an indeterminate amount of money for a short period of time, Deer Lakes Park users are going to be subjected to increased traffic, noise and air pollution from a dozen different sources.

We also run the risk of having our water polluted. No one knows what the long-term damage to our air, water, climate and economy might be. The only real incentive Range Resources has to minimize the harm they do when drilling their wells next to our parks, is to know if they don't follow best practices, they will simply not be allowed to drill under any of our other parks. Please support the Allegheny taxpayer and vote for the Protect Our Parks ordinance.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Joseph Schrieber or Schrieber (changes pronunciation)?

MR. SCHRIEBER: Schrieber (corrects pronunciation).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Schrieber (changes pronunciation).

MR. SCHRIEBER: It is pronounced Schrieber.

(Discussion among Council members.)

MR. SCHRIEBER: All right. My name is Joe Schrieber. I'm from Shaler Township. I appreciate the opportunity to come to you tonight to speak in support of the proposed ordinance to establish a moratorium on fracking in and around the Allegheny County parks. From my perspective, this is a small but important step in a different direction than where we seem to be heading as a county and a society. It seems obvious that we should carefully study and systematically analyze all of the costs and benefits of fracking, before allowing this dangerous and dirty industry to operate in our parks, neighborhoods and communities.

While that hasn't happened to date in our Commonwealth, it's extremely disheartening. However, codifying a moratorium on a county ordinance seems to be a necessary step in order to limit any further decisions by this council related to fracking. So I strongly urge you to support this. I also believe that in addition to taking this small step, it is imperative that you, as leaders, stop basing decisions about things like fracking on politically expedient, short term and greed-based factors.

As you all know, the smartest and most knowledgeable scientists in the world, the scientific experts, have told us repeatedly that the planet is warming and that we are responsible for this warming, because we continue to extract fossil fuels from the

ground, burn them and send carbon into the atmosphere. These experts have also told us that we have a relatively small window of time to make the necessary changes to at least minimize the potential devastating effects of climate change and global warming.

Therefore, I am standing before you this evening to implore you to lead on this critical issue. Use your leadership positions to educate the citizens of this great county and to bring us together as a community to do the great things, both large and small, that are necessary to deal with this incredibly frightening problem. I understand that this will take some courage. Sometimes I'm a little leery of the amount of courage that exists in some of our leaders. It also will take a shift to something that our grandparents understood, that we can do great things, great things like Social Security and Medicare, sending a man to the moon, ending a depression, building county parks. What a great thing that millions and millions of us have enjoyed over the years. We came together collectively to do that, so now we need courageous and bold and collective action to address this problem, to consider the relative short-term effects of fracking, the limited effects, financial effects and financial benefits of fracking and other carbon-based energy activities and compare that to the devastating cost our children and grandchildren will potentially face when we --- based on the results of our short-term decisions, based on greed and a lack of courage. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak here this evening in support of this moratorium.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Angelo Taranto?

MR. TARANTO: My name is Angelo Taranto. I live at 11000 Park Plaza Drive, Apartment 11302, Ross Township, 15229. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you ---.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up, Angelo.

MR. TARANTO: Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you tonight. I am here to speak in support of the proposed ordinance for a wait-and-see policy toward further natural gas --- natural gas drilling at county parks. The ordinance would be part of the county --- to find out how the drilling at Deer Lakes Park turns out before considering drilling at any other parks. A thorough examination of risks and liabilities is needed

before any additional drilling is considered. I am concerned about fracking and, in particular, fracking in our public parks.

We do not yet know all the potential negative impacts of this relatively new technology, but we --- but what we know is very troubling. It has the potential to wreak havoc on our public lands. And as a county council, it is your responsibility to protect those public lands. The proposed ordinance is about valuing the parks and it is about transparency and credibility in county government. It is about doing the right thing for the future of our families and our county. Members of Council and the County Executive have already said that they would wait and see what happens with Deer Lake Parks before drilling under other parks. We're only asking you to commit to those statements by adopting the proposed ordinance. Article I, Section 27, of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that, quote, people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment, end quote. The proposed ordinance that would establish a wait-and-see policy is in keeping with this promise in the Pennsylvania Constitution.

I am a member of the Allegheny County Clean Air NOW, ACCAN, a group that is trying to get the Health Department to better regulate the Shenango Coke Plant on Neville Island that is daily spewing noxious emissions into our communities. At a public meeting with the Health Department on November 19th, a number of people told us that they regret that they ever moved to Pittsburgh and to the area impacted by the Shenango Plant because of the air pollution that we have here. We shouldn't be giving people another reason to stay away from Pittsburgh or to move away, by spoiling the county's public parks. Thank you and please support this ordinance.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jennifer Myers?

MS. MYERS: I'm Jennifer Myers, 3116 Brereton Street, and that's 15219. It's been a while since I've been here, and I'm here to support the ordinance that the Protect Our Parks group was able to get forth to you with 1,800 signatures on it. And I want to thank Joni for spearheading that. Absolutely, you're mind blowing to me. You are.

(Applause.)

MS. MYERS: Every single one of you, I hold you really close in my heart. I don't see you as much, and I'm sorry. To be honest, after you guys voted to do the Deer Lakes fracking job, which --- which I guess had been planned the whole time, you might as well just be honest with us --- I just lost hope. I have to be honest. I lost hope in the process and I lost hope in the people that we elect who are supposed to be protecting us and caring about us and especially thinking about the future and thinking about the land that is actually the public's land. It's not yours. It's to all of us. And until you get all of us to vote on that, you couldn't --- I don't see how it's really right that you can do that.

So I took a big step back, and I'm here tonight to support this ordinance, because I --- my main message to you is, you did the wrong thing last time, and you're so lucky you get a second chance. And now is the time to do the right thing. So please, take the second chance. It's really rare in life you get a second chance. Take the second chance and do the right thing, and just keep those parks away from fracking. We know that it's happening all around. I know that. You can't change that. That's Pennsylvania. We live here. But let's --- let's do something kind of cool and have those parks be like sacred spaces, which they are. By allowing all those pipelines under there, we don't know what's going to happen.

It's just too risky and there's really, actually, no point. I wrote up all this stuff, and I gave you a few reasons --- and I could just e-mail these to you, but one of the reasons is, obviously, we know all the dangers that are with fracking every day. If you have, like, a Google alert --- you should have a Google alert --- every day, there's a new study. Every day there's a new study about the harms of fracking. It's really fucked up. Excuse me. It's really scary. Every day there's a new study, every single day. So that was my first point.

The second point is the gas isn't going anywhere and prices are dropping. And you should still be listening to me even if I swear, because you know what, we're all adults and it's just a word.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, wait, but in here, we don't do that. I think you came in late and I warned everybody about that.

MR. FUTULES: We're only allowed to swear.

MS. MYERS: Only you? That's the whole thing. You guys are allowed to corrupt --- you're allowed to do all this stuff ---

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, no.

MS. MYERS: --- that we can't do.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No one up here is supposed to do it, either. Okay?

MS. MYERS: Well, I'm sorry. I do --- I am sorry. I did screw up.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MS. MYERS: I am passionate, as you can tell. That's why I haven't come back, because I was afraid of just breaking down in front of you guys. Just do the right thing the second time. That's all I have to say.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Kim Eichenlaub?

MS. EICHENLAUB: Kim Eichenlaub from Richland Township. I haven't been here since the vote last May, and a lot has really been happening; hasn't it? Last month in Denton, Texas, where fracking was invented, 58 percent of voters approved a total ban on fracking in the future.

(Applause.)

MS. EICHENLAUB: Boulder, Colorado county commissioners passed a moratorium that halts fracking, at least until July of 2018. This was ten days after a Halliburton well site accident that killed one and seriously injured two. The Dow Jones Oil and Gas Index is in decline, and let's say the picture in the shale fields is bleak, not likely to improve for producers and will prove disastrous for drilling companies that have borrowed heavily to participate in the fracking boom. The goal now, they say, is to cut costs and put pressure on suppliers and contractors. No mention of safety.

A fire at a Mercer County gas well forced evacuation of 20 homes in a one-mile radius at 5:45 a.m. on September 6th. Where do people go during such an evacuation? Typically, the schools. Fire, explosion, emissions of chemicals that have caused heart disease, neurological disorders and respiratory ailments are among the concerns of a citizens' group in Mars, Butler County, that opposes Rex Energy's plans to frack several wells within three-quarters of a mile of three schools.

DEP issued permits. The citizens agreed that was against zoning. The supervisors changed the zoning to

allow the drilling. The citizens, joined by Delaware Riverkeepers Network Clean Air Council and legal representation challenged that, and the project is on hold while the zoning board holds hearings, up to five of them, about once a month. A Mount Pleasant Township family is taking Range to court for a wastewater impoundment 1,000 feet from their home that's become a toxic dump site for 190 wells. Range has been fined \$4.15 million, none of which went to the family, and drilling truly is just the beginning.

So here we are. We went out and got almost 2,000 signatures. My husband and I sat at a picnic table at North Park and began asking passers-by if they'd like to sign. We were overwhelmed. People lined up to sign. They stopped what they were doing --- walking their dogs, running, walking. And several shared family stories, stories about their family members who have been impacted; property and health ruined by fracking. Once again, we ask you to do the right thing here. Pass this wait-and-see ordinance and protect our parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Peter Gilmore? Peter not here? Okay. Let's move on to Barbara Grover.

MS. GROVER: I'm Barbara Grover, and I live at 5526 Wilkins Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15217. As Chair of the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club, I speak on behalf of the over 5,000 members here in southwestern Pennsylvania. We urge you to unanimously pass the proposed ordinance preventing, for at least a two-year period, any drilling exploration or natural gas extraction on or under any of the county parks, of course, excepting Deer Lakes.

The scientific evidence of the negative health and environmental impacts of fracking are sufficiently significant to have entire countries such as France, Ireland, Switzerland, South Africa, Bulgaria, Austria, as well as many of our states, to ban fracking. Those are countries. The risks of water pollution are sufficiently significant to have the German beer manufacturers request their government to ban fracking to preserve their industry.

Since the leaking of methane during the fracking process contributes greatly to climate change, the connection between fracking and health is quite evident. Let me quote from Don Hopey's article on a workshop sponsored by the Allegheny County Health Department.

There will be more itching, sneezing, swelling and gasping for breath as Pennsylvania's climate shifts and residents are exposed to more poison ivy, stinging insects, pollen, allergies, Lyme-disease-bearing ticks and experiencing increased asthma/respiratory disease, and heat-related deaths.

At a joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society in Chicago this past June, Christopher Casaudus' study found that, quote, among the chemicals that the fracking industry has reported using most often, all 24 block the activity of one or more important hormone receptors. The high levels of hormone disruption have been associated with infertility, cancer and birth defects. Residents in Washington and Greene Counties who live near fracking sites have lost their water supplies, have had to restrict their children from playing outside, have suffered nosebleeds, headaches, rashes, kidney disease and other health problems. I know that all of you do not want to subject your constituents to these hazards; thus, the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club urges you to vote for this ordinance and the residents --- excuse me, and listen to the residents of Allegheny County, that you are committed to protecting their right to clean air, clean water and preserving their public land and doing all in your power to minimize their health risks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Wanda Guthrie?

MS. GUTHRIE: My name is Wanda Guthrie. I am representing the Thomas Merton Center and Protect Our Parks this evening. I am Chair of the Environmental Justice Committee of the Thomas Merton Center. And so that is a subject I can speak to. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. For this reason, we have regarded the leasing of land held in trust for the citizens of Allegheny County for unconventional hydraulic gas drilling, to be a betrayal of our common trust.

In our country and around the world, people are speaking out about the betrayal of our common trust, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the natural environment we enjoy. A couple of months ago, the Great

March for Climate Action came through Pittsburgh. They started off in Los Angeles and walked all the way to Washington, DC to talk about regulation and the lack of regulation. Among the marchers was a young woman, 18 years old, Kelsey Juliana, who is part of an active Oregon lawsuit called Our Children's Trust.

The Oregon Court of Appeals has affirmed the very purpose of our justice system to seek judicial review when other branches of our government violate our basic rights. The decision of the Oregon Court of Appeals affirms that youth deserve a judicial determination on whether the atmosphere is a natural resource that warrants governmental protection as a public trust resource. A group of seven Harvard students --- student activists filed a lawsuit recently, alleging that the university is violating its original charter through continued investment in fossil fuels and asked the court to force Harvard to immediately withdraw its holdings in the industry.

Peru is hosting the Global Climate Conference that started on Sunday, and there are 195 countries that are speaking out on the problem and the necessity for regulation of our environment. It will open on Sunday and will be going on for 12 days. Peru has come under fire recently for failing to protect 57 activists who were murdered trying to defend the country's rapidly diminishing rain forests and other ecosystems.

Tonight I ask you to support this moratorium as a decision for environmental justice. If not, then how different are we from those who would declare profits over justice and equality or common trust? Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Patricia DeMarco?

MS. DEMARCO: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. President DeFazio and members of Council, thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak to you. I stand in support of the proposed ordinance for a two-year moratorium on further fracking in our county parks. I know that we've had a number of hearings before you in these last years, and I thought it would be an appropriate time to reflect on what we might have learned during that time. There are several new important developments, one being the ruling of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that Act 13 is unconstitutional, according to the first article, which gives the environmental rights

to the citizens. This assures that you have jurisdiction and, indeed, the obligation of local government to act to protect the natural environment for the sake of current and future citizens.

Secondly, the peer-reviewed scientific data continues to accumulate, documenting the health effects, the environmental effects and the degradation that occurs from fracking in case after case after case. I have put some abstracts and scientific references of this recent material in your --- in my written statements before you. Third, the most recent findings of the Intergovernmental Policy Committee on Climate Change has issued the most urgent warnings to date of the need to shift away from burning fossil fuels, which is the major cost of our causing of climate change and the temperature increases that will be occurring if we do not change our course. I've put some of that data in here so you can look at it in more detail. But the correlation between human activity and the increase in global warming cannot be denied. The actions of people from burning fossil fuels swamp the normal temperature cycles of the --- of the planet and reverse the processes that form the free oxygen that we depend on.

This is an opportunity during a moratorium period, for the County Council to take action, to show leadership in building a community resilient and robust for the future, by developing baseline data in our parks, by pursuing and leading the maximum use of renewable resources in our county. The County Council should endorse and expand the use of renewable resources, for example, by Solarize Allegheny, which is going on right now. Third, you should enact zoning guidance that will provide for setbacks and appropriate protections for watersheds, air emission requirements and abatement requirements for industrial activity and the conditions required for leases in areas zoned as residential, light commercial and agricultural uses.

Citizens deserve to know that their quality of life is protected from unconstrained development. Freedom without responsibility yields chaos. I ask you to live within the laws of nature, because Mother Nature always wins. The laws of biology are not negotiable. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Vicki Kirby? Vicki Kirby?

MS. KIRBY: My name is Victoria Kirby, 1767 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, 15143, Pittsburgh. I thank you for allowing my mother to read my opinion since I'm in Ohio. My husband and I, along with our two teenage daughters, are an active family and enjoy activities outside the home, and therefore, take advantage of our parks. I say our parks because they belong to all of us, for enjoyment, whether passive or active, relaxation or athletics. Air pollution has no barriers while we are outside, and we need clean air for healthy activities. The more exertion, the greater the need, and all children have a greater susceptibility to lung damage. We know that VOCs are given off continually from slick water hydraulic fracturing and, being of a heavy vapor, sink into the valleys where most activity takes place in parks, especially around the lakes and streams. The number of serious problems arising from natural gas extraction is on the rise, but the individuals involved state that it can be done safely, so why isn't it? Range Resources was fined \$4.15 million in September of this year for six fracking waste and recycle containment funds in Washington County, that had been leaking for several years, that they knew about, along with other infractions. Oklahoma has earthquakes equivalent to California, according to USGS, and their buildings are not built to earthquake codes. Think of Youngstown.

Range is going for a flaring twice the normal size in Washington County for a week. How much benzene, along with other VOCs, will be released? The traffic, noise, nitrous oxides, VOCs, continual light 24/7, for how long? Denton, Texas, where fracking for natural gas was first started, has banned the activity, although the Bushes own 13 million acres in Texas and are fighting the ban. They also own aquifers. Water is going to be the next oil. The Lauff family in Mount Pleasant is suing the drillers and the lessors for ruining their lives due to every aspect of natural gas extraction. Will the county be sued? Will you be sued? This is a big gamble. Time to take a break. Sit back. Do not lease any more parks until we know the full effects of natural gas extraction on our parks and the adjacent neighborhoods. Thank you for your time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Laura Wiens?

MS. WIENS: My name is Laura Wiens, 7731 Edgerton Avenue. I'm here to speak on a different environmental issue, although I'm strongly in support of Protect Our Parks. I'm here as a member of Pittsburghers for Public Transit, but I'm also an organizer with Unite Here, Local 57, the Hospitality Workers Union. On behalf of PPT, I want to commend Councilwomen Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Danko for supporting the drink tax budget amendment to give additional funding to Port Authority proposed on November 20th.

It is very disappointing that the other council members chose to vote down the proposal to the detriment of their under-served constituents. We believe that the drink tax fund balance has shown its growth potential, up \$10 million in just four years, and has proved that it is a sustainable source of additional operational funding for Port Authority. It is also enough money to meet the state match annually. Council members who opposed this amendment have claimed that ACCESS is a viable alternative to regular bus service. ACCESS, while useful for senior and disabled residents, and frankly, not without its challenges as well, is definitely no substitute for regular commuter bus service.

Pittsburgh has a growing hospitality and tourism sector with two new hotels slated to open in downtown alone next year. The CONSOL Energy Center, Convention Center and PNC Park are enormous draws for leisure and tourism year-round, and these hospitality jobs are good jobs, union careers with pension benefits and living wages. When we do not make funding available for Port Authority to expand or restore critical bus service, we are making a very short-sighted calculation. Members of our counties have lost access to job opportunities, like those that our union offers. I remember during the last round of bus cuts, members whose service was cut on weekends and evenings resorted to paying expensive cab fares to ferry themselves into work. So they are working to pay for the cost of coming into work. Many others were forced to resign.

On the flip side, those that are stranded in transportation deserts can't take public transit to see a show in the cultural district, to go to a Penguins game or do their Christmas shopping. People lose their agency both as producers and as consumers. For those of you with cars, not having buses to take you to go shopping may seem

like a minor annoyance. For those of us without cars, this becomes an insurmountable hurdle. Next Wednesday is Human Rights Day. On that day I would urge the Council to remember that transit is a human right because for so many of us, our bus line is our lifeline.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Tim Ludwig?

MR. LUDWIG: Hopefully, this doesn't echo. Tim Ludwig, 18 Crescent Street in Etna. This is the first time I've ever gather signatures for anything. When at first --- sorry. At first when I was presented with this to gather signature, I said, oh, come on, you got to be kidding me. But it's Joni, she's cool, so I said okay. So I started asking people. And do you know what their response for this was? It was yes, I want to sign it. And yes, stay right here, let me get my daughter, she's going to sign it. And yes, stay right there, I'm asking the guy next to me in the bar. I want him to sign it, too. It was easy to get these signatures, 1,800 in a couple months, no problem. Sure --- or sorry, a couple weeks, not a couple months. Sure, we weren't the first group that would do something like this, but we just needed somebody like Joni to organize us and we got it done.

So what does this ordinance do? I just want to quote two people that were very involved in this and see if you can guess who they are. The first quote is it's my pulse that I don't think the public's ready yet until they see the results of what's done with the airport and Deer Lakes Park. That was the first person. The second person is, I just want to see how this goes. We've done two in the last two years, one at the airport, which is more of an industrial site, then we did a park. I think we just want to give it some time and see how this thing operates before jumping into something else. The first quote was from Mr. Hillebrand, the CCO --- or the COO of Huntley and Huntley. The second quote was from Mr. Fitzgerald. These were quotes back in June. So this ordinance, it's just holding these people to their words. The gas isn't going anywhere. It's been there for a thousand years. Let's pump the brakes a little bit, let's not pump the gas. Say no to more drilling, say yes to this ordinance. Thanks.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Lucas Lyons?

MR. LYONS: Lucas Lyons, 1902 Meadville Street, Pittsburgh, down river from Deer Lakes Park. I just wanted to rise and show my support for the ordinance. You

guys absolutely crushed me for voting yes on drilling under Deer Lakes. I don't know what it's going to take for the nine white men on this Council to rethink what they did. Unfortunately, the only thing I can think of --- it's echo-ey --- as morbid as this sounds, who's going to be the first child to get asthma? Who's going to be the first child to get sick in your county, Mr. Kress? Who's going to be the first family to get sick? Who's going to be the first family to lose their water supply? I guess that's what has to happen to shake the nine white men on this Council that listen to the months and months and months of ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Point of order. I'm taking this as like ethnic stuff and I don't appreciate it, because I am one of those nine white men. And for this young man's information, this white man voted against the fracking at the airport.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Hold it. Let's watch the remarks on personal people and issues; okay?

MR. LYONS: Okay. I didn't mean anything ethnically or stereotypical about it but that's --- you know, that was the demographic breakdown.

MR. LYONS: The nine men --- the nine men on the County Council that voted for it. So anyway, the point of the story is we need to rethink what you've done. This is for the future of Allegheny County, the future health of our children. There's so many people --- you know, I would say the average age of this group here is what, 40-ish? There's so many people that can't talk to you about their health concerns. We've entrusted so --- we've entrusted you to protect everyone in Allegheny County and that's who I'm worried about the most right now, the people that live in your district, Mr. Kress, the people that are going to be down river from the industrial operation that you set up. I know you're going to --- you know, you took offense to us making fun of the job fairs.

I mean, how many jobs and how much bonus money and how much, you know, tax? I mean, how much is it worth to outweigh the health risks to a child? What's the value of that? When does that surpass that? The Gulicks don't live on that property. You said you went to the Gulicks and they were like all for it. They don't live there. It's an investment property. It was an investment property. Of course, they're going to be pro drilling. They live in Monroeville. They're not even Allegheny

County representatives. You went and said --- you went to like some guy's house and you said, oh, you know, what do you think about this? Well, he said, oh, it's great but my house was shaking for the first week that they were drilling or whatever. What? You just put an industrial operation in your district for very minimal gain. And I'm going to ask you, I'm begging you to just take a moment, the nine people or the entire Council, I want you to take a step back and think about what you've done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Karen Bernard?

MS. BERNARD: I'm Karen Bernard, 1829 Middle Road, Glenshaw. Thank you for protecting our parks, for all your time and effort. I brought an article today from the New York Times cover story, Sunday --- two Sundays ago. The downside of the vote in North Dakota, things aren't so rosy any more there. People were thrilled for a while but as North Dakota's oil industry has grown, spills and fires have soared. They have a lovely chart here that --- you probably can't see it, but there was approximately one to two million gallons spilled a quarter in 2004 and now it's up to about 18 million gallons a quarter spilled. And let's see, the number of spills continue to grow faster than the number of wells. All told, the number of wells is up 200 percent and spills 650 percent since 2004.

