

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President District 11
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President District 8
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large
Tom Baker	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
Ed Kress	-	District 3 (via telephone)
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Dr. Charles J. Martoni	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12 (via telephone)
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 4:59 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  
Jack Cambest - County Solicitor

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll call the meeting to order. We're all going to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and for a silent prayer or reflection.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

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?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACE: 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?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

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

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Proclamations/certificates. It's 8670-14.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating WQED Multimedia upon the momentous occasion of its 60th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Members Palmiere, Danko, Robinson and Finnerty.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: I'd like to be added as well, please.

MR. BAKER: I'd like to be added as well.

MR. CATANESE: Who doesn't want to be added? Everybody?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Put everybody.

MR. PALMIERE: You want me over here and Deb over here. That's fine. Good evening, Mr. President, Members of Council. It's a real honor and privilege tonight, and I say that all the time, but tonight is really special. I'm so happy to be able to honor WQED for their 60 years of wonderful public service to our community. And we have Ms. Deborah Acklin here. She's the president and chief executive officer of WQED. Debbie, and if you want to introduce your other two people here, please?

MS. ACKLIN: Yes. Thank you very much. George Hazimanolis, our senior director of communications, is with us. He's off taking the picture right now. I'm pointing at him. And also Maria Pisano, who is a marketing associate at WQED. I thank them for being here today.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. I just want to preface my remarks before I read the proclamation here. You know, I was sitting back a few weeks ago watching the reruns of Downton Abbey. And I want to get caught up and make sure I'm right up with stuff and everything there until --- because they're going to start --- I think, on January 4th, they're going to start. And I also remembered --- I think when I first got interested in watching the documentaries was Ken Burns when he did the wonderful documentary on the Civil War. It went on for, I think eight or ten nights, and it was just a --- so gripping and something inspiring to watch. It was American history coming to life in a period of time which I've been kind of a student of for years. Also, I remember the --- Brideshead Revisited was another wonderful show that they put on for years and --- I should say for weeks on end. And, you know, the list goes on and on. And the point being that, you know, without this wonderful medium, WQED, those programs would never happen. You know, you watch commercial TV, you got 42 minutes of program and 18 minutes of commercials that drive me crazy. And of course, my wife says that's getting to be a shorter and shorter drive, too, by the way.

But nevertheless, I wanted to just --- it's just a real honor for me to be here tonight. And Barbara Danko --- Barbara, I'm sure, has something else she'd like to say also before we read the proclamation. Go ahead, Barbara.

MS. DANKO: I thought this was a great idea that Mr. Palmiere had and then I was feeling kind of bad because QED is actually in my District so I also am a huge fan. You know, I've moved around the country and one of my favorites that I've watched for years and years and years before there was 24-hour cable was Washington Week in Review. And now I get to see our colleague, Heather Heidelbaugh, on the 4802 that's the lead-in to Washington Week in Review. I'm also a big fan of the history shows, the recent series on the Roosevelts. And you know, as a mom of four, how can you beat Mr. Rogers Neighborhood back in the day? So it's really a wonderful treasure that we have in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. And I'm so thrilled that they been here for 60 years and keep going forward. Thank you.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. I'm going to read the proclamation now.

Whereas, the nation's first community supported broadcaster, WQED, went on the air on April 1st, 1954, and over the past 60 years the station has remained true to its mission, to change lives by creating and sharing outstanding public media that educates, entertains and inspires. And whereas, throughout its years, the station has been a groundbreaking force nationally and locally.

In 1959, WQEX TV signed on to provide televised classroom instruction to the region's schools. Classical WQED-FM, 89.3, was founded in 1973 as the region's only 24-hour classical radio station. And whereas today, WQED has a scheduled of seven locally produced programs every Monday through Saturday evening. The station also produces local specials, documentaries and town hall meetings on topics of importance in our community. Specifically, the Pittsburgh History series has over 30 documentaries that highlight why our region is special and unique. And they have generated sales of almost 300,000 units, and/or as Allegheny County, its residents and those who love the area are fortunate for the education and entertainment provided by WQED over the past 60 years.

The station, its Board of Directors and employees have provided enriching stories and history to

the public, and we look forward to the many more great things that they will accomplish in the future.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate WQED multimedia upon the momentous occasion of the 60th anniversary sponsored by myself and the rest of Council. Congratulations.

MS. ACKLIN: Thank you. Well, thank you for inviting me to this WQED love fest. It's just been terrific to hear and thank you to Council. I had a couple of specific Council members to thank, but now I can thank all of you for joining in and for sponsoring this wonderful proclamation. Together this evening we are proclaiming our pride in WQED. And when you think about what extraordinary idea, this idea that started here in Allegheny County, not for profit, educational media delivered through the miracle of television and radio into every home, every school, every automobile, to every citizen for free. It's a media company without a profit motive, a media company owned by and created to serve an entire community. Imagine 60 years ago today, when a very young Fred Rogers joined a woman named Dorothy Daniel. Dorothy Daniel was the first general manager of WQED and, in fact, is the namesake for Daniel Striped Tiger. They joined together for a very bold experiment that started here and 14 years later inspired the creation of PBS. Here at home Channel 13 brought us Children's Corner. How many of you remember that? The School of the Air, which was the very first version of distance learning. It brought us Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, National Geographic specials, Wonderworks, Anne of Green Gables, Previn and the Pittsburgh, Where in the World is Carmen Santiago, Doo-Wop, The War that Made America.

