

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. Defazio	-	President
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Tom Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Patrick Catena	-	District 4
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Denise Ranalli-Russell	-	District 13

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

March 5, 2019 - 5:00 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:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services  
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council  
Solicitor  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff  
Sarah Roka - Budget Manager

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

After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll have the roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I'm here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

We'll go down to 10990-19.

MR. BARKER: Certificates of Recognition honoring the 2019 Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and Grand Marshal, the Allegheny County AOH Hibernian of the Year, the Irish Society for Education &

Charity and 2019 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her court. Sponsored by Council Member Catena and all other Members of Council.

MR. CATENA: Thank you, Mr. President. It's an honor to be here this evening. Obviously, this time of year is one of my favorite times of year, obviously, St. Patrick's Day. My patron saint, obviously my name is Councilman Patrick Catena. And it's always a pleasure to present these Proclamations to the individuals.

Council Member Means is up here because one of the individuals is in her district, so she'll be presenting a Proclamation to that individual. But without further ado, since we have a few of these to present this evening, I'd like to get right into it.

So we'll begin with the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, if you'd join --- if you'd like to come up and join us.

So since its inception, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has been the driving force behind the annual parade, coordinating and managing all efforts in bringing the community together to ensure the success of this truly treasured event. The 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade will feature nearly 200 marching units, including bands, floats, police, fire and emergency services, elected leaders, along with many groups from the Pittsburgh's Irish community.

Allegheny Council commends the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for their diligent efforts and dedication to making the annual parade an unmatched celebration of Irish heritage. Sponsored by myself, Pat Catena, and all Members of Council, presented this 5th day of March. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. FINNERTY: With us tonight also, we have the Hibernian of the Year, Bob Parry. Do you want to come up Bob? Okay. I'd like to thank County Council on behalf of the Parade Committee for this Proclamation. And we hope to see you all at the button party, which is on the 8th at McFadden's and at the parade on the 16th. Thank you very much.

MR. CATENA: Thank you. Can we do a quick picture?

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Okay, okay. We're going to do --- we're going to do all of them.

MR. FINNERTY: I was --- I was remiss. I was remiss. We should have the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her court come up with us also. I want to introduce them.

MR. CATENA: I actually have a lot more Proclamations.

MR. FINNERTY: Oh, okay. Sorry.

MR. CATENA: You want to do --- we'll do this quick picture and then we'll come back for the rest of them, how about that?

MS. MEANS: At this time, we're going to introduce the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her two courts and they're going to come up and introduce themselves and their name.

MR. CATENA: We're --- we have more Proclamations. We're just going to do a quick picture and then we're going to do the rest of the Proclamations.

(Pictures taken.)

MR. CATENA: Now, were going to do the rest of them. Okay. This one, Certificate of Recognition, is for the Irish Society for the Education and Charity --- and Charity, Incorporated.

Since 1992, the ISEC has provided sponsorship, leadership and guidance to the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Committee in its efforts to organize and execute what has been referred to as the nation's second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade. This organization also supports Pittsburgh's Irish community by awarding scholarships to local Irish students and by making donations to area groups and causes.

Allegheny Council hereby commends the Irish Society for Education & Charity for their passionate and tireless efforts to --- to support Pittsburgh's Irish community and their numerous contributions. Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: And on behalf of the Irish society, I just --- I would like to thank County Council for continued support. Remember, everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Come down.

And Allegheny County Council specifically is always a participant of the parade. We welcome you, we hope you guys have a great time.

But I also want to point out the parade is, you know, just --- not just about our culture and our religion and everything else. It's also a very big economic generator for downtown Pittsburgh. If --- if it's not the largest, one of the largest events held in the City of

Pittsburgh every year. Again, come one, come all. Thank you.

MR. CATENA: Okay.

This next one is for Mr. Robert Parry, 2019 Allegheny County AOH Hibernian of the Year. And I think I said that right this year. Hibernian, okay. Because last year --- last year I didn't, so I got it right this year. So I'm --- I'm one for two. So ---.

This Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. Robert Parry, a dedicated member of the AOH Division Number 4, North Hills. Mr. Parry, a resident of Franklin Park is a proud retired firefighter captain of 27 years. He is married to his wife, Rita. And together they have three sons, Bobby, Ryan and Kevin. All good Irish names.

Allegheny County Council congratulates Mr. Parry for the monumental honor bestowed upon him and thanks him for all of his contributions to better our community. Thank you, sir.

MR. PARRY: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. PARRY: Well, thank you very much for this honor and I just want to say, I wasn't a Pittsburgh firefighter, I'm retired from Houston Texas and I'm from originally Youngstown.

But the reason we moved to Pittsburgh, I met a girl in Houston, and she's from Altoona, Johnstown. And the reason we moved there, our first boy is special needs. And the attitude in Texas and Houston was shameful, but we moved up there and what a blessing.

Instead of waiting for months and years for services like we did down in Houston, we had services the next day for him. And he's 22 now and doing a heck of a lot better. I was going to say hell of a lot better, but heck of a lot better than he would've been down there. So thank you very much for everything and God bless and let's have a good month. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Our next Proclamation goes to Mike Gallagher. Mike? Okay, he's not here. So I'll just be brief.

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Committee announced that the Irish Society for Education & Charity has named Mike Gallagher as 2019 Parade Grand Marshal. So therefore, we congratulate Mike Gallagher in this momentous occasion. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Okay.

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Committee announced that the 2019 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes is Maggie Byrnes and;

WHEREAS, the title of Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen is among the most honored participate --- participants in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade and;

WHEREAS, Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen, Ms. Byrnes, is a senior at South Park High School, where she is an honor roll students. Ms. Byrnes aspires to attend either Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University or the United States Military Academy and;

WHEREAS, as --- as a member of the LAOH Junior Division 23, the St. Joan of Arc Youth Group and Appalachia Work Group, Ms. Byrnes is dedicated to both her church and Irish community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That I, Allegheny Council Member, Pat Catena, along with all Members of Council do hereby congratulate Maggie Byrnes on this momentous occasion.

(Applause.)

MS. BYRNES: On behalf of myself and my court, I'd like to thank the committee and the Council for welcoming us here with open arms. And I'd also like to thank you guys for the opportunity for us to exhibit our heritage through everything that we do. And I'm very proud to represent my heritage and my family being here today. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: Well, I don't have a drop of Irish blood, but I've been married for 42 years to a man who does. And so, it's my great honor to recognize Ms. Anne Garvey today as the 2019 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Court Maiden.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: And I'll read this Certificate of Recognition. Ms. Garvey is from Mount Lebanon. She is a student at Duquesne University, where she will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Reading and Literary --- Literacy Education. Ms. Garvey has earned several academic honors and is involved in volunteering efforts on campus and across the country.

We congratulate Ms. Garvey in this fine honor and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors. This is sponsored by all Council Members and Pat Catena. Thank you very much.

MR. CATENA: This one goes to Ms. Erin Joyce, 2019 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Court Maiden. Erin Joyce is from Crafton, my own district. She's a student at Waynesburg University, where she is majoring in Poli-Sci and minoring in History and Military Science. Ms. Joyce, a 2016 graduate from Bishop Canevin High School, also my alma mater, is a starting member of the Yellow Jackets' basketball team and a cadet in the United States Army Reserve. Her community involvement centers on volunteer work with children and assisting special needs, another thing close to my heart and especially organize prom.

We congratulate Ms. Joyce on her fine honor and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Do we have --- we have one for Ciara Crossey on the list.

MS. CROSSEY: Here.

MR. CATENA: Okay.

Ciara, I don't have the actual --- you're on my list, but I don't have the actual Proclamation for you. So --- but I wanted to congratulate you and thank you on --- on our behalf for obviously helping the county.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you have her --- do you have her address?

MR. CATENA: And you're a Canevin graduate as well. So ---.

MS. CROSSEY: I am.

MR. CATENA: So you get --- you get a round of applause for that as well.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Hey, Pat, do you have her address? We can have them mail it to her.

MR. CATENA: Yeah, we'll get that after the meeting.

MS. CROSSEY: Thank you.

MR. CATENA: So I'll get that to you. So --- do you want to say a few words?

MS. CROSSEY: Oh, thanks. Okay. Well, I just wanted to say thank you. I've been involved with the

parade since I was about six years old. So it's exciting that I'm able to continue to be involved. And we're all looking forward to having a really great parade this year. So we hope to see all of you guys there and we'll hope for some really great weather, too, nothing like outside.

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Okay.

Now, we'll do pictures. One --- one picture with all of us. So we'll head up front.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10991-19.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation declaring Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 to be 'No Plastic Please' awareness day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Catena and Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: We have a Proclamation tonight declaring 'No Plastics Please' awareness day.

WHEREAS, plastic waste can be found everywhere, affecting not only the aesthetic beauty of our planet, but the health and well-being of humans and the like;

WHEREAS, recycling efforts are horribly ineffective;

WHEREAS, plastic, when exposed to the elements, releases methane and ethylene;

WHEREAS, humane action, Pittsburgh's 'No Plastic Please' campaign works to eliminate single-use plastics wherever possible to safeguard community health, wildlife and environment;

WHEREAS, commercial fishing contributes to 48 percent of all plastics in our ocean. Monofilament fishing lines take 600 years to degrade and;

WHEREAS, countries like Australia, Kenya, France, Taiwan, UK, Canada and in many U.S. cities now have long-term strategies and laws to --- to eliminate single-use plastics.

WHEREAS, the average American deposits 65 pounds of plastics into landfills annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, Allegheny County Council Members, Patrick Catena and Anita Prizio, do hereby declare Tuesday, March 5th as 'No Plastics Please' awareness day in Allegheny County. We encourage all citizens to replace single-use plastics with sustainable alternatives wherever possible by saying, no plastics please at stores and restaurants. Thank you.

(Applause.)



MR. AHWESH: Thank you very much. My name is Sam Ahwesh and I'm the Treasurer of HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh, and we are a group of citizens that work to promote animal welfare and better animals' lives through education, legislation and policy initiatives.

This no plastic please is one of the campaigns that we have started. And as you just heard Councilwoman Prizio read, it's very harmful to the environment whenever we have plastics being used, recycling doesn't work.

What we are trying to do is eliminate specifically single-use plastics. And we'd be happy to work with anyone, any of the Council Members, anyone in their districts, individuals, organizations, businesses to reduce or eliminate these single-use plastics.

It's not a difficult process to undertake. It's just something that needs to be --- you need to be aware of. And we want to thank everyone, especially Councilman Catena and Councilwoman Prizio for this Proclamation, because awareness really is one of the biggest steps in moving forward and combatting this problem. So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

MR. CATENA: Obviously, we had a --- Councilwoman Prizio and myself met with this group in Carnegie. And this is something that's obviously very important. Anything we can do to help the environment. It's one small step to do, say no plastics please.

Obviously, the Carnegie Borough --- the Carnegie Borough business district was one of the members that was at the meeting that we held out in Carnegie. The COG, Council of Governments, is very interested. And Maggie Forbes, who is the Director of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and the music hall called me and scolded me for why she wasn't invited to the meeting because she wants to provide education.

So you --- so I have to give her your information, so that you can get out there, because she wants to provide this through the --- the library, because obviously this education is important for everybody. So thank you very much. We'll head up for the picture.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10992-19.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 to be 'International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 66 Day, in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Walton and all other Members of Council.

MR. WALTON: Mr. Petrone and your ---. Well, I'm with Councilman Baker, who has had a longstanding relationship with operating engineers and Chris Petrone, Political (sic) Director for the operating engineers. And we thought that this was an appropriate time for the work that they're doing, for the work that's going on and the need to build the labor movement in Allegheny --- continue to build the labor movement in Allegheny County. So ---.

WHEREAS, for over a hundred years the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 66 has provided contractors with competent and qualified operating engineers and operating engineer apprentices and;

WHEREAS, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 66, is a progressive diversified trade union that primarily represents operating engineers who work as heavy-equipment operators, mechanics and surveyors in the construction industry and stationary engineers who work in operations and maintenance and building and industrial complexes and the service industries and;

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is committed to the --- committed to the quality work --- quality of work displayed by contractors and others retained for public work projects, paid for by hard-working taxpayers. Accountability to those taxpayers guide how and where county resources are allocated and;

WHEREAS, the Allegheny --- Allegheny County has a long-term labor agreement with the members of local organized labor that promotes and guides county funds to entities, teams and contractors who have high standards for local construction and development and;

WHEREAS, the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 66 represents over 7,600 members in our jurisdictional area, consisting of 33 counties in Western PA and three counties in Ohio. Those 7,600 brothers or sisters work in the field for contractors, private businesses, municipalities and;

WHEREAS, Local 66 has an extensive and an impressive history of contracting the following --- of contracting the following practices, exhaustive attempts to hire local workers for awarded projects. Participation

in apprenticeship and training programs, approved and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor and Bureau of Apprenticeships and Training. Contractor-funded drug screening to ensure qualified and capable workers are utilized. History of similar projects being done elsewhere completed on time on budget and correctly. And participates in programs that assists the transition of returning veterans to the workplace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, DeWitt --- or Allegheny County Council Member DeWitt Walton and Tom Baker do hereby declare Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 to be International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 66 Day in Allegheny County. I ask that all county --- Allegheny County residents support the highest level of accountability of these practices as demonstrated and supported in current project labor agreements and use of those standards in a selection and awarding of contracts for County Public Works.

(Applause.)

MR. PETRONE: Yeah, so I'd like to thank everybody for supporting the operating engineers here in Allegheny County. We have a long partnership for doing great work here in Allegheny County with the municipal and local governments. And you guys have been leaders in --- in supporting us and --- and what we do with the building trades, which means that you're supporting apprenticeship programs and job training. You're supporting the drug screening that DeWitt had mentioned.

You're also supporting veterans, because we do a lot of activity with different veterans' groups. And we have a lot of transitioning programs to help, you know, bring veterans back from combat into the building trades.

So we --- we appreciate the support. And it's been a great partnership and --- and we look forward to continuing to grow, as we are currently as --- as this county is. And as you guys grow, we're going to grow and --- and we look forward to it and want to keep that going. So, appreciate it.

(Applause.)

MR. BAKER: All right. And this is the only gentleman that calls me Tommy, actually, is Chris Petrone. But Chris is --- is a dear friend. And I'm so proud to work with the operating engineers. DeWitt, Councilman Walton and I happen to see each other at a lot of operating engineers' events and programs that have going

on, educational events. So we decided to co-sponsor this together.

I will say that if --- for my Council colleagues, if you've never actually been out to the Local 66 to see it in New Alexandria, it's an amazing site, an amazing facility where, I will say, within Big Brothers Big Sisters' world and also in our Council lives.

One thing that we've --- college is amazing, college is great, but we really want young leaders to know about all the options that are out there. Being an operating engineer is an incredible future and incredible opportunity. So we've really incorporated Chris into our programming into Big Brothers Big Sisters, to make sure that Bigs know about it, the families know about it, littles know about it, vice versa. We've gotten the word out to operating engineers.

I'll say, one of these members of Council is the first nonfamily babysitter for our daughter. And an operating engineer was actually the second one. It was not even Chris, but we had an operating engineer as her second babysitter.

So great partnership. I'm very happy to work with the operating engineers. If any of you have family, friends, nieces, nephews that would be interested in being an operating engineer, I would just express to them to check it out, see --- check it out. It's a good option. It's, you know, four years of making money instead of spending money, I believe, when you join and --- and learn the craft. So congratulations to Chris Petrone and the operating engineers. Today is your day.

MR. PETRONE: Thank you, Tom.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10993-19. And the rest will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 10993-19. Proclamation congratulating the L3 One Day Conference for hosting its first annual conference. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10994-19. A Proclamation congratulating the South Fayette Library upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Catena.

10995-19. A Proclamation recognizing Friday, March 8th, 2019 as International Women's Strike in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

And 10996-19. A Proclamation congratulating the Bradford Woods Conservancy upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

On the public comment, do you want to read them off?

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is Anne Scheuermann.

MS. SCHEUERMANN: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to address County Council today. My name is Anne Scheuermann. I'm the founder of No Straws N'at, a nonprofit environmental conservation organization focusing on the reduction of single-use plastics. Our efforts are primarily focused on increasing public awareness through educational programming and social media.

Single-use plastic wreaks havoc on our environment. Only nine percent of it is recycled, leaving 91 percent, which either is taken to a landfill or sometimes it ends in our waterways. And it's also --- a large amount is dumped every year into the oceans. Typically about ten million tons of it, of plastic, is dumped into the ocean every year.

At that rate, it's been calculated that by the year 20 --- 20 --- 2000, excuse me, 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. And plastic is permanent. It does not biodegrade. The plastic in our landfills will be there hundreds of years from now, and the plastic in the ocean endangers birds and marine life who consume it, who mistake it for food.

Plastic is produced and used in every aspect of our lives. I'm concentrating on the plastic produced that has a very short use and is then discarded. And that's 40 percent of all plastic produced falls under that category, 40 percent.

Think of all the plastic packaging you come across every day that has a short lifespan in your home, your car, your office. That water bottle, that plastic grocery bag, that plastic straw, all used just once, but it'll be around long after we are. So it's incumbent upon all of us to reduce this unnecessary and costly pollution.

To that end, County Council, by affirming this Proclamation, is setting an example not only for Allegheny County but other counties in the state as well. By your actions here today, you are addressing to residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania the importance of addressing

this environmental emergency. The importance of the Proclamation under consideration can't be overstated. It is my fervent hope that it will spark further discussion on steps that could be implemented countywide to bring about change.

One such action to consider would be to reduce plastic bag consumption either through the implementation of a fee or a ban. Many countries throughout the world, as well as some cities and states here in the U.S., have successfully reduced plastic use by as much as 90 percent, with strong support from the citizenry --- citizenry. When presented with a choice between paying five cents for a plastic bag or bringing a reusable bag to the store, the public's reaction has been swift and positive.

This spells success and represents a single change of consumer behavior that has brought about dramatic results. And I'm happy to e-mail your office links to articles which describe the outcomes of these efforts and their implementation.

Addressing plastic bags is the tip of a very big iceberg of pollution, but it's a start and one we need to pursue. I'd like to express my thanks and appreciation for this opportunity to address Council and a special thanks to Anita Prizio and Pat Catena for their leadership in bringing this Proclamation before Council. Thank you. Thanks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Joni Rabinowitz.

MS. RABINOWITZ: Hi. My name is Joni Rabinowitz and I live at 7721 Edgerton Avenue in Pittsburgh, right on the edge between Squirrel Hill and Wilkinsburg. I can't tell you how pleased I am that Council has passed a Proclamation for a 'No Plastics Please' day. Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have always been in the forefront of efforts to improve sustainability and make the world a better place.

And I have faith that this is just the first step, and that you will join with many other cities in the U.S. and around the world which have passed bans, partial bans or taxes and fees to stop the scourge of plastic destroying the world.

I'm sure you've been aware of the dangers of plastics. And you'll become more aware if you begin to just spend five minutes on your computer every night

Googling plastics and start to learn about it, really learn about it.

I'm not going into any detail because a lot of --- some of it was in the resolution but I think it said that every year 8,000,000 metric tons of plastic enter the world's oceans, which is equivalent to dumping a rubbish truck full of plastic in the water every single minute. And there is an island in the ocean that's bigger than Texas, it's just plastic. Bigger than Texas and it's three miles deep and it's all made out of plastic.

Last week I learned that China had sold some rice made out of plastic to some Caribbean and other countries. I was shocked and my brief research sort of verifies this, but it still --- we still need to do more research to prove it. Because when I started to look at, there was a lot of stuff that verified it.

But I just --- it's hard for me to --- you know how the --- the new stuff you get on the computer isn't always right. And I --- it's hard for me to really believe it, but there was a lot of details about how they make this plastic out of rice or rice out of plastic, rather.

If we could just stop using single-use plastic, straws, picnic plates, clamshell containers, anything we put into recycling or landfill, that would be a tremendous advance. I wanted to tell you about a few things that I'm doing personally, since I've been aware of this. When I get a drink in a restaurant --- maybe you'll be inspired to join me. When I get a drink in a restaurant or bar, I say, no straw, please, before I order the drink. I always carry a canvas bag and to these --- and these small mesh bags in my car. Whenever I shop for anything, I don't --- I say, I don't need a bag before the cashier gets the bag ready. Often, a single item I --- I'm buying can actually go into my purse or I can carry it in my hand to the car.

I save items I get in plastic, including bags, wash them out and reuse them a number of numerous times. These are just a few of the things I do, but if you get into the habit yourself of reusing containers, all kinds of containers, you'll feel great and do a great service to the world. So again, thank you for taking this first step and I look forward to many to follow.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Thank you. Next?

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is David Janvier. Well, apparently he's not here. Next up will be Cullen Boyer, then.

MR. BOYER: Thank you. My name is Cullen Boyer. I am from Penn Hills and I am bisexual. I was raised in a very Christian household and taught my entire life that being anything other than straight was wrong. I was taught that having homosexual feelings was sinful and that it would send you to hell unless you changed.

These teachings caused a struggle I experienced later in life, when I began to have those same feelings. I thought to myself, there's no way I could like guys and girls. I lived in denial.

Eventually, though, I came to accept myself for who I am. I realized that I was, in fact, bisexual. That there was nothing --- nothing I or anyone else could do to change that and that there was nothing wrong with it.

Fortunately, my parents never found out about these feelings as I --- when I was still a minor. So I didn't have to experience the horrid psychological torture that people brand as conversion therapy. I'm one of the lucky few.

There are many children out there who are forced to go through this disgusting, evil abuse that involves anything from physical torture to shock therapy. There are myriads of scientific studies proving that this therapy is extremely psychologically damaging and it's all still legal in Allegheny County.

You cannot change a person's sexuality, no matter how hard you try. I know this from experience. Instead of conversion therapy, let's propose acceptance therapy. Let's help people through this confusing time in their life by telling them that it's okay. That what their --- that they are in no way wrong for feeling the way that they feel. Help them accept who they are, instead of beating them in the name of religious ideology.

I, for one, cannot stand by as children are being forced into legal psychological torture because of who they are. So I urge you to go through with this proposition to ban conversion therapy in Allegheny County. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. JANVIER: I'm sorry. I think my name was called, but I --- I didn't hear it. I was third on the list.



MR. BARKER: David?

MR. JANVIER: Yes, David.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, come on, you can ---.

MR. JANVIER: Sorry. Hello. My name is David Janvier. I'm a licensed professional counselor and I hold certifications in sex therapy and trauma therapy. Before private practice, I served some of the most fragile --- most fragile residents of Allegheny County as a caseworker.

As a specialist and expert court witness in the area of sexuality, I've had the privilege of working with thousands of individuals over the years. Children are fragile and vulnerable, because their brains are still developing. Attachment research has shown that our earliest caregivers shape the way our brains grow.

The city newspaper article about this Bill quoted Mr. DeFazio saying about this kind of therapy is not based in science and harms people. I would ask, has all the science been investigated?

It seems that Mr. DeFazio has overlooked the landmark studies by Drs. Jone (sic) and Yarhouse, who conducted a longitudinal study where they found, quote, unquote, sufficient evidence that sexual orientation is possible in terms of change and is not harmful, on average.

The study was endorsed by Dr. Nicholas Cummings, former president of the APA, who was instrumental in removing homosexuality from the DSM. He says, this study adhered to objectivity and used scientific precision that can be replicated, which is important in research.

I would ask, has the Council considered current findings in neuroscience about neuroplasticity and how the environment changes the brain? This is especially so with attachment ruptures and trauma. Leading traumatologist, Bessel van der Kolk's states, trauma produces physiological changes in the brain. Recent research has swept away the simple idea that having a particular gene produces a particular result.

He goes on to purport that genes are not fixed. Life events can trigger biochemical messages that change them. And this is called epigenetics.

And I agree with Bethany Hallam, who was quoted also in the paper article that everyone's rights are important. However, I don't understand what she meant by

this, that this law would make our community safer. It is taking away rights of certain populations.

How does that make it safer? There are already laws and ethics in place to do that. Kids have a right to consent to treatment at age 14.

My Ethical Code mandates me to do no harm and not to impose my own personal values. And these are for everyone. This law limits and will prevent a certain population in our community to be safe and have a choice and have voice.

Kids' brains are still developing. And you would be robbing them of possible interventions that would have lifelong impact by not allowing them to have voice and choice about their treatment. And I know this because I see it in my practice all the time.

I have numerous patients in my practice that have been retraumatized and damaged by prior therapists using cognitive behavioral therapy, which it seems is the gold standard in therapy. But we don't ban that practice, no, because applied well and in certain cases, it works.

We don't ban medical practices because they caused harm because someone misapplied it or used it wrongly. Thus before voting on this --- voting on this Bill, I'd ask you all to hold in mind all the factors. Do your homework, look at all of the science. Don't limit the voice of some of the people that you serve. We are talking about the vulnerable and developing brains of our children. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Richard Majewski.

PASTOR MAJEWSKI: Do you get copies?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Give it to the clerk.

PASTOR MAJEWSKI: Okay.

Thank you. Well, glorious evening, everybody. Thank you for having me here. I believe we can all agree on one point, and that is the needs of our youth accomplished in truth and love. Protecting their physical and mental safety is key. Attempting to not permit help is like permitting them to receive food when starving. I should say not permitting them to receive food when starving.

Are you permitted to get counsel over mental illness or marriage problems or health reasons? Why should the County block children's efforts to find help?

My name is Rich Majewski and I'm a dad of three and Youth Pastor at Pittsburgh's Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene. And passing Bill number 11000-19 would be invasive to our First Amendment rights, to minister freely to the youth and care for my own children, which is why I stand opposing that Bill.

You have no right to step into my house. Also you have no right to make these children hold in their hurt or not hear truth. I am here for my own children and the youth all over. Are you truly here for the youth or your own personal political agenda?

It's time our youth are stopped being used as game or leverage. Jesus Christ said, let the little children come to me. Such bans are wrong on many levels. It takes away the rights of parents to seek help for their children who are struggling with these feel --- unwanted feelings. It prohibits a child from having access to the needed help. Trapping them with feelings, which leads to suicide.

In addition, this takes away the First Amendment rights of the therapists, as well as all Youth Pastors. As a Youth Pastor, I cannot be permitted to force Jesus Christ into schools, nor would I, but I can't even bring Jesus Christ into schools. So how can you force your way into my house telling me I can't seek counsel for my own child or into our faith? A Youth Pastor's responsibility is to protect these young children, spiritually and physically, by speaking truth in them with boldness and not welcoming this sin.

This ban hinders my First Amendment freedom of speech and religious liberty. Unbeknownst to political correctness, transgendered homosexuality is a sin and the Bible teaches the youth to see that. One sin is not greater than another.

Here are two scriptures that define the Youth Pastor's teaching. One is Deuteronomy 22:5: A woman shall not wear a man's garment nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak. For whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord.

First Corinthians 6:9-10: Don't you realize that those who do wrong will inherit --- will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin or who worship idols or commit adultery or are male prostitutes or practice homosexuality or are thieves

or greedy people or drunkards or abusive or cheat people, none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. Please vote no to this proposal.

It is an imposition to freedom of speech, religious liberty. It is --- also disregards parental rights and privacy rights of patient and counsel. God bless you. Jesus loves you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Harry Liller.

MR. LILLER: First of all, I'd would like to say hello to the four County law-enforcement people who are here just to be my welcoming committee. Usually there's only one, because this Gold Room has been evil to me for 24 years now.

So let's start talking about how gay people are persecuted. They are murdered in Russia and Iran and Africa just for being gay.

You talk about religious leaders blaming gay people for 911. Why don't you tell the truth about that? Gay people had nothing to do with 911. That's how you hide behind the Bible and think everything's great. No, it's not.

Jesus says, love me as you love one another. Where's that? Where's our loving each other? That's never here. When honorable soldiers die in these wars, these West Borough evil Baptists go to their funerals and yell out, God hates fags. These are honorable soldiers who died for our country and you remember that on judgment day, too.

I read the Bible, too. I prayed to Jesus thousands and thousands of times. And the answer is no. But have evil people here hurt me? The answer is yes.

So we're going to talk about the gay issue, and we got the worst person to sponsor it. Because for the past 19 years, this Council President has called me a gay person behind my back.

It was the County Clerk, John Mascio. I said, John you've been straight with me. He goes, Harry, I don't care what they all say about you, you were straight with me and I mean ---. Do you mean DeFazio calls me gay? And John Mascio went like this (nods head yes).

So I wrote to the president of the Steelworkers Union who he was the vice president of. And I said, I'm not the guy who wore women's nylon tights and wrestled men

for 25 years. So it's amazing, his hypocrisy. He's allowed to lie about me.

As God as my witness, I have never had one homosexual act, but I will defend them until the day I die. And you and your West Borough people are in for a big surprise on judgment day for saying God hates fags, over our dead soldiers. We got a bunch of idiots hiding behind the Bible.

KDKA gave Catholic Priest Charles Owen Rice a brand new car to lie about my grandfather and call him a Communist. He was never a Communist. He was working on the Manhattan Project, radiation poisoning killed him.

So he taught me when I was five years old to work hard and always tell the truth. I do, you don't. I'll see you on judgment day.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Hold on, don't be leaving right now.

MR. LILLER: No, I --- I can do whatever I want.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You can do what you want, but if you want to run, run.

MR. LILLER: I don't run from anybody.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, then stand there and shut up. My turn.

MR. LILLER: Oh, fuck you, tell me to shut up.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Hey, don't say that again or ---.

MR. LILLER: You called me a homosexual.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I never called --- hold it.

MR. LILLER: Take a lie detector test.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I'll take all of it.

MR. LILLER: Why would John Mascio lie to me?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let me talk and I'll explain it.

MR. LILLER: Here we go, explain it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I have never called you or anybody else that name. Number one, I don't know why ---.

MR. LILLER: Then why would John Mascio lie to me?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: I don't know. He's dead, I can't ask that question.

MR. LILLER: I can walk. Yeah, I know I got to walk. He's allowed to lie about it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That's not true.

MR. LILLER: Why would John Mascio lie about it?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You better go say some more prayers to Jesus. You better go say more prayers.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Richard Lang.

MR. FUTULES: I can't say it hasn't been exciting so far folks.

PASTOR LANG: I am a Pastor. I am not a proponent of reparative therapy. I am not a proponent of torturing children. The Bill that --- of 1100 --- excuse me, 11 --- anyways, you know the number, speaks about mental health professionals. As the Bill reads, that would include Ministers, Christian Ministers. It would --- this law would forbid me from practicing historic Christianity.

Historic gospel has been preached in every continent for the last 2,000 years. This gospel is that Jesus Christ was crucified for my sins, buried, raised from the dead. That that resurrection brought about new life and new creation. Paul describes that new creation saying that, therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, all things are made new.

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives. It changes behaviors, it changes identities. I have seen this in a variety of different people. People that want to be changed, want to be different. They receive new identities, new behaviors. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ, a proclamation of change. Change that I must proclaim and offer. If this law becomes law, if this Bill becomes law, I will be made to act in a criminal behavior. I will be forced to disobey this law. I must proclaim new identity in Christ.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Susan Weber. Who appears not to be here?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Mark Pudlowski, who also appears not to be here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Dianne Peterson, who is here.

MS. PETERSON: I'm a woman of props. Let's see if we have time to use them. Okay. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to speak. And I appreciate both your time and your attention.

I'm Dianne Peterson from 125 Woodshire in Pittsburgh. I own a small business called, Our Children Our Earth: Toys and Eco-Goods, which provides sustainable alternatives to one-time use products and to plastics in general.

I want to applaud you today for the 'No Plastic Please' Proclamation. As a reduction of plastic and its use is a passion of mine, I am more than happy to see this Proclamation made. I love the publicity and I love what I hope will be a needed --- more needed awareness on this topic.

And more importantly, I hope this will lead to a change in our personal and collective behavior. What we do in Pittsburgh matters.

I hope everyone here takes the time to actually read the Proclamation, as it makes some very important points. Just briefly I'd like to call your attention to as --- whereas, number six, which states that 8,000,000 metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. I'd like to add to that the fact that 80 percent of ocean plastics come from a land-based source.

If you have personally used disposable plastics in Pittsburgh, a city, mind you that is built on a confluence of three rivers, it's easy to see how it's most probable that a piece of plastic with your fingerprints is now in the ocean.

If you used a sample jar, a sample container at the grocery store, if you used a plastic fork, if you used a disposable water bottle. If you used a coffee cup with a plastic liner or a plastic stir strip, your fingerprint is probably somewhere in the ocean.

Look at whereas number nine. Educate the restaurants --- the residents to say, no plastic, please. That's fantastic. I have lots of ideas, I'm not going to have time to share any of them with you.

Whereas, number ten, Allegheny County is committed to protecting our children and future generations with a vision of sustainability. Yee-haw. The health environment implications of plastics are immense and horrifying. I do not have time to share the multitude of facts of why the creation, use and disposals of plastics is so horrific, but I will be sending you each a copy of this pdf. This is just out last week, so there's lots of juicy information in there.

If that's too much for you, this is very fun reading. Just out last year. This Proclamation, I hope is just the start. Let today not be just a single day to say no to plastic, please, but let it be the first day of everyday habit that seizes, decreases the amount of plastic that we use in our everyday life. Let us not just be getting rid of plastic, but all plastic even the compostable kind that is simply greenwashing.

So you have proclaimed today to say no to plastic, please. I'm going to distribute these, which is what it's asking you to do, to say no to plastic, starting today. Not just today, but every day. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Therese Dawson.

MS. DAWSON: Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Therese Dawson and I live in Pine. I speak to you about Ordinance 11000-19, from the perspective of being in healthcare as a professional for 30 years. With a background in neuroscience, as well as behavioral health and as an advocate for shared decision-making models of health that afford individuals access to the right care or treatment to meet their individual and personal goals.

I am not an expert on this so-called conversion therapy. And quite honestly, as I learn about it, it is broadly defined and up for interpretation. As is, with so many practical matters that are semantically labeled incorrectly.

The proposed ordinance seems to neglect the significance of Constitutional Law that protects individuals to make their own distinction between wanted and unwanted treatment. Minors are labeled minors because they need support to navigate very tumultuous years, establishing their identity, which is well-documented by many of those organizations that you reference in the proposal. These years being teen and young adult years, most specifically between the ages of 12 and 24.

Sexual attraction in and of itself during these years is very confusing and unsettling. When you do not have a loving parent to talk to about your thoughts or feelings, it can make it even more confusing if you are told to just accept your thoughts one way or another. If you would not limit therapy that tells you to embrace your thoughts of same-sex attraction, even if they are



unwanted, why would you not want to help walk through or talk through the fact that they are unwanted?

Abusive treatment is already unethical and unlawful when practiced in healthcare. But talking through a shared decision-making model about what type of therapy or treatment is available should not be limited by the perception of a semantically-labeled perceivably aversive therapy.

I would ask you to carefully consider the ordinance. It's complicated legally in the practical aspect in the arena of science, where it is unsettled. And teens' lives are at risk if you overlook it. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Andrew King.

MR. KING: Council Members, thank you for having me tonight. My name is Andrew King and I am a licensed professional therapist or counselor with Christian Counseling Associates of Western PA. I want to first start off by saying that as --- as a therapist, I --- I completely and totally, the idea of --- of avusive --- I'm sorry, aversive or abusive therapies is one we --- we reject wholeheartedly.

And as --- as you do research, you can find out that most of those are actually already illegal. The type of shock therapy and things that were --- have been mentioned.

When we do that type of research, we find those ones --- there's no evidence of those actually working. What we're talking about right now is the idea that this --- this ordinance is overly broad and would ban loving and professional forms of therapy that can be beneficial to someone who is experiencing an unwanted same-sex attraction or unwanted identity of the opposite sex.

And I think that's the key point here. Is that this is about protecting the freedom of choice and the freedom of the clients that I --- I serve. And the key to change, if you do any type of --- of researching this idea here, the key to any kind of change is motivation.

And they have a whole therapy known as motivational interviewing, which goes around this concept that somebody has to want to change. They have to have a desire to do that. And the concept in this --- of this ban is talking about --- where I'm trying to uphold here is

the idea of --- of not having somebody that has an unwanted desire to --- or unwanted sexual attraction.

And as we can see, Justice Thomas's majority opinion in the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates or the --- or NIFLA versus Becerra, strongly suggested that counseling bans such as this violate the free speech rights of professional counselors, such as myself. Stating that good-faith disagreements in a professional setting are not speech that can be regulated.

These bans are anti-freedom. Like I said, they're about protecting the freedom of choice and the freedom of a client.

Minors who desire a change --- to desire to change this same-sex attraction or sexual orientation would no longer have the access that we provide, the service that they themselves want and/or need. And that's the key to it, they want it. It's not something that we're forcing upon anybody.

It's they're coming to us, not we're going to them. And these bans, they strip the parents of the constitutional rights to direct their upbringing of their children, which prevents parents from making decisions that are in the best interests of those children.

And nonaversive treatment can be effective and beneficial for minors whose therapy goals are to reduce same-sex attraction or feelings of identifying with the opposite sex or the behaviors associated with those attractions and feelings.

And I feel like in the community, that is Allegheny County, I feel there are different beliefs, different values and different life goals. And if we want to have a community where all people, despite the differing ideology, can receive the help and support they are looking for, then I don't feel this ordinance is one that we should be voting on --- yes on. This ordinance would cease to make available particular resource --- and resources, excuse me, and/or help that some minors, parents and families desire and are looking for.

And so, in conclusion, I feel that this takes the freedoms away from therapists, parents and young people that desire help. And that's the key phrase here. They desire it --- they --- and for them this is unwanted. It's not something they desire, that they want in themselves. And so there's evidence that we have --- and

you can do the research on it --- that doesn't support these bans. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Samuel Weaver.

MR. WEAVER: Thank you. Last year there was a film, *Boy Erased*. It portrayed conversion therapy that was abusive and aversive. Jared, the son of a Baptist preacher, having confessed his feelings of attraction to other men, is forced to undergo a torturous program, which counts among these strategies. Beatings, with Bibles, of all things, water dunking and telling attendees to keep secret what occurs during therapy sessions and not to tell their families about it.

Those who have seen this film would agree that the word therapy is a misnomer when applied to this story. I applaud any efforts to prevent sagas of abuse like that portrayed in this movie.

And I'll go off script. I --- I am against the ordinance and --- and yet, I think that since what I have come up here to say has been said already, then I think that what hasn't been said yet is that if --- if we vote no, as --- as is my wish, that --- that it not be an issue that never sees the light of day again. Because what --- what surprises me is not that this stuff --- the abusive forms of therapy happen, but what surprises me is that it happens here in our --- our neighborhood.

That surprised me to learn that. And it saddens me greatly. And we should do something about it. The ordinance is too broad in its condemnation. This ordinance is too broad in its condemnation. I am a father of four beautiful daughters, one of whom is with me today. I can imagine the day when one of them, they come to me or their mother confessing that they have feelings they cannot explain, but that they know run counter to the faith we share.

If we --- if she wants to choose her faith instead of her feelings, my wife and I would prayerfully seek to help her with our own counsel on how to avoid temptation. If she is willing, I would seek support for her from other compassionate adults also who also share our beliefs.

I would like to repeat the point that was made earlier by the gentleman who said that the --- the right

to consent to treatment is a right already possessed. And so, perhaps the law already does stand against these abusive practices that are lamentable and seem to still go on. Respectfully submitted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Last up is Bethany Homa.

MS. HOMA: Hi, County Council Members. My name is Bethany Homa. I own a home with my husband at 742 Brunot Street, Verona. I am active in no plastic, please, but I'm speaking this evening for myself.

First, I want to thank you for taking the time no honor this day as a day of awareness against excessive plastic use. A day that we might be the conscious of the effects that plastic, such as single-use and unnecessary packaging negatively affect our communities, our ground, our water, our air quality and our local ecosystems.

My husband and I like to go on weekly walks to pick up trash with our dog. Today, we went on one such walk around our neighborhood. We picked up over 60 pieces of trash in just one short mile. Of it, we found 18 single-use plastic items, 22 plastic food or beverage containers and seven single-use carrier bags.

But this litter is not exclusive to Verona, but it's in each of our communities around Pittsburgh. But more importantly, this litter that we picked up is evidence of the disposability --- disposability with which we are treating these finite resources and the ground, water and air pollution that is created at each stage of its existence.

From fracking for the raw materials, pipeline transportation, cracker plant operation, transportation again, all extremely polluting station --- stages before it even reaches manufacturing operations, where it will become what the consumer will recognize. It will likely be covered in plastic packaging, which has its own carbon and pollution story, before it even got to this point.

Then the disposable item and its packaging will be sent out in the millions and transported again between warehouses and vendors, until it makes its way to the store will the --- where the consumer will finally encounter the item.

Will the consumer take it? How long will it serve its purpose? Five minutes, 30 seconds? Even half a

day, is it worth the pollution and negative health effects every step of the way?

But there's another side of this. After the plastic has been used, we need to be aware that the item does not cease to exist after we've used it. Will the consumer send it to the dump or to the recycling plant? Is it successfully being recycled at the plant or being diverted into the dump, where the plastic item lives out the rest of its existence polluting our water supplies and threatening our wildlife and oceans. Better recycling programs are necessary to repurpose these resources we have already used and give them second lives to serve us again.

I ask Council Members, number one, continuing supporting the reduction of the use of unnecessary plastics.

And two, support measures to improve recycling success throughout Allegheny County communities.

Your Council support and even your individual actions, such as bringing your own forks, drink containers and shopping bags or simply refusing the single-plastic items are the steps to decreasing our own footprint and not contribute to the plastic pollution that's harming our communities and ourselves. Thank you, Council, for your efforts and your time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes. There was a speaker that came, but had a problem in registering here. You and I spoke about it briefly. We'd like to give him three minutes, if we could?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, there was a big mix-up on there. And I said, in my opinion, it's okay, but how does the Council feel about letting him speak? Okay.

MR. BARKER: Before getting into that, we did have one individual who apparently signed up a few weeks back and did not make the list. So we have one more who did sign up. Ed Wrenn.

MR. WRENN: I'd like to thank the Council and everyone else who spoke in favor of the Proclamation to avoid plastic. And I'd like to lighten things up, if I may, by leading us in a brief song in lieu of further testimony. Would that be okay?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well ---.

MR. WRENN: This was adapted from Pete Seeger, who departed us in 2014. Is that okay? Okay. So if you can join me in repeating these lyrics.

If it can't be reduced.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Reused, repaired.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Rebuilt, refurbished.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Refinished, resold.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Recycled or composted.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Then it should be restricted.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Redesigned.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Or removed from production.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: Hooray for Allegheny County commit  
--- I mean Council.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: For this 'No Plastic Please'  
Proclamation.

(Audience repeats.)

MR. WRENN: And lastly, I would like to hope that this initiative would be a bipartisan and multipartisan initiative. Thank you very much and thank you all.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMARCO: Jared, it's Curtis Schube,  
S-C-H-U-B-E.

MR. BARKER: Thank you.

ATTORNEY SCHUBE: Good evening, Council, and thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Curtis Schube and I work for the Pennsylvania Family Institute and I'm legal counsel in our organization in Harrisburg.

I'd like to first talk about what we are not in support of. We are not in support of the aversive treatment that some of these people have described today as torture or other adjectives that have that negative connotation. Because if --- if you would ask most --- most social conservatives, we'd probably agree that those are bad things.

What we're here to support is loving, kind, professional counseling that some minors want. So if --- if you --- if this ordinance were to pass, minors would not be able to choose their own --- the direction of their own lives. They may have certain feelings or desires that they don't want. And it's contrary to freedom to prevent a minor from getting therapy that he or she wants.

And I'd also like to turn to the legal aspect of this. And one of these speakers actually was --- was right.

In 2018, the NIFLA v. Becerra opinion came out. And to give you a little bit of history. The Third Circuit, which is where Pennsylvania resides and the Ninth Circuit, where California resides, actually did have two court opinions that said that so-called conversion therapy is constitutional.

And what they did is they said professional speech is regulated differently than just normal speech.

Well, in 2018, Justice Thomas in the NIFLA v. Becerra opinion, actually specifically identified the King Decision and the Pickup Decision which are the 9th and 3rd Circuits, as wrongly decided.

So what Justice Thomas did in that majority opinion was to say that speech, whether it's professional or anywhere else, is the same. It's treated the same. And recently, he just --- last month, the --- there was a court in Tampa who actually piggybacked off the NIFLA reasoning. And they said that such a Bill is unconstitutional. And they enjoined that city from enforcing that --- that law.

And so I would encourage you to not pass the Bill. It might --- because it might subject you to litigation.

In sum, there's two reasons. I'd ask you to do the right thing and allow minors to have choice, as well as their families. And also, do what's constitutional and --- and do not pass this ordinance. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10997-19.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

The ayes have it.

10998-19.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 22nd, 2019 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

The ayes have it.

10999-19.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 5th, 2019 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

Seeing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

The ayes have it.

10985-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Barbara M. Wolvovitz to serve as a member of the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review.

10986-8 --- 19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Paul Barkowitz to serve as a member of the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Refer to the Committee on Appointment Review.

10989-19.

MR. BARKER: I apologize, 10987?



PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, that's right.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Laurie Barnett Levine to serve as a member of the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review.

10988-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Kathleen Testoni to serve as a member of the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review.

10989-19.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Maria Silva to serve as a member of the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term effective through December 31st, 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee --- the Appointment --- that will be going to the Committee on Appointment Review.

Okay. Unfinished business, there's none?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison reports? Anybody have?

Okay. Representative Cindy Kirk was next, I think?

MS. KIRK: I just wanted to mention, I feel like we've been a little hypocritical up here with all our water bottles. And we do believe in this cut the plastics. So I'd like to see if we can get some Council permanent water bottles like, you know, the containers that we can use from now on at the meetings and fill them in the cooler downstairs.

(Applause)

I mean, let's --- let's --- let's be --- set the example.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll get canteens, how's that?

MS. KIRK: That works, whatever. It's reusable.  
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Okay, let's go all the way down. Representative  
Baker?

MR. BAKER: All right. Thanks, Mr. President.  
A couple quick updates from District 1. We had the State  
of the Airport, Council Member Means and DeMarco were at  
that event as well. That was on the 20th, but it was  
since our last meeting. A lot of good announcements, a  
lot of good things going on with the airport.

It's been a wonderful five years to represent  
the airport, especially these last four-and-a-half years  
with CEO Cassotis, who has --- Christina's just done a  
wonderful job. She was the key note over the weekend at  
Temple Sinai, had a terrific event that Councilman Klein  
and I were --- we were both out there at Temple Sinai.

I mentioned at our last meeting, Special  
Olympics Polar Plunge was coming up. It happened. It was  
cold, it was amazing, but we raised \$455,000 through the  
Polar Plunge, which helps the athletes, helps everyone  
that supports Special Olympics. So that was great.

Over the weekend as well, we had our Meet Your  
Elected Officials event in Ben Avon at Anchor and Anvil.  
I co-sponsored that with our dear friend, Representative  
Anita Kulik. And it was everything we wanted. It was ---  
you know, we had the elected officials from Ben Avon, Ben  
Avon Heights, Emsworth and Kilbuck. So the four  
communities, particularly that aligned with --- with Ohio  
River Boulevard. They were all --- they were all there,  
so that was great.

I would just mention that on Friday, we ---  
there's a legislative mixer for the North Chamber. It's  
going to be bipartisan, it's going to be great. It's  
going to be Conor Lamb and Mike Turzai as the two speakers  
at it. But if anyone else is still interested in coming,  
that's Friday morning for the Chamber. And I'm sure it's  
something that my Ross friends are going to.

We're having an opioid meeting. The name of the  
event is the Opioid and Vaping Epidemic in our Community.  
It's March 18th at North Hills Middle School at 7:00 p.m.  
So a lot of good things going on in District 1 and that's  
my update. Thanks, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

I think, Representative Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. I just have one thing to say this evening. It's a very special person --- a very special birthday of someone in my life today. My mother is celebrating her 66th birthday today. And I'm at a Council meeting, so Happy Birthday, Mom, if you --- and when you do watch this. So ---. I wouldn't be here today without you, so thank you, Mr. President.

MR. BAKER: You should get her a Lemieux jersey.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative --- who was the next? Cindy, was you next? Okay, you're good. You're good, you're good, you're good. Everybody's good.

One --- this is 10 --- wait, 11000-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 5, entitled 'Health and Sanitation,' through the creation of a new Chapter 540 entitled, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conversion Therapy, in order to protect the health, safety and well-being of minors living within the County. Sponsored by Council Members DeFazio, Klein, Ranalli-Russell, Prizio, Catena and Walton.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want --- you want to say anything?

MR. KLEIN: Sure, sure.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. KLEIN: This evening, along with --- with my co-sponsor, President John DeFazio, along with members Catena, Prizio, Walton, Danalli --- and Danalli-Russell (sic), we introduce an ordinance that is intended to address the problematic practice that is known as conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, as it applies to minors in Allegheny County.

Conversion therapy is a practice that is aimed at trying to change a person's sexual orientation using psychological or spiritual interventions. Conversion therapy is --- is premised on the belief that being LGBTQIA plus or a member of the community is a mental illness that should and can be cured.

In 1973 the American Psychiatric Association determined that homosexuality, as they called it then, was not a mental illness. And the organization maintained that attempts to change sexual orientation or identity by practitioners is unethical.

The American Psychiatric Association is joined in this assessment by the American Academy of Pediatrics,

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American College of Physicians, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American School Counselor Association, the American School Health Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization.

To date, conversion therapy has been banned in 12 different states, including California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington State, New Mexico, Illinois, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, New Jersey, Hawaii. And most recently, as of January of this year, New York State and the District of Columbia. It has been banned in four cities in Wisconsin. In Ohio, it has been banned in Cincinnati, Toledo, Columbus, Dayton, Lakewood and Athens. In Florida, it has been banned in 18 cities and two counties.

And here in Pennsylvania, it has been banned by ordinance in the City of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Allentown, State College, Bellefonte, Doylestown, Newtown, Reading, Yardley. And it was recently --- a ban was --- an ordinance banning this was recently introduced in the City of Erie, PA.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law estimates that 20,000 LGBTQIA youth between the ages of 13 and 17 will undergo conversion therapy by a licensed healthcare professional before they turn 18. And approximately 57,000 will be subjected to treatment by a religious leader or spiritual advisor.

Over the past few days, I have heard from some who have mischaracterized this initiative in an attempt --- as an attempt to limit parental rights. This is not the case at all. Indeed, parents have the rights and the responsibility to seek counsel or advice from professionals when their children are struggling to navigate the challenges and uncertainties that come with growing up, as they try to figure out who they are and their place in the world and what that world might expect of them.

This proposed ordinance is intended to ban therapeutically-discredited practices that not only have been proven to be ineffective, but are clearly deemed harmful. And in many respects, perpetuate the marginalization of the LGBTQIA community in our society.

It is for these reasons that, as legislators, we believe that the County ought to exercise its legal authority to protect the health, welfare and safety of its citizens from these harmful practices.

Like all oppressed minorities who seek to claim their dignity, and to be validated as human beings, members of the LGBTQIA community must run the gauntlet every day in seeking to claim their identity. Free people in a free society ought to be able to express and live out their identity.

We can create a better world, a more tolerant world, a world in which people don't have to deny who they are. Where people are free to be who they are without judgment or fear. Instead of trying to convert or change people into who we might want them to be, why can't we just take steps towards accepting and maybe loving them for who they are? Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: Mr. President ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. MEANS: Thank you Mr. --- thank you Mr. President for recognizing me. Several speakers did talk about a Supreme Court ruling that happened last summer. And I just --- I wanted to enter into the record copies of this article that was written actually by the speaker today.

I wanted to thank very much Curtis Schube for coming from Harrisburg to speak to us. He's a --- a constitutional attorney. And he wrote this article and all the members have had a copy of it.

But just to remind everyone that --- that the ruling this summer was so amazing and wonderful, because before this summer, the therapist's speech between a therapist and a counselor was not protected.

And so Justice Thomas ruled that the speech between a therapist and his patient is protected and there's no special class of speech. There aren't speech that is regulated and a speech that isn't regulated. So ---.

And how --- how can we stop a child from seeking help that they want? And when you go to a therapist and the child says, you know, I --- I'm depressed, I have suicidal thoughts, I have unwanted desires ---. How does this therapist say, well, I can talk about your suicide

thoughts, I can talk about your depression, but I cannot talk about your unwanted desires?

That's what we're doing. We're taking away children's right to seek help. And we are --- we are interfering in parental rights. Thank you, Mr. President.  
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no --- seeing no more --- we will put that in the Health and Human Services Committee, Representative Palmiere's committee on that.

So now, moving on to 11001-19.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny approving the 2019 Revision to the Allegheny County Solid Waste Management Plan. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

New business?

MR. BARKER: Motions, we have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh --- notification of contracts, none?

Mr. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We have one, Jill Diskin.

MS. DISKIN: Hello. My name is Jill Diskin and I live at 1243 Murdoch Road in Pittsburgh. At the last Council meeting, I talked about the need for Allegheny County citizens to assess the kinds of certified voting machines that are under consideration by Allegheny County. Tonight, I'm here to talk about election security in Pennsylvania.

Several weeks ago I attended a presentation at Carnegie Mellon University and heard the results of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania's Election Security given by David Hickton, co-chairman of the Commission and others. Mr. Hickton is the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy and Security and former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of PA.

The Blue Ribbon Commission report outlines the risks to Pennsylvania's election security. It also provides a set of recommendations. I remember seeing Paul Klein and Rich Fitzgerald at this meeting. Perhaps others of you attended as well. People who attended the presentation received the report, 'The Blue Ribbon

Commission on Pennsylvania's Election Security.' I have read the report and hope Council Members have, too. In fact, I hope that everyone here tonight will take the time to read this report. This --- the problem this report presents is important to each of us as citizens and voters.

As stated in the Blue Ribbon Commission report, and I quote, election infrastructure throughout the County is under threat and Pennsylvania is no exception. I am providing a copy --- a hard copy of the Commission's report tonight to each Council Member. I recognize that you may have already read it, in which case, I encourage you to pass the hard copy along to someone who hasn't. To others who are here tonight, you can find the report available online if you Google Blue Ribbon Commission.

Let me state again that this issue is very important. As noted in the Blue Ribbon Commission's report, and I quote, these threats strike at the heart of democracy in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. Securing our elections is not a partisan issue and Pennsylvanians of every political persuasion should embrace the solutions that the Commission recommends. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, may I have a point of personal privilege there?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: I probably should mention this, and I should have probably done it through the liaison reports. I do apologize.

Earlier today, the Board of Elections authorized the formation of a new Voting Equipment Search Committee. It'll be made up of many of the County employees that were involved in the initial 2005 search or folks from similar departments.

So they're going to go out and they're going to take and start to look at this equipment. They're going to evaluate this. It's going to be a very public process. So the public will have the opportunity to see this equipment. And sometime in the future they'll be able to view it, things of that nature.

It does come with some problems, however. The folks have been pushing for this. Right now it's estimated to cost us anywhere, right now --- because we

don't know what equipment is going to be purchased --- between 12 and 30 million dollars.

That's money that we don't have allocated today for something that's only going to be used twice a year. Right now, the State and Governor Wolf, who mandated this unfunded mandate to us, has only allocated \$13 million to be spread among 67 counties. So we do not have the money today to do this. So once we select equipment, we're going to have to figure out how to pay for it.

And the other thing that folks loses sight of is the ongoing cost. Right now, because our machines are electronic, there's not a cost associated with setting these up when we deliver them for elections. Here, we're mandated by law, when we go to paper ballots, to print ten percent more than we have registered voters in Allegheny County. So that means basically, we're going to be printing about a million ballots for every election, regardless of whether only 25 percent of the people turn out for a primary. So you can think about the tremendous amount of waste. That's going to cost us about \$600,000 a year.

So there's a lot of things that need to be wrestled with, questions that need to be answered as we work through this process. But I know it's been something that folks have spoken about and have been interested on ---. And I wanted to be able to inform everyone as to what took place, so they understood where we are today. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, yeah. There will be a paper trail. People have been asking for a long time, all of us, to get a paper trail. There will be that. I mean, I was at the meeting he was at and there will be a paper trail. Where are we at here, on adjournment?

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to adjourn.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

The ayes have it.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:50 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.

Dated the 24th day of April, 2019

  
Court Reporter

Juliette Hoffman