Now, we've heard from other people that --- where fracking has been happening a long time, people are banning it now, in Texas and Colorado. You know, with this in mind, I can't see how it doesn't just make sense to wait to see what happens with what you have already decided, you have already started. And I just want to say where I live, I'm less than two miles away from Hartwood Acres, and you know, if there are spills and leaks at Harwood Acres --- you know, I don't just live in a box on Middle Road. You know, parks are great for psychic and physical health and they are, you know, crucial. But this isn't just a park. This is my home. This is, you know, right down the road from me and right down the road, all these parks, people --- they're right down the road from everybody else, too. And it's not just about me and my home, but speaking of myself and my home, I just want to say I have a daughter who's 23, who goes to college and she's been in Washington for four years. And she would really --- she would love to come back. She's seriously considering not coming back home because of fracking.

And if we continue on the course, the direction we're going, she may not come back here to live. And if that's the case, unfortunately, as much as I love --- I have grown up in Western Pennsylvania. As much as I love it here, I would eventually move myself. And that is something I don't want to do. And I really, sincerely hope that you proceed with caution and vote for this ordinance to wait and see. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Ken Weir?

MR. WEIR: Kenneth Weir, I live in Lincoln Place, 31st Ward. When I was little, my mother would always say, Kenny, why don't you shut up? Why do you keep asking questions? What is wrong with you? My dad would say, Dorothy, what are you going to do with this kid? We had a very large family and my mother would say, Kenny, can't you be quiet? You're always talking, you're always saying stuff. Well, I never did. And sometimes you get sensationalized in newspapers, as we have done here at a couple of meetings. And you wear a mask and you make the newspapers. And you get into a --- you know, confront a --- and it makes the newspapers. And it takes away from the intelligent debate that needs to be going on. So in honor of my mother, you all know how I feel about this subject, I think I'm going to not talk and maybe she'll be happy. Maybe.

But then on the other hand, on the other hand, mom, you'll have to forgive me, but you know, perception is reality. That was coined by a political strategist. His name was Lee Atwater. He came up with the strategy that perception is reality, and you can perceive anything and it can become reality for people. And the only thing I want to say, and I'm going to cut it short, is when you have realities like we had after the last meeting we were here --- we left the meeting --- and this is just my perception. There's nothing illegal about what happened, nothing was wrong with what happened other than the perception of reality. We went to the Chinese restaurant on First Avenue, myself, my wife and a friend of ours, Paula, sitting there having dinner after the meeting when they voted to frack the airport at the county, which I asked to be shelved until you did your research. And we were told you did it and Mr. Macey, I firmly disagree with you on your logistics.

But anyways, the reality is while we were sitting there, low and behold, a couple Council people

come in for dinner. One was the Solicitor, Jack Cambest, talking about Ms. Barbara Danko. Now, the rest of the Council people, I don't know if you were there, I don't know if you were invited to this specialized dinner, but this is what was going on with Mr. Macey. He'd say, oh, wait a minute, there's people here. He was supposed to get up and go --- he was talking about what he was going to eat, but he left. Now I don't know if there's anything wrong with that, probably not. But in come Councilman DeFazio and also came in Mr. Kress and Mr. Futules. And they were having a dinner. And perception is reality, folks. And I'm telling you, if that's where the real meeting takes place, the Council people that weren't invited should try to get invited to that meeting because that's where the decisions are being made, not here. I said there's nothing illegal, John. I said ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No. Wait. Wait. Hear me out for a second. Number one, we usually go to eat after every meeting so if you've got some problem with it ---.

MR. WEIR: John, you don't owe me an apology. I said that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I don't want no apology.

MR. WEIR: There's nothing illegal about it. Lee Atwater said perception is reality.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I don't care what Lee Atwater said.

MR. WEIR: Well, you should because that's my perception.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I just want to tell you for the benefit of the people we usually go eat after the meeting. And that was it.

MR. WEIR: Okay. Yeah. Fine, John.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: And the two people you talked about left basically when we got there. A lot of people were invited, they just didn't want to come.

MR. WEIR: You're right. You're right. I agree. But like I said, my perception of reality. It's my perception of what reality --- you know what I'm saying?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, that's okay. That's fine.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MR. FUTULES: You're welcome to eat with me at any time.

MR. WEIR: Are you sure? Are you going to pay?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: He probably will.

MR. WEIR: I'll pay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, let him pay. He'll pay.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I would love to be able to enter into dialogue with various individuals that come speak with us.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, we don't do that.

MR. HEIDELBAUGH: But you just did.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, I know that. I just wanted to correct the statement ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Well, I would like to correct a lot.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, okay. As the Chairman I make the decisions.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Oh.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: And if you don't like it, there's a way you can get around it. Okay. All right. Loretta Weir?

MS. WEIR: Hi, Loretta Weir, Ken's wife, 31st Ward. You know, I was just going to --- you know, if I were a teacher, and I think some of you claim to have been one, and I had to go to a classroom and I was standing at this podium and I was actually teaching --- there are teachers out here, and my classroom was as disrespectful and as disruptive as this one, I don't quite know what I'd do, but I would figure that those kids were on the road to nowhere, they were a bunch of losers and I would understand why they flunked every test given to them. Okay? I would assume their IQ scores were a little lower than the average. But you know, when you come here --- and perception is reality. You have to start to wonder, like what did you people come from? Like what were your families like? What were you taught? I don't know if there's a Black Friday sale that was extended, but people look like they're shopping, they're reading stuff, they're like giggling. Some of them are going --- making these crazy faces.

And I'm sitting here thinking is this a joke? But I'm starting to think it is, but I'm starting to think and understand why none of you really --- not none of you, some of you do get it. But I'm starting to understand why a lot of you don't know anything after as many years as we've been coming down here because you haven't read

anything. Because if you did, if you read any of this or listened to any of this, you would be so frightened and you would be so scared of what you're doing that it would scare the heck out of you. I don't want to scare the heck out of you. I don't want to say white, I don't want to say balls, I don't want to say whatever. But it would scare the heck out of you; okay? And I'm just going to tell you this, you side with Corbett agendas against yourselves, against your communities and you continue to do it. But you know what? History repeats itself.

And you know, Mr. Finnerty, were you the teacher, because I'll tell you, honest to God, I'm glad my kids never graced your classroom. Pastor Martin Neimoller wrote a provocative poem about the cowardice of German intellectuals following the Nazi rise of power and the subsequent purging of their targets group after group. Okay? First they came for the socialists and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists. I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to stand and speak out for me. So we talk about cancer, we talk about all these things that affect everybody.

We talk about those little children. And I see a bunch of you up here like --- literally like looking at the neighbor making (makes face), and it is so outrageous. And all I want to know is if those same children in that classroom were making a couple hundred dollars to be in your classroom, and then wanted a raise, would it not really tick you off? I don't get paid to be here. You do. And you want more money for doing this.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Paula Lim?

MS. LIM: Good evening. My name is Paula Lim, 309 Southvue Drive, the Borough of Whitehall. On my eastbound holiday ride to Philly, I couldn't help but notice a distinctive difference in our approach to energy between the western side of the state and the eastern. Going through Western Pennsylvania we see gas drilling, condenser stations, trucking, sand, chemicals. We hit Harrisburg. Along the Turnpike, instead of chewing up acres of our land for drilling, storing, fracking, cleanup, we start seeing solar panels. In Harrisburg, solar panels. At schools, farms, businesses, solar panels. No one has to worry about having a family

gathering within the shadow of a well impoundment facility. There are other things I noticed, especially in Philadelphia, green construction in particular. My friends tell me that my daughter has really been listening to me. There's a first time for everything. This past year, because she apparently didn't have enough medical school loans, she bought a condo. This condo is 100 percent eco-friendly, solar panels on the roof, recycled glass countertops, recycled flooring, recycled siding, the back covered in a type of solar panel that absorbs the heat in the winter, reflects in the summer. No need for air conditioning. Only \$10 a month and heated water or --- no electric. Everything is --- the cooking stove is magnetic. I want to know why our area seems so backwards compared to other parts of the country. Philadelphia is building hundreds of these. Instead, we're damaging our parks, our forests. Why can't we put our efforts into renewables instead of wasting all this land going towards drilling? Put in solar panels. We can have acres of them.

APPLAUSE

MS. LIM: Is it just because of the vast sums of money --- were being put into campaign coffers? Do you people truly represent the people or do you represent oil and gas? Filthy gas makes filthy politicians. Stop using jobs, jobs, jobs as an excuse. There will be no jobs on a dead planet, and that's where we're heading. National Geographic said if we continue heating this planet at the current rate, there will be no life. The planet will be gone. So if we continue these destructive practices, it will just be the product of your short-term thinking. Drilling for gas is short term. We have to look for the future. Why should we be forced to trade the scenery, solitude and serenity that our parks provide? Until all these questions can be answered satisfactorily, no more leases.

APPLAUSE

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Daniel Little?

MR. LITTLE: I hate to break up the momentum, but I'm going to be talking about the county operating budget. County Council, first, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Daniel Little. I am a resident of Lawrenceville, 4125 Foster Street. And I'm a transit advocate with Pittsburghers for Public Transit. I'm also a civil engineer. As a civil engineer, I was

taught the value of investing in transit in dense urban corridors. Transit requires less energy and space per person than automobiles, freeing up congestion and thereby allowing people to travel to their jobs more quickly and efficiently. Transit reduces the need for expanding automobile infrastructure in urban areas with high property values, further reducing costs to taxpayers. However, as not an engineer, but a citizen, I see the value in transit's ability to sustain lives. Today I'm not talking about efficiency or merely connecting people to jobs. I'm talking about connecting people to life.

Ever since 2011, drastic cuts in transit service have made it nearly impossible for residents in Baldwin, Moon and Groveton to commute to jobs, grocery stores and doctors' appointments. Residents often have to travel over two miles in automobile-centric neighborhoods with no sidewalks to get to the nearest bus stop. These cuts are severely crippling for residents who cannot afford automobiles or relocation to more transit accessible neighborhoods, and nearly impossible for residents with health impairments who struggle to walk such long distances. Back in 2009, Judge Judith Olson's court ruled that additional revenue from the County drink tax could be used for Port Authority operating costs. Such money would be invaluable for the Port Authority to provide service to struggling residents in this county. I strongly urge you to take advantage of the drink tax fund balance of over \$5 million to restore service to these struggling residents. I was pleased to hear that Councilman Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Daly Danko sponsored an amendment during the budget committee meeting, but was disappointed that it didn't make it out of committee to be voted on at a general Council meeting.

We understand the concerns about having enough funds for matching the state money each year. But the fund has grown by close to \$10 million in just four years. And with so many hipsters owning breweries, there's a guaranteed increase in revenue. Even just a million, a couple million from this fund each year, would help County residents get connected to life. During the committee meeting a suggestion was made that residents could use Access. While Access does provide a crucial service, there are many eligibility requirements, and it's limiting for people when reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance. Access is not nearly sufficient for

residents who need fixed route service which provides independence and spontaneity. Although there are many transit needs throughout the country, it's never too early to start somewhere. While we've been told if the bus rapid transit is completed, it will add 300 buses to our neighborhoods, these residents cannot afford to wait three years or more.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead and finish it up. Your red light is on.

MR. LITTLE: Okay. Let's reinvest in our communities now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Thanks. Dennis Donahoe?

