

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas 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 "Liv" Bennett	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 - 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, Legislative Services

MR. MACEY: We are now going to open this meeting. We're calling it to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer and/or reflection.

MS. HALLAM: Can you guys hear me?  
(Pledge of Allegiance.)  
(Silent Prayer or Reflection.)

MR. MACEY: Thank you. First of all, I'd like to tell everybody in the viewing audience as well as the, my colleagues, please follow CDC's recommendations. Wear your masks, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, and try to keep social distancing alive. Roll call, sir.

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. KLEIN: Here.  
MR. BARKER: 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: All 15 members are present or on the phone.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Proclamations and certificates, 11551-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Ashley Marina for her singing/songwriting skills and advancing into the next stage of America's Got Talent, sponsored by Council Member Catena.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. 11552-20.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation honoring Mrs. Margaret Ree Watson upon her 100th birthday, sponsored by Council Member Walton.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Public comment on agenda items?

MR. BARKER: We have none on agenda. They're all off agenda tonight.

MR. MACEY: Approval of minutes.

MR. BARKER: We have none of those.

MR. MACEY: Okay.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. We do have one. 11541-20, a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th, 2020 regular meeting of Council.

MR. MACEY: Motion?

MR. FUTULES: Motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Motion to approve by Councilman Futules.

MR. PALMOSINA: Second.

MR. MACEY: Second by Councilman Palmosina. Presentation of appointments.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

MR. MACEY: Unfinished business. Committee on budget and finance, second reading, 11543-20.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2020, Submission 05-20, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

MR. MACEY: Councilman Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Councilman Macey. The committee on budget and finance met on Tuesday, June 30th and affirmatively recommended its amendment that will allow the County to receive funding for COVID-19 related costs that were not previously budgeted. These funds cannot be used as revenue offsets, and municipalities within the County are eligible to receive funding. I make a motion to approve.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

MR. MACEY: Motion made by Palmosina, seconded by Councilman Palmiere. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes respond.)

MR. MACEY: We have to do this by roll call. Roll call. I'm sorry. Roll call.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?  
MS. BENNETT: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?  
MR. DUERR: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?  
MS. HALLAM: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, nos zero. The bill passes.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Liaison reports? Seeing none, we'll go to new business, ordinances and resolutions.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, this is Councilman DeMarco. I'd like to make a motion to amend the agenda.

MR. MACEY: And one --- one second, please.

MR. BAKER: Second.

MR. MACEY: Okay. And what would you like to amend, sir?

MR. DEMARCO: I would like to introduce an ordinance tonight requiring the health department to provide Allegheny County Council with the dataset around the reporting that they do that summarizes the COVID-19 information. I think all of us represent the constituents out there. We're being asked questions about the data that's coming out. For example, today there were six deaths. You know, if they took place from April 6th to June 21st, and you have people out there that think six people died last night. I think the Allegheny County Council should have access to this information so that we're able to serve our constituents. So I want to introduce that ordinance this evening.

MR. MACEY: Okay. We'll --- we're going to have a roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: Okay. On the motion?

MR. MACEY: Correct.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to amend the agenda, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam? Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: There we are. Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 14, nos 1. The agenda is hereby amended.

MR. MACEY: Okay. That will be sent to Health and Human Services Committee.

MR. BARKER: All right.

MR. MACEY: Great. Ordinances and resolutions, new business.

MR. BARKER: Correct. On number 11556-20, an ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments of Section 2104.10, Commercial Fuel Oil, of the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article 21, Air Pollution Control, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

MR. MACEY: Okay. That'll be sent to Health and Human Services.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mr. Vice President?

MR. MACEY: Yes, sir, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: There are some open mics on Council right now, so members might want to watch out what they're saying. So I just wanted to point that out, Mr. Vice President.

MR. MACEY: Okay, thank you. I hope everybody who has --- is on the phone and who has their mics open are cautious of what they're talking about. It --- it can be, you know, politically a problem. Okay. New business. Motions. I believe we have a non-agenda item motion by Ms. Hallam. Ms. Hallam, would you like to ---

MS. HALLAM: Yes, sir.

MR. MACEY: --- speak on that?

MS. HALLAM: Sure. So this is a motion to extend the eviction moratorium. As most of you know, we don't have the authority to do it, so that's why this is under a motion, asking the courts to extend it. It is supposed to expire this Friday. And since the emergency declaration is still in place, I think that we should ask the courts to extend it until at least December 1st.