But what have we done for you lately? Well, for the past two decades, 12 hours a day of high quality educational children's programming that works and is watched by a quarter of a million children a week. Hours and hours of daily and weekly local programming and specials now generously and partially supported by RAD. American Masters, August Wilson, on PBS in primetime in February produced by WQED. Rick Sebak specials, both local and national, with Rick's takes on, get this, pies and bakeries coming to PBS this coming summer. And beyond broadcasting, way beyond broadcasting, IQ Smart Media, is our off-the-air educational initiative which leverages our

brand and our media fire power to train teachers, help parents in the digital age and work directly with our youngest learners, children two to eight. When I was a little girl, what was once Channel 13 is now four television channels plus streaming video, digital downloads, interactive and social media. What once was just WQED-FM, 89.3, is now three audio channels plus live streaming worldwide, in 142 countries and territories around the world.

We are now local and global, and next year our Pittsburgh Symphony Radio series now heard already on 100 public radio stations across the United States, and on WQED.org, the Pittsburgh Symphony Radio series will be heard all week, all across the United Kingdom, every week bringing another 5.6 million listeners to the global, classical music party held by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. As my friend and colleague, Jim Cunningham from WQED-FM often says, we are all about love and light. And for WQED at 60, it all comes back for me to Fred Rogers and Dorothy Daniel. Fred reminds us, there are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind, the second way is to be kind, and the third way is to kind. And Dorothy Daniel declared our work to be sacred when she told Congress WQED is God's station; therefore, it cannot fail. Today we rightly say WQED changes lives and in this season of peace and joy and love and light, thank you for your kindness in honoring WQED, the people who have made it great and 60 remarkable years. Here's to the next 60 and I for one, can't wait to see and hear what is next. Thank you very much.

MR. PALMIERE: We can have these others come up.  
(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 8671-14 and the rest of the proclamations will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: 8617-14, Proclamation congratulating Reverend James Holland as the new pastor of Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church. Sponsored by Council member Kress.

8672-14, Certificate of Recognition presented to Ms Patricia Williams up on the occasion of her retirement after 39 years of dedicated service to the City of McKeesport. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8673-14, Certificate of Recognition presented to Ms. Joan Winters upon the occasion of her retirement after

13 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Port Vue. Sponsored by Council member Macey.

8674-14, Certificate of Achievement awarded to the Bethel Park White Team, the Termite Division of the Greater 19 Youth Football League, for winning Super Bowl XV on November 1, 2014. Sponsored by Council member Means.

8675-14, Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Kasey Colcombe of Boy Scout Troop 366 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council member Means.

8676-14, Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Jacob H. Bartolomucci of Boy Scout Troop 225 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council member Means.

8677-14, Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Nicholas K. Galietta of Boy Scout Troop 225 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council member Means.

8678-14, Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. John R. Stobba of Boy Scout Troop 368 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council member Means.

8679-14, Certificate of Achievement recognizing Pittsburgh Allderdice High School and declaring December 9, 2014 as Allderdice Championship Banner Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council member Baker.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next we'll have --- the Chief Executive will address Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. And before we get started, I want to thank you for last week, or two weeks ago passing the budget. I think it was a very, very good budget for the 13th time in 14 years without a tax increase, but continues to invest in improving our assets and the quality of life of people in Allegheny County. It looks like the fund balance at the end of the year might be approaching \$35 million, and if you recall three years ago when I took office and a number of you did as well, it was around \$5 million, so we've only improved the financial stability of this county. And I really --- we need to praise the directors and the departments in this county for really working, working hard to do more with less, to find deficiencies, but to continue to invest in fixing up, again, our infrastructure, our roads, bridges, parks, courthouse, all the things that we hold in trust by the public. You know, the good news continues on the job

front. The unemployment rate in this region dropped to 4.3 percent. Those of you who are in --- follow economists will tell you that many economists think four percent is near full employment. So what's happening here in this region is just --- continues to be terrific.

There was another study that came out from Chris Brain, the University of Pittsburgh. It talked about the job replacement after the great recession, and Pittsburgh had recovered 191 percent of its jobs, meaning way more than we had lost. And the second closest was Minneapolis-St. Paul with 112 percent. So it's an amazing thing, how we have created jobs at a much higher percentage than anyplace in the country. And it's something we can be very proud of. We continue to see property values in neighborhoods that didn't before, to see some of this benefit places like East Liberty, Homestead, Garfield, McKees Rocks, et cetera, starting to do very well, and the property values are continuing to go up ---.

We made a major announcement today, you may have heard, and I want to thank Councilwoman Rea who's on the Airport Authority and led and chaired the search committee, that the Board is appointing Christina Cassotis as our new airport CEO and director. They did a national search, Councilwoman Rea and her committee, the search committee, in finding Christina, and I'm going to get her to come in and talk to you and meet with you. You'll find her to be very, very dynamic. She's excited to come to Pittsburgh. She's excited to add more flights and more connections here in this area. And we've started to do that. Actually, we added four new airlines this year and we've added 14 destination cities just this year. So things do seem to be going better, and I think with Christina coming on board, they're going to continue to do that.

I also would be remiss if I didn't talk about the great relationship that we have with the City and the Peduto administration. It's really unprecedented, the relationship between the County and the City right now and how we're working together. The announcement that was just made a couple of weeks ago regarding US Steel --- and I know, you know, it doesn't sound like much, that a company that's been here over 100 years is staying here, but they were leaving the US Steel Building. And there were a lot of cities and a lot of regions that were

offering them an awful lot more than we did. And quite frankly, the work of the Mayor and the partnership we have with the folks like Congressman Doyle, Governor Corbett, Senator Costa, Senator Fontana, really coming together and for them to make the commitment to build a new headquarters, a new world headquarters, in the Hill district, in the lower Hill district, is something that we can be very, very proud of and continues the growth of what's going on in this region.

The other things that have come on in the last couple of months, the RCAP dollars that Governor Corbett has released to this region, again, working with Mayor Peduto at places like the Almono site and some of our downtown areas. Out at the airport continues to be terrific. And I'm going to make a kind of an announcement tonight with the City. Along with our city collaboration, the Mayor and I and our staffs have been working on trying to improve data, improving our data driven decisions. And RK Mellon just today awarded the County and the City \$1.8 million in grants to be able to improve our hardware, our software, our hiring enough people to really put data together. And I've got to give County Manager McKain a lot of credit. This is something --- when he came on board, he wanted to be able to make decisions within each department that made sense. And sometimes those decisions are hard to make when you don't have the data, whether it be in public works, whether it be in parks, whether it be in health, whether it be across the board, the City was fighting the same problems, so we really appreciate what RK Mellon is doing. And again, we're also working with CMU and Pitt, who are also collaborating and partnering with this with their computer, their IT departments, and it's going to be terrific. It's going to allow us to continue to make government more efficient and more effective for our taxpayers. So we're very excited. And again, the Peduto administration and some of the folks that Mayor Peduto has on staff were very instrumental in, again, working with the County folks to get the foundations to give us that grant.

Also, I guess, a big announcement --- I feel very humble about this, but I've been selected to be on the National Board of County Executives. I feel very proud of that and I don't do that by myself. It's the work that we all do together. I'm actually going to the Harvard School, the Kennedy School at Harvard in the next

couple of days and meeting with other county executives across this country. But the fact is what they see with what's happening in Pittsburgh and what's happening in Allegheny County, has been taken and noticed by folks around this country. And for them to invite us to be there to be part of that and to hear some of the exciting things that we're doing here is something we can be very, very proud of.

And finally, before I open it up to questions, I wanted to invite all of you --- we have hired. The County Manager has hired an architect to work on this beautiful courthouse that's over 125 years old that, you know, we know is in need of some repair. This wonderful HH Richardson designed the building. We've hired Perfido and Weiskopf to do the architectural work. They did the work on the state capitol in Harrisburg and also the courthouse in Philadelphia. They've got great experiences and great personnel and they're going to start working with --- I know Councilman Macey is public works chair. He's been to some of the meetings, talking to the folks. But one of the things, we wanted to invite you --- is we want to put together a tour of this courthouse. And I would invite you not to wear the clothes you're wearing now. Maybe wear some older clothes because we're going to be climbing into the rafters and some places that are a little bit dirty. So you'll be able to get to see some of the things that are on there, so the County Manager and Sonya from my office will be working with your staff to schedule that over the next month. So with that, I'll open it up to any questions.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Sue?

MS. MEANS: Merry Christmas to you, Rich.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilwoman. You, too.

MS. MEANS: And Merry Christmas (sic) to all our Jewish friends. Today is the first day of Hanukkah. I want to congratulate you on being appointed to the National Board of County Executives. That's a real honor. And you are just rolling along there. I wanted to give you applause.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, thank you. I appreciate that.

MS. MEANS: You didn't pause and give me or anyone an opportunity to congratulate you, so congratulations. Today, there were two articles in the

paper about a County tariff. And I was wondering if you could address that. I mean, I'm concerned that according to Post Gazette article we have a mortality rate of one out of 400 and the national average is 1 out of 800. There's also an article about, you know, people not getting the medical care they needed. And a few months ago I attended a jail oversight meeting, and as a nurse, I'm very concerned because that sounds like the diabetic patients were not getting their medication and that's of great concern to me.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, I'm going to invite the County Manager to come up, but let me just address something, that this has been really an ongoing problem, probably even going back even before this government took office. Back in the late '90s, the former Health Board director had formed this corporation called ACHI, aichee (phonetic) or however you pronounce it. And there have been many, many problems over the years. And just recently, the County Manager had decided to go in a different direction and hire a company that does this on a national basis. And there are challenges ahead, but I'm going to ask County Manager McKain to come up and address your question, Councilwoman.

MR. MCKAIN: Thank you. As the Executive said, when I was hired in August of 2012, a lot of people wanted to meet with me, and one of the most common subjects from the stakeholders/elected officials was that we have to address the jail medical care for our inmates. It was something that people told me they were concerned about under the predecessor vendor. We then hired Warden Harper to come on later in the year, and after he was there for several months trying to get his arms around jail operations, he, too, heard the shortcomings and concerns of the vendor who was there 12 years. And we both thought it was appropriate to put out an RFP to see if there were other vendors who could provide that service. We hired a consultant to write the RFP. We put together a wonderful committee that had two medical doctors, Philadelphia's, in charge of their jail medical; at the time, the President Judge, so the courts were represented. We also had the Law Department; the Department of Human Services; the jail, of course; budget and representatives from the Manager's office. And the predecessor vendor was invited to participate, but they chose not to. So we went through a pretty long, meaningful process. We were deliberate,

and after about eight, nine months, it was unanimous to select the vendor that we currently have.

The articles that you mentioned today is --- about the medical care, those concerns are something that we worked through. Warden Harper --- I don't want to speak for him, but we speak often --- has opened up better lines of communications in our processes. They've only been here a little bit over a year, and if you can imagine that when you are replacing an incumbent that's been here for 12 years and you hired a significant majority of their staff, change is very difficult. The previous vendor --- we, actually, the County of Allegheny, over the 12-year period, loaned them a million dollars, and the County had to write off \$270,000 of that. It appears to be the nature of that industry. They had many, many lawsuits, the previous vendor. It's a challenging contract. We have a responsibility to do it well. That's why we hired these experts that are in 20 states, over that, and 35 years of experience. We always want to improve our processes.

Some of the things that you saw today have been corrected. We're always looking at that. The warden's leadership team meets often. He's also going to be allocating additional resources to oversee that and to work with them, Corizon. Corizon knows that they need to have stability at that jail. We tell them that all the time so we can build that chemistry.

As far as the mortality deaths, I think there were six, perhaps, in 2014. There were five a couple of years ago. So it's relatively speaking in the article you saw that we said every life is absolutely important. And you also might have saw that a lot of those people who unfortunately died came in with chronic illnesses and that. But it's something that we do track.

So we continue to work forward with the vendor and the jail, and again, the predecessor vendor had struggles and we're working through the current one.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

MS. KCKAIN: Uh-huh (yes).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other questions? Mike.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like congratulate you, Rich, on your honors that you're receiving. I think its well worth, your getting it.

And thank you for all that you do for the people of Allegheny County. And wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thanks for getting the budget through.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other questions?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I want to wish everybody happy holidays and continue the good work. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Give us a minute. Okay. Yeah, 8669-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of James M. Cesnick to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization, Deer Lakes Parks, for a term to expire on December 16, 2016. Sponsored by Council member Kress.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: I'll make a motion because Mr. Kress isn't here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MS. REA: And obviously he would like this person appointed.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll second that.

MS. REA: Okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MR. CATANESE: Councilman Kress, are you there?

MR. KRESS: Hello?

MR. CATANESE: Hello.

MR. KRESS: Yeah, can you hear me?

MR. CATANESE: Yeah. Now we hear you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, just tell us --- Jan made the motion.

MR. KRESS: Yeah. I'll just say he'll be a great addition to the Deer Lakes Friends of the Park. I mean, he's a great individual and I'd like to see him nominated and that that nomination pass so ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We've already got a motion.

MR. CATANESE: Councilwoman Rea made the motion.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second?

MR. FINNERTY: (Indicating).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor say signifying by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Let's see. Public Comment on Agenda Items. We have none; correct?

MR. CATANESE: That's correct.

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, we have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Approval of minutes,  
8680-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on November 5, 2014.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed?

MR. KRESS: Aye.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. The ayes have it.  
83681-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Allegheny County Council held on November 18, 2014.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. FINNERTY: 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. Unfinished business, Committee on Appointment Review, Second Reading. 8623-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Ms. Susan Gove to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to approve the reappointment of Susan Gove to serve as a member of the Children and Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
8624-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Mr. Ward Garner to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to approve the reappointment of Ward Garner to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

MR. FINNERTY: 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.  
8625-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Dr. Helen Cahalane to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to reapprove the reappointment --- to approve the reappointment of Dr. Helen Cahalane to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
8626-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Ms. Linda Andrews Ehrlich to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to reappoint Ms. Linda Ehrlich to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

MS. DANKO: 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.  
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 December 31, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion for the reappointment of Paul D'Alesandro to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors.

MR. FINNERTY: 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.  
8653-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Senator Matt Smith to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion for the reappointment of Senator Matt Smith to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority.

MR. FINNERTY: 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.  
8654-14.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Dennis Davin to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan?

MS. REA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion for the reappointment of Dennis Davin to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none --- oh, wait a minute. Sorry. Go ahead.

MS. MEANS: I think Dennis Davin is a very hard working, very diligent, very qualified public servant, but I have a philosophical dilemma, and that is I don't think that County employees should be appointed to boards and

authorities. And so for that reason, I will not be voting for his reappointment, and I shared my concerns with Dennis Davin. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed?

MS. MEANS: No.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 8600-14.

MR. CATANESE: A Resolution approving a project for the benefit of Environmental Charter School at Frick Park, the Borrower, to be financed by the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities, the Authority, by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt note, to be issued in one or more series, in a principal amount not expected to exceed \$6,000,000, the Note, provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, the County, shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the Note, and declaring the financing of such project as desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Amanda?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Due to a work assignment, I had to ask Councilwoman Danko to chair the meeting in my stead. May I defer?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Yeah.

MS. DANKO: This resolution has to do with the Environmental Charter School. At the first committee meeting we held it in committee. I want people to understand what this is. I'm very familiar with it. It's only a couple of blocks from my house. This charter school, when it originally opened, the building was owned by an organization called Schoolhouse Finance, a for-profit corporation. They charged the Environment Charter School about \$50,000 a month, so we're talking about half million dollars a year to rent a small building that houses roughly 300 students. This bond issue that they will --- this note that will be issued and that we're authorizing will reduce their costs --- I believe it's over the next ten years --- by about \$3,000,000 and so more of that money, public tax dollars, can go into education programs. So I make a motion that --- it was sent from the committee to full council with an affirmative recommendation.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

(No response).

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Abstain.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACE: 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?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 12, noes zero and one abstention. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8663-14.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilwoman Heidelbaugh is present. A Resolution amending the Articles of Incorporation of the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities, the Authority, to extend the term of existence of the Authority to a date that is 50 years from the date of the approval of the Amendment to Article of Incorporation by the Secretary of

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Is that Barbara or ---?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Yes. I'd defer to Councilwoman Danko.

MS. DANKO: This resolution, as it says, you know, the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities does --- you know, it's passed through on borrowing. I guess we can call it that. And the date when the borrowings are due and authorized was only about 4.5 years, as I recall. And so this extends the period that loan notes, et cetera, can be taken out, 50 years, which is the maximum, to my understanding, allowable by law. It was affirmatively recommended by the Committee.

MR. FINNERTY: Are you making a motion?

MS. DANKO: And I move approval.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

(No response.)

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?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes, zero. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 8662-14.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance on behalf of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, the Court, of a donation of used desks, conference tables, file cabinets, work stations, movable file storage systems, other office furniture and related personal property for the use in the Court that has been offered to the Court by various law firms. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. This practice has occurred over the years and all furniture and equipment has been depreciated by the law firms and we've become the beneficiary of those. The Committee met on 12/9 of '14 and sent this Ordinance to the full Council with affirmative recommendation. I move to approve.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Under remarks? Seeing none, ---.

MS. DANKO: I had a question. I'm wondering if anybody ever got the answer to whether or not they get a tax write off for this?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Bob?

MR. MACEY: It's my understanding that when the law firms fully depreciate, they're using the tax benefits afforded them under the IRS provisions and therefore, could not use it again, and for the sake of a discussion, the term double dip. So this comes to us. They've already got their tax advantages and therefore, it's just an outright donation with no monetary benefits.

MS. DANKO: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no more remarks, we will have a roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
(No response.)  
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. MACE: 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?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes, zero. The bill  
passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports. Anyone  
have a comment?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: Real quick, I want to wish  
everybody happy holidays and I want to acknowledge our  
staff and thank you for this year's service. You all do a  
wonderful job and you make us all look great up here.  
Thank you so much for your service.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I think Sue and then Jan and  
then we'll come down this way.

MS. MEANS: Today is the first day of Hanukkah  
and I want to wish all of our Jewish friends Happy  
Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas to everyone. And I just  
wanted to share a really quick Christmas miracle which was  
--- Hanukkah itself is a miracle, but this miracle has to

do with War World II. And General Patton realized that the weather was keeping the Army from advancing forward, and so he called the Army Chaplain to come, and he wanted to talk to the Chaplain. And he told the --- asked the Chaplain, how much do you think our men pray? And the Chaplain said, you know, I think the soldiers are really used to praying in buildings. And General Patton said, well, I want to order all the men to pray. And so he asked the Army Chaplain to write a prayer for him, which he did. And then the Chaplain showed him the prayer and said, why don't you put a Christmas greeting on the back of the card to all the soldiers? And so they did. And so here it had been raining for three months. And there was a thick cloud cover so the Air Force couldn't see the enemy, so they actually --- and then there was --- the Army Chaplain also sent a training letter to four, over five --- well, about 500 chaplains and to also 3,000 of the commanders of different units on the importance of prayer. So they sent out the prayer card and the rain stopped and the Air Force was able to come in and we won the war. And I just wanted --- it's a Christmas miracle and I just wanted to acknowledge the power of prayer, and wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Jan, you were next.

MS. REA: Yes. Thank you. I also want to thank our staff and everything that they do for us. And also my colleagues and the people who chair the committees and take a lot of time to come in for committee meetings. And thanks to all of you. But I just wanted to reiterate what the Chief Executive said, that we have a new CEO coming in to the Airport, Christine Cassotis. And the Airport Authority Board is really looking forward to working with her and seeing, you know, just great improvements at the airport for economic reasons and for certainly just leisure travel. So it will be an exciting year working with her, and I hope all of you get to meet her or either take time to go to the airport. If you'd like to tour the airport, I think I would be able to set that up. Or if you would like her to come in and talk to Council, I would certainly ask her to do that. So I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware that she is coming here in January. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Going down this way, I think we have Mike and then Barbara.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd just like to say also Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to everyone out there. It's a joy to be here and I hope you're having a joyful season yourself.

MS. DANKO: Speak for yourself.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting isn't over yet.

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, the meeting is not over yet. And thank our staff and everyone for everything you do, and also my colleagues up here for everything they do to help our county be better every year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Barbara, next?

MS. DANKO: I have a couple of things, and I do want to thank our staff as well. And Sue reminded me --- I read this week is the 70th anniversary of Battle of the Bulge so when you're talking about --- and my father was on the ground in that battle so it's --- you know, there's lots of miracles. A lot of people came home. A lot of people didn't. So I'm with you on that part. I also --- this is sort of, you know, in the holiday spirit. One of my colleagues, her daughter graduated from nursing school last weekend, Council member Sue Means, following in her mother's footsteps. You know, as a mom of four 20-somethings, I know the joy of graduation and I just wanted to congratulate Sue and her husband and her daughter and --- you know, we like those good days.

MS. MEANS: Yeah. Four down, and one to go. Feels good.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any more reports? Seeing none, we will move on to 8682-14.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to continue the services of Attorney John F. Cambest to provide legal advice, representation and consultation to County Council. Sponsored by Council member Futules.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Sure. I'll make a motion to hire Mr. Cambest ---

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

MR. FUTULES: --- for the year 2015.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Properly seconded. Under remarks?

MS. MEANS: May I?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. MEANS: Mr. President, I was hoping that we could go into executive session because this is a personnel matter, and we would like to discuss it in

private as we did our other employees. We did that a couple of months ago and we had discussion. I would like to have one this evening.

MR. MACEY: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. Go ahead.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I don't know who all would want to go into executive session, so I make a motion that we vote on it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, we will. Yeah, we will. I mean, the practice --- there's no specific language how we handle it, but for the last --- from the beginning of time until now, this is the way we've always handled it, but let's --- she has --- you have a motion?

MS. MEANS: Okay. Yeah. I'll make a motion that we go into executive session.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Is there a second?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's take a vote.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: I have a question on the motion to go into executive session.

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah. Go ahead.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I was going to say under remarks, but go ahead.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: If I may, Mr. President, I have no idea of what Council has --- Councilwoman Means' concerns are, and I think perhaps to avoid any potential embarrassment or exposure or anything ---. I have no idea what she's going to talk about. I have respect for Jack Cambest. I have respect for Councilwoman Means. I would encourage us to perhaps go into executive session so that this stuff is not out on the floor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anybody else under remarks? Seeing that, let's take a vote on if we're going to go into executive --- do you have a ---?

MR. FINNERTY: No. No. Just making sure if we were going to take a vote on it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We're going to make a vote on if we have to go into executive session or handle this like we've always done.

MR. FINNERTY: Could I say a few words?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: Thanks. This is --- I don't have any reason for an executive session. The rationale for me, Mr. Cambest has been here for --- probably since I've

been here, anyhow. That's at least ten years and maybe longer. And I think we know what he does, and I think we know how he does it, and if he does a good job or if he doesn't do a good job. So I don't see any reason to go into executive session. Thank you.

MS. REA: Could I?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Jan.

MS. REA: I feel simply from what Mr. Finnerty said we should be in executive session. I feel it is improper to discuss anything about Mr. Cambest out here on the floor, his performance. We're to vote whether we want to continue with Mr. Cambest or not, but to discuss anybody on the floor is not proper. That's the way I feel.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other comment? Well, let's take a vote, a roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: Yeah. This is a roll call vote for going into an executive session. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

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. MACE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: No.

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?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: We have ayes, ten, noes, three.

It passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. We're going to go into the back for --- take a recess for a minute while we go into executive session.

(Brief Recess.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I think it's now time to take a vote on the motion. Go ahead.

MR. MACEY: I just want to say I withdraw my motion from before of voting on whether to go back into the --- because the motion was still on the floor.

MR. FINNERTY: No. We voted on it. That's why we went back.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's vote on Mr. Futules' motion.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?  
MR. BAKER: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?  
MS. DANKO: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
(No response.)  
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: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: No.  
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?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 11, noes, one. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. We'll go down to  
8683-14.

MR. CATANESE: Executive Actions for the  
Reporting Period 11/01/14 to 11/30/2014 to be received and  
filed.

MR. MACEY: Motion to receive and file.

MR. FINNERTY: 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.  
We will now go with Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.  
Lester Ludwig, is he here? Robert Ieraci, is he here?

MR. CATANESE: Ieraci (corrects pronunciation).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Ieraci.

MR. IERACI: My name is Bo Ieraci, 58 Andrade  
Street. I'm from Baldwin Borough and I think you can  
guess what I'm going to talk about, busing. I'm on the  
Planning Commission. I'm on the steering committee for  
the comprehensive plan. And needless to say, it's a major  
problem for Baldwin Borough. We have to have our tax  
base. We have to have people living there. We've got  
people moving out. They won't move in. We got sites that  
aren't being built because there's no transportation to  
get people to work. Now, I missed the meeting on the 2nd.  
I was out of town. But I did want to thank Heather for  
bringing up the amendment for the \$3,000,000, and Ms.  
Hawkins for backing it up. And I know Ms. Danko and the  
committee backed it up, Mr. Robinson, who's gone. I'd  
like to thank you at least for trying, at least for doing  
something.

The rest of you, I really hate to say what I'm  
thinking tonight now because I heard some of the excuses  
that were pretty --- from not buying buses, you know,  
comparing airplanes to buses and whatever.

There seems to be a big problem with you guys  
and Port Authority. All right? That's obvious. I don't  
know what it is. Maybe it's the old regime. But you know  
what? There's an easy solution. Phone. Try calling them  
up, set a meeting up, talk to them, let them know what  
your problems are with them. But the worst part is you've

got Ms. Hawkins there. She's on the Board. My God, talk to the lady. I'm sure she'd take care of you and talk things over and try to straighten things out, but you got to do something because we need our buses.

Mr. Ellenbogen, all he talked about was reality. Well, let me tell you what. Forget politics as a reality. The reality is we need our damn buses there. It's that simple. We got old people, got no way --- we're the only borough on the city border that has no buses. They can't go nowhere. You can't walk the streets. They got a two mile walk. There's no sidewalks.

Something has to be done. You got the transportation money, you know, Mr. Futules and Kress and that, they think that's a savings account, for Christ's sake. That's not a savings account.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Watch your language, sir.

MR. IERACI: Sorry.

PRESIDENT DEEFAZIO: That's all right. Go ahead.

MR. IERACI: That money is to be spent. It's not to sit there. Even if you give them \$2 or \$3 million, at least that's enough to bring one or two bus services back perhaps. If you do that five years, you're going to bring back five, six, seven, eight bus routes plus what the Authority can do. That money help them. Believe it. But you guys got to do something to change your attitude with Port Authority. How can they respect you when comments are made, derogatory, I feel sorry because you (indicating) took a beating that meeting and you shouldn't have. You should fight back.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Try to wrap it up real quick.

MR. IERACI: That's it. Thank you. Hey, happy holidays.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Same to you. Thank you. Virginia Cook?

MS. COOK: Good evening. Thank you for giving me permission to come and speak to you this evening. My name is Virginia Cook. I have practiced law here in Allegheny County since 1977, and about 25 percent of my career has been in municipal law as an assistant city solicitor, a borough solicitor and as the solicitor to the fourth largest municipal authority in this Commonwealth. I wasn't able to come to the meeting on the 10th, but I read David Puposzar's testimony. And after reading that,

I decided to come and speak to you about these restaurant grading regulations. I'm interested in a request from the Board of Health because as executrix of the estate of Bruce Dixon, I am now the plaintiff in a lawsuit Dr. Dixon commenced against the County, its Health Department, Mr. Fitzgerald, and the five members of the Board. Mr. Puposzar said in his testimony that if there is a possibility that the Health Department is viewed as a rubber stamp on issues of importance like restaurant grading, that possibility needs to be addressed. I agree with him. I agree so much that after consultation with the Attorney General's office, I have decided to continue the lawsuit that Dr. Dixon started.

So today, to be brief, I simply want to read into the record what Mr. Fitzgerald and four members of the Board who are personally defendants in the lawsuit had to say about that possibility, and answers that they filed under oath to the lawsuit. The lawsuit's main pleadings go to 100 pages. I will read two paragraphs. First of all, Dr. Dixon's pleading which he signed under oath while he lived. Prior to his and her nomination --- this is at paragraph 53 of the complaint. Prior to his and her nominations, the County Executive required from each nominee to the Board that he and she deliver to the County Executive as a condition of his and her nomination and before submission of his and her nomination for approval by County Council, a signed undated letter of resignation from the Board, so that in the event of any nominee, once appointed to the Board, did not vote to remove Dixon as director or otherwise vote in accordance with the policy or directive of the County Executive. The County Executive could date the letter of resignation and announce that the Board member had resigned from the Board. And the County Executive could nominate another person to the Board under a similar condition until the County Executive achieved the results from the Board that he desired, including but not limited to removal of Dixon as director.

It goes on. The answer filed under oath by the County says the following. It is admitted that the County Executive asked for and received letters of resignation from individuals so that persons whom he nominated to these County authorities, boards and commissions or who remained as members of these County authorities, boards and commissions reflected the policy preferences of the

County Executive. It is specifically denied that such action was taken in bad faith in violation of any public or legal duty in making nominations to the Board. To the contrary, and this is what's important, requesting and receiving resignations or promises to resign from a public body by an authority or a board ---

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Try to wrap it up quickly, please.

MS. COOK: --- in the future, if there is a policy difference between the appointing official and the appointee, even though such action cannot be legally compelled, are traditional parts of our political system at all levels of government. In other words, what was going on was common practice in a democracy.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MS. COOK: My time is up?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: It's been up.

MS. COOK: I will put into the record the pleadings from the court. I brought copies. I would ask you to vote against the grading policy because of the way and manner people were put on the Board to enact it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Next is Joni Rabinowitz. She's here.

MS. RABINOWITZ: Joni Rabinowitz, 7721 Edgerton Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15221. I have two things that I want to comment on. One of them is this article that was in yesterday's Tribune Review about Forward Township road to gas wells waits for repairs. And this article is about some roads in Councilman Macey's district that have been in disrepair for quite a long time, but the fracking trucks have put the road in worse repair and people are up in arms because the County hasn't done any repairs all these years. And what's odd about it is and what really struck me about this article is the question about whether the County will be paying these costs to fix the roads that the fracking trucks are messing up. It says the road reconstruction --- it says there's a study by Rand Corporation that says that each gas well in the Marcellus Shale causes \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damage to Pennsylvania roadways. So some of these damages that were done to these roads in Forward Township were done --- was done by the Marcellus trucks. However, it says here that the County is working on plans to share the costs with the EQT, which is the company that's running the trucks. And

I don't know why the County would even be paying any money to fix the roads that the trucks are messing up. I mean, that's EQT's responsibility. And I see trucks all over the County that are going to be messing up our roads with their trucks and the County is going to be hit up to fix the roads. So I'm concerned about this issue, the trucks and messing up the roads.

Secondly, I just want to remind you that last week, last meeting, you took the ordinance that we had presented to you, assigned it to a committee, the government reform committee and Mr. DeFazio is the Chair of that committee. And there's quite a number of you on the committee. And we're hoping that you're getting ready to have a committee meeting and to look at the --- to look, you know, over time at the ordinance and how you're going to refer it to the Council at large. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Next is Darnell Jones.

MR. JONES: Good evening, Council ladies and gentlemen. My name is Darnell Jones. I live at 138 Village Drive in Groveton Village in Coraopolis, PA. I'm just here to ask you guys if you can allocate funds to Port Authority to return bus service to my community. With no funds for the bus in my community, it's hurting my community. We can't get to doctors' appointments, can't get food. I have a family in my community who couldn't feed her kids for seven days because she could not get into the town to get to the store to get her kids food. I'm on dialysis. When you guys --- when the Port Authority decided to cut the bus, I had to walk from Groveton Village --- if you're familiar with the Coraopolis area, I had to walk from Groveton Village up to Thorn Run to get to the DaVita in Moon Township where I was close to having a heart attack walking up this hill. I cannot miss treatments, and to have the bus put back, I mean, at least to try to see if we could have a shuttle bus to take us to Coraopolis would be --- do us much justice and do me a lot of good with my health. I'm missing doctors' appointments because I don't want to walk two miles to go to --- I had a stroke in 2002. I'm weak on my left side, and it's a toll on my body going through dialysis, and also knowing that I can't catch a bus to go to my doctors' appointments and to see my heart doctor is real frustrating.

And I talked to the Port Authority. They asked me to come down here and see if I can try to get you guys to allocate funds to them so they can try to see if they can put a bus back into my community. It's really hard for us out there. With the way the economy is, we don't have any jobs, and the money that you pay out for jitneys, I pay \$1,500 in jitneys just going out to pay bills, going to doctors' appointments, having my wife getting back and forth to work, which could have, you know, been used in my household, which I'm like totally strapped right now. And I can't do anything about it because I can't --- I don't have any --- I wish I could hit the Powerball and give you guys the money to get the bus started. That's what I would do. But you know, I can't do anything unless, you know, you guys help us. You know, my whole community is strapped for cash. I mean, we can't even get to work. There's families that --- who are being put out because they can't pay their rent. When we had the bus in my area, there was a lot of jobs available, like to get to Robinson, the hotels up on University Boulevard. No one can get to work now. I mean, I have friends that walks to Coraopolis, five o'clock in the morning and it's pitch dark on the road. The sidewalk is about that big (indicating). When we get snow, you got to barely walk into the street, and if you're walking on the sidewalk, we got vermins that jump out, so you're being chased into the street. You got 18-wheelers coming around the bend. You know, I'm just begging you guys for help. If you can do anything to get a bus back in my community, I would gladly appreciate it. And thank you. You guys have a happy holiday, a Happy Hanukkah to those who are that matters, and have a happy and blessed and safe new year.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. We're down now to adjustment. Oh, Molly, I'm sorry. There's one more, Molly Nichols. I'm sorry.

MS. NICHOLS: Good evening. I'm Molly Nichols at 504 Peebles Street. I'm speaking on behalf of Pittsburghers for Public Transit. We want to thank and acknowledge the Council members who proposed and supported the amendment to the County Operating Budget that allocates \$3 million from the transit support funds balance to be used for Port Authority's operating costs. That was Ms. Hawkins, Ms. Heidelbaugh, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Danko. We deeply appreciate your recognition of the serious problem of transit deserts, and while we

understand the money cannot be designated to specific routes, any additional operating money that allows Port Authority to add service to underserved areas is a boon to my county and its residents. For example, in 2014, 2.7 percent of our service was added for approximately \$4 million. It's made a huge difference for transit riders. So we're disappointed by the Council members who chose to vote no to this amendment. The allocation would not have to be a one-time thing like some people said. Any operating revenue can't be a one-time thing. But the transit support fund has grown by close to \$10 million in just four years. The County can afford to designate a few million every year to operating costs.

We cannot wait ten more years for the State to come up with matching funds. The County has decided to fund capital projects without matching state money, so why can't it fund operating costs without matching state money? A few Council members were concerned about what the Port Authority would do with the money. We want to clarify the Port Authority is working on developing their service guidelines which lay out the process for how and where they add transit service. They've indicated increasing ridership is their primary concern, but they're also working to address the needs of riders throughout the County. The County is in a position to help them improve our transit system and they should use their resources to do so. Some Council members have shared the reasons they cannot support the amendment, but have failed to offer any solutions. Are we really supposed to wait ten years for the State to generate additional funds? Are we really supposed to tell residents just to use Access?

While that's a crucial service, many aren't eligible, and it's not a replacement for a fixed route service to allow them to get where they need to go. We recently learned the County Transit Fund will be collecting \$650,000 additional due to a computer error from Hertz Car Rental Company. This adds to the money from the fund balance that could be used and allocated to Port Authority's operating costs so they can grow our transit system in the most equitable ways. We expect our Council members to support using the County's resources to the benefit of their most vulnerable constituents. We need to find a solution to this problem and you should do all you in your power to solve the crisis of transit deserts and help the residents of our county. Thanks.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. At this point,  
does someone want to make a motion to adjourn.

MR. FINNERTY: So moved.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second?

(Chorus of seconds.)

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

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

  
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Court Reporter