MR. DONAHOE: Good evening. My name is Dennis Donahoe. I currently live at 3783 Churchview Avenue and it's North Baldwin. I'm a lifelong Allegheny County resident. I recently was informed that three of the Councilmembers submitted a proposal in committee, Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Danko, to use the excess drink tax balance to fund the operational budget of the Port Authority of Pittsburgh. As you noticed when I walked up, I'm having trouble with my ankle. I actually was very mobile a year ago, but I am now incurring what happens to a lot of older people, that they have challenge that they didn't foresee. It's very likely where I live right now I will have to move if the transportation is not restored to my area. I find it very disappointing that when a proposal that seems very workable is submitted with an ongoing possibility as to the drink tax, as I've read articles about it, they said it's likely with this tax in place, there would be less pushback if people of the community realize that their friends without cars, their parents, their grandparents, are being transported by money from the drink tax. There would be less pushback for it and it would be a win/win situation for everybody. I would kindly request that you give serious consideration to proposals like this going forward because I don't want to live in a transportation desert, and I don't think the livelihood of Allegheny County is enhanced by leaving the situation as it currently is. As it was mentioned prior, people in Moon Township, Clairton, different areas also, are in communities where they don't have access to services, food, church services, doctors. It's a horrible situation. It has a tremendous impact on the people involved. And I can only say I kindly request that you

give very serious consideration to other funding sources that are possibilities or to reconsider what has been submitted as a viable solution for this problem. Thank you very much.

APPLAUSE

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thaddeus Popovich.

MR. POPOVICH: I must be last.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. POPOVICH: It's an honor to be last. And I have a Christmas gift for everyone. It's the latest issue of The Citizen, the only local independent newspaper in Allegheny County. And I think, hope, some of my County representatives receive it and read it. So if you'd hand that out, please. We had a meeting of the Allegheny County Clean Air Now Group located on the North Shores of the Ohio River lately. And The Citizen was the only media outlet that was there. So I guess bad air isn't news any more. So let me continue.

My name is Thaddeus Popovich. I live at 6606 Virginia Avenue in Ben Avon. I support the ordinance to hold back on drilling in our county parks. The past few weeks I have been spending time with a crew from the BBC. Maybe we will get notoriety that way, who expressed an interest in air quality in Pittsburgh. They were confused as to why such a lovely place as Pittsburgh was so complacent about our dirty air, and why we were willing to add to it by fracking in our parks. Let me give you a peek into the future about air quality. If we aggregate the fracking industry out several years, it's called the Shenango Coke Works located near my home. A local independent paper, The Citizen, reported on that. Here is what was not reported, though, in that meeting.

Annual emissions from Shenango include fine particulates, 21 tons per year. Health impact, asthma, bronchitis, heart disease, lung disease. Nitrous oxide, 376 tons per year. Health impact, asthma, airway inflammation. Sulfur dioxide, 331 tons per year. Health impact, wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath. Volatile organic compounds, my favorite, benzene, being one of them, 93 tons per year. Cancer. Health impact is cancer. Carbon monoxide, 351 tons per year. Health impact, cardiovascular issues. That's me. Mortality rates in the communities directly downwind from Shenango are 20 to 40 percent higher than the national averages for heart disease, lung disease and lung cancer. This was

reported in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette mapping mortality series a couple years ago and it's all derived from state data.

So where is the environmental impact study that tells us what to expect for air pollutants in the Deer Lakes Park area? I never heard any. Did you? No, I didn't hear any. How many wells will be fracked? How many times? How many compressor stations will be built nearby? How many diesel rigs and trucks will be operating near the park? Shall I assume that the emissions will be the same as with the Shenango Coke Works? I'm going to unless someone tells me differently. So therefore, I support the ordinance. Please vote yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We're going to take a five to ten minute recess, change the paper or whatever we have to do before we start the rest of the meeting.

SHORT BREAK TAKEN

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Everybody please be seated. We're going to start the meeting. Okay. All right. We're going to go with Approval of Minutes, 8658-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council held on October 21st, 2014.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. KRESS: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Presentation of Appointments, 8652-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Paul D'Alesandro to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to the Committee on Appointment Review. 8653-14.

MR. CATANESE: Do you want me to take them both?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, take them both if they're in that same committee, yeah.

MR. CATANESE: 8653-14 and 8654-14, approving the reappointment of Senator Matt Smith and Dennis Davin to serve as members of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make --- oh, no, that will go the Appointment Review Committee.

MR. FINNERTY: Right.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. You said that. The next one will go to the Appointment Committee. Okay? Now the next three will be the same also. We'll start with 8655-14.

MR. CATANESE: I think the Councilman is confused. He put them in Appointment Review.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. CATANESE: That's what he put them in. You were looking. I thought you were asking ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, Appointment Review.

MR. CATANESE: Okay. 8655-14, 8656-14, 8657-14, approving the reappointment of Clifford B. Levine, Dr. David Y. Miller and Robert Macey to serve as members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2018. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: They'll all go to the Committee on Appointment Review. All right. Unfinished Business, Committee on Budget and Finance, Second Reading, 8628-14.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the 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 Councilmembers Finnerty, Macey and Palmiere.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was released with an affirmative recommendation from the committee, and I'd like to make a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FINNERTY: And before we go any further --- we have a second --- I have a side-by-side to pass out in relation to the operating budget.

MR. FUTULES: Did somebody second?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, Macey did.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to --- Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, I will. Does everybody have a copy? I think everybody does. Okay. If you take

a look at that side-by-side, you'll see that as you go down the page --- and this is the same thing from the committee to the County Sheriff. You'll see that we added \$50,000 to the County Sheriff's budget and that was for training that he requested. If you go to the back side, Vacant Property Review Board, we added \$100,000 to that. And that has to do with rehabilitating property. And to keep the budget balanced, we took \$150,000 from fringe benefit recovery. The total budget, operating budget, excuse me, is \$339,170,000. So that is the total. And we're talking about the budget that we sent out of committee. It's actually our budget, but it's classified as a Finnerty budget there. So we have a motion and we have a second?

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Under remarks?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have an amendment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to explain?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I think I have a second.

Sue?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Did anybody second it?

MS. MEANS: I'll second it.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have been extremely moved by the request from the citizens who have come before us and asked us to come to their communities and to walk the walk that they walk without a Port Authority bus in their community. I have met with some of these people and I have traveled in a very nice car the walk that they must make on a daily basis to try to get to a bus. When I ran for this position three years ago, one of my major concerns was the ability of the Port Authority bus system to serve those of us in this community who are most in need of their service, which would be the poor and the elderly. As I've said many times at this desk, the rich can always figure it out for themselves. We have a terrible situation in which the blame cannot be laid at the feet of one person or one entity or one governmental group. We have a failure of funding of the Port Authority.

What I'm proposing tonight is not a comprehensive solution, it's a very, very small step towards alleviating some of the problems that our fellow citizens face, a very small step. But hopefully a step that is meaningful to the people in our community. What I'm proposing is that we take \$3 million from the

available drink tax revenue which we have available to us, and an additional \$1 million from money that was allocated by the County Executive for bus rapid transit, and put an entire \$4 million to be used by the Port Authority to increase in some way the bus routes for those in our community who are the most vulnerable. I want to continue to pledge to the members of the community that I will personally continue to work on increased funding and solutions, but this is a small step. The argument against this is that it is unsustainable. We've looked at that and we are of the opinion it is sustainable, that we can take this money out of the drink tax fund.

And in regard to the \$1 million that was to be appropriated for the bus rapid transit, I am opposed to the bus rapid transit project at this point for the following reasons. Number one, the County Executive told us at his September quarterly address that there are 40 to 50 buses per hour that travel from Oakland through that corridor to downtown. There are no buses in Baldwin. \$1 million to decrease the time from 11 minutes to 5 minutes is unnecessary at this time. Number two, I'm extremely concerned about the housing for the poor. Low income housing for our poor citizens must remain in this community. To reduce our stock of low income housing by bulldozing it for big labor projects will not help the poor in our community.

Once again, the rich can always take care of themselves, the poor need us to watch out for them. So I'd like to take this \$4 million and to commit it to this with an additional commitment of our hearts and our minds to try to remedy what is an abomination in this day and age, that our fellow citizens cannot get to work.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Sue?

MS. MEANS: I just wanted to say that I'm really strongly opposed to the bus rapid transit system. As a nurse and anyone --- I share that a bus is going to go really fast from Oakland to the City of Pittsburgh and there's going to be a bike lane beside it. They're horrified. They know that someone is going to get hurt. I also think how fast can it go if it has to stop and let people on and off, and there are areas in Pittsburgh that are underserved. Moon Township is a place people have spoken about and Baldwin, that it's a desert. And so we don't need to fund this now. And also, the City of Pittsburgh is also at this time talking about raising

taxes. And they're also pledging a million, I think, and a half dollars towards a rapid transit system. We simply can't afford it now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda, then Nick.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I am definitely in favor of giving more money to the Port Authority so that it can add additional service. I know that there's a need in every community within Allegheny County. I know that particular constituents of ours have been especially vocal about the lack of service. And they're just one of many groups in our county crying out for the need for service. What I'm struggling with is the reduction or the removal of the funds from the BRT. I grew up in one of the most densely populated areas in this country, New York metropolitan area, rode public transportation for a good deal of the time I was growing up there. And I value rapid transit. It is a great way --- you might say, five, ten minutes, whatever --- it's a lot of time, especially when you have to transfer and things like that. So it is a big deal.

And the BRT, although we're not talking about present day, we're talking about the future. But we have to always be ready and able to plan for the future. And as we attract more people to this wonderful area of ours, we definitely want to have infrastructure and things in place prepared to serve them when they get here, and the people who are already here. So I do see a great deal of value in the BRT and am opposed to removing the funds for that, while I do also appreciate my colleague's attempt to provide additional money for additional service for the Port Authority. So because of that removal of the funds for the BRT, I'm struggling with supporting my colleague's amendment here. And I do appreciate their intent as I'm sure --- as I hope our constituents want.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. A few things about this. The BRT was one of the prime things that transit vision team proposed in regard to mass transit. I was on that committee. There was probably about 25 or 30 CEOs and lawyers on that committee and that was one of their prime things. I'm in favor of that bus rapid transit project. I also would like to make sure that everybody understands what's happening. I have places in Scott Township that need transit. They need transit. There's people north of here who need transit.

There's Baldwin that needs transit. There's a lot of places that need transit. In, I believe it was 2011, when we were really going to be cut --- 35 percent because we couldn't get funding. People were calling Harrisburg, went to Harrisburg, talked to our state legislators, got some more money so that we didn't have to do that 35 percent. It would have destroyed the Port Authority. Personally, I was for fully funding it until we ran out of money. Then let's see what the state is going to do. But that's not the way it went.

If we look at a bus route and say we're going to put this bus route on, and we're going to give it \$4 million, \$2 million, \$3 million, it probably takes \$2 million to \$3 million to run a bus route for a year. Now, if we take the money from the drink tax and car rental tax that's a surplus, and move it over to the Port Authority, we have 100 percent funding. 100 percent funding. Tight now, we have funding for our bus routes of 15 percent. We supply 15 percent, the state supplies 85 percent. So if we do this, we're not going to have anything sustained in the end. And the Port Authority will change things around. I believe it's July they start looking at the bus routes and probably in September they do some changing.

Now, we want to be able to sustain what we do, not to do it for one year and make one group of people in Allegheny County happy because they got a bus. Because we've got a lot of people. I think there's 16 to 17 communities that have petitioned the Port Authority for bus service. We have places that don't have bus service, we know that. We're trying to do the best we can. We do not --- we do not dictate to the Port Authority, in case you don't know that. They're a board. We can't dictate to them. We could give them extra money. That's not saying what they're going to do with it. They're going to vote on it as a board, and they're going to move that money where they think it's best for everyone in Allegheny County. So that's what we're looking at.

One of the things I propose is not putting a new bus route out, but enhancing some bus routes that we have. For example, there's a bus that goes down 88. Possibly they could move it so that it would go around that loop. There's a bus that comes up Bower Hill Road, the 41, I think it's a B or C, that used to go around Birdland out there. Now, they could enhance that. One of the things the Port Authority has or --- I guess it would be a

mandate, that they can't put extra bus routes on at the moment for this Act 87 money that they got. So that's what we're looking at. We're looking at something that's sustainable, something that's going to sustain these bus routes that are put on, not that they're going to put up and put a Band-Aid on them, but rather keep them going. And I think that's an important thing to think about. I thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather is next.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: We have \$10 million sitting in an account. We have 80-year-olds who can't get to a doctor. And what we would prefer to do is to let that money sit there, even though the money was designated, at much chagrin to the people of this county, for that purpose. I agree we cannot put a tag on the money and say you've got to supply Moon Township, Baldwin, with a bus route. We don't have that right. But I do believe that the Port Authority will hear about what we've done here today, and I do believe they will take that money and will use it for the purposes for which it is intended, which is to help people who have no access to transportation get to doctors and jobs which is good for everybody in the community. So I'm willing to take that money and make a risk and give it to the Port Authority because I believe that they'll do the right thing. And I don't want to sit here for another year and know that an 80-year-old is walking two miles on a street with no sidewalk. I think that the real reason that there are folks who are opposed to this is because they want to try to push the state to fund everything, versus doing a little bit. I'm not willing to do that. If we can help a large number of people with an additional route --- and even if it lasts for a year, that's a year less of walking in the rain, sleet and snow for our most vulnerable members of the community. We owe that to them.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next was Bob Macey, Amanda, then you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I am just going to echo what some of my colleagues have said with regard to the \$3 million or \$4 million. It's, for the most part, going to be a one-shot deal. We're looking for a long-term solution. Act 89 isn't even six months old yet, you know. Let's try to use that money, you know, properly, and allow the Board of Directors of the Port Authority to direct and let the

management manage. We don't have bus service in Lincoln or Elizabeth or Forward. Who gets the money? Who gets the bus routes? So I think we need to allow the experts to do their job, bring back some of those bus routes in a responsible manner and find ways to fund it.

\$3 million, that's a bus maybe. Maybe. You're going to need workers, you're going to hire more people. \$3 million just doesn't cut it. And I would hate to have someone depend on that for one year and then find out that they don't have it thereafter. And it isn't just about the elderly or the poor. There's people out there who have suffered from other debilitating circumstances. And when these bus routes shrink like they have, that just takes their opportunity to go to a doctor or shopping or even find work. So yes, it's an important thing for these people. But we need to do it responsibly, put it in the hands of the experts, and not just say here's money, we're going to just patch it up for a year and see what happens. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda, and then Mr. Ellenbogen.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you. I just wanted to clear something up, and I think I can speak from some level of authority, being that I am the person who sits on the Board of the Port Authority. When conversations come up about additional funds and use of funds, they all just kind of look at me and smile because the question was asked, well, if the county were to provide additional funds to the Port Authority, what would you be able to do? Well, should the county want to do that, maybe we could do such and such. And with \$2 million to \$3 million, yes, you could add a bus route. And when we say additional service, it could be one additional bus route, maybe two, I don't know. It could also be increased service on routes that are already serviced with additional buses during rush hour. So like a 6:00 to 9:00 or a 4:00 to 7:00 kind of thing. That's a possibility as well.

And there is value, I think, even if it's just for one year. That's one year maybe that we get to keep several residents where they're living in the community because they now have a bus. And maybe that gives them another year to try to plan for something else even if that has to be taken away. But with the way this drink tax revenue has been growing and growing, it's doubtful that that will occur. I mean, my district also includes

that newest hippest place that someone referenced during public comment. I have lots of places in my district where people apparently like to go party, drink, and a lot of the drink tax revenue comes in from, I would dare to say, my district. I will say that.

And with regards to Act 89 and new routes, the restriction on the Port Authority has to do with the funding it currently has when it comes to doing the routes. If we were to restrict additional funds to the Port Authority for additional service, we, over at the Port Authority, would be compelled to comply with that or else, okay, Port Authority give me back that money, that you're not doing what I told you to do with it. And I don't see that happening, not with the restrictions being put on it. So I just wanted to clear that up for the public. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to say that, you know, we're talking about \$3 million. But the term comes to mind responsibility without authority. Once again everyone up here knows how I feel about authorities in the first place, that we don't have the authority, but --- once again, because the boards are what they are and have been, they have the authority. So I for one do not believe that the \$3 million will be used as we suggested. If that was the case, the Port Authority Board would have stepped up by now because I'm very sure that a lot of folks have talked to me have also talked to members of the Board. And yet, they still remain steadfast in what they're doing, as is their operations. If we give them the \$3 million they're going to continue to do what their goal is. And their goal is not what I believe is in this amendment. There's nobody on this Council who would like to see anybody have to walk that has a handicap or that's elderly or anything else or that has problems with transit. I wish I had the authority. The only person up here --- and Councilwoman Green Hawkins, you know, she sits on the Board and she has the best intentions, but again, she's only one member of that Board.

You have a board that has a mission, has a goal, and there's only a few of us, Councilman Robinson or Councilman Martoni and I was against the creation of these boards when the late Mayor Caligiuri put them together. And the reason these boards were put together in the first place was that the people who were in the executive branch

had the ability to make decisions and go around Council and opinion. And you know, that's the reality of it. And you know, although I applaud my colleague's intention and I feel the same way about it, there's --- I'd be willing to bet anything in the world that that \$3 million is going to go right to whatever mission they have. That's reality, you know. It's nice to --- you know, it's Christmas. It would be great if everybody did the right thing. But I've been involved in politics for 40 years. Really? The right thing? I don't think so.

The right thing is that Board, if they had any intention, that Board would be sitting in that front row right now saying you know what? You folks tell us what to do with that \$3 million and those routes and they'd be shaking their heads yeah. But I don't see any of them except Ms. Green Hawkins. And like I said, her, I know very well, and I know her intentions are wonderful, but again, she is only one member. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I'll try to be quick. Maybe not. Nobody fought harder for the Port Authority years back when they were making those bus cuts. Matter of fact, I believe I actually embarrassed myself by putting on a blue mask and said that I'm going to fight until I'm blue in the face. Sounds familiar; right? And I argued, you know, I said we're never going to get these bus routes back. And as you can see, it's very difficult to get them back. But when I look at our fund balance here for the Port Authority, it's between \$9 million and \$10 million, I believe, and we would probably be irresponsible to spend half of it because in the future there's going to be new capital projects for the Port Authority, and I really don't want to be sitting up here when somebody says, we need you to raise the drink tax because we spent our fund balance.

I don't think any Councilmember would want to raise their hand and raise the drink tax ten percent again. That would be detrimental to everyone. But also, I see it as our operating budget, our fund balance and our accounting. We don't spend half the money. We got \$25 million so let's go out and spend \$12 million, but we don't, because we're responsible enough to know that we're going to need it in the future. We save money for our kids' college educations. We save money for rainy days. We save money for when times are bad. Why are we going to

spend it here? We should be the same way, thinking, act like this money belongs to us and see how fast you want to spend it on one of your projects. That's the way I think. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather, I think you were next and Amanda, I think you had your hand again ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Okay. In response to Councilman Ellenbogen's comments, I think he instructed me at another meeting that this was all a game and that politics isn't for the good of the people. Well, I don't give up 40 hours a week and do this as a public service for it to be game. This is about the good for the people. We have this money here. We sold the drink tax on the fact that it was going to support ridership. The Port Authority has been a traditionally extremely poorly run organization. It has engaged in capital projects which have not gone to its bottom line purpose, which is to allow people to go to the doctor, to go to work, to go home and to allow the people who cannot afford to buy a car, cannot afford insurance or a \$3,000 lease down here to go about this county. To suggest that the \$10 million in this drink tax is going to go for some boondoggle capital project again like the parking lot at South Hills Village that is empty is a disgrace to the people who are standing in the cold and who can't get a bus and go to work.

This is the most --- I'm a Republican. I'm a conservative Republican. Government should not be involved in the lives of everyday people; okay? But the one thing that government ought to do and ought to do well is have a public transit system where people can get to work. We have an opportunity to make a difference today in people's lives, but you don't want to do it because Ellen McClain isn't here. We've talked to Ellen McClain. Your colleague just said to you that she has indicated if we give her money and we tell her we want to increase routes to people, the most disadvantaged colleagues of ours, our fellow citizens in this county, that it will be heard. And if it isn't, they'll never receive another public penny. And I will make it my obligation to make sure that they never receive another capital penny as long as I serve in public office. They will take the money. She's on the Board. We talked to the CEO, this is the right thing to do. You can't sit up here and vote no and then look at the most vulnerable people in our community

and feel good about yourself. We have the opportunity tonight to make a difference. This is what we do. We shouldn't spend two hours on proclamations giving soccer teams a pat on the back. This is the most important thing that we should be doing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let me get Jimmy and I'll come right back to you. Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: First of all, since my colleague decided that I think this is a game, no, I would say this is reality. You know, I've lived here for more than 50-some years, probably a lot longer than my colleague has. I'm talking about what reality is. So let's take all the, what she calls politics, out of the game, and let's pretend we're a bank; okay? You want \$3 million and I have a vote on it. I want to see your collateral. I want to see your people that should have said, well, you know what, we're going to take this money and we're going to give it to the people in Baldwin. If I had that collateral, if I was assured that that money would be given to them, I would vote yes. But I know what I know and there is no way --- it's great to sit up here and you want to placate the people and tell them all the things they want to hear, oh, rah, rah, me. Well, let's talk about what's real. And what's real is I know enough about government to know that if that Port Authority had any intention of giving that money to the people of Baldwin, somebody on that board or in that operation would have contacted Councilman Ellenbogen and said, look, we're okay with that \$3 million. It's going to Baldwin. But I never got a call from anybody. So I don't have any collateral. So anybody can say whatever they want about me, but I deal with what's real. And you know what? The people in my district don't seem to have a problem with it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Oddly, while I can't support this amendment, I just always kind of feel the need to clarify comments that may confuse the public about the Port Authority. The Port Authority is a creature of state creation. Its board members are there because the state law says there has to be the board. And it also says how they get appointed and who appoints them and all of that. So there's going to be some accountability with the Board, particularly because there are other elected officials other than me on that

board. You know, we have representatives in Harrisburg who are also on the Board. The Governor has an appointment to the Board. And so as far as, you know, where are they when it comes to rallying for additional funds and all of that, they're probably at meetings in your various communities right now. They're probably doing things to try to improve the quality of life for us. I can hope. I can only hope. But from what I know about them, I'm sure that's what they're doing.

And when it comes to restricting funds, nobody understands, well, I hope no one understands better restriction of allocated funds better than an elected official. And so I, with my current members from Harrisburg, who were there and people who are former elected officials, we know that as a board we have to be accountable for those funds. And if we are derelict in our duty, we know that there are repercussions for that. So it's not just that we get to be board members and we can willy-nilly do what we want. No. There's accountability, not only under the law, there is accountability to that organization itself. We have a duty, a fiduciary duty to that organization. And I understand that well, too. The last person who asked me about fiduciary duty wound up getting indicted, so I know I understand fiduciary duty well. And we on the Port Authority Board understand that, and we would use these funds as they're supposed to be used or else the county could say give me back that money.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President. There's nothing that would please me more than to be able to put the bus routes back.

(turns microphone on)

MR. FINNERTY: I said there's nothing that would please me more than to put the bus routes back that were cut. I think everybody up here wants that, desires that. The problem is we can't just throw \$3 million over there and put one bus route on.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Why not?

MR. FINNERTY: Because what we're doing is putting a Band-Aid on something that we need --- we need a long-term fix on this. We have some extra money. Exactly \$9.2 million is what it is. All right? We have some extra money, but if somehow we can leverage that money, somehow we can leverage that money, and for every \$150,000

we put up, we get a million dollars, that is something that can be sustainable. Because that means the state is putting up 85 percent and will continue to do that as long as we put the match up. And that's the next time around. To do it now is to eliminate the state's match which will put us in a bus route somewhere for some people for one year. And for the other 16 communities that also need bus service, I think they're going to have --- they're going to be here talking about it.

So it's something that we all desire. That's why we fought so hard in 2011, and did so much in 2011 to try to maintain. We didn't succeed, but we didn't get 35 percent cut either. We got some cuts. And I think it's important for us to let the Port Authority do its work which will be in July and September and to see what we can do to get our money matched, 15 percent and 85 percent match with the state. I think that's important and that's sustainable.

I also wanted to mention one thing. Really, it bothers me when somebody tells me about somebody walking in the snow that's 80 years old. We have Access and that's what Access is for. It's for people that are older, the aging, the low income, the disability, to call and get Access. Not everybody can get it, but the low income can, the people that are disabled, and the aged can. Two houses up from me the lady gets Access every other day because she's 94 years old.

So I mean, we do have programs. That program, I mean it, as all programs, it has its problems now and then. But it's an attempt. It's an attempt to take care of people that need to be taken care of. And we have a number of those programs. So this is why I can't support this amendment. I want something that's sustainable for our people in the county. I think that's what we're here for, to get things sustainable. Not to get one year fixes that are going to go away. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. I think at this point we have to vote on Heather's amendment. Do you want to go, read off the ---?

MR. CATANESE: This is on the amendment, Ms. Heidelbaugh's amendment. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?  
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
DR. MARTONI: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 3, noes, 11, the amendment

fails.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have another amendment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Did you present your other amendment or were you --- don't we have yours?

MR. FINNERTY: We're still --- we have the operating budget in a second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: She has another amendment.

MR. FINNERTY: Heather has --- her amendment was voted down.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: She has another amendment.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I move for this amendment, look for a second.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: May I speak to it?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you. So I actually knew that my colleague, Ms. Hawkins, had a problem with the \$1 million so this is an amendment to just add \$3 million to the Port Authority instead of the \$4 million. I don't think it needs any discussion. It's the same thing we

just went over, but that's --- everybody can obviously talk, but I'm not going to talk anymore.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. KRESS: I just want to say one thing. You know, sometimes the easy thing is to throw money at a problem and sometimes that isn't always the best solution. We already heard the problem with the Port Authority. It's disorganized. So just giving them more money isn't going to solve the problem. And also, I think it's more fiscally prudent to save the money. Contingencies always happen. We need it to buy buses. The match is going to be going up in the future. We've already met the match, so why not use the money as a multiplier instead of just throwing money at it? And you run into these problems, too. Like the federal government gives people like local municipalities additional money for the year and then they would withdraw the money.

For example, they had a program where they were hiring more police officers. They gave local municipalities more money for police officers, so they went out and hired the police officers, then they had to find local money to hire those policemen, to retain those police officers. And that's the problem I see, is these one-time fixes don't always work. And I don't understand why we're doing this. I understand why it's politically popular because we got people here in the audience, and we always like to have populism out there, but believe me, I really do believe in this bus service. But again, we have to look at how government functions. You know, before we had the Port Authority, we had local companies who used to operate. What happened? Okay? We don't have that any more. So now we got the Port Authority. And sometimes you have to look at maybe the private market to try to solve these solutions; okay? But right now the \$3 million going in the Port Authority is not the most fiscally prudent thing to do. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Jan.

MS. REA: I just wanted to make a statement, that ever since I've been on Council I've looked at the Port Authority as one of the most dysfunctional organizations we can have. And I know they've made a lot of concessions and their employees made a lot of concessions. And I'm not saying it's the employees. I think it's been the management all along. So to put more

money into them and say, you know --- and it sounds great to say I want to help the poor people who don't have a bus to ride. But then eventually we're going to have to raise taxes on the people who are living in homes, the seniors --- which I think we're the second largest county of seniors. And I went through the first time when we raised taxes and to go through that, I never want to go through that again.

So I don't want to put money into something that I know isn't sustainable, that I know in the end we're going to eventually have to put a lot more than \$3 million into this Port Authority to correct anything. It just doesn't make any sense to me to say tonight I want to move \$3 million and put it in there. I mean, somewhere along the line --- when the Port Authority came in here, I think I was the only person who said to the Port Authority, why do you need a police department? Why do you need ---? I mean, their offices, they have pretty grandiose offices. Why do you have to buy new buses? I mean, they were spending millions and millions of dollars on buses. I said, you know, airplanes fly for 20 years, why can't a bus be in service? I mean, I don't know how many millions of dollars they were spending on new buses. So I mean --- and Amanda, with no disrespect for you, I just have questions about how the Port Authority is run. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's vote on Heather's --- --- roll call on her amendment.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Mr. President, I have a comment or do I need a motion to cease debate?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, you don't get a motion to cease debate. If you have a question I'll ---.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Oh, thank you, Mr. President. I thought you were just trying to cut me off.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No. I mean, I don't see no more hands, we take the vote.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Okay. I did have a comment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: I just want to say I know that there's been a lot of discussion about Port Authority and people saying it's operating inefficiently and everything, but I don't want to speak for my colleagues, but I'm sure that they don't mean any disrespect towards the people who work there. I, as a member of the Board, know that there have been issues with how the Port Authority has been run over the years. The people who are

in place there now are people who are committed to the Port Authority running well and they definitely are going to need some help with that. And let's just make clear that when it comes to service at the Port Authority, although we can say additional service, use these funds for additional service, we cannot direct that Baldwin get buses. We cannot do that. So there are a host of things that have to be taken into account in determining where service gets cut and where service gets added and how often and all of that because there are federal regulations, federal laws, Title VI, all kinds of things that have to be taken into consideration. So I don't want anyone to be under the misunderstanding or assumption that, oh, this is going to be for Baldwin, because that direction just can't be the case.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: This will be my last statement on this.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Wait a minute, hold it. Are you sure?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Ha. Mr. Kress said that I was doing this because it was popular and because I was reacting to a populist movement. I can assure you, Mr. Kress, that I am not, because everything I do here gets voted down. So what I'm trying to do is to do the right thing as I see it. You may disagree with that, but please don't impugn motives to me that are not there.

MR. FINNERTY: Could I just say one thing?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Mike. Then you.

MR. FINNERTY: That's all I'm going to say, one thing. I just want to say that, you know, in the past, as Councilman (sic) Rae has said, the Port Authority has done a lot of shaky things in the last 30 years. There's no doubt about that; okay? But I think the Port Authority is on the right track now. I think that they've got it turned around and they're going somewhere for a change, and I think they're doing a lot of things that are right for a change. So I agree with you, Amanda.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Ed had a question.

MR. KRESS: Well, no, I wanted just to respond.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Remark.

MR. KRESS: Okay. Yeah, remark. It's a fact we've seen it with the parks, for example. We had wealthy people out there willing to pay more for services at the park and she votes, oh, we can't raise fees. Basically

Councilwoman Heidelbaugh said everything at the park should be free, and if somebody wants to pay more for golf or more for a tea party or whatever else, my thing is that if you have the money you should pay your way. And the fact is that we have this populist thing again. Would I like to see everybody have the best bus service out there? Of course I would. RIDC Park, which is in my district --- I work with --- I'm working with the companies --- I'd like to see the bus route expanded over in that area, but my problem is sometimes you're within fiscal constraints and sometimes to bypass those fiscal restraints is not fiscally prudent. And it's not.

And the fact is, too, we've all heard Councilwoman Heidelbaugh. She talks about privatizing the Kane Hospital. I think the Kane Hospital is fabulous; okay. I have elderly parents. I have had elderly parents. Okay. I've had elderly clients. And now, of course, they've never been to Kane Hospital but again, I've heard a lot of good things about Kane Hospital. And the fact is, you know, sometimes when you look at what people are trying to say and like what are they trying to really accomplish? And the fact is we want the world to be perfect, but sometimes you have constraints placed on you. And again, believe me, when it comes to tax dollars, I want to see people go to work. I think it's exceptional, especially at RIDC Park, we have people who are willing to walk two miles up a hill to go at a place of business. And again, I think it's really what these people are --- I think it's really what these people are doing, are working hard. And that's what I want to do. I want to see people going into business and working hard. But the fact is sometimes you just can't do that.

Again, this money, \$3 million, it's going to go over there. We don't know where the money is going to go. We don't know what it's going to be utilized for. And again, would I like to see my bus route expanded over to RIDC Park? Yes, I would, but I don't know if it's going to go there. And again, would I like to see bus service in Baldwin? Sure. But again, it's \$3 million, it's a one-time fix. And I always hear this. These one-time fixes, they just don't work. And like I said, I'd like to reserve that money and use it as a multiplier in the future, because again, we don't know what's going to happen. It's a reserve fund. Things happen. And the

fact is we should be fiscally prudent and leave the money in there at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's take the vote.

MR. CATANESE: This is on Ms. Heidelbaugh's amendment two.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Nay.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have another amendment.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 3, noes, 11, the amendment fails.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have another amendment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead. Oh, they didn't pass it out yet did they?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Sorry, I withdraw that. I'll have it on Capital.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Anybody have anything else to say?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Don't ask that question.

MS. MEANS: If I could say ---?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. MEANS: Thank you, Mr. DeFazio, President DeFazio, for allowing me to speak. I just wanted to make one comment, and that is, I'm not going to vote against the operating budget, but I have some reservations about the park rangers. And I just wanted --- I wish it was something we could discuss. I wish it was --- rather than vote for it and fund it and then find out what it is later. So that's my concern. I think it could be a safety issue. I'm trying to spend less money. And then I see, you know, we're going to hire --- I don't know how hiring park rangers is going to help us save money. But basically I'm concerned. It's a safety issue. If we pull the county police out of South Park and the parks, then we might have more drug activity in the park. But basically I just wanted to make my statement and that's all. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: I have nothing to say. I wanted to vote.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's take the roll call. There is a motion and second.

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I don't even know what we're voting on.

MR. CATANESE: This is on the budget.

MR. FINNERTY: Operating budget.

MR. CATANESE: Operating budget, not the capital, the operating.

MR. FINNERTY: Operating budget.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes.

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?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes, 1, the bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We go on to 8629-14.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a capital budget pursuant to Article IV, Section Two and Article VII, Section Four, of the Home Rule Charter by sending forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2015 and ending December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by Councilmembers Finnerty, Macey and Palmiere.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You're welcome.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. This was released from the Budget and Finance Committee as amended and firmly recommended as amended. And I would like a second on it.

MR. FUTULES: I second it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MR. FINNERTY: I would also like to pass out the side-by-side.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And I have an amendment.

MR. FINNERTY: Right. You can just pass them both out. Thank you. If I might?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. If you take a look at the capital side-by-side that I passed out, you'll see that it starts with bridges. That's the first page. If you go down to roads, from lateral support and projects for county roads, we're taking \$390,000 from that lateral support and projects for county roads. We're going down

to parks. And South Park, you notice South Park Nature Center is a new line item that we put in for \$25,000 and that's to, I believe, do a study; correct?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Do a study for the South Park Nature Center. If you go further down in parks, you'll see Hemlock Wedding Court Pavilion which is in Hartwood. And we're adding \$150,000 there for that wedding pavilion.

If you turn to the back of the page down to where it says equipment, Council IP project which we have been discussing about three meetings now, we put a new line item in there for \$20,000. And if you go further down, feasibility studies, we have two added feasibility studies. One is a Waterfront exit and entrance study. Right now the manager from West Homestead has been sending me letters in relation to this, that there's only one exit and entrance out of that. And it's a dangerous situation, so we're going to do a study on that. And Campbell's Run Road storm water drainage study, and that's --- \$70,000 is for the Waterfront and \$150,000 is for Campbell's Run storm water drainage study. And in the next two years, Campbell's Run Road is going to be --- have a major makeover, so it would be, I think, to our advantage to have a storm water drainage study before we start the makeover on it. And that's going to be like an \$11 million project and a great amount of that money is coming from the state and federal. Okay. And that's going to give us a total of \$79,873,791 which was the same as the CFT that we got. That is also about \$20 million, and I believe more than last year's capital budget. Okay? Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather has an amendment.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: If you run out, I have it. May I speak to the amendment?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You have the floor.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So in September the County Executive said that our budget would reflect a \$2 million payment to the Deer Lakes Park because when he introduced the ordinance on drilling, he had told us that it was his intention to give \$2 million, one of the payments, to Deer Lakes Park. So we pulled the transcript and there was no such promise to give \$2 million to Deer Lakes Park. I

pulled all of his public statements on whether he had promised to give \$2 million to Deer Lakes Park. There was no promise, when he introduced the ordinance on drilling, to give \$2 million to Deer Lakes Park. The gas underneath Deer Lakes Park is owned by every citizen in this county. It's not owned by the people who live near Deer Lakes Park. It's not owned by the people who frequently use Deer Lakes Park. It's owned by every single citizen in this county. The reason why he gave \$2 million to Deer Lakes Park was a promise that he made. He didn't make it to the citizens. He didn't make it here. He didn't even say it to any of the newspaper people. He made a promise to somebody else.

Now, it's my view that if we're going to get \$2 million, what we ought to do is we ought to split it up evenly amongst all the parks. We ought to allow all of the people of Allegheny County who enjoy our parks --- and the parks are, in my view, in disrepair and in many ways not emblematic of the great county that we are striving to be and hope to be. Parks are a reflection of the people. Great parks indicate a great and vibrant city. I think we take the \$2 million and we give it to each and every one of the parks.

Now, there will be some statements that we should give more to Deer Lakes Park because the people that are up there have to deal with issues. Well, I'm pretty sure I was told there was no issues. I'm pretty sure I was told that it's going to go underneath the park and nothing would be disturbed whatsoever. Now, there may be disturbances of private property. And I firmly believe as you have private property, you can do whatever the heck you want, absent a violation of any environmental law. This is a resource owned by the people and all of the people should share.

Now, I'm making a compromise because I'm happy to have it go to the parks. The parks need the money. We could take the \$2 million and put it into the operating budget. We could give it to some group that needs some --- you know, a social service agency that needs some food. I think this is a reasonable reallocation. There will be a number of arguments that would be made now and I will try to respond to them as they are made.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Futules?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I need a second. Do I have a second?

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I thought we did.

MR. FUTULES: Me, too, yeah. Thank you. As the Chairman of our parks, I disagree with Heather's philosophy for many reasons. Maybe it's our fault. When I look at --- it says Deer Lake improvements at \$2,133,000. There are above and beyond \$2 million worth of repairs in that park, and let's forget about Marcellus Shale. It's not in the picture. Let's talk about a lake that needs to be dredged and rebuilt. Let's talk about pavilions. Let's talk about the bathrooms. Let's talk about all that and let's also look at the entire budget. If every Councilmember would indulge me and look at the park budget, \$1,633,000 is going to South Park. Nobody is complaining about that. I'm not, because it's a project that needs to be done. Nobody is talking about the swimming pool repairs that exceed \$800,000, because it needs done.

Let's talk about, in specific, Deer Lakes is not included in all these other parks. When you look at the whole budget, you'll notice that all these other parks are getting a very large portion of money that is in this capital budget, but Deer Lakes is getting \$2 million this year because they need it. The lake is in bad shape, the pavilions, the bathrooms. And that has been specific for those items. But every other park will be getting their fair share of money. North Park, building repairs, \$400,000. No one is complaining about that. I understand your complaint and you reasoning and I'm not going to say that isn't --- you know.

MS. SHIELDS: That's a lie. I don't know the last time you were at the park, the bathrooms are glowing. You are lying.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No, no, no. You're not allowed to be speaking.

MS. SHIELDS: This is bull.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you for your comment, Bridget.

MS. SHIELDS: I am sick and tired of you people. You're just a bunch of liars.

MR. FUTULES: That's correct, Deer Lakes doesn't need anything fixed. You might want to take a trip to the park --- and many of us did. Many of our Councilmembers did take those trips. I'm not even going to talk about

the Marcellus Shale, how they deserve it or something in that park is because they're putting up with the trucks. The bottom line is, this park has been neglected for years and years and years, and the administration has recognized the fact that --- let's fix it. We're fixing all the other parks at large rates. We spent \$21 million at North Park to redo the lake, cost of \$12 million out of this county and \$21 million total, and it came from the federal and state government to fix it. But nobody complained about North Park. So let's not complain about Deer Lakes, a park that is in dire need of repairs. And this \$2 million, quite frankly, will not even scratch the surface of the repairs that are needed at this park. And I make my case. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: About the capital budget?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We're on this. Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Well, I was lucky enough to go on the tour of Deer Lakes Park. And as I previously stated I was shocked, actually, because on the tour I was told --- and I have a pretty good memory. I was told that there was --- the only bathrooms were porta potties. And I was shocked when I came here to a meeting one day and saw pictures from one of my fellow citizens showing me the actual bathrooms that had just been built. So I don't think bathrooms is a good argument. In respect for my colleague, whenever he talks about these issues, he says, well, I'm Chairman of the Parks Committee. You know, I represent every citizen in this county. I'm the at large. I've gone to these parks. I don't think because you're the chairman of a committee you have a better opinion or your opinion is more valid than anyone else. The bottom line is Rich misrepresented himself. Rich said to every citizen in this county that he had told everyone when this ordinance was placed that part of the deal is for \$2 million to go to Deer Lakes Park. That is not the truth; okay?

So when you, the Chairman of the Parks Committee, okay, when you say this isn't in payment for the vote on the Deer Lakes Park, then why is Deer Lakes getting \$2 million? If this is just because it needs repairs, why wasn't this ever mentioned before? This is a massive coincidence that we get \$4 million and now \$2 million is going to Deer Lakes Park? Of course, it's related. It's related because it is a quid pro quo. If

you look at the use of the parks, I would venture to say that the most used parks in this county are probably North Park and South Park. So it doesn't make any sense for the citizens who use these parks, for all of this money to go to Deer Lakes Park. We have been told over and over and over again that drilling will have no effect at that park. Therefore, the park exists as it does. There's nothing wrong with that park. There should not be an untoward dumping of money towards that park. Every citizen of Allegheny County ought to benefit from this drilling and what we've done, and the parks who are in the most need are the ones that are the most used, North Park and South Park.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Nick, did you have a remark?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I made the statement that I'm the Chairman of the Parks because I'm the one that sits down with the parks directors on a regular basis. I don't know if you do. I won't accuse you if not, but we talk about projects that are needed in all these parks. And we have this discussion. And Deer Lakes Park lake is full of silt. It's growing algae. People can't fish in it because the algae is growing so hard. It's going to cost more than \$2 million to fix that lake. We just don't have the money, but we'll put the \$2 towards a solution. It's not about the Marcellus Shale. Yeah, some promises were made, sure, I agree. How can you disagree with it? Public statements were made that people deserve it, sure.

But the bottom line is the park is in need of repairs. The bathroom, okay, they got a new bathroom at the observatory; okay? But believe me, that scratches the surface. And our parks --- and we all know, there's about \$20 million in deferred maintenance, the entire park system, \$20 million. That's what we would need to fix our parks to put them up to standard. So you can argue all day long about the \$2 million, but if you want to start arguing, I guess I can argue. I don't want to take \$1.6 million and fix a skating rink, either, but I'm not complaining. This is what it is. I'm proud to give these people the money that they need in this park. I'm not ashamed of it. They deserve it. They've been left out in the cold for years. I won't make any excuses.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: The last thing I'm going to say on this is, you know, you just said, well, if you want to argue about it. Yes, I do. I want to argue about

important topics. I want to thrash it around. I want to talk about it. I want to say you're wrong. I want there to be facts. I want there to be discussions. I don't want to spend two hours patting people on the back. Yes, I want to argue.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. You got that off your chest. Okay.

MR. FINNERTY: Let's vote.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's take the vote on Heather's amendment.

MR. CATANESE: Okay. It's on the amendment.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No.

MR. CATANESE: Yeses, 2, noes, 12, the amendment fails.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Is that it on the amendments?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I retain my perfect record.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather, you have to learn to respect other people. Everybody has an opinion. Well, they do. Everybody has an honest opinion.

MR. FINNERTY: Let's move on. We're on the capital, Finnerty's capital budget.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: It was motioned and seconded properly; right?

MR. FINNERTY: Correct.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Let's take the roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

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?

DR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13; no, 1, it passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8630-14.

MR. CATANESE: A 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 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015. sponsored by Councilmembers Finnerty, Macey, Palmiere.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. This was moved from the Budget and Finance Committee with an affirmative recommendation and I'd like to move it for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MR. FINNERTY: I need a moment. Would you pass out the side-by-side? I just want to make sure everybody knows what we're voting on.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That makes sense. Okay. I think everybody has it.

MR. FINNERTY: If you'd take a look at the side-by-side there, you'll notice that on the second page where it says Economic Development, if you go down to where it says economic --- CDBG project 41, this was started under Chairman Robinson. That project 41, year 41, the projects have not been shown to us yet, so what we've done is we've taken that money out and brought that line down to \$63,881,858 that you see at the bottom added up. That's a difference of \$16,132,000. If you turn the page where health is, you'll see that Behavioral Health and Risk Factors Study. You'll notice that in the CFP, there was nothing on this line. Now there's \$600,000. This grant has come in, so we're adding it to our budget now. So that increased that line, health, to a grand total of \$16,595,242.

And the next section is Human Services. And about halfway down, you'll see another green area. There's a Justice and Mental Health Collaborative Program. And that grant is coming in. It came in. I'm sorry. And it was for \$246,279, so we added it to our budget and that increased the Human Services, the DHS, to \$146,446,448. And if you go to the last page there, the total, the total of our budget is \$744,696,618, which is a difference from the CFP of \$15,155,323.

So that's where we are there. And like I said before, this was something that was done by the previous chairman. And taking out year 41 gives us some control over the block grant that will come through because we will have to vote on it. Okay? So that's the Grants and Special. If you take the combined total of everything we're talking about here, our operating capital, our

Grants and Special Agencies, our total budget is \$1,000,783,000, so it's quite a robust --- and usually, just so everybody understands, it's usually --- our Grants and Special Accounts, usually we get more than that in the end product. Because as we go along, we apply for more grants. Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Let's take the vote, roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?  
MR. BAKER: Yes.  
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?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

(No response)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13; noes, 0, bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8573-14.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to convey a parcel of land in the Borough of Braddock known as Block 237G as in George, Lot 65, the parcel, to the Josh Steel Company, Incorporated, a Pennsylvania corporation. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda?

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

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, let's have a roll call vote. Oh, go ahead.

MS. MEANS: I just wanted to say I think this is a really good deal because the assessed value of the land was \$5,000 and the sale price was \$10,000, so it's really like a sliver piece of land, and no one bid on it except the Josh Steel Company, and it's a scrap metal company and I just think it's a good deal. Thank you for allowing me to speak, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Yeah. Okay. Seeing no more hands, let's take a roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: 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?

DR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

(No response)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes, 0, bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports.

MR. FUTULES: I've got one.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: Actually, I have two things.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: I'd like to let everyone know that Boyce Park opened, the ski lodge opened the day after Thanksgiving, although it didn't snow here like Buffalo. With our new management at Boyce Park with the cold weather, we were able to make enough snow to open the ski resort we have in many, many years. So enjoy the ski slopes and we hope to have a great year for that. Also, with all sincerity, Mr. Weir, I want to apologize to you. I want to publicly apologize to you for swearing at you back in May. There was absolutely no excuse for me to say that to you no matter what you do or say. As a Councilman, I should have never done that. I felt that you deserved a public apology and I'm giving you one.

MR. WEIR: Okay. Thank you for that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Mr. Weir, you're the man of the hour.

MR. WEIR: I guess. I can't stay away.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So the only thing I wanted to say is that it's my understanding that some of the colleagues dine after these meetings. It's not mandatory. People can go or not go. It's not affiliated with party affiliation. So I just wanted to say to you from my viewpoint, I could have been at the dinner. It's not a --- you don't get invited. You just sort of show up. And I understand why you came to the conclusion you did, but I wanted you to know that everybody could go to that dinner if they chose. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you, Heather. And I understand your point, but I'm glad you brought it up. Anyone else? Let's start with Sue.

MS. MEANS: I wanted to invite everyone to the first lighting ceremony at the gazebo on Maple Springs Road in South Park. It's an event sponsored by the Friends of South Park. It's this Friday, December the 5th, at six o'clock. And Santa will be coming at 6:30 also. So there will be cider and cookies and candy for the kids, so come on down.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Okay. Next, going that way.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to mention the fact that the oval down in South Park, the work that was undertaken I guess about a year ago now, is just about complete. I was down there the other day and it just looks terrific and it's something for us all really to be proud of. They really restored it back to some natural beauty. It looks great.

And one other thing, I just wanted to mention on Thanksgiving morning, with 75,000 other crackpots, we were right there running the Turkey Trot. It was cold and miserable, but it was a wonderful, wonderful experience as usual. And I'm really proud of our county and city the way we're able to maintain these races and these events without problems, without issues. And really proud to be a part of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Jan.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to remind my colleagues that there's an appointment review committee meeting tomorrow at 4:00. Normally, we meet on Thursdays, but because we don't have a budget meeting tomorrow evening, we're going to meet on Wednesday. And I just wanted to make sure everybody was aware of that. And the appointments there were on the agenda tonight, some of those people will be coming in tomorrow evening. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Going down this way, Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to remind people that Soldiers and Sailors has a patriotic holiday concert coming up. It's December 14th. It's at 3:00 p.m. And the Bethel Park High School Marching Band Drum Corps will be there, and also the Mount Lebanon Brass Ensemble. So if you're in the vicinity --- it is free, by the way. So if you're out in Oakland, stop in Soldiers and Sailors December the 14th about 3:00 p.m. Also, in this building, our annual holiday chorus program is going to begin. It starts December 2nd, and that week it's the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. It's at 11:30 a.m. And there's usually another high school chorus that comes in around 12:20. Some days they have brass bands coming in and so on from high schools. It's really something to see because the acoustics are really good down on that first floor off of those steps, if you know where that is, the main steps. So there's a couple things.

Also, we opened up the bridge at Turgeon's Creek. It's Bridge Number Six. It's been closed for six months

now for repairs. It opened up last week. And everybody in Carnegie and Scott are all happy about that. And they did one heck of a job. It's really something to see. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right.

MR. KRESS: I have a ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. KRESS: Just real quick, last Monday was the first time we had a meeting of the insurance committee. And at that meeting present was Doctor Dennis Gabos, UPMC and Highmark. And the purpose of the meeting was to basically find out what's going on with the consent decree and to get some clarification. However, by the end of the meeting, I think we were more confused than when we began the meeting. The concern I've had --- and we've had a lot of phone calls from seniors that --- you know, they were concerned they may not be able to see their UPMC physician if they were a Highmark insured. And that was very confusing because I had guests that --- the contract that had been terminated, was 700 physicians with UPMC by Highmark. And it was going back and forth that supposedly UPMC had the contract for them, but they would not renew it with Highmark. And that basically scared the senior population. But under the consent decree, senior citizens are considered to be a vulnerable population. They should not be affected by this UPMC/Highmark transition. And that was while a lot of misrepresentation was going on, and that needed to be clarified.

And I'm very happy that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which is the Insurance Department, and also the Department of Health and the Attorney General were involved with this. And they've interceded. Right now they're bringing both UPMC and Highmark back to the table so seniors aren't concerned any more. However, there are other issues, too, when it comes to emergency care follow up, continuity of care. There's billing questions. And these things need to be worked out, because again, the UPMC/Highmark situation affects everybody in our communities. And it's of much concern because healthcare is a very, very important and vital to everybody in the county. And this thing needs to be really worked out. And I'm hoping that we can get some clarification before the end of the year as to what is going on between UPMC and Highmark. But I really thank everybody for attending that committee meeting on Monday. So thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. REA: I just wanted to thank Mr. Kress for arranging to have those --- the people come in from Highmark and UPMC because really, it really affects everyone who's insured by either place or considering insurance. And it seems like it's happening right now. And I really do appreciate you taking on that issue. And I was shocked at who came to the table, really, and they were willing to discuss it. So thank you.

MR. KRESS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Let's go to New Business. 8659-14.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supplementing the Administrative Cod of Allegheny County, Part Seven, Properties, and creating a new Article 707 entitled County Parks to enact a hold on drilling and exploration for natural gas on Allegheny County Parkland with the exception of Deer Lakes Park. Sponsored by the citizens of Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to the Government Reform Committee. 8660-14.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations 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 to Health and Human Services Committee. 8661-14.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations 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 to Health and Human Services Committee. 8662-14.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the exceptions on behalf of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, the Court, of the donation of used desks, conference tables, file cabinets, workstations, movable file storage systems, other office furniture, related personal property

for use in the court that has been offered to the court by various law firms. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to Public Works. 8663-14.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution amending the Articles of Incorporation of the Authorities of Improvements and Municipalities, the Authority, to extend the term of the existence of the Authority to a date that is 50 years from the day of approval of the amendment to Articles of Incorporation by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to Public Works. Well, we could put that --- that could go into Government Reform. New Business/Functions, 8664-14.

MR. CATANESE: A motion reestablishing the Budget Transfer Committee in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code. Sponsored by Councilmember Finnerty.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. If you notice, if you're looking at New Business it's the last page, the motion, 8664-14. And it's done every year. And if you take a look at it, just so you know what you're voting on. Oh, you want me to read it for you? Yes, it's a motion. We are voting on it now. It's reestablishing the Budget Transfer Committee in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administration Code. Now, therefore, it's moved by the Council of Allegheny County that in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administration Code --- of the Administration Code, the Budget Transfer Committee consisting of the County Controller, the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance and the Budget Director of County Council be reestablished to make all operating budget appropriation transfers including appropriations required to clear post closing entries between and within any department, office or agency.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Sue?

MS. MEANS: Is this a change from what's been done in the past?

MR. FINNERTY: No. It's exactly what's been done in the past.

MS. MEANS: And can you --- would it be okay to list the individual's name who these ---?

MR. FINNERTY: So we know who they are?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. FINNERTY: Sure. One of them is Walt.

MS. MEANS: Walt, yes. That's what I thought.

MR. FINNERTY: The other is Chelsa Wagner whoever she appoints. She's the controller. And the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, I don't know who --- Warren --- okay, it's Warren Finkel. All right. They're the three people.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

MR. FINNERTY: And that's to balance our books at the end.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. We can take a voice vote. You made the motion. It was seconded; right?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. Under remarks? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(CHORUS OF AYES)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. We have two people on Public Comment..

MR. FINNERTY: Oh, that's right. We have public comment.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have Lester Ludwig and I don't see him, and we have --- is there a Gary English?

MR. FUTULES: I have a point of privilege, sir.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes?

MR. FUTULES: Mr. English, I apologize for the fact you picked the wrong night to get on an agenda item. Thank you for your patience.

MR. ENGLISH: I actually had signed up before the last meeting, and here I am at the last part of the evening so my speech will only be one hour and 20 minutes.

MR. FINNERTY: Is that all?

MR. ENGLISH: That's all.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll give you four minutes.

MR. ENGLISH: I'd just like to get the information out. I hope that I can get it in a minute but I don't know how long. I didn't really time it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. ENGLISH: So I'll try to speed it along. My name is Gary English, 119 Ashley Drive. Before I begin with the comments on the tax increment financing which has not come up for discussion, I do want to address Council's proposal on the increased funding of your expense account. The legislature provided \$9,000 for salary and \$3,000 for

expenses. Now, Councilman Robinson believes that he and his guests deserve to eat well at the Capital Grille as justification to increase the expense account. That, I think, is very arrogant, self-serving and not what a public servant should be. If Council cannot manage the amount authorized by the legislature, then take this opportunity to vacate your seat for someone who can, or at least, increase --- or the increase proposal should be put on the ballot.

Four years after the Home Rule Charter was adopted, County Council tried to appeal the resign to run provision by creating a self-serving ballot initiative. I saw the campaign signs that were put up all over Allegheny County and the disclaimer was paid for by Republican and Democrat County Councilmembers. I contacted the Elections Department to find out who and how much was donated to this committee. The committee was never formed and reports were never filed. Councilmen Fenton and Francis became the fall guys for Council and paid a wrist slap of \$250 each. I petitioned this Council three years ago to place the fate of the Civic Arena with the voters of Allegheny County on the ballot. My plea was ignored and we've lost a historic landmark and the corruption still continues, costing us millions.

Before you are copies of the 2007 term sheet agreement signed by Governor Ed Rendell. Paragraph 17 provides the Pittsburgh Penguins with the development rights. This relinquishes the financial responsibility to the citizens to pay for the redevelopment. To date, the SEA has applied for a \$15 million RCAP Grant, \$18 million and \$21 million Department of Transportation Tiger Grants, a \$4 million U.S. Department of Commerce Grant as well. The latest development, U.S. Steel is planning to build on Civic Arena site after receiving \$30.7 million from Governor Corbett and another RCAP Grant. In all, that is \$88.7 million in grant applications. The cost of the development of the Consol Energy Center was another \$321 million. Now, there's a proposal for a TIF district providing tax abatements for up to 20 years for the development. How much more public funding will continue to be thrown at this project? This violates the 2007 term sheet agreement which was penned by Governor Rendell --- I'm almost done.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. ENGLISH: This violates the 2007 term sheet agreement penned by Governor Ed Rendell and signed by local officials. I'm asking that you reject the TIF proposal based on Governor Rendell's signed agreement in 2007. Enough is enough. If you really want to talk to me, I'm the person who filed for historic preservation of the Civic Arena in 2001, and the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission gave me a thumbs up. So why did we tear it down? Thank you for your time.

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

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: So moved. Second? Over there?

MR. BAKER: Second.

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

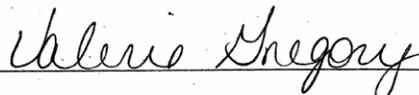
(Chores of ayes).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:25 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