MR. MACEY: Well, I think that the information is out there. The guidelines and the rules are in place, and for us to send something to the courts or something to

the general public about doing this, I don't know if that's in a good place for landlords or even some of the rental people. So I think we can have a short discussion on this, and I'd like to open it up. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Vice President Macey. Nothing to --- nothing to share.

MR. MACEY: Now, does everybody have this motion for what --- everybody comfortable with this, with the motion?

(No response.)

MR. MACEY: Okay. Ms. Bennett, would you like to discuss how you feel about it?

MS. BENNETT: I want to thank Councilwoman Hallam for introducing this motion. I agree that we should be doing --- I mean, as council, as Councilwoman Hallam said, we don't have jurisdiction to make this decision, so we're asking, you know, for the court to consider doing this to protect the --- our constituents of Allegheny County. So I'm in support of it, and I thank Councilwoman Hallam. And thank you, Mr. Vice President, for giving me the floor.

MR. MACEY: Okay. Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Chairman --- or President (sic) Macey. In regards to the motion, I think that it is well intended, and I think that we have a lot of people who we don't --- or if the courts don't do something are going to be stuck here. We all know that this COVID-19 pandemic has lasted longer than anticipated. There are people out there that don't have jobs, that haven't been able to get unemployment that run the risk of being tossed out of their homes or their apartments or, you know, wherever they're trying to house themselves and their families. I would have felt more comfortable with three months, rather than the six. And if we would add something in there, urging them to work with the landlords as well, but I'm supportive of this because we need to do something to help the people that are suffering.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. MACEY: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes, very quickly. I just wanted to mention that I do know that some of our --- some of the State Senators recently asked the Governor to --- to ask the State Supreme Court to also extend the moratorium statewide until August 31st. So I think in that spirit as

well, I think this is something that other government bodies are looking, or are asking the courts to do as well. So I would ask my other Council Members to consider that as well when they vote on this tonight. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Well, okay. Well, I --- I would say I'm the complete opposite, being the fact that I am a landlord. What had happened during March and when some of my tenants were on unemployment, in fact, they hadn't even gotten their unemployment for a while, I made arrangements with them personally to hold off on their rent until their unemployment compensation came in. And we all agreed at that time, but what had happened was during the time of the unemployment, they actually gave the people \$600 more per week on unemployment, and a lot of my tenants were actually making more money on unemployment than they were working, including my employees actually. And during this time, the federal government came out and gave a \$1,200 stimulus per person, for husband and wife in a household. And if you had, say two children, you would get another \$1,000, which would have given you \$3,400. I --- I think that the people, for the most part, that were honorable enough to pay their rent have caughten (sic) up, or --- or may be still a little behind, but doing much better than they were because of the compensation from the federal government and the unemployment office. Now, if there's somebody that is two, three, four months behind in their rent today, they're not going to catch up. Those are the ones that are going to take advantage of their landlord, and not pay their rent maybe until December according to this. So now you've got landlords that own property, that some of them have mortgages of their own. And now, you have someone that's purposely not paying their rent so they can get over and take advantage of the situation. So you --- you've got both sides of the coin here. You have people that really need help, and then you have the ones that are taking advantage of the situation. So in that case, you know, being the landlord that I am, I don't support this. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. Futules. Ms. Hallam, please?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. Just --- just be --- I just want to remind my colleagues that there are still lots of folks across the county who have not received a dime from unemployment yet. And also have the State Rental and

Mortgage Release Program just opened for applications today. So there are a lot of folks who will be applying for assistance, but will not be receiving it in time to make the Friday deadline that currently exists for eviction moratorium. So I just wanted to add that that's why it's so important that we pass this. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No comment at this time. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

This --- this is the first wave of the virus or so we've come to understand. And it's also the first wave of the --- of the surplus suffering that so many have experienced up to this point, and will no doubt continue to experience, so I support this.

MR. MACEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Klein. Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: I support this also, Mr. Vice President, and I have no other comment. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: I just want to thank Councilwoman Hallam for presenting this, and I will be a yes vote. So thank you.

MR. MACEY: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Thank you, Councilwoman Hallam. I'm a yes. Thanks.

MR. MACEY: Okay. Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: I think that far too many residents of Allegheny County continue to be adversely affected by the COVID pandemic. And I was going to share that there's a rent and mortgage relief legislation that opens quickly. But that doesn't mitigate the immediate danger that residents face. So while I have some concerns about the length of the duration, I will not allow --- I will not let the desire for perfection outweigh the need of good. So I will be a yes.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. Walton. Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Thank you, Vice President Macey. I'd like to go on the record and say that in my practice, I represent both landlords and tenants in various aspects of the landlord-tenant statute. And I'd just like everyone to be aware of that position before I vote.

MR. MACEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Zavarella. President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I'm obviously supportive of it as well. I mean, this is an unprecedented crisis, this COVID-19. And unfortunately, like I said before, it's not going to get any better any time soon, and I believe that this is a step in the right direction for urging the courts to take this step. So thank you, Mr. Vice President.

MR. MACEY: Thank you. And although I do agree with Councilman DeMarco, this is a precedent --- precedent setting times. And I don't think that three months is going to make a difference. So roll call please.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. I did not hear a motion, a second, or ---.

MR. MACEY: I'm sorry. May I have a motion?

MS. HALLAM: I'll motion.

MR. MACEY: Okay.

MR. PALMOSINA: I'll make a second.

MR. MACEY: Okay. A motion has been made by Councilwoman Hallam, and seconded by Councilman Palmosina. All those in favor, roll call.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Abstain.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: I abstain.  
MR. BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 13, nos zero with two abstentions. The motion passes.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, everybody. I appreciate your comments, and Ms. Hallam, I appreciate your motion. Okay. Notification of contracts, 11555-20.

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

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MR. PALMOSINA: Second.

MR. MACEY: Motion made by Councilman Walton, seconded by Councilman Palmosina. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes respond.)

MR. MACEY: Okay. Public comment on general items.

MR. BARKER: We actually have several. They're all relatively brief, so with president's --- Presiding Officer's permission, I would like to not run the clock for each one.

First up is Diane Jackson of 17 Sheridan Court in Pittsburgh. She wishes to support the prohibition of less lethal munitions in the city. There have been many incidences of permanent, life limiting injuries to people. It's respectfully dangerous in crowd controlled situations where children, elderly, and disabled people are involved. I understand property rights are important to many. Use of these weapons amount to punishment without a trial, representation of rational consideration by their peers. And in the hands of someone who is frightened, angry, or prejudice these weapons are criminal in their intent.

Next up is Brian Englert in 710 Corbin Street, West Mifflin. Last month, 5,000 PPE masks were donated to county jail for officer use in my wife Tina's name. I'm a corrections officer and masks were donated for officer use from an established law enforcement charity. Instead of issuing the masks to officers, an investigation was done on the matter. The investigation concluded, and the warden turned the masks over to the emergency operations center rather than provide those masks for employees as

intended. I wish for the County Safety Committee Chair to investigate this matter. As first responders, we --- the need for officers to have multiple masks at times is critical, and that was the intention of the donation. We have --- we have seen a huge --- we have been issued substandard cloth masks before using our own, but the masks were needed.

Next up is Barbara Gerhard-Jones, 5619 Darlington Road in Pittsburgh. The importance of supporting in legislating paid sick leave and paid safe leave cannot be stressed enough, especially during a pandemic. And really, the time is in all citizens' interest for workers who are sick to stay home and have time to recuperate before returning to work. Because of the economic hardship of taking time off from work, paid sick leave allows workers to look after themselves and their families. Similarly, paid safe leave gives time to women or men who have been abused and need legal help.

Next up is Sherilyn Saporito of 1246 Duffield Street, also in the City of Pittsburgh. I'm writing in support of the ban of the use of less lethal devices, rubber bullets, tear gas and beanbag rounds in Allegheny County. While these devices are less lethal than guns, they still can cause death, injury and illness. Under the Geneva protocol, teargas use is banned and more, yet Pittsburgh police admitted to using it on our citizens this month. A study published in the BMJ, a medical journal, in 2017 found that three percent of people hit by rubber bullets died of the injury, and 15 percent of the 1,984 people studied were permanently injured by the rubber bullets. These aren't nerf guns. I urge you to support amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division Five entitled Health and Sanitation due to the creation of a new Chapter 600 entitled Less Lethal Devices in order to protect public health by eliminating the use of certain devices within Allegheny County.

Next up is Marcia Bandes, P.O. Box 8155 in the City of Pittsburgh. Paid Sick Leave Act Ordinance 11481-20, a health relation endorsed by 28 area organizers supports the counties efforts to create a paid sick day act. Given the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask the County Council and its committee on Health and Human Services to act swiftly to safeguard public health by expanding paid sick day protections for all workers in Allegheny County. We also ask your support for amendments

to expand safe leave to victims of domestic violence, and temporarily extend public health emergency leave for Allegheny County workers. As an advocate for women and girls, and a lead organizer in the establishment of the City of Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission, we know the government has a crucial role in --- play in creating policies that ensure its citizens can flourish productively. Given this current public health crisis, paid sick days are not optional. They are a necessary public health policy to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please do what you can to expeditiously resolve the issue. We look forward to your leadership.

Next up is Thomas Puzio of 2763 Ridge Road in South Park. I never paid much attention to the Council before, but now that you're interfering in my life, I plan to pay more attention. The first idiotic rule you passed was not allowing me to drink an alcoholic beverage with my meal at a restaurant. This is asinine since I can order any other beverage. The second is to restrict the police from having the ability to disperse a crowd with teargas and other non-lethal means, putting officers' lives at risk. If they were peaceful, there would be no reason to disperse them. Don't --- don't turn into little dictators and let the power given to you by people like me go to your head. The mob does not represent the majority of the residents in the county.

Next up is Robert Stanton of 2 Georgian Place in the City of Pittsburgh. As we celebrated the birth of our nation, local businesses are dying, and local employees are desperate to try to survive, to pay the rent, and feed themselves. These businesses and employees were out of business on one of the busiest holidays for restaurants and bars because of the misguided action of an unelected bureaucrat. No other county closed. Rather than crack down on those establishments that violated the rules, the Health Department threw the baby out with the bath water. The City of Pittsburgh tried successfully to address fireworks through a vigorous enforcement action rather than ban. It is time for you and Mr. Fitzgerald to show some leadership and courage to repeal this ridiculous ban and defund the Health Department.

Next up is Gerald Montano of 1700 Middle Road in Glenshaw. An ordinance on the TLGBQIA protections against healthcare discrimination. I speak on this topic as a Board Certified pediatrician who has been taking care of

TLGBQIA teens and young adults for the last six years. Many TLGBQIA individuals are at high risk for poor health outcomes due to their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity. In fact, according to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, one out of five transgender people report being denied healthcare due to their gender identity. As a result, many delay getting healthcare until it becomes an emergency. When the Obama administration HHS ruling dictated that TLGBQIA individuals cannot be denied their right to healthcare, this has opened the doors for healthcare across many TLGBQIA individuals. Thanks to this rule, I have seen many transgender and gender diverse youth have increasing access to health --- the healthcare that they need and deserve, although more work needs to be done to guarantee full access. Additionally, at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, TLGBQIA individuals, especially TLGBQIA people of color, are at high risk not only of getting the virus comparative to their cisgender, heterosexual peers, but are --- but are also --- but also will delay their healthcare due to the pandemic and due to the fear of being discriminated against. The recent declaration by the Trump administration to strike the protection rule down has created a panic and worry among the TLGBQIA community. Allegheny County, who has been increasingly diverse in accepting these to protect the most vulnerable of their citizens, I urge Allegheny County council to establish a rule that would prohibit medical workers from discriminating against patients due to their gender identity and/or sexual orientation so that everyone will have the right to healthcare. Thank you for your time, and I hope Allegheny County Council will do all they can to protect the TLGBQIA community.

Next up, and last, is Kacie Kidd, 3 Bayard Road, Apartment 7 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm a physician in Pittsburgh caring for LGBTQ youth and young adults in our region. It's come to my attention that the Council will be discussing an ordinance to forbid discrimination in medical settings for LGBTQ people, and that this is a result of the recent move by the federal government to remove non-discrimination protections. I'm writing to you today to provide additional context for the need for such protections. LGBTQ people face significant discrimination in medical settings. This discrimination ranges from use of offensive language and failing to allow loved ones to

be present in the medical setting when requested, to unnecessary examinations and outright refusal for some or all medically indicated care. According to a 2017 survey from the Center for American Progress, eight percent of LGBTQ people from across the United States said a healthcare provider refused to see them due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation. This number jumped to 29 percent for transgender Americans. The US transgender survey of 2015 found that 33 percent of those surveyed --- surveyed had at least one negative experience with a healthcare provider in the last year, including being refused treatment and being verbally or physically assaulted. Unsurprisingly, 23 percent of respondents to that survey did not see a doctor when needed due to fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, these surveys reflect a time when the federal government afforded critical, non-discrimination protection. The reality is likely different now and will continue to worsen for the LGBTQ community. In my work, particularly with transgender youth and their families, I can definitively state that my patients have experienced this kind of discrimination. Young people and their families have told me that they've had pharmacies refuse to fill medications for the purpose of gender affirmation. They have had primary care providers and therapists who refuse to see them to discuss questions about gender identity or provide referrals to specialists in this area. My patients face significant health disparities with my transgender patients experiencing up to three times higher rates of depression, and four times higher rates of suicidality than non-transgender peers according to a national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. This group of amazing young people deserve every support we can provide, and that includes assurances that they will not be discriminated against for who they are or who they love. LGBTQ people deserve to be protected from discrimination in all settings. It seems to me that protection from discrimination in medical settings should be an absolute minimum expectation. I strongly urge you to support any ordinance that helps protects those who are marginalized in our community from discrimination, particularly in the medical setting.

We also had a few individuals sign up who we did not receive comments from. Dana Stanley of 252 Butler Street in Pittsburgh and Michelle Cowell of 5124 Margaret

Morrison Street, also in Pittsburgh, as well as Shontay Porter, 3052 Bergman Street in Pittsburgh.

MR. MACEY: Thank you very much, Jared.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. We do have one individual present. Elaine Cummings is here in person, and she did sign up as well. She's from 153 Trump Road in Cheswick.

MR. MACEY: Elaine, would you please come to the podium?

MS. CUMMINGS: It's a little disconcerting having those addresses read with open mic. Well, good evening. My name is Elaine Cummings, and I reside in West Penn Township.

MR. MACEY: Could you move the --- the mic over a little bit, please? Make sure it's on.

MS. CUMMINGS: My purpose here tonight was to support the passage of 11542, and get it to a vote prior to you going on recess. I am so happy that you've moved this forward, and there can be perhaps no lapse in coverage for those who will lose their coverage in the transgender community when the ACH repeals go through because of the current administration. Several months ago, the Council heard testimony from numerous healthcare professionals, parents, patients, and individuals regarding the truth, albeit an inconvenient truth for many, but nonetheless, truth of those identifying in the LGBTQIA+2 community. It is not a choice. It is simply who they are and who they were created to be, and their struggle to be authentic and live their truth goes on. Councilmen were made aware of the fact that when you dehumanize any group of individuals, and especially those faced by transgender folks, there are harmful consequences of low self-esteem, self-harm, cutting, high rates of attempted suicide, and actual suicide, drug and alcohol abuse. The list goes on and on. We've been taught that gender is a binary thing with a male and female on the ends. We know by professionals in the --- in the medical and psychiatric fields that it is actually a spectrum, and there are a lot of places to fall in between that. And I'd like to use any of the rest of the time to address some of the concerns, like Mrs. Kirk's, that was --- would health professionals prescribe things that were unnecessary? The answer is no. It's actually in reverse. If you --- if it's not apparent that you were born female, and because you have transitioned to male, you still may

need a breast exam, okay? Because you know, what they do with their bodies is their thing. And it all differs. If you are a trans-female, you may still need a testicular exam. And --- and the insurances won't cover that unless they're made to, basically. But that doesn't mean that those people can be denied those coverages. So the fight goes on for medicines. If you --- when my niece was still legally declared male, couldn't get estrogen covered and had to pay out of pocket for it. Now that they have the legal name change and gender marker change, they, the health insurance, covers it. This is all only due because of them deciding to take the transgender out of the ACH. So please support this bill, and get it passed. And let Allegheny County be a light and a beacon to those counties around in Beaver and Butler and Westmoreland, that we will not discriminate because of how people identify themselves.

MR. MACEY: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. CUMMINGS: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Appreciate it. Does --- any other councilperson or person in the meeting would like to say anything?

(No response.)

MR. MACEY: Okay. Well, you know, I want to give everybody a chance.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Make a motion to adjourn.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to adjourn.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

MR. MACEY: Motion made and seconded. Meeting's adjourned.

MEETING CONCLUDED

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter