

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President, Council-At-Large
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large (Via telephone)
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
Terri Klein	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2015 - 5:05 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	-	Allegheny County Manager
Joseph Catanese	-	Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker	-	Director of Legislative Services
Walter Szymanski	-	Budget Director
Jack Cambest	-	Solicitor for Council

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Please rise and remain standing for silent prayer or reflection. After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll have a roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

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?

(No Response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Klein?

MS. KLEIN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

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: 14 members currently present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Proclamations/Certificates.

9193-15.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating #1 Cochran on the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary. Sponsored by Council members Finnerty, Martoni, Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Klein, Kress, Macey, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. Rob, join us. Do you want to bring your other people up? Is that Neal? Neal and Mary Jane. We're also joined by Chuck Martoni.

It's a pleasure and an honor to have this Proclamation for you, Rob and your family, taking a small auto dealership and expanding it to a huge player in the automobile industry. And I know that we have Chuck Martoni here, and Chuck wants to say a few words since he buys his cars from you all the time. So Chuck, would you like to say a few words?

DR. MARTONI: I bought my first new car, not from you, but I believe your father on 6th Street in North Braddock.

MR. COCHRAN: I wasn't there.

DR. MARTONI: You weren't there. You weren't around. I asked for you, but you weren't around. Anyway, I've been dealing with you for --- I don't want to say how many years, but many, many years. More years than you have on earth; okay? And you guys are so satisfactory to deal with, so we're happy to have you here.

MR. FINNERTY: Let me read the proclamation and then we'll have a few words from you, Rob.

WHEREAS, in 1965, Bob Cochran opened a single, small Pontiac dealership in North Braddock,

AND WHEREAS, in the 50 years since, #1 Cochran has grown to become the largest auto retailer in western Pennsylvania by bringing the world's most popular automotive brands to customers in Monroeville, Robinson Township, as well as the Allegheny Valley, South Hills, North Hills and Butler County,

AND WHEREAS, under the guidance of Bob's son, current president and CEO, Rob Cochran, #1 Pontiac has become one of the top, private dealer groups in the nation with 23 new vehicle franchises, 16 domestic and import brands and nearly 1,000 dedicate team members spread across its sales, service and collision repair operations,

AND WHEREAS, on August 20th, 2015, #1 Cochran celebrated their 50th anniversary at Braddock's Battlefield History Center, the same building that once housed the original #1 Cochran Pontiac showroom. And festivities included a \$50,000 donation towards the revitalization of the Braddock area,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate #1 Cochran for

this exciting 50th anniversary, thanks the company for giving back to the community and wishes #1 Cochran many more successful years in the future.

And this is sponsored by all of Council, myself and Chuck Martoni, since we're the #1 names on here. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. COCHRAN: Members of Council, Dr. Martoni and Councilman Finnerty, thank you so much for this recognition and this honor. It is humbling today to receive it. I am quite honored on behalf of my family and the 1,000 or so team members within #1 Cochran to receive this proclamation.

I do want to recognize two of those team members with me today; Neal Jennings, our vice-president and chief financial officer, and Mary Kay Roman, our director of brand and advertising. All the wonderful commercials that you see are her work and not mine.

Our 50th anniversary has been a time of reflection for us, a time of looking back to our beginnings, our aforementioned beginnings as Cochran Pontiac in North Braddock, our venture into Monroeville in 1968 and our initial growth and success coming alongside the growth in the Monroeville corridor in the '70s, our move into Robinson Township in the early '90s.

Our vision of being a regional retailer required us to expand beyond the eastern suburbs. Ten years later it was Dormont and the South Hills, more recently Natrona Heights and Wexford, and on the horizon, the Strip District.

Most all of our growth --- save the recent venture into Butler County with Subaru, most all of our growth has been experienced in the county that we call home.

In addition to looking back, we've also given back, supporting the Braddock communities that spawned us, as well as so many neighborhoods and so many communities that have been so very good to our company.

Turning 50 has a nice ring to it, but it's mostly an opportunity for us to say thanks to our customers throughout western Pennsylvania, to our team members both past and present, and to the communities that have embraced us including this great body with this warm recognition today.

We are proud to be from Allegheny County. We are proud to be from Greater Pittsburgh. We are proud to represent everyone within our communities and do the best job that we can. So thank you. Thank you so much for thinking of us. We're looking forward to many, many, many great years within these communities. And Let's Go Buck's.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Next is 9194-15.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation naming the month of October 2015 to be National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council members Means, Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MS. MEANS: Today I'm --- if this lineup is right, let me know; okay? We have --- the attendees are from the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Pittsburgh office. And we have Marcie Katona; right? And Richard Musser and Shannon Austin, and John Miller and Kimberly Robinson and Sarah Vogel, and did I --- one more? Did I call everybody's name? We're good? Okay. All right. Good.

Well, today is a day to celebrate because this is the 70th anniversary of celebrating the National Disability Employment Month, a time to celebrate the many contributions of Americans With Disabilities. And so I'm so happy that you're all here today to join with this celebration. And I also want to note that there are many organizations and agencies that assist individuals with disabilities to find employment.

All life is precious and has worth and employment fosters independence and purpose. And again, we all have to work together as a team, and I thank you so much for being a part of that team.

And after I read the proclamation, if each of you want to say anything or if you want to pick someone amongst you to say something, you may.

WHEREAS, workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people including people with disabilities are critical, a crucial part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy,

AND WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has assisted in the recruitment,

referral, employment of individual candidates with disabilities since 1920,

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania OVR assist people with disabilities prepare, find employment through assessment, counseling and guidance, comprehensive medical, psychological and allied services, training and job placement,

AND WHEREAS, Allegheny County is recognizing the National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council does hereby proclaim October 2015 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Allegheny County. We call upon employers, schools, community organizations in Allegheny County to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities as we affirm Allegheny County's commitment to an inclusive community.

Sponsored by Sue Means and all the members of County Council. Thank you very much. Would anyone like to speak?

(Applause.)

MS. KATONA: Council members, thank you. And thank you for having the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation accept this recognition today.

We're honored. As part of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, our mission is to assist individuals with disabilities secure and maintain employment and independence. And in Pittsburgh, we follow that mission very, very strongly and we have wonderful community partners to make that happen.

We are very honored to kick off National Disability Employment Awareness Month spending a few minutes here with you. We thank you for that honor. We thank you for the recognition. My staff here --- we, in Pittsburgh, have a team of 93 staff. I have a few great leaders within that staff here that I just want to introduce to you to take away a name and know that we are out here available and ready to serve your community.

Shannon Austin is one of our assistant administrators. Rick Musser is an assistant administrator. Kim Robinson, supervisor. John Miller,

supervisor. Sarah Vogel is a social worker and does early reach to our young adults who are transitioning from school to work who have disabilities.

Thank you. I'm Marci Katona. I'm the district administrator at the Pittsburgh office, and again, we are honored to accept this and we thank you for the time to do that.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: And I was joined by Mr. Ellenbogen.
(Pictures taken.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to say I wanted to congratulate these folks, that, you know, it's the highest calling to help folks to work through their problems to be productive members of society. And to help them mostly show that, hey, you know, we're no different than anybody else. And you know, my hat's off to you. I appreciate your work. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9195-15.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Kathryn Talerico for her selection as the Western Pennsylvania delegate to the JDRF Children's Conference 2015. Sponsored by Council Members Heidelbaugh, Means, Rea, Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Finnety, Futules, Green Hawkins, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and Robinson.

MS. MEANS: It's exciting to be here today. As a nurse and a former grass roots activist, I'm always excited when I meet another activist, especially a 13-year old lobbyist which we have today. Kathryn, oh, boy, --- Talla ---.

MRS. C. TALERICO: Talerico (pronouncing).

MS. MEANS: Okay. I'm sorry. And she's also joined here by her dad Joe, her mom Cheryl and her brother Jackson.

So Kathryn, you are an inspiration to us all. As a nurse and a grass roots activist, I'm always impressed when a young person becomes engaged and active and moving towards improving healthcare for others.

While in DC, Kathryn had the opportunity to meet with Senator Bob Casey and Congressman Keith Rothfus and attend a Senate hearing on the Glucose Monitoring Bill. Maybe a lot of people don't know it, but Type I diabetes affects 1.2 million Americans, and there are over 200,000 young people under the age of 20 with Type I diabetes.

Now, I'll read this proclamation.

WHEREAS, 13-year old Kathryn --- oh, gosh ---
Talerico; is that right?

MRS. C. TALERICO: Uh-huh (yes).

