

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	Chair, 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  
436 Grant Street  
Fourth Floor Gold Room  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 - 4:59 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services

Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor

Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff

PRESIDENT CATENA: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

(Pledge of allegiance.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have a moment of silence.

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Please be seated. Jared, please take roll.

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 present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. At this point in time we'll now have the chief executive's quarterly address. Mr. Chief Executive.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of Council. Good to see you --- a number of you able to make it in and we'll start off, obviously with COVID which has dominated just about every aspect of our lives over the last year plus. The good news is the vaccines seem to be going much more robustly in our county. As of this morning we had vaccinated or we had put 621,500 shots in arms in Allegheny County. Over 206,000 people have been fully vaccinated. 208,000 people have been partially vaccinated. What the experts kind of say is they'd like to have 70, 80 percent vaccinated (sic) to have what they call herd immunity. In our county that would be about a million adults. It would be about 800,000 of those would be 80 percent which would be about 1.6 million shots because obviously you need two shots to get there so we're almost 40 percent along those lines.

In the month of March we did about 400,000 shots in arms and with more robust delivery coming we hope to do obviously more than that in the month of April. Maybe we'll get to 600 or 700,000, but we'll see. An average of about 13,000 a day through the month of March.

The county itself, the county health department, gets approximately ten percent of the vaccine distribution that comes in to the county. About two thirds of it goes to our health care facilities UPMC and AHN, about 16, 17 percent goes to the pharmacies and then the rest goes to the FQHCs and a few other smaller operations. Kind of the one thing I think is concerning and you've seen this from nationally from the CDC director. Dr. Walensky mentioned this yesterday. The cases are going up again. That's the bad news. It looks like we're on a --- possibly a third surge in our region and fourth surge in the country. The good news from that standpoint though is the hospitalizations and fatality rates are not what they were during previous surges just to put an example.

Through the first seven or eight months of the pandemic Allegheny County never exceeded 100 deaths in any one month and then in December we had almost 425 fatalities. January even more, 450 I believe or, excuse me, 475 started to come down in February to 215 and thus far the month of March because obviously we're in the last day 94 fatalities, so we see while the cases are going up the fact that more and more people are becoming vaccinated is helpful and it looks like over 70 percent, maybe close to 75 percent of the over 65 population has had at least one shot of the vaccine.

I mentioned about the county getting ten percent of the distribution. The one thing Dr. Bogen and her team have focused on is trying to kind of fill in the gaps of communities and individuals who might not be connected to the healthcare systems or pharmacy. They spent a lot of time going into senior buildings at our public housing facilities and senior high rises for people who might not have another ability to get out there. The county health department also is running clinics. They ran one in Monroeville for a number of months. They're now in three different locations in Castle Shannon. The volunteer fire department in Ross Township, the community center and the central Baptist church in the hill district, Reverend Grigsby's facility in the hill so obviously it seems to be that the cases while they are going up seem to be happening with the younger people who obviously have much more ability to, you know, not have the very dire consequences of people in the older age group do as well but we still are urging people to wear their masks, to socially distance. It's almost like we're getting there.

We're maybe a month or two away and I'll talk about some of the things we're going to be doing in the summer months with the parks in just a minute, but I just want to stay on what the health department, you know, continues to do.

The second thing that I think we can all be very, very proud of is for the first time, again, back to the health department, for the first time in our history

all eight monitors, air quality monitors in the county came into compliance particularly with the liberty monitor which has been the most stubborn and difficult one to get into compliance. The last three years as of December 31st they're under the 12 on the PO 2.5 issue so it is something --- I think that is something we can be proud of, but I will also say that there are still challenges out there.

For example, we see a lot more with climate change dealing with inversions that have caused certain spikes for certain periods of time. Not like it had been in previous times but for maybe six, seven, eight, ten hours depending on how long these inversions have occurred and what we're seeing over time is these inversions are happening much more frequently so I've asked the health department to really look into what can we do. It appears right now talking to some of them that the law, quote, unquote, from the EPA and the DEP hasn't really caught up to what these inversions and climate change has caused, so I think that's something that we're going to have to work a little bit with our federal and state partners to have that happen, but it's kind of a good news, bad news.

The good news is we're certainly making progress. The bad news is we still have a way to go and we're going to continue to work on it. I want to ask the health department to do everything they can to ramp up and make sure that happens. Again, along the lines of COVID we know the implication it has had on our economy.

We know last year we got some CARES money that you are able to distribute and appropriate to some of our human service, volunteer fire departments, municipalities that had charge of the cost, health department obviously and one of the big things that we dealt with was households that we're in arrears on their rent and those type of things and what we we're able to do last year was provide for 3,600 households an average of about \$4,000 each to help them with their rent.

The irony is we're in round two. The ARP that was signed into law a couple of weeks ago, they've opened

up --- as of 3/15 the applications and it looks that's exactly the same kind of number. About 3,600 folks who have applied and are going through that process. We were given \$80 million to try to deal with that and the folks will be going through those applications and dealing with that as quickly as they can.

The other process --- the thing that came about recently was a CHIRP plan. It's called CHIRP and it's the hospitality relief package that was put into place. Obviously the hospitality industry, restaurants, et cetera, again, have been adversely affected in a severe way maybe more than any industry over the last year.

In the economic development department thus far again it opened up on March 15. The applications, so far 759 applications have been received. 641 have been deemed eligible and they think the award or average distribution will be about 25,000 to the restaurant folks who will be applying that line.

The other thing, again, along with economic development and health is the blight money that this council approved a while back and Councilman Macey was one of the sponsors of that. There's about \$1.3 million that's going to be available and applications can be applied for through the end of April so by April 30 anybody that wants to apply for that funding that was put into place last year will be able to do that.

Also want to get the word out to youth in your districts that you represent the Learn and Earn Program which has been very successful over the last couple years. Applications are open now, and that is for folks who are in the ages of 14 to 24. It's a six week program. Last year we had about 1,600 youth that applied to the program. On average they made close to \$1,000 over that six-week program and, since the program was put into place in 2016, over 9,000 youth have applied to internships for the summer where young people can see what it's like to work in various jobs that they might want to move into as they move into adulthood, and over that time about \$8 million worth of payroll was given out during that time.

I mentioned the CARES money and the ARP money. A lot of that money that has been distributed goes to our neediest individuals mostly for our human service department. Also announced over the last couple of months that Marc Cherna longtime director --- I think he was the longest serving director in Allegheny County --- was retired. Marc actually predates this government. He goes back to the county commissioner days 25 years or so. Just done an absolutely tremendous job, had a national reputation. I tell you when I went to, you know, meet with some of the county executives around the country they would often point to the work that the human service department did here in Allegheny County. The same as in Harrisburg no matter which governor was in place or which secretary of health and human services, they would point to what was going on in Allegheny County is a model of some of the things that could be done.

Erin Dalton was appointed the director. Erin's been there for 13 years. She has been there with Marc, and we're just as excited at some of the work she's done around data and some of the things she's been able to put into place. It's been tremendous so we're excited to have here there and also the human service department was recently awarded a \$21.8 million grant from HUD, the Housing and Urban Development, around homelessness and that will be able to fund approximately 65 projects using 20 different agencies to be able to do that so we're excited about that.

Another change along personnel, Coleman McDonough, the superintendent of county police also announced his retirement. Coleman McDonough came out of retirement to come work here and be part of the administration, just, again, did a tremendous job. Not as many years as Marc obviously, but in his long career he had a very distinguished career at many levels, the municipal, the state and his last one being here as the superintendent of the county police. His ability to work with all of the municipal police office departments, the state police, federal. I mean, just a great, great



leader. He's going to be replaced by Chris Kearns. Chris is going to be the new superintendent of the county police. Chris a long-time member of the force so he knows and has worked with Coleman all those many years, and again, we're excited about Chris.

The other announcement along personnel is a sad one. Kevin Evanto, long-time marketing director, actually created the marketing department here to be able to market some of the things that we do around the parks and our concerts, and trails and the weddings that we're able to book at this courthouse and some of our parks, unfortunately Kevin passed away a little while ago and again just did a wonderful, wonderful job both in the previous administration. He was the communication director for County Executive Onorato and then moved in to become the head of marketing here under my administration, and again, something that was new that we wanted to get the word out and he did a great job. Some of the videos you would see on Instagram and social media were a lot of the brain child of what Kevin was able to do.

Kelsey Dowd has been appointed the marketing director. Kelsey has worked here for a number of years and we're excited about, you know, her opportunity and what she brings to the table.

I want to talk about a major initiative that we did in the first quarter and you probably read a little bit about it. The announcement that we put out is Allegheny County is not going to be using the grid to provide our lights, our heating and our cooling and our electricity here. We are going to be using our rivers.

We are going to negotiate --- we have negotiated a deal with a company to build a hydro plant on the Emsworth Lock and Dam on the Ohio River, and that will be providing our energy to run our courthouse, our office buildings, jail, the Kanes, our park buildings, the ice rinks, et cetera, et cetera. All the things that we have. It's a commitment I think we're, you know, glad to make to dealing with sustainability and the things that we want to see over time. Along those lines county manager and the

county parks department recently are installing two miles worth of solar lights along Corrigan Drive in South Park. For those of you that live in that neck of the woods it's a very, very heavily travelled by bike, by walk, by jog, I mean, it's packed all the time and certainly during COVID so many people have used it. It's a \$700,000 project to be able to put solar lights there. We also are going to have some solar lights going in at North Park not to that level, but certainly it's a interest and it's a commitment that the county manager and parks department, you know, want to continue to make and will continue to do so.

Also wanted to --- as we continue along those lines talking about our work with our friends in the municipal government, we didn't have the award this year or the event this year that we normally have, but the banner communities award that we give to counties or to communities municipalities, over 68 have now joined or awarded banner communities. We're glad to see that move forward. And again, hopefully next year we'll be able to have the banquet again. I know a number of you participated in that over the years.

Oh, I also wanted to just briefly mention that Community College is going to be going back this fall to in-person learning. Kind of follows along the line I think some of our other major universities, Pitt, CMU and Duquesne and others have made that announcement as we move forward into the Fall, they're going try to get back to, you know, again, somewhat normal of --- we don't know what normal's going to be, but whatever normal might be as we move into that area.

Also today the Airport Authority announced five new destinations. The third one to be having with Southwest and United. Those destinations are Hilton Head, South Carolina, Portland, Maine, Charleston, South Carolina, Pensacola, Florida and I think that --- and Myrtle Beach. Those are the five that are going to be going forward and let me now open it up to questions that you guys might have.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Mr. Executive. I'd like to begin with some questions. Actually, there's been a lot between you and I about paid sick days. Obviously over the past year you got Council has been obviously working on legislation concerning the paid sick leave or the paid sick time off and we've heard from a number of citizens and a number of groups or what have you that obviously they would like this to come to Allegheny County and what I believe to be is there's a fundamental difference of opinion basically on implementation or the how you get there versus the end product, per se.

Obviously, I think we both agree that the citizens of Allegheny County deserve paid sick days, so I'd like to give you an opportunity to explain what you're thinking for the time line, what you're thinking of committing to and what you expect the final product to look like.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Sure. And I know it's been something obviously discussed in council. It's obviously something I've been working on as well. We put a group together. A number of members of council were part of that group both from business, labor, community, et cetera, earlier this year began working on that, and I was supportive of it. I said that to you in the veto letter that you received a week or so ago. I think we're on the same page that we want to get to the end result. It's how do we get there.

And again, I understand. I sat in those seats for 12 years. I know the pressures and some of the things that you often have to do. What I'm interested in doing, though, is doing something that works and something that will hold --- withstand the legal challenges that we know could come. The city passed one a couple years ago. They were sent to litigation. It took a number of years. It got struck down in local court, common pleas court. It was affirmed to be struck down in commonwealth court and then supreme court reversed the decision of the two lower court rulings, but in doing that they laid out a process and I believe that process was enumerated by the county

solicitor in how that has to happen and like many of the rules and regulations that this council has approved over the last few years --- and I'm thinking of things like vaping, lead testing, the restaurant grading and there's probably a few others that are slipping my mind right now. Things along those lines need to originate at the board of health, and then once the board of health passes whatever regulations --- rules and regulations they have, it comes to council for consideration for an up or down vote and I would ask in my letter --- and you saw the communication that I sent to you. I have asked the health department to take this up and they will. They said they would. Chairman Harrison as well as Dr. Bogen have indicated that they will be taking that up at their next meeting which is in May. They'll vote through their normal process, and I'm going to ask them to try to get them to you in well delivered time. Not to delay and not to move forward.

The one thing I will say that, you know, I could have taken the path of least resistance in some way, signed the bill, but what would have happened is there would have been a legal challenge. And then once that legal challenge occurred, none of the other things could happen and who knows how long that would take. It could take a number of months. I don't think it would take two or three years like the first time because it's now settled law, but it would have slowed down the actual implementation of the process that ultimately will occur once the health department, you know, puts something together, brings it to council, council approves it and then up to my desk for signature.

So I hope we get there because I think we're in agreement on most --- just about --- I would say well over 90 percent of some of the things that we talked about so that's what I'd like to see happen and, again, you'll make a decision on whether you want to do this. This body will consider that and we'll go from there.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I hope that answers your ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A few follow up questions if you'll indulge me.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Sure.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I guess --- can it still be challenged? Even if it goes through the health department and it's written through the health department, can it still be challenged at that point in time?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It can always be challenged. Let me just, you know --- and again, in the letter that the solicitor or I sent to you begins with this statement. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that paid sick leaves --- paid sick leave ordinances are a legitimate exercise of authority of a measure to promote disease prevention and control. That said the court essentially laid out a process set forth in the disease prevention and control law and the local health administration law, L-A-H-L, as it was referred to, that they must be followed in order to exercise such authority. In short, in the case of Allegheny County, that process must begin with the Allegheny County Health Department and then proceed to County Council and the County Executive. Simply put, it must be done in that order.

Certainly anything is subject to legal challenge. There is no question about that, but I think the fact that the Supreme Court has been very clear in their determination. Now, could there be a new supreme court in years coming? That could always occur because I believe if I remember right it was a four, three vote, so it was a very close vote in the Supreme Court. So again, anything could be challenged, but to be as challenge-proof as we can make it, I think this is the best way to do it.

The last thing I also want to not have happen was to give people some sort of false hope or some false protection that they might have had, had I signed the bill, and then it went to court and somebody could, you know, be vulnerable. I didn't want that to happen.

So we want it to be strong, we want it to withstand legal challenges, and I think the solicitor's

done a good job in researching and going through that process.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So hopefully we're hoping that it can withstand a legal challenge at this point if it does go through the health department. Obviously, there's no guarantees obviously like you said, but we're hopeful that it would withstand that legal challenge if it was so brought.

I don't mean to press you back on this issue a little bit more, but the timeframe. I know you were saying about going to the health department. What more did you think on timeframe? I mean, sometime summer or --- I know it's hard for you to say.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It's hard to give a guarantee, and the health department's obviously got a lot of things going on with COVID. I talk about the air issues they're really wrestling with and getting the resources to do their --- among other things that we're going to have to deal with.

I think by the end of the year it will be done, and I'm hopeful maybe by fall that that could happen, so again they're going to take this up. They've indicated they're going to take this up at their next meeting. It will go out for comment and whether to do a public hearing. I'm not sure that process and then come back for their next meeting hopefully to be voted on and then sent over to you hopefully sometime this summer.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Executive. I'll open it up to anyone else that has questions.

Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I'd like to piggyback on what we just discussed if I can. You know, I really do support the paid sick leave as well, but I feel that it should be more of a state issue because I think going county by county would be improbable. The outskirts of this county where one business would pay and the other wouldn't depending on, you know, if it's such a health issue, it should be a statewide issue or even national

issue if that's the case, but I just feel that in a county specifically that puts a --- it changes the bar for many business operating.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I don't disagree. I think it should be a national --- and actually last year one of the reasons we were able to not really take it up last year was nationally they did pass as part of legislation protection --- paid sick leave on a national level and then this year with the ARP program they passed tax credits that would, again, allow businesses to be able to provide that type of --- you know, that type of benefit. Again, they --- you know, yes, I don't disagree. I wish the federal would do it. I wish the statewide would do it, but again, I think there's some broad support for the legislation that was considered by council, even the business community. Many members do that. Many members already provide it for their employees, so it'll move forward.

So again, the health department will take this up and then you guys will get it back and do with it what you will.

MR. FUTULES: I think it's a position of this council to actually promote it at the state level with resolutions or motions to actually get it on that particular level. I think that's a great idea for us to do.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: There's a lot of things we'd like to see the state do. I agree.

MR. FUTULES: You understand where I'm coming from?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Sure.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else?  
Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, President Catena. County Executive Fitzgerald, thank you for taking a whole true to form here in vetoing this because I said at the last meeting if we want to deliver paid sick leave to these people, the folks that are looking for help, the

quickest way to do this is to go through the health department. So I appreciate you trying to say in short that that's indeed, in fact, what to do so that it can withstand challenges and potentially deliver these folks the help that they're seeking.

I talk about the COVID-19 here. I appreciate the numbers here on the vaccinations. I think they're doing a great job up there. I received my second shot this morning. You can get ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do you feel okay? The second shot's the one people ---.

MR. DEMARCO: That's what they say. But tying that in to the hospitality industry, okay, we've seen right now many of the people most vulnerable are elderly. A strong majority of us have already received their shots. The hospitality industry is being crushed. There's two things that are hurting us. One is capacity.

Currently they're at 15 percent for indoor events. You know, it's supposed to go, like, 25 percent by April 4 and the problem is with some of these folks is you have the six foot social distancing rule in place as well, so even in places, like, where you'll have a ball --- I'll use the Grant for example.

They have a ballroom that can hold 1,500 people. But even if they opened up capacity to 60, 75 percent, they would not be allowed to put more than 400 people in there because of six foot social distancing.

The Gateway Clipper fleet over in south side. You have people that are out of work sitting at home because of the six foot social distancing. I'm wondering just with the increasing number of people that are getting vaccines as well as wearing masks, you know, what are you doing to try to push the state to try to help us open up our businesses here, you know, so that we can take into --- start to get back to as close to normal as we possibly can.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, a couple things. The April 4th deadline or the April 4 timeline is



going to open up and I believe restaurants can then go to --- I forget the term. Good actors or good --- certified ---.

MR. DEMARCO: Self-certified.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Self-certified will go to 75 percent, so they're able to do those things. I think you're starting to see the relaxation. It hasn't happened officially, but I think the six foot rule versus three foot rule, and I'll give you an example. Outdoor --- the Pirates are going to be opening up in another week, and if you talk about 50 percent capacity that would be 19,000 fans or thereabouts. But with the six foot rule it can't --- they're down to, I don't know 6 or 7,000, so I think there's a couple things that might be coming about.

Do places like that create a vaccine section, for example? If you've been vaccinated, you show your card or there's an app. We're not there yet as a society, but I can see us moving in that direction, so the only concern I do have with a little bit is we have seen a spike, again. The numbers are going up, and while the hospitalizations, the ICU's and the fatality rates are certainly better than they were for the last two spikes, there is still a --- I don't know what the word is. They call them long-haulers that get this disease even though they're young and, quote, unquote, healthy they're impacted severely with things like vertigo, brain fog, other ailments that don't allow them to live what would be their normal and full life depending on their job, et cetera, so I do think there's still some concern.

We're a month away. I'm hoping that the ARP program that got passed can help bridge the gap for some of these businesses and that's what, you know, the economic development department and Lance and his team are trying to make sure they processed those applications and helped people through that. I almost feel like we're near the end. The light at the end of the tunnel keeps getting brighter and more and more people are going to be vaccinated. We in the county are planning this summer to

go back to somewhat normal. We want to open the pools. We want to have the summer concert series. The programming is moving forward that we've done in the past around sports and yoga in the parks and all the different programs that we have, and again, we're talking about Memorial Day or a little bit after that to move into that area, so I think we're almost there, guys. I really do.

MR. DEMARCO: Okay. And then also --- and you talked about the new hydroelectric plant that's going to be built down at the Emsworth Dam. How is that going to work? Is it going to contribute power to the grid that we're pulling off the grid so it's an offset that it's not charging us or so we're not putting in wiring or piping or anything specific?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, that's exactly right. And the amount of --- what we're taking off the grid is basically powering what would be in essence of 3,400 homes. I think about over the life of the thing about 2.6 billion miles of a car being driven the type of carbon reduction that will occur from hydro. I don't know that it's putting it into the grid. I don't know all the specifics of how that happens but we're not going to be buying power from, you know, coal-driven or gas-driven or oil-driven or even nuclear-driven. We're going to be buying it from the process that we do. We entered into a long-term contract with this company, and again, I think it's a commitment I think we're making to the climate and to our sustainability, but I don't know exactly the wiring and all these other things. I'll try to get you that information.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you very much.

MR. WALTON: I have a question.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Duerr? Councilman Duerr, are you there?

MR. DUERR: Yeah. Can you hear me?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Barely.

MR. DUERR: I'm sorry. I might have to call back in. I'll defer to someone else in the meantime.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're a little bit better now.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I can hear him now, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Speak loud there, Councilman.

MR. DUERR: Okay. County Executive Fitzgerald, I was just wondering if --- you spoke about the vaccination sites the county has set up. The one in Monroeville has been up for a while. You opened one here close to the South Hills in Castle Shannon which I was really appreciative of. My mom actually went to the Monroeville site to get her vaccination. She's a healthcare worker, so I'm very appreciative. She was very --- she spoke, you know, very lovingly about the operation over there. I was wondering if the health department was looking to open up any more of those? I've had a couple people ask that and I wanted to have a chance to ask you about that while you were here.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes, there is, and there are sites being looked at as we speak. It really does come down to the supply. We're anticipating potentially more supply in the month of April which would allow a few more sites to open up and not only open up, but even the ones that do open up could be more robust. You know, instead of 1,000 a day, maybe 5,000 a day or that type of thing, so we are taking a look at that and we want to obviously make sure that we're geographically spreading out and we've tried to do already, but we don't want to put that out there yet until we can be sure of what we're going to get because I will tell you over this time period the health department one day they think they're going to get a big shipment and the next day it doesn't occur or some days they don't think they're going to get a big shipment. All of a sudden they do, so it's somewhat been inconsistent. Although we've seen, I think, this --- if I remember the numbers right almost 30 million doses nationally this week, which is almost 3 million ---

almost 4 million a day so, again, we can really be talking about a significant amount that we think will happen in the month of April and then on into May, but stay tuned, so we'll get that word out. You know, the health department and Amy Downs, you know, try to get that information out as soon as we get it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton?

MR. DUERR: Thank you very much.

MR. WALTON: Executive Fitzgerald, I want to thank you for your report. It's very informative. I have a question. First, a comment about the project that will take place at Emsworth Dam. First, in terms of the issue of sustainability and improving the climate, that will make a huge impact on what happens in this region which is desperately needed, and as we move forward with that, I'd like to ask whether that project will be done with a project labor agreement because that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion if that job is done by the building and construction trades which ensures a greater participation of minorities on that project.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm going to have to check and find out exactly what the details of that are as far as the prevailing wage or some of the other issues like conventional PLA's that'll be part of it. We're not the only player. We're one of the people buying or entering into a contract, so they will be providing energy to other entities, some of our corporations, et cetera, and organizations that will be doing that, but I'll get that information to you.

MR. WALTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman --- hold on one second. Councilman Baker's next.

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Mr. President. Two good parts of your update that I loved. One was the five new destinations announced today. As a person's who lived out of the airport area for the last seven plus years, it's been an incredible working relationship with this administration, with Jen Liptack, your chief of staff, and you, of course. The Ross vaccination site, I drove past

it again this morning. It seemed really busy which is a great thing, so I know that the Ross Township supervisors, our community, are very fortunate.

I will say, and if someone has suggestions that are okay --- ALAM, it's a big deal for local townships and communities and I'm just thinking if we are having ALAM do the 18th and the 20th, maybe we can still present it in some way to them there but just as an idea. We don't have to. Just throwing that out as an idea. I know ALAM's important to you and certainly important to Amy Downs and many members of your team, so if there's a way to do it in person on June 18th or the 20th maybe that could be nice.

I appreciate you mentioning Kelsey Dowd. I am the chair of our marketing committee for another couple months here, so I would love to connect with her and set up a joint meeting hopefully for us to get together to talk about ways we can work together and then the final one.

I thought Councilman DeMarco did a good job bringing in Visit Pittsburgh. Obviously that was a board I was on for a number of years before Sam got my spot and has been doing a very good job. This comes back and kind of goes to what you were talking about with Kevin Evanzo. He did do a very nice job. We mentioned Councilman Kress before the meeting as we were chatting a bit. How is it looking with land utilization? Are people reaching out to you and to the administration and to Manager McKain to use places like the bridge for things like Picklesburg or not so much?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It is, and I think you're starting to see, like, the PDP who runs that event, the Three Rivers Arts Festival is looking to come back in something of a hybrid fashion. I think as we get into the summer I think you are going to see more and more events occur. As I indicated, the parks, which are so important --- but we didn't do a lot of the programming last year. The pools didn't open, we didn't have the summer concert series, et cetera, so we're looking to do that this year. So that is an important thing. I'm glad you mentioned

Ross. I'm glad to hear it's going well. I've gone to --- I don't know --- seven or eight of these clinics throughout over the last month or so and I will tell you just about every single one of them --- in fact, every single one of them --- people have been very happy, the system has been up, whether it's been the county or one of our healthcare partners, AHN, UPMC, whoever doing it. People are very, very obviously grateful, but it seems to go as smoothly as it could be with something of the volume that we have been putting through.

MR. BAKER: Excellent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Who's next?  
Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. Chief Executive Fitzgerald, I just want to say I applaud you so well for the hydro-electric program. I have been waiting and wanting something like that, but I guess all the pieces had to come together and all the technology had to come together and I just think this is so huge. I can't believe it's not getting more press yet. Honestly, I'm really excited about it and wanted to let you know.

But the question I had was --- I think it was last Wednesday at the press conference with Dr. Bogen. There was talk about a new vaccine scheduling program and I was wondering when you see that --- I thought it was going to be an electronic program to make it easier for people and I was wondering where we were in the process, the process of implementation.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I think --- let me --- the first one I want to weigh first on the hydro because I do want to give a lot of credit. The county manager really has been working on this for a long time. The idea first came to us when the University of Pittsburgh decided that they were going to use a hydro --- the Highland Park Dam to provide a significant portion of their campus power, and we actually tried to piggy back on that, what they were doing, and it turned out they kind of took all the power that's being generated on that project, so the manager, you know, put out an RFP, went through the

whole process and spent a lot of time working with that with our sustainability director and others. Jess Mooney also was a big, big part of that, so there were a lot of folks working on that and getting that forward.

Your other --- what's your second question?

MS. KIRK: The registration site.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: The registration site. They're working on it right now. They're kind of soft testing it or soft landing whatever that term would be, and hopefully if everything goes smoothly, within the next couple of days the health department should be making the announcement. Again, what it's going to do is allow people to register whereas previously they couldn't register until there was an opening.

Now they'll be able to register whether by phone or by email, and then based on their qualifications or certifications, they will then get a call or a contact saying, you know, for example, you know, April 8th you will be eligible to go to Castle Shannon or whatever it might be, so that's the way the program is going to set up so that people don't just have to sit there, you know, time after time after time refreshing their email or going --- you know, trying to dial and get in on the phone.

MS. KIRK: That's great. I'm very excited about that. I think a lot of people who have been so frustrated will see that as welcome relief, but thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Hallam, I think.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. Thank you, President Catena. I just have two questions. The first one is that there are tens of millions of dollars in support for both tenants and landlords that the county has and yet people are being evicted before that money can even get to them. The CDC just extended their moratorium, but there are still huge gaps in protections mostly for end of lease term and minor alleged violations of the lease. The city has instituted a more expansive moratorium that would protect these tenants and close these loopholes, but folks outside the city limits don't have those protections.

So I guess my question is why hasn't your administration taken steps to implement a similar moratorium to make sure that tenants are protected?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, again, we have to make sure that the county has the authority to embark upon something along those lines. You know, the deadline did get extended again from the CDC. I think just in the last day or two that goes to I believe June 30th now. I'm not exactly sure of the date. But the county's been working very diligently to get funding in the people's hands to make sure that they can go through that process, but again, I don't know legally. I'll have to check with the solicitor to see if that's an authority that rests within this government or is that something that rests within the courts.

MS. HALLAM: Can you speak specifically to what the county is doing to get that money in tenant's hands?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'd have to get the economic development director to kind of give you those details as to what they're doing through that process. But as I indicated, I think we did about 3,600 people through the first program with CARES getting an average of about 4,000 and we've got about the same amount of folks who applied this time and they're going through that process. I don't know the details of that, and I'd have to --- I'd have to have the economic development director get some of that information.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that. My next question is about the jail. It seems like every single week there is a new horrific story in the press about the Allegheny County Jail and the abysmal conditions that people are subjected to while incarcerated there, from a rat bite, to forced detox, from illegally prescribed methadone, from inedible food, to a new outbreaks of COVID, from the widespread use of solitary confinement in violation of international standards and to the use of something called a restraint chair that looks like it is used as a medieval torture device. Yet, the county often refuses to comment and doesn't signal any



movement to address these allegations or fix these problems.

So what concrete steps is the county and specifically your office taking to address these issues and specifically the inadequate mental healthcare in the jail and the refusal to provide medication for opioid use disorder to those incarcerated?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, first of all, I guess I would disagree with some of the characterizations of what's going on. The one thing I can say that this warden has done is I believe we were the only county or one of the only jails in the state to receive kind of a top-notch certification. I will also say that just because a story might appear on social media that somebody might make an allegation doesn't necessarily make it true. This might be shocking, but not everybody in the jail tells everything truthfully that occurs.

So the warden does answer a lot of these questions and in my mind has done a great job. I think him and his deputies have done what they can. I would also say that even during COVID, you know, we've had over 1,700 people in Allegheny County who have passed away from COVID, but in the jail, not one person to my understanding as we've had --- oh, yeah, a couple of people that have been hospitalized in a minor way and were discharged right away, so around that issue as well which is so challenging in the type of facilities that we see across the county, this warden has done a good job, and people can disagree with certain aspects and characterize him in a certain way, but we've seen the jail population decline. We've seen recidivism go down, and again, so we just have a disagreement. That's all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. HALLAM: I appreciate that response, but these weren't social media allegations. These were stories from the Post-Gazette, The Tribune Review, Public Source, The Pittsburgh Current, City Paper and even The Associated Press just to clarify, but my question was,

specifically what is your office --- not the warden --- but your office doing to address these issues?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We work through the county manager and through the deputy manager like all of our directors to make sure things are done in an efficient and proper manner and that would be the case at the jail, it'd be the case at the health department, it'd be case in public works, it'd be the case in the parks department, the human services, et cetera, et cetera.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, Members of Counsel. On a positive note I just want to thank the support of all of my council persons as well as the chief executive when it came to the county demolition fund. I'm just going to give you a real quick example of how this can affect some of the blighted communities. In Glassport alone which has 4,444 people, there are 2,572 occupied homes. Out of that the council has applied for 64 homes to be torn down. I mean, that's quite the percentage in a small community, but nevertheless this money is real important to these communities of modest means and we've been able to come up with a --- hopefully a solution. Now, for those people who don't read the newspaper, who don't understand what's going on with this fund, it's still part of funding that can be used in conjunction with the CDBG money. That's Community Development Block Grant money. That's money that's also available.

So you've got two avenues in your communities to help, and with 130 communities in Allegheny County, this program is going to go a long way. I also wanted to thank the chief executive and health department for their work with the first responders. I had my two COVID-19 shots. I'm a firefighter and first responder, and I think it's important with all the people that we come in contact with that we're protected which in essence protects them as well. So I just want to thank you very much, Mr. Chief Executive, and Godspeed everybody. Thank you.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you and along the --- I didn't mention public works. We had

actually had a good year again. Forty-one (41) miles have been paved, but we just found out today that for the fourth time Allegheny County was awarded the American Public Works Association Certification. Four times this county public works department has gotten that. We're the only one in the state to ever get it even once, and the fact that we've gotten it four times I want to congratulate Director Shanley and the whole team at public works who I know interact with obviously a lot of your constituents, your municipalities, and they did a great job, again, this winter dealing with snow and a very difficult February that we all had challenge-wise, and again, I want to thank and congratulate them for the great work they do, and again, it touches all our lives.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. So before I let the chief executive go, is there anyone on the phone that still needs to speak? Hearing none --- Councilman Futules, you're the last one.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Thanks. I just want to clarify that Blythe funding. Has the county notified each individual municipality of the funding or is it up to me as the council person to send to it my ---?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I'm getting word from the county manager they have been notified, so they're aware of what they're eligible. And then the last thing I will say, we have the highlights book. It will be in your mailboxes tonight. You've seen these over the years and it talks about each of the departments, obviously in your districts a lot of things, road paving, parks, public works, human services, all the kind of highlights of what we've been able to do during the last year during some very, very challenging times. So thank you and maybe at the next meeting we'll have a few more folks here and we'll be somewhat getting back to normal. We hope so.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Onward and forward. We'll now have --- the proclamations and certificates will all be read into the record. 11793-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Superintendent Coleman McDonough upon the occasion of his retirement from Allegheny County sponsored by Council Members Catena, Baker, Bennett, DeMarco, Duerr, Futules, Kirk, Klein, Macey, Palmiere, Palmosina, Prizio, Walton and Zavarella.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11794-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing William Whitmer upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11795-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Christian McClaine upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11796-21.

MR. BARKER: Certificates of recognition presented to the 2021 Banner Communities sponsored by Council Member Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Can you add Councilman Macey to that one? 11797-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulation Ms. Malissa Seman for being named the 2021 Big Sister of the Year sponsored by Council Members Baker and Council Member Klein.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11798-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Mr. Mark Bezilla for being named the 2021 Big Brother of the Year sponsored by Council Members Baker and Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11799-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Kerry Katz for being named to the prestigious All-USA Academic Team sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11800-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring April 4 to 10, 2021 to be National Library Week in Allegheny County sponsored by Council Member Baker.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11801-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Pastor Peter Roy for his dedication to the Borough of West Mifflin sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11802-21.

MR. BARKER: A certificate of recognition presented to Patricia Bender in recognition of her extreme display of dedication over the years to Southminster Child Care Center sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll now have public comment on agenda items. We received a number of similar, obviously, comments on similar items; paid sick days, sustainability, supporting sense of council. Everyone received them in their email. They'll all be added into the record verbatim, but I'm going to ask Ken to summarize them tonight since there are so many of them. Does anyone object to that? Hearing no objections, Ken, go ahead.

CHIEF VARHOLA: Yes, Mr. President, we received 29 public comments. Five of them had to deal with paid sick leave veto override. Four of them were in support of overriding the veto. One just signed up about that issue, but did not comment one way or the other. The other issue we have is establishing a sustainability commission.

We had 20 comments related to that. Five of them signed up to speak about that topic, but they did not highlight whether they were supportive or against, and 15 signed up in support of the sustainability commission.

The last one we had was regarding federal budget priorities and reallocation of certain funding. We had four total on that subject. Two, again, no comment, they just signed up for the issue and then two signed up in support, and that's all we have on agenda item public comment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have approval of minutes. 11803-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 regular meeting of council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have presentation of appointments. All of these were obviously going to be sent to committee on appointment review. 11792-11721. So go ahead, Jared.

MR. BARKER: 11787-21 is the re-appointment of Marianne Malloy to the Personnel Board through December 31, 2021.

11788-21 is the re-appointment of Sala Udin to the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

11789-21 is the re-appointment of Barbara Logan to the Carnegie Library Board through December 31, 2021.

11790-21 is the re-appointment of Alice Mitinger to the Carnegie Library Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

11791-21 is the re-appointment of Ellen Stewart to the Allegheny County Board of Health through January 12, 2022.

And 11792-21 is the re-appointment of Richard Snipe to the Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review through June 30, 2024.

All sponsored by the Chief Executive except for the last one which is sponsored by Council Member Walton.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have unfinished business. Just to clarify on this piece. This isn't the actual vote on the veto override. This is basically summarizing obviously accepting the communication that we received from Chief Executive Fitzgerald concerning his veto, so we need a motion to receive and obviously second and a voice vote to receive it.

MR. DEMARCO: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

MS. HALLAM: Opposed.

PRESIDENT CATENA: One opposed. Motion carries. Committee on appointment review for the second reading. So in the interest of expediency, does anyone object to doing these in a bulk motion? No one objects then? Okay. So I'll have Jared read them and then we'll take the vote at the end, so go ahead, Jared.

MR. BARKER: 11725-21 is the appointment of Doric Carson Williams to the Authority for Improvement in Municipalities for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

11726-21 is the re-appointment of Doris Carson Williams to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire May 23, 2025.

11727-21 is the appointment of Doris Carson Williams to the Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority and the Allegheny County Residential Finance Authority for terms to expire on December 31, 2021.

11751-21 is the appointment of Jennifer Beer to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

11752-21 is the appointment of Jason Stinger to the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire December 31, 2024.

11753-21 is the re-appointment of John Scott to the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

11754-21 is the appointment of Emily Skopov to the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

11755-21 is the appointment of Mary Ann Bucci to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2023.

11756-21 is the appointment of Anna Siefken to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2023.

And 11757-21 is the appointment of Ralph Watson to the MBE Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2024.

All sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Do we have a motion to approve the appointments?

MR. FUTULES: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: So moved.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. And I just want to apologize, Councilwoman Hallam. Obviously I didn't give you the opportunity to say your committee met and reviewed them and obviously affirmatively recommended all of them, so I apologize in advance for that.

MS. HALLAM: Don't apologize. I was just trying to get your attention to motion for the same thing you did, so thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Sorry. We'll now have liaison reports. Councilwoman Prizio, I believe you have one this evening.

MS. PRIZIO: Thank you, President Catena. I would like to say a few words about William Whitmer, an O'Hara sophomore who was issued a proclamation earlier in the meeting recognizing his attainment of Eagle Scout. William constructed and installed three, little, free libraries in Etna. On behalf of Etna Borough Manager Mary Ellen Ramage, I would like to congratulate William for dedicating time, leadership and creativity and effort to making our community a better place.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening has a liaison report? Councilman DeMarco?



MR. DEMARCO: Yes. Yesterday, March 29, was Vietnam Veteran's Day, and I was pleased to attend the ceremony that they had over at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial here on the North Shore yesterday. It was well-attended, covered by ABC --- excuse me, by WTAE and KDKA. Myself and former Auditor General Jack Wagner was the MC. Rocky Blier spoke and the Mayor, Mayor Peduto showed up and he spoke, so I just wanted to recognize the sacrifice of those veterans, the recognition of their day and to officially welcome them home.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you for your service as well. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of council. I just want to bring up a comment with regards to public works. When we talk about the air pollution, we talk about the making sure that we take care of our air and we do it in the most inexpensive but responsible way, I just want to say there is an idling, a diesel idling, ordinance in the City of Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County but more importantly our public works department will purchase or have equipment that keeps the hazard fumes from emanating from the diesel engines and this is something that I have to laud public works on. In addition to that when we go out for comment or we go out for a PF --- an RFP for contractors, we also recommend that they have that type of equipment so everybody's trying, everybody's doing the best they can to keep the emissions down. On another note I want to talk about fire vest.

That's the fire volunteer and emergency services training. That's something that Councilman Futules and I put together quite a few years back. The fact that CCAC is now opening, we have an agreement with CCAC and our volunteer fire companies. Those individuals, especially the young people, and you don't have to be just a young person, but you can be someone who is transitioning with your new employment. So here's an opportunity for firefighters to not only learn firefighting emergency health scenarios and services and also understand the

hazardous materials program. Here they can go to college for free.

They can do the academic program or they can also learn a trade as welding, electrical work, carpentry and what have you so here's a great opportunity for young people as well as those people transitioning in their occupation to fund a free college education. The only caveat is you have to sign up for five years with the volunteer fire companies, and if some volunteer companies are running short of staff, we certainly want to encourage people to come on board and to not only get educated but also help those people in the community. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else this evening? Hearing no one else, we'll move on to new business, ordinances and resolutions. 11804-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances Division 6 entitled Parks and Recreation, through the creation of a new sub Chapter 680 entitled Certain Agreements Prohibited in order to prohibit the leasing, sale and/or any other agreements that would permit or otherwise facilities private and/or public entities engaging in any industrial or commercial land uses within Allegheny County's parks sponsored by Council Members Hallam, Bennett and Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the committee on parks. 11805-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania directing that a referendum question regarding the establishment of a Countywide independent police review board to investigate allegations of officer misconduct subject to voluntary opt-in my municipalities be placed on the November 2, 2021 General election ballot sponsored by Council Member Futules and DeMarco.

MR. MACEY: Can I be a sponsor?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Add Councilman Macey as a sponsor. That will go to public safety. 11806-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania establishing policy for the county police and providing for the creation of a working group to assist municipal police departments operating within Allegheny County in the evaluation and potential acquisition of camera devices sponsored by Council Members DeMarco, Catena, Kirk and Prizio.

MR. MACEY: Can I be a sponsor on that?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Macey would like to be added.

MR. FUTULES: Me, too. I thought I actually was on that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Futules as well.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public safety. 11807-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the department of public works and the law department to acquire by condemnation certain permanent rights of way and easements including but not limited to property in fee for permanent rights of way, slope easements, channel easements, utility easements, drainage easements and temporary construction easements from 33 parcels required to reconstruct and widen Campbell's Run Road between McMichael Road and Keiner's Lane in Colliers Township and Robinson Township and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public works. 11808-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation certain permanent rights of way and easements including, but not limited to property in fee for permanent rights of way and temporary construction easements from three parcels required to replace the superstructure of Pucketa Creek Bridge No. 5 at Booker Street Plum Borough,

Allegheny County and Upper Burrell Township, Westmoreland County and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public works as well. 11809-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and The Law Department to acquire by condemnation certain permanent rights of way and easements including, but not limited to property in fee for permanent rights of way and temporary construction easements from one parcel required to replace Robinson Run Bridge No. 3 over the South Branch of Robinson Run located in North Fayette Township and South Fayette Township and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public works as well. 11810-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation certain permanent rights of way and easements including but not limited to property in fee for permanent rights of way and temporary construction easements from one parcel required to facilitate the preservation of Stillhouse Run Structure No. 1 located in Hampton Township and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public works as well. 11811-21.

MR. BARKER: A resolution approving a project for the benefit of Presbyterian Senior Care and Longwood at Oakmont, Inc. to be financed by the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt or federally taxable as applicable revenue bonds in one or more series to be designated as

may be determined by the authority the borrowers and the underwriter of the bonds in a maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$90 million provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the bonds and declaring the financing of such project as desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the County and in the area served by the project sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to committee on economic development and housing. 11812-21.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2021 submission number 03-21 sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to budget and finance. New business and motions 11813-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the council of Allegheny establishing a desired timeline for the creation of an Allegheny County Sustainability Commission and the development of an Allegheny County Climate Action Plan sponsored by Council Members Prizio, Bennett, Klein, Futules, Macey and Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Prizio, I believe your --- you want to be added, Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else?

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President, John Palmiere, can you add me to that, too?

PRESIDENT CATENA: John Palmiere.

MR. PALMOSINA: Also me, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Mr. President, I as well.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is anyone not want to be added? Councilman DeMarco doesn't want to be added. Okay. Everyone else I think wants to be added, so ---. Okay. So that's going to go to actually the committee on

sustainability, and Councilwoman Prizio is the lead chair on that, so that was the new committee that I created.

11815-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding returning to regular attendance practices for regular meetings of Allegheny County Council sponsored by Council Members Futules, Baker and DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Futules, I believe you wanted to withdraw that?

MR. FUTULES: Well, technically I wanted to change the date, so I guess I would need to do that; right? I really --- I do want to withdraw it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Thank you. 11816-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding potential legislation allowing for the placement of discreet information upon Commonwealth-issued driver's licenses and identification cards in order to aid first responders in effectively assisting individuals with disabilities sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public safety. I'll be happy to discuss that in public safety.

MR. ZAVARELLA: President Catena, I'd like to be added to that as well.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. HALLAM: So would I, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Zavarella and Hallam.

MR. MACEY: Me, too.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Macey.

MR. PALMIERE: And Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Palmiere.

MR. PALMOSINA: Me also, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Palmosina. Thank you. Let's see. 11817-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding proposed tolling of bridges specifically along Interstate 79 insofar as such tolling will impact traffic and quality

of life in the South Fayette Township Pennsylvania area sponsored by Council Members Catena, DeMarco and Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, obviously there's been a lot of discussion recently about the tolling of bridges across the state. This specifically the only one being in Allegheny County. Obviously since I represent the district where the bridge is apparently going in the South Fayette Bridgeville --- Councilman Duerr represents, obviously, Bridgeville --- but the tolling of this bridge will not only have an economic impact, but the impact on the surrounding area will be immense. I mean, they're going to be pushing out thousands of vehicles per day on the surrounding roads. One of them being Route 50 in Bridgeville. The other one being a county road, Tom's Run Road, through basically South Fayette and Collier Township, so not only does PennDOT didn't solve for any of this in basically coming forward with this bridge project and blindsiding a bunch --- many of us unfortunately --- they didn't --- like I said --- didn't solve for this and obviously there's going to be a huge economic impact, on the people that ultimately have to use 79 and have to go through this on a daily basis they're saying potentially one or two bucks a day, so if you're a commuter, you're a resident or you own a business, or you're a delivery driver or what have you, you're going to be paying a lot of money per month on a monthly basis out of the pockets of the residents of Allegheny County.

So I'm basically asking tonight for a sense of council stating basically that we oppose this because of the economic damage it's going to do to public safety and the infrastructure problems it's going to basically cause by allowing this to happen. Obviously, I recognize bridges need to be repaired, but I think PennDOT needs to go back and look at this to see if there's a different way to do it.

Councilman DeMarco, do you want to add anything?

MR. DEMARCO: Sure, President Catena. You know, they talk about a dollar or two each way, so we don't know what the cost per day is going to be there. Secondly when

we talk about diverting traffic off to these side roads like Old Washington Pike and things like that, these are single lane. Truck traffic, heavy truck traffic is heavy on I-79. To take and divert these tractor trailers and stuff onto these single lane roads, we're going to have a tremendous problem there, and then the weight of these vehicles is going to take and cause damage to these roads so the people that live in this area are going to take multiple hits.

They're going to take hits in having to pay the tolls if they travel back, they're going to have to take hits in their taxes being increased to cover the road work in those townships that they're responsible for and then also like you said it's a safety hazard. Under the last act we had that the Biden Administration passed, \$1.9 trillion, that's earmarked to give \$13.7 million, you know, so there's a lot of ways that they could look to address this, you know, and they're already talking about, you know, they have to come up with the formula for the mass transit funding that's taken out of the turnpike tolls. You have funding --- the state police is taking out of the gas tax, so Harrisburg has a number of challenges, but the point being they're going to be recipients of \$13.7 million. They can look for another way so they can fund these projects without putting it on the backs of the people in these communities. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. I want to get to Councilman Duerr since he represents Bridgeville obviously. Councilman Duerr, did you have anything you want to say since obviously you're going to be impacted by this and your district's going to be impacted as well?

MR. DUERR: Yeah. Absolutely. I echo your and Councilman DeMarco's concerns. You know, I also wanted to mention that the first meeting I had with our new state senator in the 37th District, Senator Robinson, was about this topic. It's an area where I think we can work together with him, but also with State Representative Ortity and State Representative Kulik in that area as



well. I don't think anyone regardless of party wants this in that area for a multitude of reasons and, you know, that have already been stated by yourself and Councilman DeMarco and I thought this was an easy decision to add on as a co-sponsor and I would urge all of my fellow colleagues to join the three of us tonight in supporting this motion, so thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. Thank you. I'm pretty sure I seen this in the news that they have already scratched this idea of tolling the bridge, but their second idea now, they want to consider charging mileage to people in Pennsylvania somewhere in the neighborhood of two cents a mile and that was their alternative to tolling these bridges. Am I on a different subject with that?

PRESIDENT CATENA: They haven't scratched it yet.

MR. DEMARCO: They haven't scratched this.

MR. FUTULES: Well, I seen it in the news they were considering that too but this whole in particular bridges that really concentrates on certain people that use it every day. Somebody, like, lives on the other side of the county or somewhere it doesn't affect them at all just the commuter. That's horrible that they'd even consider doing this. I would support this. That's the worst possible thing they could have ever done consider tolling bridges like this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, Members of Council, and lest we forget I thought that the gas tax was going to solve these problems and if, in fact, that was their solution when the gas tax was implemented, then why are we going after more money? And I want to remind people who maybe travel across Pennsylvania and maybe I'm being a little biased, but if you go over the short --- I almost said it --- the Schuylkill Expressway and you go into Harrisburg, you go to Philadelphia, those roads are looking pretty darn good. I think they ought to divert

some of that money over this way and that way we can have what we need, bridges repaired, good roads and a healthy highway system. Thank you.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: I'd also like to add here, you know, this thing I don't want to say violates equal treatment clause, but why do some people not have to pay for the construction projects in their township, but these folks have to pay for construction projects here? So yes, so that's an additional problem. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

MR. WALTON: Yeah. I have some serious concerns.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on. Councilman Futules, it's Councilman Walton's turn.

MR. WALTON: While I have concerns about tolling of bridges, it's a greater concern that I have that for a number of years, a number of years there has been an effort to generate revenue for the state by an extraction tax on the Shale Gas Industry, but one particular party of the legislature has ruled against this on an ongoing basis. Clearly there are greater revenues that are needed, but I think that gets to the bigger policy kinds of questions and concerns that are there so that there's real equity of the burden that is shared by those who are making huge revenue gains. So look, I think it goes back to a larger policy kinds of question and a real transparency, you know, with --- Councilman DeMarco used the phrase equal treatment. There is not equity. Clearly there is not equity in the tax policy in this entire state and I think that at some point in time some of those folks who are in positions of responsibility and leadership accept the real responsibility that they have to generate real revenue in terms of taxation of appropriate industries in this state.

So I think --- while I oppose taxing bridges, I think we have to have real honest conversations about being responsible and being responsible leaders as well.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on a second. Let me go to Councilman Futules first. He was next. Do you have something or no?

MR. FUTULES: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Oh, you were just adding. Okay. Go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: In response to Councilman Walton's comments there, I don't know what he means by equity, but I would say the President of the United States is going to be here tomorrow to talk about a \$3 to 4 trillion infrastructure plan; okay? In regards to the oil and gas industry, they already pay a tax. It's called an impact fee. An impact fee takes and helps fund the DEP, and it also takes and goes to the local municipalities in which these folks operate. In addition, these folks aren't getting rich off of this thing right now because of the environmentalist obstruction. They aren't able to build pipelines across the state to get much of this gas to market.

So the cost on this thing when we had conversations with folks last week can be as little as I think they said \$.80 cents, 60, 80 cents a cubic foot, so that industry has problems. You've seen it. They're not drilling wells.

So to take and put another tax on top of them --- there's a lot of different opportunities here. Before we take and try to add more there, let's see where this \$3, 4 trillion that's going to be talked about tomorrow is going to be spent before we talk about tolling bridges. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Before we --- go ahead, Councilman Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. As Patrick Henry said years ago, taxation without

representation is tyranny. He ought to see it with representation.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So before we diverge further into the woods, is there anyone else that has a comment?

Okay. At this point in time I'd like to make a motion to approve.

MR. DEMARCO: So moved.

MS. HALLAM: 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. 11818-21.

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County authorizing the Council of Allegheny County to conduct a public hearing pursuant to Article II.G of the Rules of Allegheny County Council on April 28, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Allegheny County Courthouse Gold Room located at 436 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Council President shall designate a presiding officer for such public hearing sponsored by Council Members Futules, DeMarco and Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Futules, did you want to discuss this one?

MR. FUTULES: Absolutely. The purpose of this public hearing is something that this council has done for the last 20 years. Transparency we talked about on a regular basis. This is such an important issue with this police review board. I believe that the people of this county have a right to come in be it by phone, by computer, whatever, do it by appointments to hold a public hearing and give them the opportunity, because in 2018 if I'm not mistaken, we did have a public hearings on the last ordinance that Mr. DeWitt Walton had put forward and we went into four different communities.

So I'm asking that this is a new ordinance, new council members in a new time that would continue our transparency by holding the public hearing.

It doesn't matter what position you are as a council person. It's not about us. It's about the people that we represent should have a voice and tell us their opinion on what they think we should do and that is the purpose of a public hearing. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: If I may, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. WALTON: Public Safety Chairwoman Bennett, correct me if I'm wrong. In 2020 --- 2019, if I remember correctly, you conducted several public hearings on the independent police review board legislation; did you not?

MS. BENNETT: I did.

MR. WALTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Before we get into this, you're making the motion?

MR. FUTULES: I'm making the motion.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Now we'll have discussion.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena?

MR. FUTULES: Let me make it clear.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: With all them meetings, it's not necessary that every council member need to be present. We have certain members that want to be present should come in, listen with the people. For those that don't want to come, you don't have to. The bottom line is we talk about transparency. It's not a punchline transparency.

It's what we do, and I set this meeting for April 28 which is only 30 days away if not less so it's close enough that we are not postponing and it's not long enough that we want to make sure we can get the people notification that there is going to be a hearing, and I think the people of this county have a right to have a public hearing.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. So I just want to say I am fully in favor of the independent police review board and

I do a hundred percent with my colleague Councilman Walton and Councilwoman Bennett who said that we had public hearings last year, but the public hearings that we've had already were for a different bill. This current bill, this current police review board legislation that we've been discussing in committee, is not one that has been discussed in a public hearing, so I will be supporting this motion tonight in favor of transparency that this is such a crucial piece of legislation that at least the few of us sitting on this council advocated for in our campaign for office.

I would like to make sure this current bill in its current form is given the same attention and same transparency that the prior two versions of this bill have been given.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else on the phone that wishes to speak? Anyone else here? All right. We'll do a roll call vote, Jared.

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

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No.

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: No.

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

MR. BARKER: Ayes 11, No's --- I beg pardon.  
Ayes 10, No's 5, the motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome. I need to think about the chair obviously, so I don't have a decision on that this evening, so ---.

11819-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding federal budgetary priorities and advocating prudent reallocation of certain funding sponsored by council members Prizio, Bennett, Klein and Macey.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, can you add me to this?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. Councilwoman, did you want to speak to this?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes, I will. Thank you. Thank you, President Catena. So the motion I'm presenting encourages the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to join Representative Pocan and Representative Lee. They're the co-chairs of the defense spending reduction caucus which will call on the President to rebalance our priorities to build a safer, peaceful and more prosperous world at home and abroad. Analysis from experts across the political spectrum show that we can make significant cuts to our defense budget without compromising our national security or reducing the support pay and benefits

provided to our men and women in uniform and their family, and I'd like to vote on this motion, please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening?

MS. KIRK: President Catena? This is Cindy Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes?

MS. KIRK: I'd like to say I'm very, very upset about this motion. I'm probably one of the few who has a military son or daughter and I saw what happened when we started cutting back and before when there were six guys on a plane and according to the new rules back during the sequester an administration or two ago, that only four of the six guys could get life jackets and shark repellent because they had to go overseas because there was no money to repair planes in this country, so if there was a plane with a problem, they had to fly it into Afghanistan which my son did.

He was not allotted a life jacket or anything because of the sequester. You could only have four. He couldn't even get a new holster where flights require in Afghanistan to have a weapon on you at all times except in the shower. So I'm very offended by this that you're not looking out for our military. You have not reviewed the whole budget. I don't know where you're coming from with these numbers, but it is very dangerous. They live very dangerously, and I know for one my son and his squad went out and had to buy their own bullet-proof vests because the ones they received under a couple administrations ago did not work, were no good.

They're getting shot at in Afghanistan, and these guys out of their own money are buying bullet-proof vests, so you tell me this is a good time when everyone is not very happy in the world with us right now, you think this is a good time without a total review of the budget.

I'm offended by this, and I don't think --- I don't know --- I just don't think you know what you're doing with this until you review the entire budget, the whole federal budget, and I think we should appreciate



these people who are risking their lives for us and not take money that they need to be safe, because guess what, it wasn't happening during the sequester.

I can tell you I can go on and on with other examples of what happened during the sequester. My son lived it. He went to Afghanistan during it and I did not feel like he was in safe hands when that happened due to people like this attempt to defund something they know nothing about. They haven't had any personal experience with.

I guess that's all I want to say. I can't believe you're even doing this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. I'd just like to remind everyone as council members, I'm asking you not to impugn the motives of other members obviously at this evening's council meeting, so please keep that in mind. Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, is this time for discussion or are you waiting to introduce that?

PRESIDENT CATENA: I let Councilwoman Kirk go, so I'm waiting for the motion to be made and seconded.

MR. DEMARCO: I'll join when we get to discussion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So you're making the motion. Is there a second?

MR. PALMIERE: I'll second it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion, Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, President Catena. I looked at this motion here. I would hope that folks would look at the United States Constitution and understand that the defense of this country is one of the things that's actually in the Constitution, not all the other reasons in here that they talk about that this money could be spent on. Secondly, many of the people that are taking and recommending or sponsoring this resolution are also the same people that support the minimum wage increase, \$15 for minimum wage.

Well, over 25 percent of the military budget goes for personnel alone, so are we looking to cut money from these people? So we're not taking away money from the people, are we then taking it away from their training? Are we going to put them in unsafe equipment? This is a dangerous world. The United States plays a major role, is one of the lone superpowers, in helping to maintain peace throughout the world, so where do we go and where do we try to cut?

What sacrifices do we make? Right now we can't afford the number of ships that we need to counter China's ever increasing reach in the Pacific. We're struggling with aircraft carrier coverage. We keep one in the Persian Gulf to keep check on Iran. We have a lot of problems out there. Certainly, there's nothing here that says we as a council should say we should cut defense spending or take money away from our troops or their training or the safety of their equipment and divert it to some of these other things, however, well-intentioned they are. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening? Councilman Macey? Go ahead, Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of council. I think what has been brought to my attention is some information that may be lacking in this particular motion, and just to make a long story short, I'm just going to remove my name from this motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else before we do a roll call? Seeing no one else, Jared, please take a roll.

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

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. That was a yes, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Thank you. Mr.  
DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?  
MR. DUERR: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: No.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?  
MS. HALLAM: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: No.  
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: No.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes eight, No's seven. The motion  
passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Let's see. Okay. So  
118 ---.

MS. KIRK: President Catena, can I just ask a  
quick question? This is Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. KIRK: When these motions go out, do only  
the names of the council people voting for it go on it?

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. Can you repeat  
the question? We couldn't hear you that well.

MS. KIRK: Sorry to interrupt. Just for clarification when these motions go to wherever they're going, is it just the people who voted on it listed and not the entire council since --- especially something like this, seven, eight. That's my understanding in the past. I just want to verify.

PRESIDENT CATENA: No. I believe it passes --- when sent out, I believe it's sent out with the ---.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena? When President DeFazio was in charge of the council, I had made the request that on these motions it indicated who voted for it and also indicated who was against it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is that what we've done in the past? All right. Is that what was done in the past or can you clarify that?

MR. BARKER: The historic practice has been that once a bill is passed by council, it has been passed by council and we cannot delve into specifics of voting. That, however, is up to the council today. I'll send it out however you guys want it to go.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Because that's always been my understanding, Sam.

MR. DEMARCO: I think I'd ask Mr. Barker to look back at motions passed under President DeFazio because I specifically made that request because of some of these things that were coming through council, and he agreed to that. And I know that on a number of them they did do that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We may need to look into that obviously.

MS. KIRK: And if we're going to do that, I think the sense of council should at least have a 10-5 vote if it's a sense of council. This is a 7-8. That's not much of a sense of council, so that's why I think we did it in the past.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I understand what you're saying, but it's still a majority of council. The majority of council passed it.

MS. KIRK: Barely. Not a sense of council. That's what it says. That's not a sense of council. I would like my name off this if at all possible because I find it abhorrent.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll look into that at this point.

MS. KIRK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11820-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County overriding Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald's veto of Bill No. 11481-20 "An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances Division 5: Health and Sanitation through the creation of a new Chapter 575 entitled, Paid Sick Days Act in order to improve the public health by granting paid sick time to employees in the County, sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Oh, sure, President Catena. I appreciate it. I don't really have much to say about this. We talked about this for over a year now. The county executive was here tonight to give his address and I didn't hear any, you know, set timeline for when this was going to happen on the health department's terms. I didn't hear any commitment to including Council in the process every step of the way. I haven't heard anything from the administration since this veto was mentioned right after we passed this bill and so I'd like to go forward with overriding the veto and I would like to make a motion to override the veto on paid sick leave.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MS. PRIZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Anyone wishing to make a comment?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. Sure.

PRESIDENT CATENA: This is the time for comment, so if you're going to make a comment, votes are up or down.

MR. WALTON: Point of order. You can't deny me my right to ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm not denying your right.

MR. WALTON: Allow me to finish, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. WALTON: You cannot limit what I say as I cast my ballot, cast my vote.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Solicitor Cambest, is it an up or down vote and what --- according to Robert's Rules of Order, what is parliamentary procedure?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: You're correct. After you have a motion and a second, that's the time for discussion. That's when discussion should occur.

MR. WALTON: But Solicitor, if there is a debate during discussion, is the appropriate time for debate after debate ceases? I can't be denied voicing my rationale for my decision, and if so, if that's the ruling of the chair, I challenge the decision of the chair.

PRESIDENT CATENA: According to Robert's Rules, I believe Robert's Rules states discussion needs to take place before the vote.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: That's correct.

MR. WALTON: If I challenge the decision of the chair, you have no choice but to surrender the chair.

PRESIDENT CATENA: According to Robert's Rules ---.

MR. WALTON: According to Robert's Rules of Order if I challenge the decision of the chair, you have no --- you have no choice but to surrender the chair.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm basically --- go ahead.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: No, I was going to say ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead. You're the solicitor.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: No, no. I'm saying that our rule of council irregardless of Robert's Rules of Order

has always been that we make a discussion prior to the vote and then we make a vote.

Now, you're challenging his rule?

MR. WALTON: I'm challenging the decision of the chair, according to Robert's Rules of Order, you have no choice but to surrender the chair and allow the next presiding officer to assume the chair and to debate that issue for resolution. You have no choice.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: That would go to the Vice President and, if I understand correctly, you're saying then the Vice President can entertain ---

MR. WALTON: A debate.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: --- a debate on whether or not we're going to permit discussion at the time of vote if I understand correctly.

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Mr. Macey, you can open the floor for debate on whether or not council will permit discussion at the time of vote.

MR. MACEY: So you're saying that the council will make a decision on whether Councilman DeWitt Walton will have the opportunity to speak when he votes?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: If council wants to permit that, then that's going to have to be a decision by council. That's correct.

MR. MACEY: And not the presiding president? Okay.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Yes.

MR. MACEY: We're going to have a discussion on this particular ordinance --- or motion. Excuse me. I'd like to start with Mr. Baker and people can speak. Just follow the alphabetical order with the exception of our president. Do you have anything to say?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Mr. Vice President? Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Mr. Barker, sorry, has given the --- our rules of council say a roll call vote shall be called alphabetically by a member with the president or

presiding officer being last. Once a vote has been called for, all comments shall cease. The clerk shall read the ordinance resolution and motion and conduct the vote, so our rule as it stands says that you cannot comment at the time you're making your vote.

MR. MACEY: And that is the rule?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: That's our rule.

MR. WALTON: But that has ---.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: I understand what you're saying. So he's challenging Mr. Catena's recitation of this rule. You've passed it on to you. Now, you have the right to --- council has the right to waive these rules, but that takes a vote of council. I don't think the president or the vice president can do that on their own.

MR. MACEY: That's why I asked the question about, you know, this is a rule of council and is that a majority or is it a 10, 5?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: For amendment ---.

MR. WALTON: It's a majority vote.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: I think it's a majority vote.

MR. WALTON: It's a majority vote, and it's a simple question --- it's as simple as this. We have not consistently utilized any method of how votes are cast in council. Depending upon the situation, folks have had the opportunity to express their concern about an issue as they cast their ballot, as they cast a vote, so look, all I'm saying to you guys is this. You want to have it your way when it's expedient to your issue.

If we going to play it one way, you got to play it one way all the time.

MR. MACEY: Well, Councilman Walton, I ---.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Mr. Macey, before we get into that, amendments to the rules are a majority vote. A waiver of the rule is two thirds vote just so you know.

MR. MACEY: So will this be a waiver?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: That all depends on the motion.



MR. MACEY: It depends on our parliamentarian to give us occasion.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: It depends on the motion. It depends on the motion. We make a motion to waive this rule for this evening it takes a two thirds vote.

MR. MACEY: I personally believe that people should have the opportunity to speak. They're elected by their constituents and they should have that opportunity. I don't see the significance of why Councilman Walton wants to say something at that particular time, but he should have the right to do that in my opinion.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: We're not arguing that. All I'm saying is that our rules say that to amend it you need a majority. To amend the current rule you would need a majority vote to do that. To waive it just for this evening you would need a two thirds vote.

MR. MACEY: All right. So what I'd like to do is enter into discussion and I'd like to start with ---.

MR. FUTULES: Can I get a clarification here? You lost me. First of all, I'm serious, before we vote, everybody would comment as to how they're going to vote, but once the vote is called, there is no more discussion. You just vote. Prior to the vote, you tell us why you're going to vote and that's okay, but the argument is now you want to have discussion then while you're voting you want to comment again? That doesn't make sense, but whatever you want to do, I don't care.

MR. MACEY: Councilman, I don't know what the significance of Councilman Walton wanting to speak when he votes. However, I'm not opposed to it and can we just move on with the discussion? The discussion will start with Tom.

MR. BAKER: Yeah. We're going to end up talking about more than if we just let Councilmember Walton speak in the first place, so I would be fine with him speaking later. I don't think the best practice. I don't think all of the rules --- I've gotten a sentence or two out after a vote, you know, over the years.

MR. MACEY: Discussion at this point is on the motion.

MR. BAKER: Oh, sorry. Okay. No discussion from me.

MR. MACEY: Councilman?

MR. DEMARCO: We have rules; right? We're supposed to follow them. It's 2021. You know, the way we have been conducting business, Mr. Solicitor is the parliamentarian, you know, how long have you been the solicitor? Is this the way we've been conducting business?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: The rules have been in place for 20 years. As Mr. Baker indicated, sometimes people do make a comment, not a discussion, but make a comment I'm voting yes on this because I believe it's the right thing to do. People have said that. There's no question.

MR. DEMARCO: Right. And there's nothing to stop, you know, Councilman Walton if he decided when it got to him to say --- we don't want a speech, you know, but you can't stop him, but the point is we have the rules. I've been here when there's been a test of muscle. Folks willing to discuss it by council members who try to call the question to try to stop debate instead of allowing folks to speak. I didn't agree with that.

MR. MACEY: Well, if we go back to the rules and the rules said we can deviate from those particular rules depending on the vote whether it's majority or ---.

MR. DEMARCO: Right. But again, I don't understand his reason. Part of discussion I have the ability to sit here and say whatever I want about a particular motion whatever and tell you I may agree with this, I may disagree with this, but I'm going to vote this particular way because I don't understand why.

MR. MACEY: Well, we're talking about the motion at this particular point and I'm sure we'll have the discussion on the other aspect of it.

MR. FUTULES: Bob, may I?

MR. MACEY: Nick, we're going to go right down the line.

MR. FUTLES: Can I?

MR. MACEY: Yeah. Councilman Futules.

MR. FUTLES: Let's be specific here. During any type of debate, every council member has the right to talk all you want. Once the vote is called, the discussion ends period. We are going to set a precedence. It's going to happen again and again and again so every time someone wants to say something during a vote, we're going to have to say, well, you did it that time, so why can't I do it today. Stick to the rules. DeWitt Walton has the ability to say anything he wants as long as he wants about anything he wants prior to the vote. Once the vote starts, it's yes or no or abstain. Period. That's the way it should be. That's the way it should always be. That's the way we run this council for the last 13 years I've been here. Specifically I recall that happened to Mr. Palmiere back during the Marcellus Shale. He wanted to say something before he voted, and he was stopped by the president. He said sorry, the debate is over. Vote yes or no.

He voted and that was it. Nobody even questioned it, so I don't know why we're doing it now.

MR. MACEY: Actually we're supposed to be talking about the motion. Okay? The changing would come second and we can discuss that then.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Does everybody understand that? So we have a motion on the floor now on the last bill. Mr. Macey's calling for a discussion. If anybody wants to discuss the motion, we should discuss it now as Mr. Macey indicated. Once that discussion's over, if we want to have a motion to amend the rule or to waive the rule to let Mr. Walton or anybody else talk at the time they vote, that will be a separate motion.

MR. WALTON: Point of order? Point of order.

MR. MACEY: I'm going down the line.

MR. WALTON: No, no, no, no, no, no. Please. This isn't personal. Let me speak. I have a point of order about the decision that you just made. We can't

move on the motion until the issue of challenging the decision of the chair is resolved.

MR. MACEY: I have been given the gavel. I would like to have a discussion on this motion, so we can be clear ---.

MR. WALTON: On which motion?

MR. MACEY: On the motion on Bill 11821 ---.

MR. WALTON: You can't discuss the bill until the issue of --- that resulted in the challenge to the decision to the chair is resolved. You can't move on that.

MR. MACEY: The vote will come next, and then when we decide to vote on the motion, we can move from that and go into if we're going to change the rule. That's okay.

MR. WALTON: All I'm saying to you --- all I'm saying to you, is that I understand parliamentary procedure fairly well, and I use it when appropriate to my advantage, sometimes to my disadvantage. In this instance I'm just telling you that according to Robert's Rules of Order and, Jared, if you disagree on my analysis ---.

MR. MACEY: Keep in mind Robert's Rules of Order is a guideline.

MR. WALTON: It's how we govern our business.

MR. MACEY: I understand, but it's not necessarily a hard fast rule because we have stepped aside from that. Okay. Councilwoman?

MS. PRIZIO: What is the motion you're doing right here?

MR. MACEY: It's right here.

MS. PRIZIO: I thought we had to have a motion whether to debate or ---.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: We're having a discussion on Bill 11820-21.

MR. WALTON: We discussed whether to suspend the rules in this instance and deal with it.

MS. PRIZIO: Right.

MR. MACEY: If that's what you wish, then we could have a vote then on the bill.

MR. ZAARELLA: Maybe I missed something here. What's the motion? Who stated the motion, number one? Whoever stated it, could you please restate it?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: The motion is to override the veto.

MR. WALTON: Is the motion. But the issue is whether or not we're going apply a rule that I can't make a comment as I cast my ballot, cast my vote.

MR. MACEY: I'm going to make an executive decision from the chair, and I'm going to say let's vote on whether you have the permission, and we're going by the rules, whether you have permission to state something when you make the vote, then we'll go back to the motion.

MR. WALTON: That's the appropriate action.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: That's correct. Somebody needs to make a motion or we got to make a motion to amend the rules or are we going make a motion to waive them ---

MR. WALTON: Or suspend them.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: --- for tonight. We need a motion.

MR. WALTON: Or suspend the rules in this instance.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: We need a motion.

MR. MACEY: Keep in mind ---.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Anybody want to make a motion either/or?

MR. MACEY: Let's not make a mountain out of a molehill here.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: We're trying to get through it. Anybody want to make a motion to amend or to waive? Anybody want to make a motion to amend or waive? I don't see any motion.

MS. HALLAM: All right. Can we move forward with the motion and second that were on the table then, please?

MR. MACEY: Councilwoman Hallam, could you repeat yourself, please?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. Since there is no motion for this, can we please move forward with the second on the motion?

MR. WALTON: You can't move until a formal action is taken. Just because Councilwoman Hallam wants to do something, that doesn't change the rules by which we have to operate.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: You're correct.

MR. MACEY: There was no second.

MR. WALTON: The challenge to the decision of the chair doesn't require a second.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: You made the challenge. Mr. Macey took over the Chair. Now he's asking, if I understand correctly pursuant to our rules, does anybody want to make a motion to amend or waive our rule that you cannot make a comment at the time of your vote. That's what we're talking about right now, and that's what your challenge is.

MR. MACEY: It's as simple as that.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Does anybody want to make a motion to amend?

MR. MACEY: May I have a motion to suspend or waive the rule, change the rule?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Okay. May I have a second, please?

MS. PRIZO: Second.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Is that a waiver?

MR. WALTON: Suspend.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: He wants to suspend it. A second. Now we need a vote on whether we're going to waive our rule not to make comment at the time of the vote. We're going to need ten votes to waive that rule for this evening. So let's take a vote, Mr. Barker.

MR. MACEY: Okay. We'll do that in alphabetical order, and I'd like to have a voice vote, please.

MR. WALTON: I think it's simple majority. If I remember correctly, it's a simple majority.

MR. MACEY: You can change it to waive or suspend.

MR. WALTON: Waiving only requires a simple majority.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: A waiver under our rules ---.

MR. WALTON: Suspend the rules according to Robert's is only a simple majority.

MR. MACEY: Wait a second, Councilman.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: You may be correct on Robert's rules, but our rules supersede Robert's Rules once we enact them.

MR. WALTON: Okay.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: So by waiver we need a ten vote, two thirds.

MR. WALTON: I'll defer to your judgment.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: So we need --- Mr. Barker, you want to have a roll call vote, please.

MR. BARKER: Thank you. On Mr. Walton's motion to waive the rule, Mr. Baker?

MR. WALTON: Suspend the rule.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Same thing. Same thing.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Apologies. That was a yes,  
correct? Thank you. Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Let me say it in this manner.

MR. FUTULES: We know your vote.

MR. WALTON: All I'm saying to you is tonight is  
a perfect example of how we have to hold ourselves  
accountable. This is just a step in saying either we  
going to play it by the numbers or we're not. You can't  
have it both ways. I vote yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No.

MR. WALTON: All right.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 3, No's 12. The motion to  
waive fails.

MR. WALTON: No, the motion to suspend.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Now, can you pass the gavel  
back?

MR. MACEY: Now, I'm going to do one of the most  
important things tonight.

MR. WALTON: Give it back.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: Now, I think we have a  
motion on the floor.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and  
seconded.

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: For 11820-21.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll have comment at this  
point. We'll go down the line. Councilman Baker,  
anything?

MR. BAKER: No, thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena. I am  
going to support the override. We have been working on



this for over a year. If the administration had a problem with process, they could have pointed it out well before our vote so I think the people of Allegheny County deserve this, they want this and in the midst of a pandemic it just seems cruel to not do this. Thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, President Catena. As I said when the County Executive was here and I said this at the meeting when they passed this, they're following a process that's laid out by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is the shortest path to providing a bill that will withstand a challenge and deliver what these people that are sending us emails are seeking which is paid sick leave. So I will not be voting to override the veto. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No comment. Thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Quite frankly I don't think I can vote at all. I have to abstain from that. Is that correct, Mr. Cambest?

SOLICITOR CAMBEST: It's your prerogative. If I understand that you ---.

MR. FUTULES: I abstained on the actual ordinance itself, so I'm going to go with the same position.

MR. WALTON: According to rules of council ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We will need a reason.

MR. FUTULES: The reason is I own a business, and it was a conflict of interest during the vote, so to override, I just don't think that --- I'm just going to continue my position to abstain. That's all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I think that's enough of a reason.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. That's all I need; right?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: I have nothing to say. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes. I want to say that ever since the beginning of this whole process I have contended that it had to go to the health department. I'm probably one of the few people on council to have actually read the 46-page Supreme Court ruling on this, so I support the veto at this time believing it should go to the health department to make sure it's legal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Klein?

MR. KLEIN: At this time I don't know what the hell we're talking about. I don't think anyone else does either. I don't have any more to say. I'm ready to vote.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No comment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: I have to agree with my colleague Councilman Klein. I'm ready to vote.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: I agree. I have no comment.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton?

MR. WALTON: Simply put, I have a lot to say. No. In all seriousness I've talked to a number of individuals who have a personal interest and I have talked to a number of individuals from various unions and during the entire process even --- well, let me back up a step.

I am in full support of paid sick leave. Unquestioned. And those were the things that I shared with friends, acquaintances, trade unionists that I remain and always will remain supportive of worker rights and worker empowerment. No question.

This is simply a matter of process. No more. No less. And I believe that it is absolutely critical that we do this as expeditiously as possible, because if we override this veto, then what happens is we may have as long as two years to have this issue resolved and we take the time now to promulgate and pass legislation that originated from the health department this is beyond

reproach and workers in Allegheny County deserve no less. And so as a result I will not sustain, I will not override that veto.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: I have nothing to add at this point.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes. Are we voting?

MR. WALTON: No. Not yet.

MR. FUTULES: Discussion.

MR. MACEY: I still say yes. It's been some time since I held the chair here. I think that the Chief Executive has a good point and I think that he wants to do it the right way, but on the other hand, I'm looking at going against the veto.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I have no comment so I'll put it to a roll call vote.

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

MR. BAKER: Point of clarification, so I don't talk while voting. If you're voting no, that means you're with the county executive?

MR. BARKER: A yes vote is a vote to override the veto. A no vote is a vote to sustain the veto.

MR. BAKER: Correct. Okay. Thank you. No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

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: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Pالموسينا?  
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 nine, No's five with one abstention. The motion to override the veto fails.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll now have notification of contracts.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Public comment on general items.

CHIEF VARHOLA: We do have two public comment on general items, Mr. President. One as you're aware of Jared is going to be calling him. He's going to be presenting his own public comment. The first one is Judith Ruszkowski from Pittsburgh 15206. Allegheny for CEDAW is a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations who are advocating for gender equity in our county. Our coalition encompasses 17 diverse organizations from the Executive Women's Council to the Coalition of Labor Union Women, from Gwen's Girls to the American Association of University Women, from the League of Women Voters to the Black Political Empowerment Project. We know that Allegheny County does its best to support gender equity, but as Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission states gender discrimination is systemic and requires a dedicated focus to address intersectional gender equity issues.

Allegheny for CEDAW mission is to ensure the passage of an intersectional ordinance to improve the lives of all women and girls in Allegheny County. We advocate for the creation of a county gender equity commission. Our goal is to improve access to economic development opportunities, improve the health and well-being of women and girls and reduce and eliminate gender violence.

Why is a commission necessary? Allegheny County 55 percent of poor households are run by single mothers and 14 percent of all women and girls live below the poverty line. COVID-19 has exacerbated these social inequities that has led to a loss of over 15,600 childcare spots in Allegheny County and could push parents of young children out of the workforce if these losses become permanent. The region is already lacking about 8,640 licensed childcare spots for kids under the age of five before the COVID crisis according to a new report by Pittsburgh based consulting firm Fourth Economy.

To address issues such as these the way is to establish a gender policy council with a strategic imperative to advance policies and programs that advance gender equity and equality. Allegheny County needs a similar strategic imperative.

In the months ahead we ask that you support efforts to create a gender equity commission that upholds the principles of CEDAW, the only United Nations international human rights treaty to focus exclusively on the rights of women. CEDAW stands for the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, a treaty which the United States has failed to ratify. It falls on the shoulders of state and local government to end gender discrimination. This year during women's history month we ask you to begin the consideration of Allegheny for CEDAW.

Next public speaker is Mr. Frank McClard from Coraopolis 15108. I believe he might be on the line.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do we have Mr. McClard?

MR. BARKER: Mr. McClard, are you still with us?

MR. MCCLARD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: You're up.

MR. MCCLARD: Yes. Thank you. I have reached out numerous times to address an issue that I feel warrants attention. In 2020 Allegheny County was awarded \$212 million as part of the CARES Act of 2020. The allocation was made so the county could cover necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency concerning the coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19, and were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020. Any expenditures from the CARES Act must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency by directing medical or public health needs or responding to second order effects of the emergency.

How can the county executive arbitrarily decide to give each county worker \$100 to get a COVID vaccine? The county allegedly spent over \$700,000 from the CARES Act to pay county workers this \$100 stipend. The county executive mentioned publically that funds from the 2020 CARES Act were used for this purpose. I checked on the wording of the CARES Act and did not see where it mentions that this was an acceptable use of these funds.

If county workers don't want the vaccine, make it available to others who desperately want to get them. Don't pay them. It's now become a collective bargaining issue not just for today, but for the future. Why should county workers be the only ones eligible for this so-called stipend? What about others who work in the county? These federal funds were not intended just for county workers.

I've also recently submitted a Right to Know Request through the county over five business days ago asking that the budgets and accounting staff provide a detailed report asking exactly how the \$210 million from the 2020 CARES Act were allocated. How do the taxpayers know that after decisions such as the one to pay county workers \$100 to get the vaccine that the funds distributed to the county from the federal government are being used

for their rightful and intended purpose? To date I have not received a response from this lawful request nor have I received a request for an extension to answer my question.

This is a violation of the Right to Know statute. As a recently retired public school superintendent who along with my life retired and moved back to Allegheny County, this attitude is unacceptable. How does a constituent address concerns with their elected officials when the elected officials won't respond to their request? This particular expenditure does not follow the intent of the law. The arbitrary and capricious manner in which the county is conducting its business just does not seem right. Excluding the public seems questionable and ignoring Right to Know Requests and contact forms inquiring don't help. You must do a better job as far as the public is concerned. Thank you so very much for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening, Jared?

MR. BARKER: No.

CHIEF VARHOLA: That's it, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. If there's nothing else, motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

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. Goodnight everyone. Thank you.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:12 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter