

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert Macey	-	Vice President District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Tom Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia Bennett	-	District 13

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

March 10, 2020 5:02 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, Legislative Services  
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff  
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

PRESIDENT CATENA: I will bring this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you. Please be seated. Roll call, please.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker.

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr.

MR. DUERR: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein. Mr. Macey.

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina.

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton.

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

MR. BARKER: President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. I'd now like to welcome Chief Executive Fitzgerald for his quarterly address.

MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of council. I'd also like to welcome - this is my first appearance since the new members, Councilwoman Bennett, Councilman Duerr and Councilwoman Hallam are here. I sat in those seats for almost 12 years. I know what you're going and now I'm on the other side of the podium.

I've got a number of issues I'm going to talk about, and the last issue I'm going to talk about is going to be the COVID-19, so I'm sure we'll have some questions about it, but let me do some of the other things we've been working on in the last couple of months. Obviously, that includes for yourself and your constituents.

The census, you know, is something we've been working on with the City of Pittsburgh and many, many other partners throughout this region to make sure we have a full count. On March the 12th people will start receiving the census forms in the mail. We are certainly encouraging everybody to fill them out. We want everybody to be counted. The census and the number determines an awful lot of funding that counties get around things like health, human services, transportation, education, et cetera, et cetera, so we want to make sure and encourage all people to be part of that. There are some mini grants that are out there for different organizations to be able to do that. We'll continue to get the word out for folks. Talk a little bit about the economic development things that are happening.

Just last week we kind of opened up and cut a ribbon for Facebook Reality. Up to 250 people will be working there, a 100,000 square foot building in the strip district. Councilman DeMarco attended that event. We also did a couple of months ago out in South Fayette to really help our young people something called Biz Town. This is done by the junior achievement who have been putting this together. I know Councilman Catena was there as well as Councilman Baker involved trying to get our four --- grades four to six, the young people involved, and so many of our corporations and entities have been a part of that. It's very, very positive and Junior Achievement try to obviously make sure young people stay involved.

We also did an event with the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Steve Shelton and his group in Councilman Walton's district out in the Homewood area. What Steve Shelton and his team do is they train people to be bricklayers, to do masonry. They're building some affordable housing. These are people that often need a second chance that have come out of our criminal justice system, teaching them a trade. It's been a very successful program and there has been a lot of support by

our friends at the federal government, state government, et cetera to help make that --- to make that happen.

We were delighted that out at the airport a new life science organization called Crystal that are doing gene therapy. They're a Silicon Valley company that has decided to open up a large facility here in the Pittsburgh region because of a lot of the vibrancy we have, the cost delta that we have. Again, we see the growth out there. I'm going to talk about the airport in other ways in just a little bit.

The YMCA in the Hill District opened up a new 74 bed, 74 room affordable housing. Councilwoman Hallam was there that day. It was a wonderful event that the YMCA is putting on and folks throughout the community came together to make that happen. I want to talk a little bit about some of the things that have happened around criminal justice that we have made some real improvements as far as those areas go.

Working with the PD's office, they put a system together called Project Reset and have held a number of functions throughout the county. I want to thank them and I think you have them on the proclamation tonight or in the future for the work that they have done. Director Dugan, Public Defender Dugan, and the team, again, getting people's records that they shouldn't have to begin with cleared to get it off, so it helps them with jobs, helps them with housing, helps them with education, et cetera. Again, giving people a second chance, and also the work that they have been doing along with the MacArthur grant that we got last year to reduce the jail population and reduce some recidivism. We have seen our cash bonds drop 27 percent for the inmates who have come through so it's been a very, very positive program that we've had.

In our parks system, I want to thank Director Beckley and his team. We have some exciting things coming up this year where we have converted over nine and a half acres of what was lawn to meadows. If you recall a couple of years ago out in the Boyce Park area, that meadow was one of the most drawing things. Once people are drawn to that, it's a magnet for so many people that went there, and we're going to be doing that in Hartwood, White Oaks, South Park, Boyce Park and North Park. It does a lot of things. Not only is it to beautify our parks, but it does an awful lot as far as removing storm water from the system and soaking up some of the rain water that we have.

We estimate that a one-inch rain event where you're removing 3.8 million gallons of water from the storm water system to keep our rivers and streams cleaner than they would be.

We had a big increase last year in our pool population going forward. We had over 1,700 volunteer projects in all of our parks. People really love our parks and are willing to pitch in and do things to build some of the things that are happening. We also planted over 1,600 trees, and I know there's a robust program that's going to happen along those lines this year.

I also want to give a shoutout to our public works department. You know, we had fallen behind on our paving a number of years ago and really over the last three or four years we've really improved and caught up. As you know, we have over 400 miles of road that we are responsible for, county roads. Civil engineering standards say that we should be removing or should be paving about 10 percent of that a year, about 40 miles of road a year. Over the last four years we have totally exceeded that number. A couple years we actually got 60 to 58 miles. The last few years it's been over 40, but over the last 7 years, we've averaged --- we've done over 281 miles of road, so that does average over the last seven years 40 miles of road, and they've really been doing a tremendous job.

Along those lines, we have a recycling program that's been working with facilities and public works. The county manager instituted this program over the last couple years, and in the last year, we've removed 126 tons of cardboard that did not go to the landfill that has been recycled, 34 tons of plastic bottles and aluminum cans, 11 tons of mixed paper and that's just, again, in our office buildings and all the facilities that we have and then 3 tons of food that we have composted in our county parks, so that's really quite an achievement. I want to thank the county manager for being able to do that.

And again, back to the public works. There are 67 counties in this commonwealth. Allegheny County is the only public works department that has been accredited by the American Public Works Association and that's something they should be --- we should all be very proud of, of the work that they do.

Talk a little bit about the Port Authority. You've seen that the Port Authority has been moving to,

you know, use more technology in what they do as far as payment and being able to do fares. Also in trying to improve their on-time performance, and I want to give Katharine Kelleman and that team a great level of credit for being able to do that. They started to remove what I would call an awful lot of redundant stops. Any of us that have gotten behind a bus on certain roads know when they stop at every corner, it's really not the most efficient way to go, so they're going through a process with a lot of public input as to where they go and I think they've done about four or five routes that have already been done. In all those cases, they've already seen an improvement from around 63, 64 percent of on-time improvement to over 72, 73 percent of on-time improvement. So we obviously want to make the system more efficient, more reliable, but also faster to get people to work on time so they are not late.

Out at the airport, we just got word the last couple of days that an organization called Fast Company has named the Pittsburgh International Airport one of the world's most innovative companies, not innovative airports, innovative companies. We are the only airport to have received this designation, and it talks about the innovations in the travel industry that Pittsburgh International Airport has done including working with the disability community and creating a sensory room, one of the only ones in the country who has done that. The CMU app that allows blind travelers to navigate the terminal. The fact that we've got a micro crew going out there with the largest field of solar panels anywhere in the county and then the neighborhood of 91 which is going to be a Mecca for manufacturing using 3d manufacturing using 3d printing to do that so it's something they continue to do. Again, I'm going to get into this in just a little bit, but we understand that that's probably going to be one of the industries that is going to be impacted most with the COVID-19, the corona virus, as we move forward.

Let me move into real quickly on the elections and I want to thank my fellow board members, Councilman DeMarco, Councilwoman Hallam. We've had a number of meetings to try to make these changes that occurred through Act 77 as easy as they can be. We've already got many poll workers that are going through the training. To date over 4,000 of our poll workers have responded that they will be scheduling or having been scheduled the

training. A number have dropped off. Not very many and then we've got about 1,600 left that we've got to reach and schedule for that.

We want to put the word out that any voter demonstrations you want to go to, there's a number of them around the county. I'm not going to list them, but let me just say you can go on the website which is [alleghenyvotes.com](http://alleghenyvotes.com) and find out which is the most reasonable, most convenient for you wherever you might live. A lot of them are at libraries and other public facilities. We're also encouraging people this year that they can vote by mail. This is something new. People can always vote by absentee, but they have to have an excuse for their absentee, for the ability to get an absentee ballot. This year for the first time anybody can do mail by vote. And we're encouraging people to do that. As of today almost 5,000 applications have come into the election department for the April 28 primary vote, and, again, you can make it a lot easier on yourself to just apply online or apply by mail and get your mail in ballot and you are able to do it that way. As the county solicitor said, you can vote in your pajamas and that's what maybe a lot of people will do.

The board, we also approved satellite locations as we continue to work through that process to allow some satellite location over the counter voting. This is always been able to do at the county office building, but we're going to be able to do that in a couple other locations. It would occur on Saturday April the 11th and then Saturday April the 18th to give people, again, a little more convenience where they can go and do those type of things as well as extended hours that will occur at the county office building on the Thursdays before that. That will be Thursday, April the 9th and Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 to 5:00.

One of the concerns we have, which I think is going to be addressed --- hopefully going to be addressed, is the way Act 77 is ruled right now, the law states that the election department cannot start opening all those mail in ballots until 8:00 at night when the polls close. Those of us that followed Iowa a couple of weeks ago realize that might not be something we want to go through in Allegheny or any other counties. So my sense is that there's movement in the legislature and with the Governor and the Secretary of State that allow

election departments to open those mail in ballots when the polls open in the morning at 7:00 in the morning so we're not waiting until 4 or 5:00 in the morning or the next day to get --- get election returns. We don't want to be in the bullseye when it comes to things like that.

Let me move on to the health department. You saw last week the health department after a long search named Dr. Debra Bogen as the new health department director. She will be starting in early May. Dr. Bogen currently serves as the vice chair of education for the department of pediatrics at Children's Hospital. She's got a long, long resume, a great career of work that she's done. I think you're going to find her very collaborative. It's the one thing that we saw and we heard with Dr. Bogen is her willingness to work with lots of people to bring lots of ideas to the table and talk about some of the things that are going on.

So let me move on to COVID-19. There's a lot of misinformation out there. Obviously, a lot of concern, a lot of anxiety around this issue. I want to thank the health department, Ron Shuler, Dr. Mertz, Dr. Brank, the two epidemiologists, for the great work that they have been doing, and we do have a health department that has a --- people have a lot of confidence in our health department and I would encourage people to listen to the experts on what they say and what they recommend as we go forward with COVID-19. So let me go through this.

The county health department is the lead in our county on response to COVID-19. Its personnel have been closely monitoring the outbreak and are involved in continuing briefings by the Centers of Disease Control, the CDC, prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. So the Health Department will be following a lot of the recommendations that come out of the federal government and the Department of State when it comes to this. And at this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Allegheny County. As of today the number of cases in Pennsylvania is 12. Eight of them are in Montgomery County. One each in Delaware, Monroe, Wayne and Philadelphia Counties, so obviously, that's in the Eastern part of the state. That's not to say that as time goes on that may change.

Health Department leadership has been involved in providing briefings and guidance to many community partners including Allegheny County Emergency Services,



Director Wendell Hissrich from Pittsburgh Public Safety Department, Pittsburg Council on Higher Education and its member colleges and universities, our K-12 schools, the 43 school districts in Allegheny County, health care providers, the airport, the port authority, et cetera, and information has also been provided internally through our HR notifications and calls and emails for those responsible for communication in our various departments. Our guidance remains the same right now. Residents can do their part by getting a flu vaccine and taking every day preventative actions to stop the spread of germs including staying at home if sick, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow or sleeve, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.

These measures can go a long way to prevent the spread of illness in response to an outbreak. For all businesses and organizations, it is recommended that the CDC guidelines be followed. Encourage sick employees to stay home or separate sick employees, emphasizing cough and sneeze etiquette and hand hygiene, performing routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and providing disposable wipes for those surfaces that are used by employees.

We also are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide the most up to date information on COVID-19. We encourage the public and our partners to use the health department's website on this issue as a source of information. There are constant updates to the page which also contain direct links to information from the CDC and it can be found at [Allegheny.us/coronavirus](http://Allegheny.us/coronavirus), C-O-R-O-N-A-V-I-R-U-S, and on that page you can also sign up for Allegheny alerts. For those of you that have been here a while Allegheny alerts is a way you can get information from various departments in Allegheny County that you would have interest in. You can get these alerts via text, via email, by phone however you do that, and on this page, there will be alerts that come out every day at 11:00 a.m. updating information that occurs from the Allegheny Health Department.

And, of course, if there's any breaking news related to COVID-19, the health department will push that information out to the public as soon as possible through press conference, press releases, website updates and

posts on social media channels or alerts through Allegheny alerts. The Department's Twitter account is @healthallegheny and its Facebook page is at Allegheny Health.

Finally, if someone believes they have COVID-19, they should call, not go to a healthcare provider for directions. If they need medical assistance, they should call ahead, to let that facility know of their arrival. Anyone who needs more direction, can call the Health Department at 412-687-2243, and I wanted to get that information out there because I know at this time of anxiety there's all kind of different stories about what's going to happen, what might happen, so let's --- we recommend people follow the Health Department directions. They're professionals that have been doing a great job at keeping us healthy for many, many years.

With that, let me open up for any questions anyone might have.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Are there any questions?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: Executive Fitzgerald, I want to thank you for the information that you just shared particularly about the COVID-19, the corona virus, because several of us in our caucus meeting were discussing on how we can gather additional information and assist in disseminating information to particularly vulnerable communities particularly seniors, after school programs, childcare programs and out of school programs and so we were discussing about how we could possibly have a briefing for members of council so that we could have the best information available to share and how we can assist in making sure quality and quantitative information is presented.

We believe that the Allegheny County Health Department is a quality organization and it is doing yeoman's work in trying to share information. We just want to be able to get good information out there as best as we can so some of the scares and some of the challenges that we face are addressed in the most constructive way.

MR. FITZGERALD: Well, we can certainly provide those briefings, Counselor. I think that's a good idea. The one issue I would caution you are that things change so often you're liable to have a briefing on it Tuesday

and by Wednesday or Thursday there may be some change in what's going on. As I indicated as of this time, there have been no confirmed cases in Allegheny County. That could change at some point in the future. So --- and some of the other information as far as crowds and things that are happening, I know school districts and all kind of organizations are having discussions about how they want to handle and how they want to set policies within their own organizations, so I would definitely encourage people to sign up for the Allegheny Alerts on this issue if nothing else so that you're up to date and certainly check the website. We'll be updating it and they're really staying on top of this working with the CDC, again, working with the Department of State, but our Health Department is our local folks that give us the good information.

MR. WALTON: Thank you.

MR. DUERR: President Catena, can I?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DUERR: Now, County Executive, I just want to say first off, you know, thank you for coming. Thank you for all the information. Additionally I just want to take the time to thank the county solicitor, Andy Szefi. I've seen him at numerous, many, many, events explaining all the changes to the voting system here, so I'm sure that was at direction through the county, and I just wanted to give him a shoutout as well for trying to get this information out for the county to try to get as many voting demonstrations out to the new voting machines as well across my district and across all of Allegheny County. So thank you both for those things.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah, and any time you have a change, like, this is a big change, and we haven't had this change for, you know, 14, 15 years the last time we went to the other machines. For those 6,500 poll workers that we rely on and the voters in general and everybody, it's going to be --- the first couple of times it's going to be tough. I'm not happy that it's during a presidential year, which tend to be extremely high turnout elections, but they have really been working tremendously hard and I'm sure the two councilmen --- Councilwoman and Councilman who serve on the board will tell you they've gotten a lot of updates and a lot of information, and you know, we're going to try to make it go as smoothly as we can.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Baker?

MR. BAKER: Thanks, President Catena. It was a great week for Allegheny County and for the airport. Last week we had the state of the airport on Tuesday, which you were a part of, and you were the guest speaker on Friday at the state of the county, which there were definitely good updates that you shared about both --- you always talk about partnerships. I think one that exists between Allegheny County and the airport area is a vibrant one, is a big one, and I know it's much appreciated by folks in North Fayette, Findlay, Moon and Coraopolis and the general airport area. The one event we did not talk about in your report is the Banner Community Event that was awesome, was excellent, on Friday. And Amie Downs actually was playing Charity events/your director of communications both giving speeches and taking photos of you in the same event, so it was a wonderful celebration.

I was wondering if you would share quickly about why we do the Banner Community Event every year, the power it brings to the communities, the way that it really makes them practice good government and also recognizes them for all the good things they do.

Sometimes people say government doesn't work and I always say go to North Fayette. Go to Findlay. Go to Moon. Go spend time in Ross Township. You will see that local government does work and that's an event that you and Amie do a great job on every year.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah. Thank you, Councilman. And, you know, we have 130 municipalities in Allegheny County and I think the Allegheny municipality wants to recognize folks who work together, use best government practices and so many of the things that we do and we're successful in is where we do work together. Just because of the political boundary doesn't mean transportation, infrastructure, et cetera, et cetera doesn't cross boundaries.

So when you see communities that work together and come together, they seem to be the most successful where that happens, and I think the Banner Communities Program is one of those areas where we try to recognize in a positive way communities that do that. I know you were there. Councilwoman Kirk was there. Councilwoman Hallam was there. Trying to recognize some of the folks --- and I know over the years many of you have participated in that event, and I do think that the mayors and the borough

council members and commissioners and supervisors appreciate the fact that they are recognized for some of the things they're doing. It's not always easy serving in local government, particularly at the --- you know, really at the basic level, ground level, where municipal government occurs, so to recognize some of their accomplishments is something we'd like to do.

MR. BAKER: Thanks.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena.

Thank you, Executive Fitzgerald, for coming and sharing that information with us today. I have two questions.

One relating to the citizens. Recently I have seen, I follow a few ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Bennett, is your mic on?

MS BENNETT: It is on. You can't hear me? It's on.

I follow some people on social media and some of the LGBTQIA community, and they are actually calling for a boycott of the census because it is not inclusive of transgender non-binary. Is there a plan from your office to kind of mitigate that so we can make sure that we can get the best count from our county as possible?

MR. FITZGERALD: I wasn't aware of that. I think that's something we would encourage everybody to be counted no matter which community they are coming from, so I have from my office Andrea Stanford and Jessica Modi both working with --- from the City of Pittsburgh reaching out to just about as many communities as we can reach out to, and I'll have to pass that along to see if there's something we can do to mitigate that.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you. And then my second question is around elections, and does the executive's office have any plans or initiatives to increase voting in the jail?

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes, we do. I think working with --- I don't know which organization it is. I'm not sure if it's ---.

MS. BENNETT: All Voting is Local.

MR. FITZGERALD: What is it called?

MS. BENNETT: All Voting is Local.

MR. FITZGERALD: All Voting is Local to be able to provide folks the ability to vote.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Mr. Executive. Two questions real quick. The Allegheny Alerts --- when you and I met earlier, we talked about the Allegheny Alerts for the COVID-19. The push comes out about 11:00 a.m. for the daily updates. I believe.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So and that obviously, I mean, is something that I think everyone should sign up for because that's the most up to date information that obviously the county knows at that point in time.

So my other question was you talk a little bit about the over the counter voting.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: There's going to be two locations --- or I'm sorry, two days, the April 11th and the April 18th and they're going to be at the countywide. They're going to have some at the county facilities.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. The plan right now that we voted on last week was to have two locations on the 11th and two locations on the 18th. They're still working out some of the details, but number one, they have to be at a county facility so we can't just use an auditorium or a school in some area.

It also cannot be in the City of Pittsburgh because it can't be where the county seat is not just in Allegheny County, but any of the --- Butler County, Washington County, et cetera, et cetera. So they're working through that process, but one thing that I want to make sure we emphasize you can always do over the counter voting. That was always available for people to show up over at the election department in the county office building if they were going to be out of town or they wanted to vote over the counter, and what they do is they apply just like you'd apply for mail in voting. The election department processes your application and then gives you a ballot. That's what will occur at the satellite locations.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Mr. Executive. Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: A couple things. There's still a lot of things we need to work out such, for example, the satellite voting, even though you're going in to voting. Secondly you're taking that ballot that should be being put in an envelope, which is then transferred to the central facility where they'll be kept until they're

opened on election day, okay, so nothing is going to be counted or anything prior to that. But I want to commend you, Mr. Fitzgerald, on your staff's communication perspective. I think they've done an excellent job.

We're faced with a challenge here of trying to take and address not just the new voting machines, the new policies and procedures, but also you said we have to deal with Act 77, which opened up a whole range of additional things that our folks are going to be faced to deal with. Then in addition something that was not even thought about was COVID-19, the corona virus, and things like that, but I think one of the things that you guys did that was great was I like the idea from a voting perspective Alleghenyvotes.com. Anybody can go there and all the information around it whether it's listing where demonstrations are going to be held, it's listing --- you can sign up to register to vote. You can sign up and request an absentee or a mail in application. It's sort of an all-encompassing site for anything related to voting here in this election.

In addition, I like the fact that you guys set up an entire page on corona virus. A central location with links to the CDC, the department of health, all the other facilities, so it's a one stop shop if somebody has questions, they're able to go to --- I believe it was --- was it Allegheny County/coronavirus.us?

MR. FITZGERALD: Let me make sure I get this right. Alleghenycounty.us/coronavirus.

MR. DEMARCO: Coronavirus. Okay. So I think those are some great steps there and I really want to commend the staff and those who came up with those ideas. And also we talk about how information is constantly changed. You know, I spoke with the Director of Elections, David Boyer, earlier today and he relayed to me because I was questioning him about --- we had a list of these places where these demonstrations were going to take place. I asked him, well, what about this municipality, for example, Bethel Park? A municipality of 38,000 people didn't have something previously scheduled.

And he said he's getting calls now from folks who have seen that there are going to be demonstrations elsewhere and now they want in. So even if you looked at this previously, if you haven't seen your municipality or your area that you would like to go to, I would urge you to go out there today and look again and continue to look

because it's constantly being updated because information is changing. Thank you, Mr. Fitzgerald.

MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you. And I have really got to give a lot of credit to Director Diskevich and Director Boyd. They have been very, very proactive in trying to get the word out there, and our marketing manager, Kevin Evanto. The advertising you're going to start to see on buses, on social media, on TV, on radio, print, et cetera ---. We're going to try to get the word out in as many locations so that people are aware of what is out there. They can go to some of these locations as you said and practice. They will give you a ballot and you pick your favorite ride at Kennywood or your favorite meal, you know, such just --- your favorite color, those type things where people can practice voting and go through the process.

MR. DEMARCO: And some folks will probably demand a recount.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Are there any other questions? Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Just a quick question. Are we doing anything about for voting for the Kane system, all the people at Kane? Is there something there officially through the county or is it just volunteers who can vote?

MR. FITZGERALD: I think it's still people vote in that different places where they can go through that process and whether they're residents of Kane ---.

MS. KIRK: Those people who are stuck at Kane, I mean, I've often heard stories and that of some errant ---.

MR. FITZGERALD: I'll let a manager -.

MR. MCKAIN: We have the same effort every year we work with that. We bring applications in just like we do with a program like at the jail, for example, with outreach, and it will continue again this year.

MS. KIRK: Super.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other questions? Seeing no other questions, thank you, Mr. Executive.

We'll begin with our proclamations. 11438-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Miss Smiling Irish Eyes, sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of Council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we'll do 11439-20.



MR. BARKER: 11439-20 is a certificate of recognition recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Court Maidens, sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of council.

MS. HALLAM: So, first of all, I just want to congratulate you all. Since I was a little girl, I always dreamed of being a part of this, so it really is an achievement. I never made it, but I'm proud of you all for doing so.

So this is a proclamation recognizing 2020 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes queen. Whereas a Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade committee announced that the 2020 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen is Stephanie O'Donnell and whereas the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen is among the most honored participant in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade, and whereas Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen, Ms. O'Donnell, is freshman at Slippery Rock University where she is studying exercise science on academic scholarship.

She attended Penn Trafford High School and graduated in 2019. While in high school, Ms. O'Donnell was a high honor roll student for four years, a two-year member of the National Honor Society and a Penn Trafford High School student of the month. And whereas since a young age Ms. O'Donnell has been dedicated to volunteering within her church community and Irish community. She has served as a volunteer with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra sensory friendly concert as well as a Special Olympics volunteer at Slippery Rock University.

While in high school, Ms. O'Donnell was a member of both the Penn Trafford High School Community Action Program and the Student's Against Destructive Decisions Program. She organized and planned a big buddy program at Penn Trafford which encourages positive interactions between elementary school students and high schoolers.

And whereas Ms. O'Donnell's family has strong ties to the Pittsburgh Irish community. Her great grandparents hail from County Kerry and County Galway, and her family instilled a strong sense of Irish pride in Ms. O'Donnell.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Councilwoman Bethany Hallam, and President Pat Catena along with all members of council do hereby congratulate Bethany O'Donnell upon being named the 2020 Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen for the St. Patrick Day's Parade.

MS. O'DONNELL: Well, I'm extremely humbled to receive this award, and I just want to say it's such an honor to represent the City of Pittsburgh with these two young ladies throughout this whole week, and I'm just really excited to go throughout the rest of the week's events especially the parade on Saturday.

I want to thank the county council members for having us in today, and I want to thank the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes board and the parade committee for doing me this honor as well as these two ladies.

And I want to thank my family most importantly because I wouldn't be half the lady that I am without them. So, again, thank you. I'm very excited for the rest of the week.

MS. KIRK: The one thing that strikes me when I look at these three young women is the poise. I don't know if I was that poised then and one last quick comment, she might have never made Miss Smiling Irish, but what a smile.

This is Kelly Bench. She is part of board for the St. Patrick's Day parade 2020. Kelly Bench came from McMurray and is a freshman at Penn State University where she studies chemical engineering. I was at engineering graduation at Penn State just a couple years ago and there were very few women in chemistry, chemical engineering or nuclear engineering, so continue on and graduate. You'll do good. She's a 2019 graduate of Seton-La Salle High School. Ms. Bench participated in numerous activities in high school including National Honor's Society, marching band, acapella choir, lacrosse and the school musical. She's a long time member of the Bell School of Irish Dance and has continued her Irish dancing with the --- I don't want to botch it. Will you pronounce it?

MS. BENCH: Rinnce Fada (phonetic).

MS. KIRK: Which is a very expressive Irish dance, which it should not be dishonored by the mispronunciation.

We congratulate Ms. Kelly Bench on her fine honor and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Once again, sponsored by all of council to you.

MS. BENCH: Similar to what Stephanie said, I am very honored to be here, and I would just like to thank the council, especially the parade council and the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Council for giving me the opportunity

to be here. I am extremely excited for this week to represent such a great community in the parade. I have been doing the parade for many years, and this is the highest honor I have ever achieved, so I would like to thank everyone very much.

MS. KIRK. Now, we have Ms. Courtney McGinley. Just so you know, we wanted this council to put all our names and put, like, McKirk or O'Hallam, but we're all Irish today because we're all one big community.

Courtney McGinley came from Pittsburgh as a senior in the Pittsburgh Alderdice High School. Ms. McGinley is a high honor roll student and is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions or SADD. She serves as homeroom representative and was awarded student of the month during May of her junior year. Her community involvement centers on volunteer work with children and assisting the homeless. We congratulate Ms. Courtney McGinley on this fine honor and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

MS. MCGINLEY: I would just like to thank the committee, the parade committee, Miss Smiling Irish Eyes, and being in front of all you guys today is such an honor. And I am very proud to be of the sisterhood in such a close-knit community, and I want to thank my friends and family for supporting me no matter what in all that I do. So thank you guys so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. 114-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of council.

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you. Can I please have the Finnerty family up here, please? Pauline, my brother Tom, Jackie Goodrich. I want to also congratulate Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and the court. I think you're the tallest Miss Smiling Irish Eyes I've ever seen. You're probably wondering why this Italian guy is doing the proclamation. Well, this Italian guy's mom was a Finnerty. So this is my first cousin. The Irish are about working hard. He went to the railroad, worked at the railroad at night school to be a lawyer. I know my mom, his dad, the entire Finnerty family, the Hermans, McGanns, all the Carnegie Irish are looking down on how proud they are of you. I know I'm proud of you. You've always worked hard. You're a great big cousin for me and

I love you and I can't be more proud of you today than I am.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Obviously since Tim Finnerty's the grand marshal, I thought it was appropriate that his brother, obviously, former Councilman Mike Finnerty present this to him, so I asked Mike.

MS. FINNERTY: I really appreciate that, but I'm going to let Jackie speak. We're timing Jackie.

MR. GOODRICH: Thank you all, President Catena, members of council. I usually --- Mr. Futules grew up with me knows very rarely do I ever need a microphone. So we'll see how this works out. On behalf of the Irish Society for Education and Charity of which I am a member of and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of which I have been a member of since 1991, I have known Timmy longer than that. I helped get Timmy involved with the community.

You do not have to be Irish, as you know, to be a participant in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. St. Patrick Parade committee is a microcosm of communities. We're very diversified. We're accepting of all, and we love all. And it's a community event. It's a celebration of our patron saint, but it is a community event for all. I'd like to comment very briefly because I know they're not going to let me back up here.

You're probably wondering what that is. That is the Irish Celtic heart. If you look at it, it never ends just like the Irish, the love of the Irish, the love of our heritage and the love of everything in the world that God made. That is the symbolism of the Irish arc. I am very proud to say I have one of those on my arm, and it's important to me for my heritage, my family, the way we were brought up because everybody in this room is immigrants. We all came over at one time or the other to find a better place and thank God we all ended up in Pittsburgh. So without any further ado, I will give it back to Mr. Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Anyway I want to first of all, thank President Catena for asking me to do this. This is an honor. I really appreciate this. I'm so proud of my brother. You know, we slept together on the third floor for a number of years. I snored, right. But he's come a long way since then. He's now a lawyer, but one of the things he's always, always cared about people. He's always tried to do the right thing in relation to people

and causes that he's been involved in. And, you know, our whole family is so proud of Tim. He's --- as Bobby said, he's worked very hard for what he has received and what he has done for other people, and something --- it's just a tribute to his desire, his fortitude. And I love him, and he's the greatest. Let me read the proclamation. Whereas the Pittsburgh Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee announced the Irish Society of Education and Charity, Inc. and has named Tim Finnerty, Esquire as the 2020 parade Grand Marshal. And whereas born and raised in the West Hills area in the City of Pittsburgh Mr. Finnerty has a long history of involvement in the Pittsburgh Irish community and beyond. Whereas Mr. Finnerty obtained his JD in 1976 from Duquesne University School of Law. He went on to serve as the former labor and contract administrator and management of labor relations for Allegheny County and currently is an assistant county solicitor overseeing the department of court records and holding probate hearings. And whereas since the late 1970s, Mr. Finnerty has been a fourth degree member of the AOH. He served as a past solicitor of the AOH as well as a member of the Brehon Law Society and played with the Pittsburgh Rugby Football Club from 1966 to 1985. That was a mistake. A lot of surgery. A lot of concussions.

In the 1990s when the new parade committee was formed, Mr. Finnerty was among the original committee members. He is on the board of directors for the Irish Society for Education and Charity, Inc.

Now therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council President Pat Catena along with all members of council do hereby congratulate Timothy E. Finnerty, Esquire upon being named the 2020 parade Grand Marshal for Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day Parade. In witnesses hereof, I have --- or I should say Council President Pat Catena has hereby caused the seal of Allegheny to be affixed this 10th day of March 2020. Congratulations.

MR. TIM FINNERTY: Council members and I see Jack Cambest who I believe I played high school football with when he was at South Hills Catholic when the old Catholic league was there. I lived through the '50s, the '60s, the '70s, the '80s, the '90s and now I'm into the 2000's so I have been around for a long time and I try to keep myself busy and do a lot of things during that time.

But the most important thing to me has always been my family, my sister, Barbie. This is my, Bobby's

brother, that I feel is my brother, Robert Palmosina, Colleen Bowers, Bobby, of course, is another brother, Jack Goodrich who has become a brother and my brother Michael.

But as you know, the Irish community is quite close knit. And I say that one of my prior speeches I feel we are all members of an extended family that came from Ireland. And there was a quote from John Kennedy that talked about how the Irish had to leave during the famine so that so much Irish blood went throughout the world and started in other places and all tied together in all those places. Well, the same thing happened to Pittsburgh in the '70s, and if you look when the mills shut down, how many times do you watch a Steeler game now in different cities? It's a Pittsburgh thing, so the Pittsburgh blood flows also.

And that's quite analogous to the way the Irish were back in the day, but the most important things to me have always been my family, my faith and those are the two guiding principles, so that I told my dad --- at one time I went to an Irish gathering and they had a sign in that said ASAP and I said what is --- as soon as possible. But if you look at it underneath, it said always say a prayer, so to this day --- I took it home and gave it to my dad who was very happy. He put it right on the refrigerator where all the other plaques are. And to this day, I will close every email or letters to my kids and I have five children, five grandchildren, with love and god bless, ASAP. I think that's something that we should all do. Say a prayer because the world needs them and we need them, and you should always remember to be kind to everybody, because you never know how bad a day they're having or what they're going through in their life. So with that, I'll end my speech. Thank you.

As a note, I would just like to say one more thing if everybody would pay attention. You have wrote in my bio that oversee the Department of Court Records. Well, I don't. I assist with the Department of Court Records, but my boss, Andy Szefi, is here from the county solicitors, and he's over the Department of Court Records. And my other boss, Michael McGreever (phonetic), who is the Director of the Department of Court Records. And my big boss, William McKain, is here. So they oversee me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: For the members on the phone this evening, could you please make sure your phones are on mute? So thank you. We'll now have 1141-20.

MR. BARKER: A certificate of recognition recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Allegheny County AOH Hibernian of the Year, sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of council.

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Mr. President. We'll going to welcome up here Joe White. Congratulations to Joe White. Like one of our young leaders that went to Alderdice for high school --- did you go to Alderdice for high school, the school colors are green, Joe White went to a college where the colors were green, right? Slippery Rock University. He's a 1981 alum. He married his high school sweetheart and has been incredibly involved over the years.

Joe White has worked on over 1,000 waterproofing projects, and he is a dad of one daughter. So happy to get to introduce Joe White as the 2020 Allegheny County Hibernian of the year, so Joe, congratulations.

This certificate of recognition is awarded to Mr. Joe White, a dedicated member of the AOH Division Number 9. Mr. White has a strong family lineage that dates back to 1821 in Ireland. He's a proud owner of a local construction company. For over 30 years he's been married to his high school sweetheart Stacy and they together have one daughter. Allegheny County Council congratulates Joe White on the monumental honor bestowed upon him and thanks him for all his contributions to our community. Joe White, congratulations.

MR. WHITE: Thank you for having us here folks. On behalf of about the H&R Hibernians and the ladies H&R Hibernians, I'd like to thank you for your time this evening. One thing about the Irish is that we laugh together, we pray together, we cry together and we fight together. We drink together sometimes.

But the keyword is we are together and the Irish community of Allegheny County --- I'm a fourth generation resident of Allegheny County with Irish descent. I'm so, so, so proud of my heritage, my lineage. A lot of them were police officers and firemen and community servants, and they're standing here with me today in acceptance of this recognition. I want to thank you for your time and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll now have 11442-20.

MR. BARKER: A certificate of recognition recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of council.

MR. DEMARCO: My family was very, very good to me. They knew that in Pittsburgh we had a couple parades each year. One was the St. Patrick's Day parade which we're here to talk about today. The other is the Columbus Day parade. They made sure that the DeMarco, and my mother's name is Flynn, that I could actually go to both. So I want to thank Mom and Dad. 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 treasured event.

The 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade will feature nearly 200 marching units including bands, floats, several police, fire and emergency service agencies, elected leaders along with many groups from Pittsburgh's Irish community. This year the parade committee has dedicated the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade in the memory of Glenn Cannon, a long time member of the Pittsburgh Irish community and former public safety director for the City and former head of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Allegheny County Council commends the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for their diligent efforts and their dedication to making the annual parade an unmatched celebration of Irish heritage, sponsored by Councilmember Pat Catena and all members of council and presented this 10th day of March 2020. Congratulations Folks. Who wants to say something?

MR. GOODRICH: Glenn Cannon was a very good friend of ours, so it's very emotional that he won't be with us this year. He meant a lot to me. He meant a lot to a lot of people on the committee and he gave his heart and soul to the city, so just remember that. Remember that more than one fifth of all citizens are of Irish descent, and as Tim would say, say a little prayer and be kind because one thing about Glenn we'll always remember is he was kind. He was a good man, and he was kind and he was always there to help people. We need more people like that in Pittsburgh.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11443-20.



MR. BARKER: Before proceeding, please let the record reflect that Mr. Klein is on the phone.

11443-20, a certificate of recognition recognizing the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Irish Society for Education and Charity, sponsored by Council Member Catena and all members of council.

MR. MACEY: I have the pleasure and the honor to present a certificate of achievement to the Irish Society for Education and Charity, but first, I'd like to do a little shoutout to some of my friends and family members, the O'Malleys, the Barretts, the Flaughertys, the O'Briens, the Millers, the Flahertys, the Finnertys, the Caulkers, the Fitzgeralds, Goodrich, McGinty, and my hero, Mr. McKinney (phonetic).

I had the pleasure of going to Ireland a few years back and I'll tell you what it's green, various shades of green, but one of the things you notice in Dublin and Waterford and Belfast, one thing I noticed, there was no litter. None. Beautiful over there.

So I'm going to do what I'm supposed to do. Since 1992, the ISEC has provided sponsorship, leadership and guidance to the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Community. In its efforts to organize and execute what has been referred to the nation's second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade, the organization also supports Pittsburgh's Irish community by awarding various scholarships to local Irish students and by making donations to area groups and causes. Allegheny County Council commends the Irish Society for Education and Charity for their passionate and tireless efforts to support Pittsburgh's Irish community and thanks them all for their numerous contributions, sponsored by Pat Catena and all members of council. Congratulations.

MEMBER: Thank you, everybody. On behalf of the Irish Society for Education and Charity, I'd like to thank you for this, having this honor received from County Council, Allegheny County in general. I'd like to --- the Irish Society basically is a parent --- the parent of the old organization that involves the parade. Everyone here is a volunteer. It's a 5013(c). We don't accept corporate money. It's really a great --- it's a huge undertaking, but also we celebrate our pride, our culture, our religion, et cetera, but also, we also help to enhance the economic viability of the downtown region, how many hotels, how many rental cars. People coming into

restaurants. So we're happy to do that, because we're so proud of our city. I want to congratulate the ladies, my good friend, Tim Finnerty. Let that overseer comment go a little bit over. At least he retracted. I was going to say I don't know about overseeing, but I see him from afar. Jack Goodrich is a fourth generation. I'm a first generation Irish American. Thank you, everybody.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11444-20.

MR. BARKER: 11444-20, a proclamation declaring March 2020 to be National Kidney Month in Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Now to a more somber note. That was fun. We love the Irish. We love the parades, but there is, you know, other things going on like we'll take a minute and talk about kidney disease and make you more aware of the prevalence of kidney disease and how many ways we can prevent it. And we're very fortunate in our county once again to have a national organization who's here to help with the awareness, prevention and treatment and so much education here. We feel blessed that you guys live here and you're willing to come and join with us and be recognized and try and make people more aware of kidney disease. So that said, let me read the proclamation.

So whereas, there are an estimated 37 million Americans with kidney disease and 33 percent of American adults are at risk. And whereas it is critical that attention be brought to this often and overlooked, but increasingly common disease especially as we live older we see it.

Whereas the major risk factors associated with the ninth leading cause of death in the United States are diabetes, very common in southwestern PA, high blood pressure, family history of kidney failure and being over the age of 60. You can't deny that.

