

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President, Council-At-Large
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	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
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul M. Klein	-	District 11
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Denise Ranalli Russell	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 - 5:03 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	-	Council Solicitor

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting will come to order. Would you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and remain standing for silent prayer or reflection. After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here. 90 ---.

Proclamations and Certificates, 9374-16.

MR. BARKER: Certificate of Recognition honoring Mr. and Mrs. Marcell and Charline Rowland for being named a 2015 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Sponsored by Council Members Finnerty, DeFazio, DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Futules, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere.

MR. FINNERTY: They're not here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, we'll go ---. Call them when we get her. 9409-16.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation thanking Commissioners David Barie and James Helfrich for their dedicated service to Reserve Township. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.

MR. KRESS: All right. Thank you very much. The reason for this proclamation is I want to honor somebody who's taken their time out to do what's best for the community. Mr. Barie has been a Commissioner in Reserve Township for 20 years. And for the last 12 years, he's served as the Chairman of Reserve Township Board of Commissioners. He's also done a lot with the League of Municipalities, and he's done a lot with --- he's been the president of the Allegheny County Western Pennsylvania Association. He's been the president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners. He's also been a trustee of the Unemployment Compensation Trust. So I mean, he's done a lot.

And the thing is, a lot of people don't realize how much their Commissioners do. I mean, we all know who's like running for president, but they don't --- most people in the local municipalities don't know who their local commissioner is. And the fact is they do so much for the local people. And that's the reason why I wanted to make sure I honored Mr. Barie here. And I wanted to let you know, we don't have the best television ratings, okay, but you know what? It's one of these things.

But I have to say one thing, is that, I mean, again, this is a great honor to have you here. But I wanted to read you this proclamation as a whole again. And I'll probably repeat some of the things I already had said, but ---.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is blessed with individuals dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhood and the community as a whole, individuals such as the Honorable David E. Barie, who has placed his stamp of character and hard work throughout the community as both a public servant and a strong leader.

WHEREAS, Mr. Barie, honorably served our country with the U.S. Navy as a Seabee. He is married to Pam 35 years and has one son, David. Mr. Barie retired after 25 years with the Port Authority of Allegheny County working in the Road Operations Division.

WHEREAS, Mr. Barie has served as a Commissioner representing the First District Reserve Township for 20

years. For the past 12 years, Mr. Barie has served as the chairman of Reserve Township Board of Commissioners.

AND WHEREAS, through the years, Mr. Barie has served many community groups including as Chairman of the Allegheny County League of Municipalities, Board of Directors, as President of the Allegheny County Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners, and is President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and is Trustee of the Unemployment Compensation Trust.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Allegheny County Council does hereby thank the Honorable Davie E. Barie for his dedicated service to the residents of Reserve and Allegheny County. We recommend or we commend Mr. Barie for always acting in the best interests of the constituents of Reserve Township who wish him and his family all the best in the future. So thank you very much for all your service.

MR. BARIE: Thank you, Councilman. I appreciate it. The last 20 years of serving Reserve Township was a pleasure. I feel that we did move things forward. As president of the County and President of the State and UComp, it was a real good experience. And gentleman, ladies, thank you very much. It very much means a lot to me. Again, thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

MR. KRESS: Willie, aren't you going to miss Dave, talking to him at Reserve Township?

MR. FINNERTY: Do we want to take a picture?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Bring him up.

MR. KRESS: Yeah, we want to take a picture. I almost forgot.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. What we'll do now, --- because 9374 didn't get here yet; did they?

MR. BARKER: Actually, they are here now.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Are they here? Okay. 9374, Jared.

MR. BARKER: Certificate of Recognition honoring Mr. and Mrs. Marcell and Charline Rowland for being named a 2015 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Sponsored by Council Members Finnerty, DeFazio, DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Futules, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. Marcell and Charline or Charline (changes pronunciation).

MRS. ROWLAND: Charline (corrects pronunciation).

MR. FINNERTY: Charline (changes pronunciation); okay. I was looking at that and I was saying to myself, is it a long I or isn't it?

Okay. Well, it's really a pleasure to recognize you for this. I mean, you've done something adoption wise that have changed people's lives. And that's extremely important for everyone. I mean, we look at many things that we give proclamations for, but the changing of someone's life to make them a better person and make them more energetic towards life is really important. And we commend you for that. And I'm going to read the proclamation and then you can say a few words.

This is our Certificate of Recognition for Mr. and Mrs. Marcell and Charline Rowland. This Certificate of Recognition is awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Marcell/Charline Rowland for being honored as one of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the CCAI, 2015 Angels in Adoption. In July 2015, the couple officially adopted the three brothers, ages seven, five and four, who had been in their foster care since 2012.

For their efforts to ensure that the siblings would grow up together in a loving environment, Senator Bob Casey, Jr. selected the Rowlands as the 2015 Angels in Adoption.

The program provides an opportunity for members of Congress to honor constituent who have enriched the lives of children in need of permanent, safe and loving homes. In October, the Rowlands were honored at an awards ceremony and gala in Washington, D.C. for their outstanding advocacy of adoption and foster care issues.

We join the Rowlands in celebration of --- they're named 2015 Angels in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

And we bestow our highest accommodation to Mr. and Mrs. Rowland for making extraordinary contributions on behalf of the children in need of loving homes.

And this is sponsored by myself and all members of Council this day, the 2nd of February, 2016. Almost said '15.

(Applause.)

MRS. ROWLAND: Well, I guess I have to speak on behalf of the Rowland family.

MR. FINNERTY: We got a good speaker.

MRS. ROWLAND: I don't know. The three boys, all from the Pittsburgh area, they were neglected. They are through --- we have to pay now or pay later. So we want you to realize that we are here to help out kids because those are your voting citizens. You know, these are the kids that will grow up to be adults, and we hope for them to be productive.

The reason why we were late was because we're trying now to place a teenager who temporarily just came into our home on Sunday. And again, he's 15 and a half, another kid who's just been all over the place. And unfortunately, he can't stay with us long, but we're trying to find someone who can be a permanent resource for him until he turns 18. So that's only, what, two and a half years? So if you know anybody, call us, call Three Rivers Adoption Council, which is the agency that we work with because they are the ones that really want our families back together again. And they only come through from people like you who are really concerned about your future generation.

Thank you again for honoring us here. And it's a pleasure to see all of your names in person. And especially I see somebody I have to make a little side joke. The five --- the four-year old that we adopted acts like the President --- what did Johnny --- Jumping Johnny, they named him. They named him two years ago because this kid can't keep still. And I finally, when I looked you up and saw that, I was like, oh, my goodness, I should have brought my little one in.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We could all start jumping around.

MRS. ROWLAND: And he loves to wrestle. So thank you again.

(Applause.)

MR. FINNERTY: We thank you very much.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 9410-16, and the rest will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 9410-16. A proclamation thanking Covestro and Greenlight for Girls for inspiring young girls to become the next generation of creative and innovative scientists and naming Wednesday, February 3rd,

2016 to be Covestro Greenlight for Girls Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

9411-16. A proclamation recognizing the Canine Companions for Independence and Disability Awareness event on Friday, February 5th, 2016 at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

9412-16. A proclamation recognizing the Bengali Association of Pittsburgh and naming Saturday, February 13th, 2016 as a Day of Learning in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member DeFazio.

9413-16. Certificates of Achievements awarded to Trevor Dobbins, Brandon Marcucci and Michael McIlree, Jr. of Boy Scout Troop 860 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Finnerty.

9414-16. A proclamation congratulating THE PROGRAM for Offenders, Inc. upon the occasion of opening its newest facility in West Homestead. Sponsored by Council Members Klein, Macey, DeFazio, DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Kirk, Kress, Martoni, Means, Palmiere and Walton.

9415-16. A certificate of Achievement awarded to Steve Barton of Boy Scout Troop 614 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

9416-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Central Catholic High School Football Team for winning the 2015 PIAA and WPIAL Class AAAA Football Championships. Sponsored by Council Member Klein.

9417-16. Certificates of Achievements awarded to the Thomas Jefferson High School Football Team for winning the 2015 WPIAL Class AAA Football Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

9418-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Quaker Valley High School Girls' Cross Country Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class AA Girls' Cross Country Team Championship. Sponsored by Council Members Baker and Kirk.

9419-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Seton LaSalle Catholic High School Boys' Soccer Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class A Boys' Soccer Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Ellenbogen and Council Member Means.

9420-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the South Fayette High School Boys' Soccer Team for

winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class AA Boys' Soccer Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Finnerty.

9421-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Sewickley Academy Boys' Soccer Team for winning the 2015-2016 PIAA Class A Boys' Soccer Team Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

9422-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Sewickley Academy Boys' Golf Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class AA Boys' Team Golf Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

9423-16. Certificates of Achievements awarded to the Sewickley Academy Boys' Cross Country Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class A Boys' Cross Country Team Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

9424-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the North Allegheny Senior High School Girls' Tennis Team for winning the 2015-2016 PIAA and WPIAL Class AAA Girls' Team Tennis Championships. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

9125-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the North Allegheny Senior High School Boys' Cross Country Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class AAA Boys' Cross Country Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

9426-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the North Allegheny Senior High School Girls' Golf Team for winning the 2015-2016 PIAA and WPIAL Class AAA Girls' Team Golf Championships. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

And 9427-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Fox Chapel Area High School Girls' Field Hockey Team for winning the 2015-2016 WPIAL Class AAA Girls' Field Hockey Championship. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public Comment, we have none. Approval of Minutes. 9443-16.

MR. BARKER: That's a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4th, 2016 regular meeting of Council.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make a motion?

MR. FINNERTY: Motion.

MR. MACEY: Motion.

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

(Ayes respond.)



PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Presentation of Appointments. 9407-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Timothy Sweet to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for Harrison Hills Park, for a term to expire on February 2nd, 2018. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Nick?

MR. FUTULES: What?

MR. MACEY: I make a motion to approve.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That's the Council of Parks; right?

MR. FUTULES: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, I'm sorry. I wasn't paying attention. Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Who made the ---?

MR. MACEY: I made a motion.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. 9428-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Jennifer M. Liptak to serve as a member of the Retirement Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll go into Appointment Review Committee. 9429-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Joseph Serrao to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2018.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll go into the Appointment Review Committee. 9430 and 9431.

MR. BARKER: Approving the Appointment of the Honorable Terri Klein to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2018.

And approving the appointment of Pastor Earlene Coleman to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2017.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll go into Appointment Review Committee. 9432-16, 9433 and 9434, also 16.

MR. BARKER: Those are approving the reappointment of Dina Clark, Dennis Floyd (sic) and Maria Silva to the --- serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for terms to expire on December 31st, 2018.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll go into Appointment Review Committee. 9435, 36, 37-16 and --- three?

MR. BARKER: Yes. I believe, yes, 9438 and 39 are also ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, also 38 and 39.

MR. BARKER: Okay. Approving the appointment of Maria Silva, the reappointment of Daryl Jackson, the reappointment of Lynda Marnoni, the reappointment of Kathleen Testoni and the reappointment of Barbara Wolvovitz to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for terms to expire on December 31st, 2018.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Joe, did we do 94 --- not Joe. Jared, did we do 9431-16? I thought we did that.

MR. BARKER: Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. BARKER: That was Pastor Coleman to the Jail Oversight Board.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. Okay. We're down to 9440-16 and 41-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Abbie Scanio and the appointment of Debra Romanelli to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for terms to expire December 31st, 2018.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll go into Appointment Review Committee. We're down to Committee on Appointment, Second Readings. 94 --- I'm sorry, 9349-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Tonya B. Johnson to serve as a member of the Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by Council Member DeFazio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Ed?

MR. KRESS: Yeah. Thank you very much, Mr. President. The Appointment Review Committee met on January 27th, 2016 and firmly recommended Tonya Johnson's reappointment to the Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Motion to approve.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second?

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Is there a hand? No. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9350-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of DeWitt Walton to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Vacant Property Review Committee for a term to expire on December 31st, 2017. Sponsored by Council Member DeFazio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone want to make a motion?

MR. KRESS: I just have to ---. Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee of Appointment Review, we met on January 27th, 2016, and we affirmatively recommended the appointment of DeWitt Walton to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Vacant Property Review Committee. A motion in favor.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9354-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Derek Uber to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, again, Mr. President. Derek Uber presented himself before the Appointment Review Committee on January 27th, 2016, and he earned an affirmative recommendation. So do we have a motion to approve?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

MR. WALTON: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Why don't you --- you make the motion.

MR. KRESS: Oh, I make the motion to approve.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9356-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Doris Carson Williams to serve as a member of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23rd, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Okay. Doris Carson Williams presented herself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 28th, 2016, and we had an affirmative recommendation for her reappointment. I make a motion to affirmatively recommend her to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9357-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Ayanna Lee-Davis, Esquire to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on April 24th, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Ayanna Lee-Davis presented herself before the Committee of Appointment Review on January 28th, 2016. We made an affirmative recommendation to appoint her to the Community College Of Allegheny County for a term to expire on April 24th, 2021. All in favor?

MR. FINNERTY: Make a motion.

MR. KRESS: Make a motion. I'm getting it. I'm going to get this, okay, guys? I'd like to make a motion for her approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll second that.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9358-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of William Cagney to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term

to expire on December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes. William Cagney, he presented to ourselves before the Committee of Appointment Review on January 28th. We had a positive recommendation to appoint him, to reappoint him to the CCAC Board of Trustees to expire December 31st, 2021. I make a motion for his approval.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9360-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Kevin Kinross, Esquire to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Kevin Kinross presented himself before the Committee of Appointment Review on January 28th, 2016. We made a positive recommendation for his reappointment to the CCAC Board of Trustees to expire December 31st, 2021. I make a motion for approval.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9361-16. Representative Kress?

MR. BARKER: I'm sorry. Approving the reappointment of Frederick Thieman, Esquire to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Frederick Thieman presented himself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 28th, 2016. We made a positive recommendation to reappoint him to the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term

to expire on December 31st, 2021. Do I have a motion for approval?

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.  
9362-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Thomas Donatelli to serve as a member of the Port Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on September 17th, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thomas Donatelli presented himself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 27th, 2016. We had an affirmative recommendation to reappoint him to the Port Authority Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire on September 17th, 2019. A motion in favor.

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.  
9362-16.

MR. BARKER: I'm sorry, we just did 62. I believe you mean 9363; correct?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Right. 9363-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of John L. Tague to serve as a member of the Port Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on September 17th, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. John L. Tague presented himself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 27th, 2016. We had a positive recommendation to reappoint Mr. Tague to the Port Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on September 17th, 2019. A motion in favor.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

MS. MEANS: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9365-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Daniel Griffin to serve as a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Daniel Griffin presented himself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 27th, 2016. There was a positive recommendation to reappoint him to the Allegheny County Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. A motion in favor.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9366-16.

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Dusty Kirk ---. Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. BARKER: My fault. Approving the reappointment of Dusty Kirk, Esquire to serve as a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Board of a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Dusty Kirk presented herself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 27th, 2016. There was a positive recommendation by the Committee to reappoint her to the Allegheny County Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. A motion in favor.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.  
9367-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Anthony J. Ross to serve as a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress?

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. Anthony J. Ross presented himself before the Committee on Appointment Review on January 28th, 2016. There was a positive recommendation to reapprove or reappoint Mr. Ross to serve as a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2019. A motion in favor.

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. Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 9395-16.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution approving a Project for the benefit of Rebecca Residence, the Borrower, and its affiliates: Concordia of Monroeville, Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care, Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation, Concordia of Ohio and Concordia Lutheran Ministries of Pittsburgh to be financed by the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt bonds, to be issued in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not expected to exceed \$45,000,000 provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the Bonds, and determining that the purpose of the financing will be to benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Walton?

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, representatives of Rebecca Residence and its affiliates appeared before that committee on Economic Development on January 27th, 2016, and the Committee affirmatively recommended its passage.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to make a motion?

MR. WALTON: We move that this bond issue be approved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? Oh, we have to take a roll call.



MR. BARKER: Correct. Mr. Baker?  
MR. BAKER: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?  
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: 15 ayes; no nays. The motion

passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9396-16.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act, as amended, providing for a program of temporary exemption from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods, resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within Ward 8, the East Liberty neighborhood within the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, previously determined to be a deteriorated area; establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such

improvements; and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of the property located within the deteriorated area can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Walton.

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, representatives of Emerald on Centre appeared before the Economic Development Committee on January 27th, 2016, and those representatives affirmatively provided the information that was requested of them by the Committee. On receiving such information, we move that this LERTA be approved by the Council.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

MR. BARKER:	Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN:	Aye.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK:	Aye.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Kress?
MR. KRESS:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Martoni?
DR. MARTONI:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:	Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes, 15; noes, 0. The motion passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 9397-16.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act as amended providing for: a program of temporary exemption from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods, resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within Ward 2, the Strip District neighborhood within the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, previously determined to be a deteriorated area; establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such improvements; and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of the property located within the deteriorated area can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Walton?

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, the representatives of the developer of that facility appeared before Council on January 27th, 2016, and was subjected to some significant questioning. They responded and provided the requested information, and they've met the terms and conditions of our questions. So hearing that, seeing that, we recommend --- we move that Council approves this tax abatement.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, I have a question about or I have an issue about approving the LERTA here for this particular site. It's a for-profit business. It's a hotel that opened 15 to 18 months ago. In the Economic Development Committee, the gentleman answered that the business has been opened. They are experiencing high occupancy rates. They're making a profit. They're doing very well. The LERTA Act was designed to attract investment to a region. Here we have a hotel that's already up, opened last year, it's operating. And I question if we take and give these folks a LERTA --- and the total amount we would be waving here from the County is in excess of \$605,000. We're giving those folks a

competitive advantage when there are other hotels in the downtown area that don't have that.

Secondly, I question the taxpayers of Allegheny County, all of us and all the folks here, we're paying a level of taxes, and our taxes would be lower if we weren't taking and waiving these for for-profit businesses. So I question when our costs increase, from the County's perspective, almost \$20 million a year each year, and we have to look for efficiencies in economies so that we don't have to go back to the taxpayers and raise taxes, how we take and support taking and waiving taxes here from a for-profit business that, again, like I said, is already built. It's already operating. And it's giving them a competitive advantage. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks? Other remarks? Is Mr. Hurley here? Do you want to make ---?

MR. HURLEY: Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to make a comment on this?

MR. HURLEY: I have the developer back here as well. Thank you, President DeFazio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. HURLEY: One of the issues with this is we have come to the Committee on numerous occasions and been very upfront that we do not bring something to the Committee until we have verification from both the school district and from the City. This is an as-of-right use within the City of Pittsburgh for LERTA. And Councilman, your question is a great one.

When this was originally presented to us in January of last year, and we started working through the details of it, Mr. Reidbord and his partners worked with us to go through the City process. We were working with the school district. There were some delays. We ultimately had this brought to us in November to the Economic Development Committee. We recognized we could not get this through last year's Council in a timely manner. It would have died in session. We delayed it bring it to you now. I don't believe it's been opened 15 months. In November, it opened. So really, where this is still coming in to play, is the financing they have on the property and the first year of ramp up on their business model. That is what we understood in the development of this from day one. So your question is a great one. I don't know if Mr. Reidbord wants to add more to that.

MR. REIDBORD: No. I think Mr. Hurley explained that.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Any more questions? If not, we'll take the vote.

MR. HURLEY: I do believe, Council President, if I may say one ---?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. HURLEY: I have a handout here for you. There were some other questions, if I may. There was a question on the e-verification program for this as well at committee. We have a letter from the contractor that they have gone through that. I can either pass it out or provided it to Staff.

MR. WALTON: It has been provided to members of Council.

MR. KRESS: I don't know. Does everybody have a copy of this letter?

MR. HURLEY: I did not provide it to everyone. I'm more than happy to.

MR. WALTON: Please.

MR. HURLEY: The back side of this --- there were a couple of outstanding questions on the previous project as well as this. That's the first page of this. The second page is from the contractor, P. J. Dick, that they e-verified this as a federal contract.

MR. FINNERTY: Joe, are you going to pass them out?

MR. FUTULES: Joe?

MR. FINNERTY: Joe. If I could ask one question?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: What's the name of the developer?

MR. HURLEY: It's called Smallman Hotel Association. It's a joint venture between Walnut Capital and Concord Hospitality

MR. FINNERTY: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Is this a Hilton? What's the name of it? Is it just Hilton ---?

MR. REIDBORD: The Hilton Homewood Suites.

MR. KLEIN: So the building is up?

MR. HURLEY: Correct.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Do you want to take the roll call vote?

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?  
MR. BAKER: I'm going to be abstaining.  
I actually thought it was 15, 18 months. And the fact that it's November makes a difference to me, so I'll be abstaining.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: I'll abstain.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?  
MR. KRESS: I'm going to vote no.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
DR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?  
MS. MEANS: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?  
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes, 9; nays, 4 with two abstentions. The motion passes.  
MR. HURLEY: Thank you.  
MR. REIDBORD: Thank you.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Liaison Reports.  
Anyone have a Liaison Report? Go ahead, Representative Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President. As we all know, on Sunday evening we had a event where a K-9 officer was brutally murdered. Although I cannot respond to the specifics due to the District Attorney investigation and the County police investigation, I do

however have some thought as --- about this as the Public Safety Chair.

Two years ago I sat in here and did a memorial for a K-9 officer who was murdered by the name of Rocco. So here we are again. Another K-9 officer who has been murdered. In general, I would just like to say that I have some disturbing concerns as to the safety and the precautions that have been used to protect our K-9 officers. I also have some disturbing concerns as to some of the answers that, in general, have been given to me in the protection again of our K-9 officers.

Some of these officers have a higher value to me in terms of just being an attack dog. Some of these dogs have been trained as bomb sniffers. Some of them have been trained as narcotics officers. The value of a bomb sniffing dog in 2016 in terms of some of the things that we are seeing that are happening in this country is more than you can put a dollar figure on, let alone the dollar figure on in the assets that have been lost to the people of Allegheny County. One bomb and that dog has done a miraculous job.

So here we sit with the loss of two great assets to the people of this County. It brings me concerns that in general I have some concerns as to the utilization of our K-9 officers in terms of the specifics and the true value that they have to the citizens of Allegheny County.

In deference to the District Attorney and to the County Police investigation, I can't respond to anything that is specific. However, at the end of those investigations, I will review the findings and I will discuss it with our solicitor with members of my committee. And at that time, we will decide what measures can be taken so that these tragedies don't happen in the future. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other liaison ---?  
Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to comment about the St. Patrick's Day parade which is going to be March the 12th. And to let Joe, Erin or myself know if you'd like to participate. There will be a fee associated with it. It starts at ten o'clock, but we usually meet --- and I'm just saying this now because I have everybody together. We usually meet like at 9:30,

between 9:00 and 9:30, usually here, actually, and walk over because it's at --- I believe it forms at the Greyhound bus station on Liberty Avenue and down Liberty Avenue. So that's one thing.

The next thing is the ALOM Spring Conference which is coming up. It's Thursday, April 7th and April 10th. Giving you an early warning about this. It's a Seven Springs Mountain Resort. And we have a council presentation that happens on Friday afternoon. I don't know exactly what time that'll be. And make sure that you --- if you are going, that you say something to Joe or Erin in regard to your going. You should have received --- and I hope you did, and new members might not have --- you should have received an invitation from ALOM. If anybody didn't receive that, make sure you contact Joe or Erin so that they can get you the information in regard to it. So that's April 7th through Sunday, April the 10th. Okay?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: And you ---

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: --- don't have to go for all the days. You can go for one or two days, et cetera, et cetera.

MR. FINNERTY: Right.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other ---? Go ahead, Representative Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I just wanted to --- on Sunday I went down to South Park, and so did thousands of other people. It was just absolutely amazing the number of people that came out. I just want to commend our people down there, the County employees, for having that park and that --- the Corrigan Drive so clean and cleared that the people were able to really enjoy themselves. You would have thought it was the first day of summer instead of, you know, wintertime here. So it was --- I think that they do a wonderful job down there. And I want them to know that we do notice that, we runners and bikers. There was everyone down there on Sunday. It was really a good day for Allegheny County, and I want to commend those workers. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other ---? Go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: I would just like to mention that yesterday I had the pleasure of joining my colleague, fellow Councilman DeWitt Walton, at an event up at Miller



African-Centered Academy, K-5. And at that event, Chromos Eyewear, who was recognized here in an earlier proclamation, presented children from the first to the fifth grades with eyeglasses. I can't tell you what a great sight it was to see children get the gift of corrected vision. Kids that maybe couldn't see chalkboards or other learning aids or be able to read because they couldn't see the words. To see that take place, it was just a truly wonderful thing. It was a good day for the folks in Allegheny County, and I wish more companies would take and do what Chromos Eyewear has done and step up. And I want to urge everyone here, if you're looking for eyeglasses, go to Chromos Eyewear where every little bit that you take in --- or when you purchase eye glasses from them, they donate money which is used to replace or to provide free eyecare, eyeglasses for children. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Mr. President, if I may ---

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. WALTON: --- add to Member DeMarco's comments? Eyetique is joined with Chromos in doing that. And once a month, those two operations move to a school within the Pittsburgh Board of Education and do that. And I think they're truly to be commended for that activity. As someone who has been wearing glasses since they were four years old, I understand the importance of that in terms of educational process. Because if a kid can't read or can't see, they become distracted in class and become --- and potentially become disruptive to the educational process. So when you think about it in a holistic fashion, what they're doing is incredibly important and invaluable. And I commend them. I commend what they do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Johnny --- Mr. President. I just want to remind everybody that West Mifflin Borough and the School District of West Mifflin is going to have a community event at the high school/middle school, and it's bringing the business community, the education community, the nonprofits and the government together in an effort to just educate everybody in the community, what's available, what benefits we have, as well as what other amenities are available to people. And yes, Allegheny County will be represented there. That will be on February 25th from five o'clock to 7:00. That's February 25th from 5:00 to

7:00. And if there's any businesses that would like to be there and show their wares, they're more than welcome. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Representative Ellenbogen, then Futules.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: If I could, I just wanted to piggyback on what Councilman Walton had said. He had mentioned Eyetique. And Norman Childs, the president of Eyetique, who I grew up with and actually is just a wonderful person --- some of these projects and things that he has done. And I commend him because he could have taken his business anywhere, but he located in the City of Pittsburgh on Banksville Road where he employs 100 people. So he's always giving back to the community, and this is just typical Norman so I'm just --- I'm proud of him. I'm proud to be his friend. And I appreciate the things he does for the people of this County and City. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Just a little on the lighter side. Today is Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil has predicted six more weeks of bad debates for the President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. FINNERTY: To the President elect, the people that are running.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All right. We're down to New Business. 9442-16.

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the General Assembly and Governor to enact House Bill 113, an Act amending Title 18, Crimes and Offenses, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the grading of the offense of cruelty to animals and introduced on January 21st, 2015, with all deliberate speed. Sponsored by Council Members Futules, DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Kress, Martoni, Palmiere and Ranalli-Russell.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, add mine to that.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd like to be added also.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Nick? Oh, wait a minute. Anybody else? Seeing no more, Nick.

MR. FUTULES: For the new members of Council, a motion is basically supporting the General Assembly in this motion to take cruelty to animals from the second class to the third class felony. And the message I would really want to send out is if someone has a pet that they're unable to take care of, the first thing they

should do is call a family member, a friend, a neighbor, but you should know that you should never allow one of your pets to suffer and starve. And I believe that this is something that I support wholeheartedly because defenseless animals don't have that opportunity if they're chained to a dog pen or something and left to starve. So my message is if you have problems with your pets, call someone. Don't let this happen. Thank you. And I make a motion for us to accept this.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone want to second it?

MR. MACEY: Second.

MS. MEANS: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Notification of Contracts, we have ---. We don't have any. Public Comment on General Items. We have Lester Ludwig. No Lester Ludwig? John Detwiler.

MR. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. President. Before my prepared remarks, it's five minutes to 6:00, and this is the last item on your agenda. This is relevant to what I came to talk about. John Detwiler, 5723 Solway Street, Pittsburgh. I am here as a member of Protect Our Parks to speak about your proposed ordinance 9329-16 which is currently before the Committee on Public Works.

But first, there are several new members on Council. I should tell you a bit about Protect Our Parks. Protect Our Parks was formed in 2013 because of our concern about the use of County parks for industrial activities. Our parks were established at significant cost at a time when money was hard to come by and are dedicated to promoting the physical and spiritual well-being of County residents. So we're working to protect our parks to keep them safe for the purpose for which they were created.

Protect Our Parks was the very first and so far the only grass roots group to sponsor legislative initiative under the County Home Rule Charter. And most of you will remember we presented 7,000 petitions to Council during the deliberations on natural gas drilling at Deer Lakes Park. So we're no strangers to this Council and its procedures.

Now, Ordinance 9329 has the potential to exacerbate the industrialization of our County parks by

removing the Council's oversight for important decisions with long-term impacts. As described in the legislation, those decisions include, quote, license agreements, utility easements, right-of-way, reimbursements and other instruments that may affect County-owned real estate, end of quote.

So you might ask me what are all those things. Well, I don't exactly know and of course, neither do you. There are no specific guidelines or limitations at all in that statement. The preamble to the bill --- and this is where the time on the clock comes in --- the preamble to the bill says that although Council has been dealing with such matters on a case-by-case basis for 15 years, Council's involvement causes, quote, project schedule delays and inconvenience. But couldn't you say the same thing about all of the checks and balances in our American system of government? Any dictatorship can claim they would be more efficient than the democratic process.

And I see no evidence of such delays and inconvenience. I was a project executive on multi-million dollar projects, and I know that you have to include improvable cycles in your project schedules. It's easy to complain that someone else is taking too long, but usually the one who complains is one who didn't think ahead in the first place.

This legislation doesn't even ask the Administration to inform Council of the actions that it supposedly takes, quote, on behalf of County Council. It's interesting to me that this measure by which Council abdicates a key responsibility under the Charter is sponsored by the Executive Branch. So I hope that you all, especially the new members of Council, will take a hard, critical look at it before you throw in the towel on our system of government. Thank you.

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

MR. FINNERTY: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:58 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.

Valerie Gregory  
Court Reporter

Valerie Gregory