MS. MEANS: Talerico of McCandless, was selected
as the Western Pennsylvania delegate for the Juvenile
Diabetes Research Foundation Children's Congress in 2015,

WHEREAS, Kathryn was chosen from over 1,500
applicants sent from across the United States of America,
the District of Columbia and several other countries,

WHEREAS, Kathryn, joined 165 delegates ranging
in age from 4 to 17 in Washington, DC from July 13th to
15th to tell their stories and urge the federal lawmakers
to help find a cure for Type I diabetes,

WHEREAS, as a participant in the Juvenile
Diabetes Research Foundation Children's Congress, Kathryn
and other delegates had a unique and empowering
opportunity to help members of Congress understand what
life with Type I diabetes is like including the financial,
medical and emotional costs of the disease, why research
to find a cure for diabetes and its complications is so
critical,

WHEREAS, Kathryn urged U.S. representatives and
senators to continue federal funding for Type I diabetes
research through the special diabetes program to provide
coverage for continuous glucose monitors by Medicare and
raise awareness for the need to advance the development of
artificial pancreas,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that
Allegheny County does hereby honor Kathryn --- oh, boy,
Talerico, --- I don't know why it freaks me out, Talerico,
for her selection as a Western Pennsylvania delegate to
the JDRF Children's Conference 2015.

We thank her for demonstrating with great
resilience and bravery in sharing her story to help spur
support for Type I diabetes research to bring us closer to
a world without T-1-D.

Sponsored this day by Heather Heidelbaugh and
all the other members of County Council. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: Come on. Kathryn is going to share
a few words with us.

MS. K. TALERICO: Hi, I'm so happy to be here
today and to thank all of you for doing this. Going to
Children's Congress was the best experience of my life.

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that nobody that I know has experienced, and it just makes me feel so honored that I have. It was amazing to go to the hearing and see all the members of Congress talking about something that I actually was into, and we actually understood what ---. Yeah.

The continuous glucose monitor is something that could really help juveniles with diabetes and seniors with diabetes. If the bill is passed, then that means that Medicare will cover them for seniors, and then that means that more insurances will cover them, too. So our insurance company right now does not cover them, but if Medicare does, then they will, too. So that would help so many kids across the world to get this really amazing piece of technology helps monitor our blood sugar better and into more detail.

(Applause.)

MRS. C. TALERICO: We just want to say thank you, too. We're glad to be here and spread the word and talk a little more about the disease and what we might be able to do to help and spread awareness. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9196-15.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating the South Hills Area Council of Governments Technical Rescue Team for earning the 2015 Pennsylvania Rescue Service Of the Year Award. Sponsored by Council Members Means, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Macey and Palmiere.

MS. MEANS: Well, I'm very honored this evening to give a proclamation to the South Hills Area Council of Governments Technical Rescue Team. And I have --- joined this evening by three members of that rescue team. We have with us today Ed Davis, chief of the rescue team. And he is --- it was his idea to put together the rescue team. We have Todd Plunkett and he is assistant chief. And then we also have Paul Pantages. Did I blow it?

MR. PANTAGES: No.

MS. MEANS: Oh, good. All right. Pantages. So I just wanted to take a minute, and before I get started, I wanted to thank you all for putting your lives in harm's way to rescue people that are in very serious circumstances. And I also want to point out that you have families that have sacrificed their time with you so that you can help our community. And so when you go home

please thank your spouses and your children from County Council for the sacrifices they make.

I just want to read a bit from this article before I read the proclamation. Say you rented digging equipment for what appears to be a simple job on a French drain. Suddenly, the walls collapse and trap you within a considerable amount of dirt. What that --- when that scenario played out for a Baldwin borough man a few years ago, the SHACOG technical rescue team was there to make sure he got out of his predicament alive. The team, with emergency personnel from the South Hills Area Council of Government, 22 municipalities, has been called out only about seven times a year. But it is a crucial mission in addressing a high risk situation that fire departments aren't usually trained to handle. That's when people can get hurt the most.

Davis is a lieutenant from the Mount Lebanon Fire Department --- was instrumental in founding the team in 2008 and has been recognized this year, 2015, as Pennsylvania's Rescue Service of the Year by the State Department of Health and State Emergency Health Service Council. The team has 60-plus members from 32 different fire departments and nine emergency medical service operations in the SHACOG area.

Oh, wait a second. Mr. Finnerty, you're supposed to be down here. Mr. Ellenbogen, you're supposed to be down here. And Mr. Macey because ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Joe, ---

MR. FINNERTY: You didn't tell us.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: --- I'd like to be added to the proclamation.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You're going to let the media know who the boss is around here.

MS. MEANS: And then --- I'm sorry. Yeah, they're from Shay (sic) so these councilmen that are joining me at the podium actually have municipalities that are in the SHACOG, and that's why I wanted them to be here also. I'm sorry. I'm sorry I didn't think of it sooner. I should have yelled sooner; right?

Shortly after Davis, Mr. Davis, joined the Mount Lebanon department ten years ago, he started formulating plans to combine the resources of numerous agencies to address more complex rescue efforts. Instead of each department trying to train people, he explained, we'll take care of the stuff that doesn't happen every day.

So then, Chief --- oh, boy, Sohyda --- Sohyda (changes pronunciation); right?

CHIEF SOHYDA: Sohyda (corrects pronunciation).

MS. MEANS: Sohyda, took the idea to his colleagues --- and he's the chief of Mount Lebanon Fire Department --- took his idea to the colleagues and the SHACOG fire chief's advisory committee. And they decided to give it a go. And they have a \$10,000 budget and their training is once a month. So again, they spent a lot of time and effort away from their families putting themselves in harm's way and we greatly appreciate your service.

The training sessions take place at least once a month with an emphasis on confined space emergencies. Other incidents to which the team responds might include building collapses, tower rescues, industrial machinery extraction and most frequently water-related situations as flooding.

You know, I hope you guys never called out to anything, I mean, after I read that list; right?

MR. MACEY: That's what they live for, the call.

MS. MEANS. Oh, the call. So now, I'll read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, the South Hills Area Council of Governments Technical Rescue Team, has been selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council as the 2015 Pennsylvania Rescue Service of the Year and will be honored at a Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service Institute dinner on November 21st in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,

WHEREAS, the SHACOG Technical Rescue Team has formed in Jan --- was formed in January 2008 by the SHACOG Fire Chief's Advisory Committee to respond to extreme rescue situations and provide confined space, trench, structural collapse, high angle rope, machinery, tower, flood water, swift water rescue services to the 22 communities of the South Hills of Pittsburgh,

WHEREAS, the SHACOG Technical Rescue Team has more than 60 active members from 32 fire departments and 9 emergency services --- agencies, covering 198 square miles serving a population of over 300,000 people,

WHEREAS, members of the SHACOG Technical Rescue Team receive extensive training, have operational and technical level certifications and demonstrate proficiency

in special rescue operations, in addition to their firefighter and paramedic educational requirements,
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate the South Hills Area Council of Governments --- you guys say that 20 times --- Technical Rescue Team for earning the 2015 Pennsylvania Rescue Service of the Year award. And we thank the team for delivering specialized rescue services with a high standard of quality and professionalism serving as a model for technical rescue teams across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation.

Sponsored by Sue --- Councilmember Sue Means, myself, and the rest of County Council. So congratulations. And would you like to say a few words?

CHIEF SOHYDA: I think you stole everything I was going to say.

MS. MEANS: Would a Council Member like to say a few words?

MR. MACEY: Sure. Thank you, Councilwoman Means. The SHACOG group, the service group, rescue group, they provide a lot of discounted services and testing and training for the member groups. And they're a very vital institution to people in the SHACOG area in the South Hills.

As a member of Number Three Volunteer Fire Company and a resident of West Mifflin, I worked with Todd on various occasions and various events. And I could tell you these guys, they love what they do and they do the best thing they can for not only the organizations, member organizations, but also for all the residents they serve. Thank you very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to say as a former chief of operations of Allegheny County Special Services, I just want to say these are the faces of the people that you would --- normally don't get to see them because they usually have a helmet on and a face mask, and they're usually in a place that most people wouldn't go. They're running toward things that most people are running away from. So I'd like to congratulate them, the good work that they do and the fact that they risk their lives every day just like police officers do and they should be commended for their service. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FINNERTY: I think everybody has said everything, but I'd like to congratulate you and thank you very much for all the communities that are involved with SHACOG, for protecting us and helping us out in our daily lives. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9197-15.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating and thanking Eyetique for opening its new corporate headquarters in Beechview. Sponsored by Council Member Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. Childs, good to see you. I've known Norman Childs for more years than probably I would even admit to. And you know, while we were kids, I was probably voted most likely to take a life. Norman was probably voted the most likely to succeed. He was always an energetic young man, somebody who had vision and somebody who always wanted to give back to his community. As a young fellow, he started a little business and he's expanded it, Eyetique, to over 100 employees. And with his success, he could have taken that business anywhere. And I'm very proud of the fact that Norman took an old labor building on Banksville Road, renovated it and put it right back in this community in a corridor that I'm very glad to see is going to have this kind of activity and his contribution. I'm very proud of all the work that he's done and the fact that he has not forgotten this community and wants to give back to it.

He probably doesn't know I'm going to say this, but Norman is one of these guys --- and his brother --- that have to do with the aviation of emergency dogs. He might want to talk about it. He's one of these guys that rescue these animals that other folks probably wouldn't put themselves at risk, so he's somebody who is a special kind of guy. And I appreciate the fact that he's here today with me.

With that, ---

WHEREAS, Eyetique, an independently chained of fashion eyewear stores was founded by Norman Childs in 1979,

AND WHEREAS, from a single store in Squirrel Hill, Eyetique has grown to employ more than 100 people at 21 locations in Pennsylvania and Ohio,

AND WHEREAS, Eyetique purchased and renovated the former Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania, a 10,700 foot square building located at 1201 Banksville Road in Beechview to house its new corporate offices, employee training center, laboratory and distribution facilities,

AND WHEREAS, by bringing all aspects of the business under one roof, Eyetique's operational efficiencies and customer service will be greatly enhanced,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate and thank Eyetique for opening its new corporate headquarters in Beechview and for contributing the Allegheny County's economic growth and prosperity.

Sponsored by myself, James Ellenbogen and presented this 6th day of October 2015. Thank you, Mr. President. Norman?

MR. N. CHILDS: Thank you so much. We really appreciate this. On behalf of all our employees, my brother Brad, it's a great honor to be here. Thank you. Thank you to Council.

You know, we are a company that has grown here, But more importantly we couldn't do this, literally, without great government. I mean that. The City is fabulous. The County is great. And that has helped us grow to the next level. So I want to thank you, really. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. N. CHILDS: You know, we have a few missions in our company, and I'd like to share the stage with Brad Childs, the vice president of our company.

MR. B. CHILDS: Thank you, bro. My older brother. Sixteen (16) and a half years. Most of you probably think he's my father. It's actually my brother. Is that recorded somewhere? I don't know.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Oh, yeah, it's on television.

MR. B. CHILDS: I guess I'll be in his office tomorrow. Anyways, I'm proud to be part of Eyetique and Three Guys Optical. We're a small family-owned, you know, obviously, Pittsburgh-based business. But the best part about going to work every day is first and foremost, there's eight family members that work there, and it's a real blessing and a real honor to be with them every single day.

But we've also been afforded the opportunity to give back. And we give back in two ways right now. My nephew, Norm's son, created a program called Chromos Cares. And every time we sell a particular frame of Chromos eyewear, we give an examination, a frame and a set of lenses to a child in need in the City of Pittsburgh school system. We go every single month. We take the doctor's equipment into the schools. We do an exam. We fit them. We come back a week later and when they put on a pair of glasses, and they can now see the chalkboard, it fundamentally changes their academic career forever. I'm just a proud uncle, to be quite honest. And it's a program that we're able to do because of our founder and my brother, Norman.

The next program which is even also interesting is that we have a group called Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team based out of the Allegheny County Airport where we get tremendous support from the Allegheny County Airport Authority.

If you guys drive on Banksville Road, you'll see a massive cargo van. That van is out on the road today. It's rescuing 70 dogs. It's on standby for the hurricane that's coming, you know, through the area. And we're rescuing over 300 animals a month right now. And that's also based at 1201 Banksville Road.

So it's a real honor and privilege to up here. I thank you all very much, and thanks for thinking of me as well.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: How about that?

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You'd better add me to the proclamation. I'm on that eye --- up here with my glasses.

Okay. 9198-15 and the rest will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation naming Sunday, October 11th, 2015 to be Day of the Girl in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

9199-15. Proclamation declaring Saturday, October 17th, 2015 to be Adeline's Angels Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

9200-15. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Sam Bulk and Alvin Catz for their 40 plus years of service

to the Beth El Congregation of the South Hills. Sponsored by Council Members Finnerty, Means, Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

9201-15. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. George and Joan Astrab upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

9202-15. Certificate of Recognition presented to the Mon-Yough Adult Retardation Center, MYARC, upon the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

9203-15. Proclamation congratulating Chloe Kondrich for winning the 2015 Health Care Heroes Volunteer Award. Sponsored by Council Member Means.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. At this time, we'll have the 2016 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan and Budget Address by the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President, Members of Council. Good to be with you again. Just with you last week. It's good to be back, and you know, I know I got a chance to talk to a number of you throughout the day, but just --- and we will present this. In fact, here, let me to do this right now.

The good news is for property tax owners --- for property taxpayers in Allegheny County for the 14th year out of 15 there will be no millage increase that we're proposing tonight for the homeowners in Allegheny County. And we've been able to do that in a good way because of the work we've been doing together balancing the budget over the last few years. And to put some historical perspective on this, when we took office four years ago, we had a fund balance of a little over \$5 million. And on an \$800 million budget, that's nowhere near with the rating agencies and with good government practice would have you be. They want you to be around five percent which would be about \$40 million on an \$800 million budget.

We were about to be downgraded from the bond rating agencies because of another reason that we were doing, is that we had used one-time revenues a number of times to balance our budget. I'm proud to also say that

for the fourth year in a row we are presenting a budget that has no one-time revenues. They're sustainable revenues.

And then the third thing that they were really on us about was the pension obligation, and with help of Harrisburg in getting the pension bill passed a couple of years ago and putting a little more money each year into the pension fund, we've brought that up to a good standard.

So we've had three upgrades from Moody's and Standard and Poors over the last couple of years. And we've taken the fund balance --- after the first year, we got it up to \$12 million. After the second year, we got it up to about \$25 million. When we closed the books last year, it was around \$38 million, and we're hopeful that at the end of this year that we are near that \$40 million mark that's been our goal. And we've been able to do that again by holding the line on property taxes.

And to put that a little bit into perspective, I just wanted to go over what that property tax owner in Allegheny County has been paying. And back when we put that base year plan in back in 2002, the person, the average home of a \$100,000 home, that property owner was paying \$422 in County property taxes. This year, after a millage increase we had four years ago and adjusting the homestead, that property owner will be paying \$483 in property taxes 15 years later. That's a 14 percent increase over 15 years, less than one percent a year. I can't think of very many things you've been able to buy over the last 15 years that the price has only gone up one percent.

To put that into perspective, our legislature in Harrisburg, they will claim every year that they don't have a tax increase. However, they really do with respect to inflation. Because in 2002 the median income was around \$40,000 for a Pennsylvanian, and that individual was paying about \$1,200 in income tax to the state. With no raise in the amount, the median income going up about two and a half percent a year, that individual is paying almost \$500 more a year in income tax, a 41-percent increase.

So we've held the line vis-à-vis other government agencies including --- the federal government would be about the same, a 41-percent increase, not

accounting for bracket creep or some of things that would occur.

This year's budget that we're going to be presenting, the operating budget, is \$854 million. It's about a 1.87 percent increase over last year. I would consider that pretty much a bare bones budget, and it's just a cost of living increase across the board.

The capital budget we'll be presenting tonight is around \$91.7 million. Last year it was \$79 million, so it's a little bit of an increase there. A lot of that is because of the \$5 fee that we're going to ask for tonight, for that vote tonight. And I'll get into that in just a little bit, but also some of the bridge reimbursements we're going to be doing, with the Warhol Bridge, the 10th Street Bridge. We get a little higher reimbursement rate from the federal government and state government when we do our bridges.

Most of the departments, you will see, are in the one to three percent range of increase, again, along the line of cost of living --- same with the row offices, same with the courts and our other agencies. One of the changes you will see --- and we've talked about this before --- will be the jail. The jail is going to increase to about \$3.9 million. That's the proposal we're going to be asking you to consider. About \$900,000 of that is standard cost of living, and about \$3 million of that will be the jail medical, by bringing that back in-house and trying to do obviously a better job than has been done previously.

You'll see a little bit of an adjustment on human resources. And again, that's to try to beef up that department so that we can help other departments streamline some of their operations. And you'll see that in the --- particularly in the Shuman Center budget where they've found some efficiencies on staffing and have been able to put some savings in there.

You're going to see an increase in the public works budget of about \$3.5 million, and that is from the \$5 fee. The \$5 fee, once it's enacted, should probably bring in about \$4.5 to \$5 million in increase. And to just review what we talked about last week, the \$5 fee that was part of Act 89, when Act 89, the Transportation Bill, was passed a couple of years ago, the legislature had considered increasing the vehicle registration fee from \$36 to \$52. It has been \$36 since 1997, so next year

will, you know, be 19 years since it was enacted. Just again, adjusted for inflation, would be about \$56. So the fact is we're going to be asking a \$5 increase. That would take it to \$41.

The legislature decided not to enact the \$52 fee. What they decided to do was allow counties to enact a \$5 fee which is dedicated to roads and bridges, to our infrastructure. It can't be used for anything else. We can't put it in the general fund. It's restricted for that use.

So the operating budget will go up a little bit for that reason, as will the capital budget for the reimbursements that we get when it comes to the bridges. And as you know --- we talked about it last week again. We're going to be doing the Warhol Bridge, which is about a \$20 million project. If we do that project, we only have to put in \$1 million for that --- for that match. We'll get about a \$19 million match from the state and federal government. And that \$5 fee could be used to offset that, so I think we have about \$600,000 in that --- from that dedication to go into that.

If we didn't do it we'd have to do it with property tax. I mean, that's the only other option we have to fund public works. And I know, you know, the fact that we've held the line on property taxes over those many years has really accrued to the benefit of this economy. We've seen a lot of investment coming in. People realize that their property taxes are going to be held in check as much as we can. And again, we've seen a lot of more people moving into the County, investing in the County.

We've got about \$3 billion in new construction that went on this year with respect to commercial and residential property, and we anticipate it's going to be about the same next year. So people are bullish on investing in Allegheny County, and we want to keep it that way. And I think one of the ways to do that is to hold the line on property taxes.

Kane, you're going to see, we're going to ask for a little bit of a change there. A couple of years ago, we came to you with the Scott Kane, where we wanted to put a memory care unit in there. That has been a successful operation that's been up and running for little over a year. I want to thank Director Biondo for the work there. And we're going to be coming tonight with a proposal to do a --- the Glen Hazel Kane, expanding

geriatric care, 45 beds, once we get state approval on that. And we're anticipating that we will get state approval on that. That's been going pretty well.

One of the other things you'll see in the budget tonight that might be a little bit confusing is the emergency services number. The emergency services number pretty much is going to stay the same, but it's going to show like a 44-percent decrease. What that really means is that's money that we're now getting from the state. When they passed the 9-1-1 legislation a few months ago, that's giving us --- and you passed it last week, the \$1.65 fee which allows us to fund a much greater portion of the 9-1-1 operations that we used to fund, you know, more or less with property tax.

The other thing I wanted to talk about a little bit was a little bit of an increase in the MWB, MBEWBE program, which again, we've seen some --- a lot of success in opening up the contracting and purchasing and other areas. And we're glad that we've been able to make those investments in that as well.

So as I said, most of the increase is in the one to three percent range. I do want to single out our budget department for really a terrific job. They really put in a lot of hours, do a lot of work. And I'm going to single them out by name; Director Mary Soroka, Greg Casciato, Mark Roukous, Geoff Brandon, Adam Lentz, Kathy Celestino, Tim Cox and Gina Buzzard. And I'd ask you to give them a hand for the work that they did putting that in.

(Applause.)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And of course our chairman, yes.

MR. FINNERTY: Absolutely.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Chairman Finnerty. Well, he's going to have a lot of work to do once we present it tonight. That's --- you're going to have to hold those hearings and have those meetings. Also, just we talked about this a little bit last week, but the Park Ranger Program, we're going to continue to try to, you know, enhance that. As I indicated, one of the things we wanted to do was try and deploy some of our police to do a terrific job. Forty-three (43) of them which were programmed and assigned to our county parks, we're going to be moving probably about 13 of them into some of those task forces that we talked about last week; violence task

forces, anti-gun task forces, sexual assault task forces, et cetera, where they partner with the district attorney, our local police departments and other law enforcement agencies to do that.

So that is pretty much the budget address that I have for you. And I was going to just open up to any questions that you might have, Mr. President, and your members of the Council.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Anyone, question?
Representative Means first.

MS. MEANS: Good evening, Rich Fitzgerald. It's nice to see you again. I just had a couple of questions about the Glen Hazel facility. Now, are you adding to the building, building on to the building or taking some beds that are there and designating them for geriatric care?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No. There were some --- a couple of wings or hallways, I guess, if you will, that were not being used at all. So we're going to be kind of repurposing them, opening those rooms up again and putting them back into operation. And we also think that --- and I know that's been an issue that we've had dating back to certainly when I was on Council, the deficit that the Kanes have been running historically. And the manager and Director Biondo continue to wittle away at that deficit. This will help enhance some revenues. There's a need out there in the community. They'll be able to fill that need and enhance revenues that actually make the operation a little more sustainable.

MS. MEANS: So how much do you estimate it's going to cost to put in 45 day --- 45 beds, I'm sorry, and the amount of time?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm going to ask the manager to come up and give ---

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: --- some of those details.

MR. MCKAIN: There's some money in the capitol budget in the \$300,000 range to so some work to configure it for the 45 beds. And we'll have to hire appropriate staff. But as the Executive said, the revenues, the new revenues, will more than exceed the additional staff and the capital.

MS. MEANS: Okay. And do you have a date, an open date or anything?

MR. MCKAIN: We're waiting for the State. If it's approved in the budget, we'll begin our plans as fast as we can. So we're waiting for Council to approve this budget ---

MS. MEANS: Uh-huh (yes).

MR. MCKAIN: --- and the State to approve this reconfiguration, so it'll be sometime next year. Once I get a date, I'll be able to report back.

MS. MEANS: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you for coming tonight. But my question is with regards to this motor-vehicle registration. Okay. This money, you stated is going to go into supplement, not to replace; is that correct?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: That's correct.

MR. KRESS: We're not going to be cutting public works? We're not moving money around?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: No. We're actually going to be increasing the public works budget. And that's really a good question. You know, one of the things --- and I think the manager may have mentioned this last week, we have over 400 miles of county road that we're responsible for. We have over 500 bridges that we're responsible for. And right now we use property tax money to pay for that. But on the flip side is we should be paving a road about every ten years. So we should be doing 400 miles divided by 10, about 40 miles a year.

For the last 20 years we've been doing maybe 15 to 20 miles a year, so we've really fallen behind. And we hear that from you guys across the board. I mean, we all do. I hear it when I'm out there. I know you hear it in your districts. When are you going to do this road? When are you going to do that road? This road is a --- not in good shape, to put a kind face on it. So this money will be used for that.

And you ask a good question. We only budgeted this year \$3.5 million because we're being conservative. We're not going to start collecting it probably until the first quarter of next year, so we don't anticipate that we'll collect all \$4.5 next year, so that's why we're being conservative on the budget. But let's say we collect \$3.8 million. That extra \$300,000 will absolutely go into the roads and bridges.

MR. KRESS: Okay. Thank you. Because that was one of my concerns. A lot of my constituents, a number of

them say, hey, they support this. They want to make sure the money goes into the roads and bridges. We know how important the structure is in this area. I've gotten plenty of phone calls. My concern also is the public safety, too. A bad road could kill somebody. So that's the reason why I'm supportive as long as it's going to be used for roads and bridges. So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. I just wanted to touch on the road situation. And I think the whole story needs to be told to the public. And what I mean by that is if you look at most borough roads and you look at most city roads, you know, you see a road that needs paved and this and that. The county roads, the majority of them are a very complex situation. If you look at the roads like Campbell's Run Road, Beck's Run Road, McNeilly Road, I could go on and on. You'll notice, if you look to your right or left, there's a creek that runs through there. While that road is --- they sit up on top of those creeks. and what is not being explained here --- and you know, I don't want go into a history lesson or --- but after the Roosevelt Administration, they put sandstone walls up there to hold those roads from falling into those creeks.

Well, anybody who knows anything about sandstone, it's pretty much outlived its time. So what's happening here, it's not just about replacing the surface of the road. If the lateral support, the walls that are holding those roads up on top of those creeks, and most --- a lot of you folks that live in the county know --- in terms of the floods and things, when those things overflow, they take a beating on those roads.

So what the Chief has not gotten into --- the fact is you have to rebuild that lateral support because if you don't, that road is going to end up in the drink, so to speak. So that makes it all the more important to get these extra monies. So thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I concur with my esteemed Councilman here in regard to that especially Campbell's Run Road that --- we're actually working on it at this moment, and it's kind of a dangerous situation out there. But that's going to be like a \$13 million project when it's finished. It might take two or three years, but it will get finished.

One of my questions, though, was about this tennis court area improvement project. There's \$600,000. Is that going to take care --- is that going to be South Park?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm going to ask that to ---.

MR. FINNERTY: I just ---.

MR. MCKAIN: I think there's one in North Park and ---.

MR. FINNERTY: It says tennis court area improvement project. It could be both of them.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I think we're doing North Park because that's the one area out there ---.

MR. MCKAIN: Yeah. I'm pretty sure that's referencing the North Park one.

MR. FINNERTY: Oh, okay.

MR. MCKAIN: We're going to do that. And address the tennis, and some pickle ball and some other activities on there, but it's North.

MR. FINNERTY: Well, the reason I asked that question was because my wife is bugging me about the tennis courts, and I want to make sure I asked that question.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Okay. We have gotten --- you know, the improvements around North Park or particularly around the lake and out in that area with the boat house, the OTB, the Go Ape, has been very, very positive. The one area that we haven't been able to touch on yet is the tennis courts and the nature preserve. I know we've talked about that as well, so we're going to --- you know, as we get enough funding to do what we do --- we'd like to do them all at once, but we're taking our time to get ---.

MR. FINNERTY: But us people from the south across the river, ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We'll make sure ---

MR. FINNERTY: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: --- South Park is treated pretty well, too, they do okay, too.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. John Paul --- or Representative Palmiere first.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Fitzgerald, it's good to see you this evening. I wanted to just comment about the fact that not only are we going

to benefit by having the roads and the bridges attended, but the thing that --- the fallout from that is we're going to be able to provide a lot of jobs in the area here for the working people here in the county. And I think that's important that we, you know, should mention that because again, anybody you talk to, any economist, they'll tell you the first thing about the economy is jobs, jobs. And I think that that's --- I'm really pleased and I'm going to support this bill also for that reason. I want to see everyone, as many people as possible in Allegheny County and all our construction people, to be working. And I know what a headache it is because I know in the South Hills it seems like every street I turn up is under construction. But the point is there's people working out there feeding their families and taking care of what needs to be done. And to me that is really the vital part of this. And I thank you for that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes. I was just wondering, Mr. Fitzgerald, with the State not passing its budget, how are we doing, because a lot of our money for human resources comes from the state. How are we getting along without that money?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I think you mean human services?

MS. MEANS: Yeah. I'm sorry, human services.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yeah. It's a challenge. And all counties in the Commonwealth are experiencing that, as are schools now. We're in a little better position than some because of the financial condition. We've been able to build up some reserves over the last few years. We've been able to somewhat weather some of our --- help with some of the nonprofits. That's getting stretched pretty thinly as we speak, and there are folks that aren't getting paid right now, you know, vendors that aren't getting their remittance checks. And we're dipping into the reserves a little bit and doing what we can, but as time goes on, Councilwoman, it's a challenge.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no more comments, we want to thank you, County Executive and ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. And I also want to really --- the directors, you know, that we

have really do a terrific job. They've held the line on spending, found new innovative ways to do things. We're very fortunate that we have some of the folks that we have. So we're looking forward to the process over the next couple of months leading up to the budget vote. And we'll certainly have our folks be as responsive as they can for any questions you might have.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to expand on that. You know, it's just about the directors. It's about those superintendents underneath, those deputy directors, the guys and gals that answer the phones to push that work onto everybody else to make sure everything gets done. You know, we just want you to know we appreciate also the work that all you folks do also. Because without you, it just doesn't flow. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: There goes our crowd.

MS. KLEIN: I thought they were here for us.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, we can't draw them.

(Brief Interruption.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: There's no public comment on agenda items. Approval of minutes. Someone want to make a motion?

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to approve. I mean, I know you want to read them; right? Please. No minutes?

MR. CATANESE: We have no minutes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have none.

MR. MACEY: Well, why do we have approval? Second. There's no minutes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second. Presentation of Appointments.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Unfinished business. We will go on to that which is 9187-15.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to impose a fee of \$5 for each nonexempt vehicle registered to an address located within Allegheny County to be used for transportation projects and other authorized expenditures as provided by 75 Pa. C.S., Section 1935. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Is that you (indicating)?

MR. FINNERTY: No, that's budget.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Representative Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. This was discussed and released from Committee with a positive recommendation, and I'd like to move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Representative ---.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have a remark.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Who? Oh, wait. I'll get you in a second. Sue Means. Okay. Well, she said you could go. Go ahead.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes. This bill was introduced at the last Council meeting. It was introduced shortly after 6:00 p.m. and referred to committee which was the next day. Budget and Finance had a committee meeting which had been set and then was cancelled, and it was rescheduled so that this Bill could be heard. The public had less than 24 hours to be notified that this Bill was going to be heard after introduced to County Council to Budget and Finance.

The Bill was read in Budget and Finance at 5:26. It was voted on at 5:46. That means that there was 20 minutes of discussion in order to tax every person in Allegheny County on every car that they have from now until the end of time. Twenty (20) minutes in discussion. Mr. McKain indicated that this bill could have been introduced as early as 2013, but there wasn't a primary or an election until 2015, and so this was introduced after that primary in May of 2015.

This is, in my estimation, not a Bill about money for safe roads, which is what the proponents have indicated. We've needed money for roads back when we could have introduced this and passed it in 2013. There has been no difference. This is an attempt to bring more money into the coffers of Allegheny County on the backs of the taxpayers when we, year after year after year, provide TIFs and LERTAs to companies that could very well pay their taxes. In 2014, we provided tax abatements for --- up to the tune of \$5 million for 10 to 20 years, to the tune of \$50 million.

I'm going to vote no on this Bill, not because we don't need good roads and bridges, but until we take a serious attitude towards taxing those who should be taxed and not piling onto the individual taxpayer and putting

the burden onto them, being fair and equitable in our tax policy, I'm going to vote no for what this is, which is just another attempt to tax John Q. Public.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. Since I am the Chairman, I guess I should answer that. To imply that there wasn't enough time is --- number One, it's wrong. We have rules and our rules say 24 hours. That was introduced Tuesday. The meeting was Thursday. If you count the hours, you would see that there are many more than 24 involved in that, and to even imply that is disingenuous as far as I am concerned.

The second thing is that this was on the news from the time it was introduced Tuesday. The next day it was on the news in the morning, in the evening. People knew what was going on. There was, in no way, anything wrong with the way this was done. It's a shame. It's a real shame that somebody would imply something like that when they should know the rules as well as I know the rules, as well as everyone up here knows the rules, which is 24 hours --- and which you know the rules since you have brought it up with a Parks bill to Mr. Futules saying that there wasn't 24 hours.

Now, I think this is a good Bill and it's good for the people of Allegheny County. It has to do with public safety, it has to do with good roads and it has to do with something that we have to get done since we have 400 --- over 400 miles of roads, over 500 bridges, and that's what we're doing. We're using the money for the roads and the bridges. And I think it's important that everybody understands that and that we've been --- as I look at it, been entrusted to govern and to do the right thing for the people of Allegheny County. And I think we do that. And I think that we --- it's not something that I like to do is ever introduce another charge, but to pave the roads and to fix the bridges, we need revenue. And this is one means of that was given to us to get revenue for the roads and the bridges. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: Well, I mean, I --- sorry, Heather, I agree that, you know, we did have the Bill, the meeting, the committee meeting on Thursday so we did have over 24 hours notice to the public. But I do also feel very strongly that to have a Bill introduced just a week ago,

and then we're voting on it tonight, I wish there would have been more time to examine this. Out of all the votes that I've had, this one has caused me to lose more sleep and have me ponder and discuss and turn it over in my mind. But these are some of my thoughts.

I wish that we had more time because it is an increase and it is --- people might call it a fee, but to me it's a tax, and it will go on forever. I know that we've made --- that promises have been made that they'll put this in a designated fund, and they'll only use it for roads and bridges, and they'll add to it, supplement, they won't take away. But when money comes forever and it's not written in the legislation, it's just a promise. It's not on paper, so it's just a promise, and so promises can be forgotten and promises can be broken.

Any way you cut it, we're in competition with the surrounding counties. Property taxes, consider the plight of the burden that's on the average citizen in Allegheny County. Property taxes in Allegheny County, I have figures on a home that's \$350,000. It's a new house. It has 2,243 square feet. In Butler County, their yearly taxes are \$366 --- 3,000 hundred --- \$3,660. In Washington County on the same house they pay \$5,855 a year. In Allegheny County, in Pine Richland, it's \$9,523. In South Fayette, it's \$11,698.

I also consider all the things that people in Allegheny County have to pay. Now, we just passed the 9-1-1 tax. We have --- of course, the average citizen has borough taxes, school taxes. They have a drink tax. They have a rental car tax. They have a right to work tax. And they also, in some districts, have a rain water tax. And I think --- stay tuned citizens, a lot of people are going to have the rain water tax. Every time a citizen goes to the gas station and puts gas in their car and they fill up their tank, they feel again the price of tax (sic) went up because Act 89, the Transportation Bill, was suppose to solve all of our problems. And so every time they put gas in their car, they kick in some more money.

I notice when I go to the store that the things I purchased a year ago for a dollar now cost a \$1.40. Some things that cost a dollar now cost two dollars. So everything in the store costs more because transportation costs more because the price of fuel went up because taxes are going up, because the gas tax went up.

We live in Allegheny County. The RAD tax adds a penny to every dollar. So when an Allegheny County citizen buys a car in another county, they can't --- the RAD tax follows her home. So everything a county citizen buys costs more in Allegheny County. A little bit here, and a little bit there, it all adds up. And I consider the plight of the Allegheny County citizen, and it reminds me of a nursery rhyme. There once was an old woman who lived in a shoe, she paid so many taxes she didn't know what to do. In Allegheny County, there are taxes and taxes galore, I just cannot vote to raise more. I will be a no vote. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Macey.

MR. MACEY: How could you beat a nursery rhyme? Thank you, Mr. President, members of Council. I find that, you know, having 400 miles of roads as well as having over 500 or 523 bridges, when we talk about bridges, we look at our bridges, and we see the Carson Bridge, the Rachel Carson Bridge. We see the Clemente Bridge. We see these huge bridges, but we forget that there are many, many, many bridges throughout Allegheny County in our small communities. What do these bridges mean? It means that we need to get people across various cavities and bodies of water, streams and what have you.

And it's important that these bridges be looked at and repaired and maintained or even replaced when necessary because we have many buses, public transportation and school buses going across these bridges. So it's very important that these bridges are looked at as well and repaired. And that's what this money is going to do. It's not just \$4.5 million. It's the amount of money that we can leverage from the State and the Federal government with this \$4.5 million.

We can all have a --- we can also have efficiencies of scale by getting the equipment, new equipment that we need to pave our roads. And for any of you who have lost a tire or had damage to your car on some of our roads with potholes and what have you as well as sinking roads and guiderails that were falling off, this is a safety issue that is important to not just the people who own vehicles, but those people who ride in vehicles as well.

So the registration fee, it's not a tax. It's a user fee. If you're driving a car, you own two cars you're going to pay the user fee because you're going to

be on those roads and those bridges that this money is going to be used to help repair and maintain. That's important. And we hear --- we just heard about 9-1-1. Well, 9-1-1 was something that had to be done because it is a first responder's means of communication. And 9-1-1 had to be --- it had to be uniform across various first responders, including our state police. So that was something that was legislated. And the reason why we passed the bill a week or so ago is because we wanted to be part of receiving that money.

As far as this bill is concerned and being able to assist our communities in making them safer, I'm going to be a yes vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Rea?

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a couple comments. I would like to differentiate between a tax and a fee. And I believe my constituents also make that --- they understand the difference. When we were discussing the drink tax, this room was full of people, full of cameras and angry constituents. I heard from one constituent who did not support the bill. Also, it's interesting to note, we had a car dealer here. He didn't even reference the bill. So I think we all have to recognize people do view a fee different than a tax. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Palmiere.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Look down here sometime.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President, I yield to the Councilwoman on your right.

MS. KLEIN: I do not take lightly any decision that will cause the residents of Allegheny County to have to pay more. However, maintenance on our roads and bridges has been deferred, and I agree that that could be potential safety issue. And with that in mind, I am voting for this.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Who had their hand up first? Representative Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I would be willing to say that I know more about these roads and bridges and parks than anybody sitting up here, or probably most people in that department because I was a former Chief of Operations. I don't want to go back into the history lesson in terms of how sandstone is, but I'm telling you, this reminds me of a situation back in 1999 when I needed maybe \$35,000 to \$40,000 to fix some boats in North Park. They were dredge

boats. The shortsightedness of some of the folks that sat on this Council didn't want to go for it. We don't want to tax anybody. We don't want to give any more money. And I told them at that time that the shortsightedness of what's going on here now, that the taxpayers are going to pay tenfold for that.

MR. FINNERTY: Uh-huh (yes).

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, if you remember maybe not too long ago, Councilman Futules cut the ribbon for the new North Park at a fee of \$13 million. \$13 million spent because nobody wanted to spend \$40,000-some.

Well, let me tell you about the county roads. Most people like --- Councilman Macey mentioned the bridges. I'll guarantee you that most folks in this county that go over a lot of the country roads do not even realize that a lot of these little culverts are actually bridges. They appear to be part of the road. They're in serious disrepair. I've been down in those creeks. I know those roads. I said it back in the '90s that in the next 20 years you're going to have some serious problems.

Now, the county roads happen to be the life arteries of this county. Becks Run Road, McNeilly Road, Jacks Run Road, Coal Valley Road, they're the main arteries that the folks --- that are backed up every morning. Now, I'm telling you that something is going to happen where one of those roads is going to cave in if we don't have the money to fix them, and God willing, that nothing happens to anyone. Do you realize what's going to happen because those communities will literally be shut down in terms of --- imagine if they closed Campbell's Run Road, Mike, with the Parkway being the way it is or Beck Run Road?

I hate taxes more than anyone because I have to pay them, but I'm telling you, to not do this is going to cost people a lot more money down the road. And I would take my experience with this with anybody that wants to look at it and show it to you. Particularly with the kind of winter they're predicting, the lateral support of a lot of these county roads --- and it's not just a few of them. They're the major arteries. And you could --- who has Jacks Run Road?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: They're really ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. You got them all. But you see what I'm saying.

MR. FINNERTY: You got all the roads.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: They're all exposed on one side. They all have --- you know, and I don't want to go on and on with that. But I'm just telling you, I don't like this any more than anybody else, but I know in my heart of hearts that if we don't do this it's going to cost folks a lot more money down the road. Not only that, the inconvenience that they can't get to where they're going because a lot of these bedroom communities need those roads like Campbell's Run Road to get in and get out, so thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Baker.

MR. BAKER: All right. Thanks, Mr. President. I agree with Councilwoman Means in the fact that this is probably, I think, the hardest vote of the last two years for me as well. I was talking to Councilman Kress earlier today, and I literally feel sick about it. I've over thought it, thought it, over thought it again, whether or not to vote yes or no. The merits of the bill are good. I think it's the process and how quickly it moved through. It is such a quick, quick process to go from just hearing about it socially for the first time on September 23rd --- the way that it was brought up was just quick. I'm not saying anything was done inappropriately or anything like that. It was just very, very quick.

Talking to constituents, last night I talked to about 50 or 60 people just in general about it. These are school board members, township supervisors, and this is not saying that it was not covered in the media appropriately. They just hadn't heard about it yet. And these are people that are involved in our community --- just hadn't heard about it yet because it's been such a quick process. I think any time that any of the 15 of us and our two future colleagues, future Councilman Kirk and Councilman DeMarco, vote on anything, I think a lot of times we go to our kitchen cabinet. The people that help get us to where we're at, that people that support us. And in my case, somebody that came back and moved from Florida twice to help get me to this seat, and in talking to my kitchen cabinet of four, they were all strong-nosed right out of the gate. They were like this is something you would vote no on. And you believe in your kitchen cabinet. Those are the people the trust in you. I do think the process was really, really quick. I would have loved to have --- I know there was the committee meeting. I would have loved to have a public hearing. I would have

loved to have a chance to do what my predecessor did and --- Councilman Drozd would literally pick out 100 random names and just call them. I wish I had the time to do that. Ran out of time. Had the list, ran out of time. So I wish we would have had more time to think it through. I think there are certainly good merits on the Bill. I've spoken with the administration about that. I've spoken with some of the leaders in the industries as well that are involved in this. I think there's a lot of merits in the Bill. I will be reluctantly a no vote tonight, even I do see a lot of merit in it. And just think the process moved too quickly.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Normally, I don't get really involved in a lot of the emotion that involves a lot of these Bills. But you know, in this case, if you look at the national --- on a national scene and you see what's on people's minds across the board, and you'll infrastructure, big time, all the way across the board. All the way across the country people are concerned about infrastructure. And in Allegheny County, we're no different. We have real problems with the infrastructure, and this is an opportunity, ladies and gentlemen, for us to get on the ball here and to help to remedy and rectify a lot of the things that have been neglected in the past.

And like I said earlier, the other fallout is, a good positive one, it's going to create jobs, and it's going to help people working, it's going to help the economy grow in this area. And to me, those are the two things why I'm going to be a yes vote because I think those are what really, really matters to get the infrastructure started and a good positive direction and to create and have people working on a daily basis here in Allegheny County. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. CATANESE: Representative Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Thanks. Well, you know, I didn't get up this morning and say to myself, gee, I can't wait to vote for this because none of us really want to, I'm sure of that. But being too quick, we've all known about this for quite some time. This is nothing new. And we've already formed opinions. And I don't think anybody is going to change their mind. Whoever wants to vote yes, it's your opinion. And whoever is going to vote no, it's also your opinion. But the fact is when you get

constituents that call you up, e-mail you, bring stuff into your office, petitions to fix my roads, they didn't exactly complain about what would happen if we have to pay for it. And that's exactly what we have to do. We have to pay for these roads.

And when we have our constituents, we got 15 members of this Council. They're going to come to you and say I need my road fixed. Can you do it? And you're going to ask yourself the question, did I vote for it to fix my roads? That's something you have to live with.

I'm going to vote yes because I have a lot of roads in my district that got fixed this spring and summer, notably --- Churchill Road and Crawford Run were major roads that needed fixed so you can't be hypocritical and say I want this fixed, but I don't want to pay for it. So I think that's the issue. The fact is, we want things, but you know the realistic is you have to pay for it. And that's exactly what we have to do. And the majority of this Council has to do what's right. And that's the way government works. The minority can sit back and say no, the majority says yes, we have to do this because. And not necessarily here on Council. I'm talking about all --- even at the state level this issue has --- that's why it came down to us, by the way. The state had their own issues about it, and they said let's let the counties make this decision, not us, so ---.

Here we are today, and I'm going to support it because I certainly need my roads fixed in my district. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Kress and then I'll come down ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Okay.

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. What can I say? You know, I didn't sit on the Budget and Finance Committee, so I can't say as to what happened there. And I think, you know, whatever they did, it's a fine thing. Let me say something. I believe in roads and bridges. Okay? I think the fundamentals of government come down to roads and bridges, public safety. We have something here, what I believe is a user fee. If you have a motor vehicle, you have registration, you are using a vehicle.

If you look at the history of America, there was a lot of private roadways, but there was tolls. So who wants to go back to the days where we had toll bridges and tolls on every corner? It doesn't make any sense. So to

me in a way, it's like a toll. You're basically paying a fee, an access fee, to use these roads. It's like a tap-in fee. And again, of all the things that we're doing, I think this is one of the best things because we've had people --- we've voted for like to raise the fees in the parks. And we've had two people vote --- I remember, Councilwoman Means, Councilwoman Heidelbaugh voted against raising fees in the parks. That's not a necessity. Going to an ice skating rink, going to a golf course, going to a tea party, that's not going to cost somebody's life. But a road, it's out --- when a road is damaged that could cost somebody's life. I saw Crawford Run Road, how damaged it was. You could have had trouble getting a fire engine down there. That's going to cost somebody's life. And I'll tell you what. You know, having some people --- seeing people sick, okay. My mom had to go in an ambulance one day. Okay. If that road was out, she might have died. So I take this really --- I get really offended when people say, oh, we're taxed and we're over taxed and we're overtaxing. The problem with this country is that the federal government is taking our money. Okay. If you want to get upset about something, get upset about spending \$50 million to train five Syrian rebels over in Syria. Mr. DeMarco is saying \$500 million.

But again, the thing about this fee is that we know it's going to stay here to help us out. It's not going overseas. We're not paving a road in Afghanistan. We're not paving a road in Iraq. We're paving roads right here. And I care about the people in my area. And when people start saying, oh, we're overtaxed and we're overtaxing, it's not the County. This County is not over taxing the people. It's the federal government. Believe me, I agree with people when they say we're overtaxed. I think the federal government --- I have no idea where that money is going. And that's the problem with our tax system. I think if we collected the money here, our country would be a hell of a lot better because we know --- would be spent here first. Then we could always send it back to DC. And that's maybe how the tax system has to work. Maybe we need to care about things locally and that's the reason why I'm in local government.

Because at the local level, when you think about everything that goes on locally, volunteer firemen, the police, the roads, who takes care of you? It's the local government. It's not the federal government. Yeah, the

federal government has a lot of money, but when it comes to day in and day out, we're there for you. And when I saw those roads and how many phone calls I received from people saying, oh, my God. Like I had a lot of elderly people in Duncan Avenue. They're so afraid to drive that road. Okay. Now it's been fixed. All right. We have to take care of the local people. And \$5 again, that's a user fee. But when you take property --- you want to talk about property taxes, we're paying for free things in the park. You have an elderly woman who's handicapped sitting in a nursing home or actually in her house somewhere in McKeesport, yet she's paying for somebody's golf game at North Park. You can be upset about that. Okay. And you can be upset really about this federal government of ours when we're sending money over to Afghanistan to pave roads, wherever the hell they're sending that money to. Yeah, you could be upset about that.

But don't be upset about a user fee. Because again, this is the fundamentals of government, taking care of our roads. And again, if you want to look at American history, we had tolls. Do you want to go back to a system of tolls, we'll put toll bridges up. We'll have tolls on every single corner, and that's how we used to pay for things. And that's ridiculous. But something like this is a good thing. And I don't care about --- somebody said, okay, it came out of budget too quickly. I don't care. It's a good thing. Okay. And that's what government is about, taking care of our local people. Because I really think it's false populism when we're saying I'm against taxes. No, this is for us. This is for us. This isn't for somebody somewhere else. This isn't for somebody on Wall Street or somewhere else. This is to help us, and I'm 100 percent for it.

So that's all I going to say, so thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty.

MR. FINNETY: All right. Thank you. I'm sorry that some people think this came out of the committee too fast, but you're not going to change your mind one way or another. And that's for sure because one thing that happened in the committee was completely absurd, that somebody said that it says Commissioners that means this isn't right. I mean, once somebody said something like that, I started scratching my head and I said, well, if you're going to vote no, you're going to vote no. The

thing of it is that it's for the common good of the people of Allegheny County. And that's what's important. And you're sitting up here, and you're sitting up for one reason. That's to govern and do the right thing for the people.

And I believe --- I don't believe, I know, that this is definitely something that is for the common good of the people of Allegheny County. And yes, I'm going to vote yes. And it didn't matter if it came out in 48 hours or 72 hours or two weeks, the people that are going to vote no are going to vote no. And the people that are going to vote yes are going to vote yes.

And you can get a million excuses, but the thing that you have to realize at the end of the day is you have an obligation, an obligation to have safe roads and safe bridges. And I think that's something that you have to think about. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just have a couple of points. One is, you know, I find it interesting that once again we're left with making the tough decision. The State legislature, they know about these problems in their districts, but they are going to collect the money, but allow us to vote on something I believe they should have voted on, but you know, once again it ends up in here like everything else.

The second thing is, you know, I don't think it's fair for the budget chairman, Mr. Finnerty, to feel like he's being disparaged. It almost looks like some folks are saying that, well, he hurried this out of committee. The truth of the matter is this has been out there. People know about this. All you have to do is go to work in the morning and you see that there's road problems out there. What's important here is there is an expediency to this because the Public Works Department and the County Manager's office, they need to know what monies are there ahead of time so that their engineers can plan their course of attack and know how much money they have. You know, you don't just sit there and they have to guess whether they're going to have the money to do the things. It's easier and cheaper to prevent a road closing. It's cheaper and easier to prevent something caving in than to wait until after and say, hey, let's fix this while 30,000 people are stuck in their community because the main artery is down.

So yes, and Councilman Finnerty probably spends more time on the ground than most people I know. He knows what's going on in these communities and on these roads. He's out there every day. The point of the matter is, is the county engineers needs to know now what they can do, how much money they have and how they're going to stop this situation from any roads closing and for them to be able to fix things before they become a catastrophe or even worse. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Martoni.

DR. MARTONI: Don't confuse me with facts. My mind is already made up. Okay. The fact is that we have to fix our roads and our bridges. That's a fact. I think we all agree on that. The second fact is how in the heck are we going to pay for it? What better way to pay for it than a user fee? And then we're being criticized that it came up too fast. Well, we get criticized more when it doesn't come up fast enough. Okay. We have to make up our minds what we want to do. I'm in favor of voting for it because it's borders a user fee and I think that is a good thing. That is a good thing. So I would like to call the question. I would like us to just vote on it and wherever it falls, it falls. We all know in our hearts what's right. So I want to --- let's just vote.

MR. MACEY: Call the question.

DR. MARTONI: I think we have. I think we're out of questions. Okay.

MS. MEANS: Don't we have to vote on it?

DR. MARTONI: We got to vote on it; don't we?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone's got to call the question. Let's go on with a roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: We'll need 10 votes.

MS. MEANS: Excuse me.

MS. REA: No. You have to vote on calling the question.

MS. MEANS: Excuse me. You have to vote on call the question.

MS. REA: Call the question.

MS. MEANS: Was this a vote on calling the question?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: We have to vote on calling the question.

DR. MARTONI: You can do that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: First of all, I thought there was no more questions on it. Is there any more

question? If there's no more questions ---. Did someone make a motion?

MS. MEANS: I think --- I believe, Mr. Martoni did.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do we have a second?

MS. MEANS: I'll second it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I thought we did. If that's the case, we don't have to vote on that. Now, we have to take the roll call vote.

MS. MEANS: We do --- we have to vote on calling the question.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. MEANS: So that's what this vote is about, calling the question. Okay. All right. Thank you for clarifying.

DR. MARTONI: I don't know what the votes about, but let's vote.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9187.

MR. BARKER: You're calling for a roll call vote on the question.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Right.

MS. MEANS: What are we doing?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call. We're voting on the issue right now.

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Wait a minute. Are we ---?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: There's no more questions. That's over with. So now we're going to vote on 9187. Take a roll call vote.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

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?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Klein?

MS. KLEIN: 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: No.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?
MS. REA: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Nay.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 10; nos, 4. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 9188-15.

MR. CATANESE: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2015, Subadmission 09-15. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Mr. Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was released from Committee, at the same meeting, actually, that the last preceding bill was released. This is grants that have no County match required, and it's --- the first grant is for \$25,000 and it's funded by the Jewish Health Care Foundation. And it's to teach youths 13 to 19 the main behaviors that contribute to the majority of preventable chronic diseases.

The second is a \$685,920 grant and it's provided by the U.S. Department of Justice office, and it's to create monitoring mechanism tools and training for probation officers, their supervisors and the management, to ensure fidelity to the current evidence-based practice.

The last grant is for \$254,435 and this is a sexual assault kit backlog elimination grant. And it's from the New York District Attorney's office to allow the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's office to reduce the sexual assault kit backlog.

So those are the three and I move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

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. Heidelbaugh?
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Klein?
MS. KLEIN: 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?
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio, President?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13; nos, 0. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports?

MR. FINNERTY: I do.

MR. FUTULES: There's something new. You never knew.

MR. FINNERTY: You never knew. First of all, on the 23rd of this month, which is a Friday, from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. Kennedy Township Fire Hall is the location. Representative Nick Kotik is having a Senior Fair and there will be flu shots that day. So if you're interested in that and you're from that area, that would be great.

Dan Miller on October the 1st had a Senior Fair also and it was --- I was there and it was very well attended. There was quite a few people there. So I'd like to complement Dan on --- Representative Dan Miller for having that. It helped a lot of people out.

Also, I'd like to mention that we're in the midst of RAD days. They call them radical days, and we're kind of winding them down. It's usually September and part of October every year, and there is a variety of free, different venues that you could go to. And just as an example, on Saturday, October the 10th, you could go to Frick's Art and Historical Center with free admission from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. Also that day, you could go to Fort Pitt Museum from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. Also you could go to the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Sketch Crawl from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You also could on Sunday, the 11th, go to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

These different venues you could look up on the internet, and the website you would use is radworkshere.org, R-A-D-W-O-R-K-S-H-E-R-E.org. And it will have the different venues that you could go to. And tomorrow, actually, I don't know if they're still doing it since the Pirates are playing, but it says in this flyer that on the 7th you get free admission from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. to tour PNC Park. I don't know if it's still going on, though.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I don't think so.

MR. FINNERTY: But that's what it says here. I just want to put that out there for you in case you want to call the Pirates and find out. It's Pirates.com/tours if you want to check it out. See if you can actually do that. Thank you very much. I appreciate that, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Baker.

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Mr. President. First, I just wanted to say congratulations to the administration of our County and our City for putting together a great rally today. Councilman Finnerty and I were lucky enough to get to enjoy the rally over lunchtime today. It was great. There were a few hundred Pirates fans out there cheering on not just the governmental leaders, but also the management team and some former World Series champions. So thanks to Manager McKain and the whole team for putting together a great event today, and hopefully, it'll be a good few weeks, not just a few days for the team.

The other two events I just want to promote. I know that as Council members we all got free invitations, complimentary invitations to attend the nonprofit summit

next Thursday. To us in the nonprofit sector it's the mecca of information, and there'll be hundreds and hundreds of people there. It's a really good event to attend, so if you can make it I would just encourage everyone on Council to ---.

MR. FINNERTY: Where is the mecca? Where is this mecca?

MR. BAKER: Oh. It's at --- isn't it at the Convention Center?

MR. FINNERTY: You're not positive.

MR. BAKER: Yeah, Convention Center, usually. Yeah.

MR. FINNERTY: Okay.

MR. BAKER: I'll make sure --- I mean, I think you all have the information, but I'll make sure you have it. But it's good. It's next Thursday.

And then the final one I would just mention is next Saturday is the first ever Empty Nest Fest, and it's going to be in my district in Ross Township at Ross Park Mall. And it's a way to get empty nesters more involved in the community. And Big Brother, Big Sisters is proud to be the charity partner. So if you'll looking for something to do next Saturday from 10:00 to 5:00, Empty Nest Fest at Ross Park Mall. It should be pretty fun. Honestly, it's going to be a pretty good time.

MR. FINNERTY: I like that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Rea?

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to acknowledge Council member or Councilwoman elect Cindy Kirk who's going to take my place in January, who is here.

(Applause.)

MS. REA: Because a lot of you have asked who she is, so --- you've asked me that. And Cindy, I hope you get more roads and bridges done than I was able to do so ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Means.

MS. MEANS: Well, on that note, I'd like to recognize Denise Russell who will probably --- I think she's unopposed, and she will replace Amanda Green Hawkins. So she's here this evening.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress.

MR. KRESS: Okay. I just wanted to inform everybody there is a Pittsburgh Walk for Alzheimer's on Saturday, October the 24th at 8:00 o'clock it starts,

registration. Opening ceremonies at 9:30, so be at the North Shore at Heinz Field. And I'm also raising money for this, so it's something I care about deeply and if you want to help out, let me know. Thank you.

MR. FINNERTY: We'd better get ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Sam, I apologize for them leaving you out.

MS. MEANS: Yeah, that's right.

MR. DEMARCO: I thought I was being welcomed already.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, we're ---.

MR. BAKER: You're like the 16th member now.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, the Democrats want to welcome you. We're going to try to steal you from the other side.

MS. MEANS: Whoops.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Representative Sam DeMarco, who will be joining us in January.

(Applause.)

MR. FINNERTY: He's the at-large ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I also wanted to say, if you notice by Councilman Finnerty and myself, we wanted to start the blackout early. Go Bucks.

MR. FINNERTY: We're ready. Playoff beard is going. We're ready.

MR. BAKER: Councilman Ellenbogen beat me to it. I was just going to say congratulations and welcome to Councilman DeMarco, who I think has almost perfect attendance at our meetings for the last few months.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You say that now, Sam.

MR. BAKER: And he lives in --- what district does he lives in, District 1, North Fayette? So welcome, Sam.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: He represents everybody.

MR. FINNERTY: There you go.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 9204-15.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President.

MS. MEANS: Wait. There's a ---.

MR. PALMIERE: I'm sorry. I didn't get to ---. I just wanted to -- if you don't mind, just go along with this for a second, will you, please? I just came back from vacation, and I read four books down there, four and a half books. I don't read four and a half books in two years up here. I don't have the time. And one of the

books that I read is from David McCullough, our famed historian, that we had the pleasure of naming the bridge after just about a year ago now. He wrote a wonderful book called the Wright Brothers. And I just want to recommend if you really want to learn or find out about what those people went through that invented the airplane and started the whole aviation craze, it's just a wonderful book. And it really lives up to David McCullough's standards as far as his historical facts and everything and the narrative. It's just a wonderful book. So if you get a chance, I would highly recommend it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you very much. I would like to petition you to add the capital budget, the operating budget, the grants and special budget and the tax levy to the agenda.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to make a motion?

MR. FINNERTY: I'm making a motion.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

MR. FINNERTY: John, you've got to appoint me.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Got to what?

MR. FINNERTY: You've got to appoint me to do the public hearing.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to do the public hearing?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes, I will.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's get down to ---.

MR. BARKER: Whoa. Whoa. I'm sorry to interrupt, but the budget or the four budget bills that were just added to the agenda, does the President want to refer those to a committee at this point or how does he want to handle this?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The budget?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, budget and finance.

MR. BARKER: Your discretion.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Refer it to Budget and Finance.

MR. BARKER: Okay.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Now we're ready for 9204-15.

MR. CATANESE: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Allegheny County Parks Foundation to enter onto the County's Parks for the purpose of constructing and maintaining chimney swift bird habitats at certain locations within the Parks, with the County to retain ownership of the chimney swift bird habitats. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That's going to Parks. Notification of Contracts, 9205-15.

MR. FINNERTY: He skipped New Business.

MR. CATANESE: Approved Executive Actions for all departments dated September 1st through September 30th, 2015.

DR. MARTONI: Move and receive in file.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

MR. FINNERTY: There's no vote needed.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Is there any comments? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Is there anything on new business?

MR. CATANESE: No.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing none, we'll go down to Public Comment on General Items. We have one speaker, Lester Ludwig.

MR. LUDWIG: Anybody need a 25-foot Christmas tree? There's one in my back yard. Come and cut it for free. That's 6589 Rosemoor Street. And look at that, it won't cost money.

That's the subject of the evening. I've been away for a while. And I come here and what am I hearing, we need revenues. We need revenues. We need revenues. Now, Dr. Martoni, we started down that path together; right?

DR. MARTONI: Right.

MR. LUDWIG: And Mr. Kress, has tried time and again to get the administration to get off of its duff and give us an open path. So tonight I distributed some literature about free college education. I'm going to cut away from that because Dr. Martoni said he's going to hold an education committee meeting. Doctor.

DR. MARTONI: I pass that to the ---.

MR. LUDWIG: Okay. Now, let's talk about money. Let's talk about money. There's a chairman in the City department, Chuck Dorman (phonetic), and Chuck Dorman is responsible to raise \$500,000 under management budget revenue opportunities. Who is the father of management budget revenue opportunities? I am. I came here with Dr. Martoni in agreement, with Bill Robinson in agreement, and I think basically Ed Kress in agreement. And it hasn't gone anywhere. Now, what's happened to the City where it did go somewhere? Chuck has raised a \$130,000 of the \$500,000, and he says that if he can get the Lamar suit dropped that's holding back, that he's got the rest of it. So therefore, here's a man in the city government under my original thinking, and he's going to come up with \$500,000, and you're talking, Mr. Ellenbogen, about needing \$35,000, \$40,000. I'm telling you get off your duff. Get a hold of Fitzgerald and tell him put the education together with the City because it's pennies. It's not dollars. \$327 a month for free college education for four years. You're not moving. You're sitting there and playing government. Some of you are working.

I'm sorry that I have to call you out, but I see it as a citizen reasonability, and I hope that you'll take it to heart that there's nothing personal involved here. It's a question of getting the job done the best way. In 1995, I stood at City Council. I pointed at the wall and what is it? It's a wall. Well, it's also a surface. And if that surface belongs to the government why isn't it at least for income? And I made government responsible to make a profit from its assets. Good evening.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Make a motion.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: So move to adjourn.

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

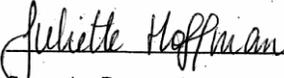
(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The ayes have it. The meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 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

Juliette Hoffman