Whereas the month of March is national kidney month and on March 12th, two days from now, is national world kidney day. Whereas the National Kidney Foundation is the leading patient center organization in the United States dedicated to awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease. It is calling on all to take care of your kidneys and your overall health. Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council Member Cindy Kirk, do hereby declare March to be National Kidney Month in Allegheny County, and I recognize the National Kidney Foundation for its continued efforts to fight this

epidemic to build a brighter future for the families of Allegheny County. And I can tell you I was a dialysis nurse for several years, and so I know firsthand what patients and their families went through. We can dialyze people and elongate their life, but an artificial kidney is not the same as a real kidney and there's still a lot of health issues, a lot of medications and hard for people to work. If you're dialysis, that eats up probably all told eight hours a day, three days a week.

So it's very difficult. It's not an easy road to hoe, so we're very grateful for everything you can do to try and reduce the numbers we have. So if each of you would like to come up, we have Holly Turkovic. Holly's a National Kidney Foundation, she's the senior community outreach manager. Holly, you want to say a few words?

DR. PALEVSKY: I'm the designated speaker.

MS. KIRK: Oh, you're the designated speaker.

So let's recognize everyone. And Erin?

MS. ZALAJIC: I'm Erin Zalajic (phonetic).

MS. KIRK: Yes. And she's in National Kidney Foundation serving the Alleghenies executive director right here in our county council meeting, and Bobbie Reed, right here, our boys played baseball together a few years back, is a National Kidney Foundation kidney advocacy committee region 2 leader, the American Association of Kidney Patients Pennsylvania Ambassador. And next month we'll learn a little bit more about Bobbie's personal struggles within her family. And the actual speaker is Dr. Paul Palevsky. He's a National Kidney Foundation scientific advisory board president elect for the national board of directors and local medical advisory board member. Would you like to say a few words, please?

DR. PALEVSKY: Thank you, Councilwoman Kirk and all members of Allegheny County Council for issuing this proclamation to the National Kidney Foundation serving the Alleghenies recognizing kidney month and world kidney day. We are honored and we appreciate your recognition. As has been said, kidney disease is an underappreciated public health concern. Thirty-seven (37) million Americans have kidney disease and the majority of these Americans don't know that they even have the diagnosis. It's the ninth leading cause of death in the United States. It's growing in prevalence. As was said, one third of Americans are at risk because of high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, obesity or family history.

Think of it. Look to your right. Look to your left. Statistically you or your adjacent colleagues are at risk. While most of us think of kidney disease in terms of kidney failure, dialysis and transplantation, patients with kidney disease are also at markedly increased risk of dying of heart disease and stroke, so it's important to identify kidney disease early to mitigate these risks.

It is a public health imperative that we take action. We must make kidney disease personal and relevant to those at risk. World Kidney Day as was said is this Thursday, March 12th, and this year's theme for World Kidney Day is kidney health for everyone. This month as well the Kidney Foundation has introduced a new campaign, Are You the 33 Percent, to highlight the magnitude of that number and take the conversation about kidney health to the next level putting actionable behavior in all of our hands and prompting us to take the kidney risk quiz and become our own health advocates.

If you would like more information about kidney disease or wish to learn more about the NKF's resources and support programs, please contact the Kidney Foundation at 412-261-4115 or go online to [kidney.org](http://kidney.org). Thank you again.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11446-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Public Defenders Week in Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Member Hallam and Council Member Bennett.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. So this proclamation is to honor the hard work of the entire Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender. In particular, those who labor there and who all too often go underappreciated, undervalued, underpaid and overworked. The right to representation enshrined in the Sixth Amendment is one of the most fundamental rights we have in this society. Yet it is not automatically secured for any of us. We have to properly invest in our public defenses for it to function as needed to protect the most vulnerable from the most severe punishment the state can levy. Restricting one's liberty.

There have been huge leaps in representation at the local level, namely the initiative to represent individuals at their arraignment proceedings. Without a properly funded, staffed, organized and managed office, justice suffers.

The University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics found that nearly four out of every five of our fellow community members sitting in the Allegheny County Jail are unconvicted. Public Defenders are the best and greatest tool to secure the freedom if they are found innocent and to ensure their rights are respected, even if they are not. We should be moving to lift every probation detainer, challenging to overturn every monetary bond, and ensuring no one pleads to charges they did not commit simply to return home to their family and community.

Since Pennsylvania is still the only state in the country that does not have a state level funding system for public defense, the responsibility falls on all of us at the county especially to make sure the system is adequately supported.

This year I pledge to work with my fellow councilmembers, the county executive as well, to expand hiring, reduce both caseloads and the overall population of the jail and help our public defenders fight for every single one of their clients ensuring a more just and equitable Allegheny County for all. I truly am honored to present this to the Office of the Public Defender today.

This is a proclamation recognizing Public Defender Week. Whereas in 1963 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Gideon v. Wainwright that citizens charged with a crime who could not afford an attorney should have one provided to them and whereas in this ruling Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black wrote up the noble ideal of the criminal justice system which cannot be realized if the poor person charged with a crime has to face their accusers without a lawyer to assist them.

And whereas March 18th marks the 57th anniversary of that ruling, and in that time, lawyers, investigators, social workers and support staff have worked tirelessly to uphold the noble ideal of what Justice Black wrote.

And whereas the Allegheny Public Defender's Office is dedicated to defending their clients by providing skilled, aggressive and passionate advocacy in order to preserve the rights guaranteed to all members of our community. And whereas the Public Defender's Office defends not only its clients but the rights set forth in the Constitution of the United States.

Now therefore be it resolved that we, Allegheny County Council Members Bethany Hallam and Olivia Bennett,

do hereby recognize National Public Defenders Week in Allegheny County. In witness whereof I have here unto caused the seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 10th day of March 2020.

ATTORNEY DUGAN: Thank you very much. It's an honor to be here tonight and speak on behalf of our attorneys, our social workers, our investigators, our legal support intake staff, every member of our defense team and public defender family. So as Councilwoman noted, National Public Defender Day is celebrated on March 18th because that's the day in 1963 that the landmark decision of Gideon v. Wainwright was decided which said that all people charged with a crime are entitled to legal defense. The case of Gideon v. Wainwright laid the foundation for public defense in this country and in this commonwealth. In 1968 Pennsylvania legislature enacted the Public Defender Act ensuring that anyone facing the loss of liberty is entitled to legal representation.

The Allegheny Office of the Public Defender has a long and storied and at times troubled history, however I'm proud to say that today with the support of the county executive and the support of county manager's office and the support of county council, the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defenders is as strong as it's ever been and most of that credit, if not all of that credit, really goes to the fine men and women who really have dedicated their lives and their careers to this noble cause.

The Office of the Allegheny Public Defender has staffed and dedicated talented individuals who are deeply invested in their work and ensuring just outcomes in Allegheny County's criminal justice system. Their work deserves this recognition and I thank those responsible for this recognition, and their service deserves commendation. I'm proud to call each one of those folks a colleague and a friend.

Thank you for acknowledging our great work. Thank you for acknowledging the importance of our work as well, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we do have an expungement clinic coming up as part of our Project Reset the County Executive mentioned.

We're working with Councilman DeWitt Walton, Representative Jake Wheatley. We'll be in the Hill District on March 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Elsie Hillman auditorium at the Kauffman Center. So it's part of a broad outreach that our office is engaged in.

It's important for us to bring our services to communities, to be a part of the community, be a trusted member of that community, which is part of the many initiatives that we have now at the Public Defender's Office.

So, again, thank you. Thank you very much and thanks for having us.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The remaining proclamations and certificates will be read into the record. 11447-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 25th Anniversary of Empty Bowls, sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11448-20.

MR. BARKER: Certificate of recognition presented to Mrs. Clynich Caito upon her 100th birthday, sponsored by Council Member Palmosina.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11449-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating New Life Family Worship Center upon the occasion of its 10th anniversary, sponsored by Council Members Baker and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11450-20.

MR. BARKER: Certificates of recognition presented to Alex James Miller, Ryan Scott Pointer, Connor David Page, Scott Peter Zanella, II, Jake Michael Hanich, Ethan Zachary Cooper and Ryan Donaldson Carter upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award, sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11451-20.

MR. BARKER: Certificate of recognition presented to Christopher Thomas Wolfe upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award, sponsored by Council Members Palmiere and Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11452-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring Thursday, March 19th as ABSEL Day in Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Member Klein.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have any public comment on any Agenda items.

MR. BARKER: We have nobody signed up.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have the approval of the minutes.

MR. BARKER: We have none of those either.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll have presentation of appointments. I'd like to recommend that 11422-20 to 11436-20 go to appointment review in whole.

MS. HALLAM: Second that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded.  
All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have unfinished business. 11384-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Mario C. Browne to the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for a term ending on December 31, 2022, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: The Committee on Appointment Review met on March 3 and affirmatively recommended Mario C. Browne to the Drug Alcohol Planning Council.

Motion to approve.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Second.

MR. FUTULES: I'll second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded all those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. 11385-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Representative Dan Frankel to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council effective January 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2023, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. The Committee on Appointment Review met on March 3rd and we affirmatively recommended the appointment of Representative Dan Frankel to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Can I get a motion to approve?

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. 11387-20.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Geralyn A. Dugan to the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term ending on December 31, 2022, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: On March 3, the Committee on Appointment Review met and voted to affirmatively recommend the



reappointment of GERALYN A. DUGAN to the Mental Health Intellectual Disability Advisory Board. I would like a motion to approve.

MR. DUERR: I'll second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have liaison reports. Any liaison reports this evening? Seeing no liaison reports, we'll move on. New business. 11453-20.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing Fidelis Productions, LLC to use certain County-owned real and personal property in connection with filming a television series, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We're going to send that to Economic Development. 11454-20.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2020 submission number 02-20, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll send that to Budget and Finance. Any new business?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contracts. 11455-20.

MR. BARKER: A communication summarizing approved Executive actions for January 2020.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Need a motion.

MR. DUERR: I make a motion.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. 11456-20.

MR. BARKER: Communication summarizing approved executive actions for February 2020.

MR. DUERR: I'd like to make a motion.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have public comment on any general items.

MR. BARKER: We have two individuals signed up. First up is Gabrielle Monroe.

MS. MONROE: Good evening, everybody. Thank you for your time tonight. My name is Gabrielle Monroe, she/her. I am cofounder of Community Gone Rogue. In September of 2019, I spoke in front of the healthcare committee. I spent 27 minutes detailing exactly what's going on here in Allegheny County to both sex workers and sex trafficking victims. This is the third attempt to follow up and request a meeting. Like, what do I have to do to get a meeting to move this forward? Because if it isn't now, it is unacceptable to not have a meeting yet. I sent several emails. All emails go unanswered. A reminder of the meetings I requested.

I requested Allegheny County sanctuary status for both sex trafficking victims, sex workers and substance users. I have requested county space to lease a meeting to talk about that for a sex worker john center. I have requested a notation of police for sexual misconduct here in Allegheny County. I have requested an investigation of the Pride Court and the Pride Program also for misconduct. I have requested Allegheny County and the state and an oversight for sex trafficking victims and sex workers to have safe spaces when reporting violent crimes to the police here in Allegheny County. Currently they get arrested for sex worker related crimes and abusers go free. That is unacceptable.

I have requested a reparations fund for all folks who have been sexually assaulted by police and/or prison employees here in Allegheny County. I have also requested an anonymous hotline be set up to report police misconduct and sexual abuse here in Allegheny County. All of these requests have gone ignored. That is unacceptable. I would like to add a few more requests.

I would like a proclamation for June 2 be international whore's day. On June 2 in 1935 over 100 sex workers came together to draw attention to inhumane working conditions. All workers deserve safe working conditions. That includes whores here in Allegheny County, and I would like to also request a meeting to ban conversion therapy for sex workers here in Allegheny County.

Sex work is a career, and if we're going to be diverting careers and giving people therapy for their careers, then I suggest we start with the police because they're in a very dangerous line of work and we probably should save them from that.

This is an absolutely unacceptable to allow coerced or forced conversion therapy here in Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Next.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Dixie Tymitz.

MS. TYMITZ: If one more person says I'm Irish and proud of it, I'm going to start screaming. I'm Irish, too, but listen, that was a lot. I'm Dixie Tymitz. I live in Allegheny County here in Pittsburgh. First of all, what is a holy act? I'll tell you what isn't a holy act. This is not a holy act. Applauding, encouraging fracking and rejoicing fracking at our international airport. It is a terrible, terrible thing and we need to look at the things that are wrong with us as well as the things that are right. We cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around us. What we do, you do, makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. What you stand for, what I stand for, what any of us stands for, is what we are or will become and we need to think carefully about that reality. It is holier to say I tried but failed than it is to say I should have tried, but I didn't. Surely it is better to be defeated in the attempt to do what is right than it is to live life having never tried. To confront wrong directly is in the end --- confront wrong directly in the end is the only real answer. A voice, a voice, your voices, this is a human gift. It should be cherished and used. Powerlessness and silence go together. What we don't do can be a destructive force. It's not dying for a cause that is hard. It is living up to it that is difficult. We need to act as if what we do makes a difference. It does. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So moved.

Meeting concluded at 6:40 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

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

Dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter