

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	Chair, District 4
Robert Macey	-	Vice-President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-at-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-at-Large
Jack Betkowski	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis	-	District 8
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia Bennett	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 - 4:59 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
225 Ross Street Suite 202  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'll call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection.

(Moment of silence.)

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

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macy?

MR. MACY: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

JARED BARKER: Thank you. Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

JARED BARKER: All 15 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Welcome back everyone. We'll begin with proclamations and certificates. 12149-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Daniel Gilman for his years of dedicated service to the city of Pittsburgh sponsored by Council Members Duerr, Prizio,

Catena, Betkowski, Klein, Naccarati-Chapkis, Walton, Macey and Bennett.

MR. DUERR: Okay. So I doubt any of us up here need introduction to Mr. Gilman. I wanted to honor Dan because I don't, you know, I have kind of been tangentially involved with politics around the political sphere here in Southwestern PA for a little bit now and I don't think there's any higher public servant than Dan in the time that I have been involved. Dan has consistently shown through his time as a council member on Pittsburgh City Council but also as Mayor Peduto's chief of staff such a quiet dedication to the people of this region. The other night when it was snowing I was thinking I think this might be the actual sleep-filled night you had when it was snowing for the first time since you became the mayor's chief of staff. Just the level of detail that you put into constituent services for someone like me who was just getting into this realm of political service. It was such a tremendous, you know, piece to base myself off of and I know from just my time on council that we could not do the job we do without our staff and we definitely couldn't do the job that we do without Ken Varhola our chief of staff and I respect him so much and I respect you so much for the job that you have done throughout your time as the mayor's chief of staff. Just everything that you put into this region to better the lives of the people of City of Pittsburgh. It's tremendous to see, and I hope you enjoy your time away from politics a little bit here and I know you're going to do a great job at your new position at Duquesne. So, Councilman Klein, do you want to say a few words?

MR. KLEIN: Dan was for a very long time my councilperson and Dan is really in many respects what you might call a man for all seasons. So in many respects I look at his moving to Duquesne University and feeling that, you know, our loss is really their gain in a very big way. I know something about Duquesne University because I spent 27 years of my life there, so they are really lucky and they don't know how lucky they are.

So I'm sure that Dan will continue to be engaged and involved in the civic life of this community. I am sure we will continue to hear from him going forward and thank you for all your service to the city and for being --- thank you again.

MR. DUERR: I'm going to read this and then I will pass it over to Dan for a few words. So whereas Dan Gilman has spent nearly two decades of service to the residents of the City of Pittsburgh and whereas Mr. Gilman was elected to City of Pittsburgh council in 2013 representing the districts --- the residents of District 8. He replaced his former boss where he worked for several years after his boss became mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and whereas as a City of Pittsburgh councilman Mr. Gilman focused on creating a more accountable city government, embracing Pittsburgh technological renaissance for city services and making Pittsburgh more family friendly and progressive city, and whereas while on council Mr. Gilman sponsored legislation to create safe spaces for nursing parents in city government buildings. He also passed legislation banning the harmful practice of conversion therapy for LGBTQIA+ minors in Pittsburgh and supported an ordinance to end the practice of inquiring in the City of Pittsburgh job applicant salary history which perpetuates the growing national wage gap for women and minority candidates and encourage companies in the private sector to do the same.

In addition Mr. Gilman sponsored a city for all agendas six pieces of legislation to enhance and expand city services for immigrant and refugees, and whereas in 2018 Mr. Gilman decided to take on the role of chief of staff to Mayor William Peduto. He was responsible for carrying out the mayor's vision for the city which included oversight and leadership and operations of all city departments, and whereas over the years Mr. Gilman has received many accolades among being selected for the New Deal, appointed as vice chair and nationally of the cities of university communities council, recognized as one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 by Pittsburgh Magazine and Pittsburgh Urban Management Project and been named one of Pittsburgh's 50th finest by Role Magazine just to name a few.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I County Council Member Tom Duerr do hereby recognize Daniel Gilman for his years of dedicated service to the City of Pittsburgh and we thank him for his unwavering commitment to make sure that Pittsburgh transformation and growth will benefit all city residents and I hereby cause the seal of Allegheny County to be affixed this 25th day of January, 2022. Congrats, Dan.

DANIEL GILMAN: Thank you so much, Mr. President and Council Members, Councilman Duerr, Councilwoman Bennett, Councilman Klein. Eighteen (18) years in the city I would say your folders are much nicer than ours. The greatest job I ever had serving the people in the City of Pittsburgh. It is truly my honor. We accomplished a lot of great things, and that was because of partnerships. It was because of County Council, the City Council, the County Executive. There was never a time in this city's history where the city, the county, our congressional representatives, our Harrisburg representatives worked so well together and the result of that came back in the form of jobs, good paying union jobs. It came back with progressive legislation. It came back with affordable housing. It came back with becoming a more welcoming inclusive city, and that really was the work of the elected officials and this body across the street so it was my pleasure and honor to work with all of you. I am thrilled to be at Duquesne University although council members were telling me about going from 500 emails a day to 10 emails a day. I won't know what to do, but I look forward to continuing to work in this position and hopefully one day again in future positions with all of you from the city, the county and I appreciate the recognition today. Thank you, Council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have 121 --- or I'm sorry --- 12150-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation declaring January 18, 2022 to be national day of racial healing in Allegheny County sponsored by Council Member Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you. So today we commemorated the day --- the national day of racial healing which actually took place on the day after Dr. Martin Luther King Day. This year was January 18 but, because we didn't have a council meeting on the 18th and we have it today, we are commemorating it today.

I would be remiss if I did not stop and honor one of the --- one of the contributors to this work who passed away last night, early this morning, Alma Speed Fox so I just want to make sure that we hold space for Alma Speed Fox and her work as it directly correlates with what we're celebrating today. So thank you Alma Speed Fox. Condolences to her family and our thoughts, prayers and wishes are with them.

So whereas in 2017 the W.K. Kellogg foundation --- one of the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States --- I'm sorry. I forgot to ask you to come up, Cathy --- foundations in the United States established a national day of racial healing. As part of its truth, racial healing and transformation process and whereas the national day of racial healing is an opportunity for people, organizations and communities across the United States to call for racial healing, bring people together in their common humanity and take collective action to create a more just and equitable world, and whereas every year the national day of racial healing is celebrated on Tuesday after Martin Luther King, Jr. day with this year marking the sixth annual national day of racial healing, and whereas the process of healing is different for everyone, and it can happen on a personal, cultural and systemic level.

For communities to heal we must meet with justice working to systemic change and transformation as well as engaging with others from different backgrounds. Everyone has a role to play in this transformation and whereas as we commemorate the national day of racial healing we also want to recognize local heroes who have dedicated their life to the work. Those who have gone ahead of us include Dr. Larry Davis and Reverend Elmer Williams. And whereas Dr. Larry Davis who was dean of the school of social work at the University of Pittsburgh was the founding director of the center of race and social problems at the school of social work.

The center brought in race scholars from across the country to share their race related research and in 2010 the center hosted the largest conference ever held on race in America and whereas Dr. Davis was greatly involved in writing the parable of the stool enabling justice and freedom even in highly challenged neighborhoods, communities and nations. Mr. Davis was part of a talented team of University of Pittsburgh academia and writing this document which focused on how four legs of a stool are interconnected and dependent on one another like social justice and freedom. This team consisted of the following: Pamela Conley, Waverly Duck, Vincent O'Johnson, Nadia Johnnaset, Prina Shellagot, Lilay Noble, A.W. Maseru, Lee Patel and Jerome Taylor.

And whereas Reverend Albert Williams --- side note this is my father --- was the senior pastor at Sixth

Mount Zion Church where he combined ministry with social activism to address the needs of the African-American community under his leadership Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church purchased Dr. J.C. Harriston Center and 28 homes near the church to provide low-cost rentals to residents, an area now known as Elmer L. Williams square.

Reverend Williams helped shape desegregation plans as a member of the Pittsburgh school board and was an instructor at several local universities. He also served as executive director of Pittsburgh Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Inc. otherwise known as OIC, and whereas as this work continues we also want to honor those who carry the torch of this work today such as Dr. Jerry Taylor chair and faculty member of the department of Africana studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Taylor founded the commission of Justice Works. The commission is led by faith-based organizations joined together with justice minded leaders associations and institutions. Together they will be trained and certified in methods for uniting, rallying and sustaining community commitment to nothing less than full achievement and maintenance of educational and social justice and whereas the following individuals make up the commission for Justice Works: Reverend Dr. James McLemore, Chair Reverend Dr. Darrell Kannady, Reverend John Cook, Reverend Brenda Greg, Reverend Stan Hood, Reverend Wade Jones, Elder Lee Michaels, Reverend Dr. Ronald Peters, Reverend Alec K. Piper, Abdul Roulend Sharif, Reverend Lawana Simmons, Dr. Greta Stokes Tucker and Reverend Lawanda Wright and whereas another dedicated person carrying the torch today is Sala Udin.

Mr. Udin is the current president of the Pittsburgh Public School Board and previously served on Pittsburgh city council. While on city council, Mr. Udin introduced legislation to establish a citizen's police review board. Mr. Udin was also instrumental in the creation of freedom corner a place where many of our unsung heroes can be found and many movements have been started. And whereas the above leaders have laid a foundation of racial justice for all communities, we recognize the work of those who promote and secure adamant racial healing and equity among other minoritized refugees and immigrant communities such as the joint ethnic racial equity committee of Welcoming Pittsburgh at Allegheny County, immigrant and international advisory council

including Dr. Cathy Sigmund, chair, Cara Teansina, Butanese Community, Benedict Kilang, United African Communities, Somali Bantu, Bhino Calhoudu, Conalese, Dr. Wyam Jones, Ansar --- Arabic speaking --- Rosa Maria Cristello Latino Community, Rabbi Ron Simons, Cara von Meza, Monica Ruiz of Casa San Jose, Rabbi Jeffrey Meyers from the Tree of Life Congregation and many others.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I Allegheny County Council Member Olivia Bennett do hereby recognize and declare January 18, 2022 to be national day of racial healing in Allegheny County and in witness thereof I have hereunto caused the seal of Allegheny County to be affixed this 18th day of January 2022 and Dr. Sigmund is the catalyst for us celebrating today so that is why she is getting presented with this proclamation.

DR. CATHY SIGMUND: So thank you so much, Councilwoman Bennett, for your graciousness and for your willingness to take this on. Ethnic racial healing is for all of us. It's for our entire county. Wouldn't the world be a wonderful place if we embraced each other, love each other and just compassionately work to heal the wounds that we have sustained? All of us have sustained wounds and so as we celebrate the various wonderful ethnicities and I'm also a minister so I'm going to say god breathed ethnicities. God created ethnicities. It's beautiful and so if we could see the beauty in each other and celebrate that and help each other heal it would be a great place, and I believe in God for Allegheny County to be such a great place where all of us are welcome and we all just us love on each other and care for each other so thank you much, Councilwoman Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12151-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation thanking Athletic Trauma Unit and declaring the month of January 2022 to be Christopher "Steel" Edmonds Month in Allegheny County sponsored by Councilwoman Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you. I'm back. This is the homie Chris. So Chris has really impacted this region positively through healthy --- just healthy activity. Just a centerization on wellness whether that's how we're eating, our exercise regimens. He's offering free workouts so look him up. Go and do that if you haven't figured out your workout plan yet. He's your answer so we want to celebrate him because he's doing such great work in this county and promoting such healthy living that we



could not help but to celebrate you today. So whereas the athletic trauma unit #ATU is a regional advocate for Allegheny County's community health and whereas their mission is to promote physical movement and healthy lifestyle for all ATU believes that once a body is in motion it stays in motion. Therefore it provides free workouts, free meal plans, free meals and additional support to families as needed and where ATU has better health conditions of individuals and improves the quality of life by providing free community health-focused services and whereas former NFL player Christopher "Steel" Edmonds recognized the obstacles low-income communities face in living a healthier lifestyle, Mr. Edmonds founded ATU in hopes of removing financial barriers to health and fitness, and whereas ATU provides family-oriented exercise classes --- I saw something on twerking yesterday, right --- and fitness training and nutritional coaching at no cost to continue fighting obesity in underserved areas ATU provides residents a healthy alternative to fast food and whereas ATU is dedicated to working with residents of Allegheny County that make our county a better and healthier place for all.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I Allegheny County Council Member Olivia Bennet do hereby recognize and thank Athletic Trauma Unit, ATU, and we honor Christopher "Steel" Edmonds for his dedication to making health and fitness more accessible. Also this council declares January 2022 the whole month to be Christopher "Steel" Edmonds month in Allegheny County. He thought he was just getting a day, y'all. In witness thereof I have hereunto caused the seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 25th day of January 2022. Thank you so much for your work and everything you do for Allegheny County.

CHRISTOPHER EDMONDS: All right. Thank you guys. Thank you to everybody. It's fitting my birthday is January 1st so this is kind of feeling good as I turn 44 and I was nervous until I got here because actually in June of 2014 I came down here and got fired from my job. That's how ATU started. So I do want thank you all. I appreciate it so much. I want to thank Monica, my business manager, because I don't work. She just does everything and I just go follow directions. My frat brother Everett part of my fraternity and for supporting me and my wonderful love Camille Miller for coming down

here and everybody here keep doing your thing and I appreciate you so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12152-22 is going to be held so we're on to 12153-22.

JARED BARKER: A certificate of achievement presented to the 2021 Hampton Boys Soccer Team for claiming both the 2021 WPIAL Class 3-A Boys Soccer Championship and the PIAA Championship game sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: Well, thanks so much everyone for coming down. It is my honor to introduce everyone to the Hampton Soccer Team. So let me read the proclamation here. Whereas the hard work and dedication, sportsmanship, talent and exceptional team chemistry the 2021 Hampton High School boys soccer team has enabled these student athletes to earn a Western Pennsylvania and state championship title, and whereas the Hampton High School boys soccer team won the 2021 WPIAL Class A, Class 3-A boys soccer championship by beating West Allegheny 1-0, and whereas the boys soccer team went on to win the PIAA state championship in beating Archbishop Wood 1-0, and whereas the Hampton High School boys soccer team has brought honor to Hampton School District, the community on the local, state and national level, and whereas the entire coaching staff, team members, parents, faculty and student body of Hampton High School were integral in helping their team to victory through their unwavering support. And now therefore be it resolved that I Allegheny County Council Member Anita Prizio do hereby recognize the Hampton High School Boys Soccer Team for achieving the great accomplishment of winning both the WPIAL and PIAA championship. In witness whereof I hereunto cause the seal of the County of Allegheny County to be affixed this 25th day of January 2022. Thank you so much.

COACH MATT MCAWLEY: Thank you all for having us come down here tonight. It's an amazing moment for us to share as a team. It was such a successful season for us and the boys worked so incredibly hard but it could not be done without the support of not only the Hampton Township School District but the Hampton Township community as well. So many things were done this season for us inside the game and outside the game to help us accomplish what we did to go along with the hard work of these boys so thank you all for honoring us here tonight.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you guys for coming down. It means a lot to us. We haven't had a team here in two years now at this point so you're the first team back. So congratulations.

The following proclamations and certificates will be read into the record. 12154-22.

JARED BARKER: Certificates of achievement presented to the 2021 Mt. Lebanon Football Team for claiming both the 2021 WPIAL Class 6-A Football Championship and the PIAA Championship sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12155-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Glenn Smith for being recognized at the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast sponsored by Council Members Kirk, Prizio and Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12156-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Nate Locklin for being recognized at the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast sponsored by Council Members Kirk, Prizio and Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12157-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation congratulating the Lions club of McKeesport upon their 100th anniversary sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12158-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Anthony Taliani, Jr. for his years committed to local government sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12159-22.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Tyler E. Hartlep upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award sponsored by Council Member Palmosina.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12160-22.

JARED BARKER: Certificates of recognition presented to the 2021 FireVEST graduates sponsored by Council Members Bennett, Macey and Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12161-22.

JARED BARKER: Certificates of recognition presented to the 2020 Highland Volunteer Fire Department Awardees sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there any public comment on any of the agenda items?

JARED BARKER: We did have sign up. Marsha Bades of the City of Pittsburgh.

MARSHA BANDES: Thank you. Okay. So my name is Marsha Bandes. I'm from Squirrel Hill. I'm here to voice my opposition to Pittsburgh hosting Republican National Convention. Many of the congress people who will be attending voted against the confirmation of President Biden and have continued to support the big lie that Trump actually won. These legislators are no less insurrectionists than those who stormed our Capitol. These are the same legislators who voted against the impeachment of then President Trump for his role in inciting the insurrection even though he sat for three hours and watched the brave police fight off the attack. These are the same legislators who on January 6 called the President and his chief of staff frightened and begging for the President to put a stop to the attack who have since changed their story and voted against even having a commission investigate what happened and what led up to January 6. They continue to reconfirm to their constituents that our election process is riddled with fraud. They sit quietly by or worse join in as their democratic colleagues and some republican colleagues receive death threats against themselves and their families.

Are these really the people we want to invite to our county, to our city? How many of you remember how militarized Pittsburgh was during the 2009 G20? We had over 4,600 armed personnel patrolling our streets. It was supposed to be an economic boon but many of the downtown restaurants and stores suffered because many of the streets were blocked off, and the U.S. Government paid for most of the protection for that international event. Who's going to pay for it this time? I don't want my tax dollars going to those lying, violence inciting legislators, candidates and their constituents and not a dime for concessions to encourage them to come.

Who do we think republican convention is going to attract? Pacifists? No. Thousands of pro big lie people from all over the country and thousands of pro-democracy people. How many armed personnel will it take to keep them apart? What will our city look like when they leave? And lastly we are a swing state, why do we want to help these liars, these insurrectionists pour into our state, county and city giving each access to our voters to spread their lies, grow and energize their Pennsylvania base to egg on republican members of our

general assembly and then lie to misled constituents to try to pass all sorts of voting restrictions?

I don't know why County Executive Fitzgerald supports them coming. This will not be good for Pittsburgh economically or for our state politically. We must have Visit Pittsburgh rescind its invitation. Tell the RNC we cannot afford to host the republican convention, and it's the truth on so many levels. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have approval of minutes. If no one objects actually, I'd like to vote on all of them at the end. Does anyone have a problem with that? Object? Go ahead, Jared.

JARED BARKER: 12136-22. A motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 regular meeting of council. 12137-22. A motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021 regular meeting of council. 12139-22. It's a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021 regular meeting of council, and 12140-22 is a motion to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021 regular meeting of council.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to approve.

MS. BENNETT: Second.

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

MR. BETKOWSKI: I will be abstaining on all these since I wasn't participating.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Duly noted.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: I will ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You'll be abstaining, Michelle?

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: I will as well as I was not present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. FUTULES: I will too. I don't remember what was said.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Moving right along. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Presentation of appointments. All the following appointments will be referred to the committee on appointment review. At this time I'd like to have the clerk read them all.

JARED BARKER: 12141-22 approving the appointment of Thomas McIntyre to the Allegheny County Airport Authority Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2026.

12142-22 approving the appointment of Tori Shriver to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2025.

12143-22 approving the appointment of Courtney Mahronich Vita to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024.

12144-22 approving the re-appointment of Cynthia Moore to the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024.

12145-22 approving the re-appointment of Dillon Moore to the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024.

12146-22 approving the re-appointment of Andrea Horton-Mericli to the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024.

12147-22 approving the re-appointment of James L. Ritchie to the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024.

And 12148-22 approving the re-appointment of Laura Richardson Zinski to the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024 all sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there any unfinished business?

JARED BARKER: None.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Liaison reports. Obviously Liaison reports --- obviously just to remind everybody liaison reports are for board members or council members where you're the liaison for that board. For instance Sam and Bethany are on the elections board so they would therefore be reporting on any election's committee stuff so just to clarify. Now taking that into account does anyone have a liaison report?

MR. DUERR: Mr. President, I was wondering if we might have a Big Brothers Big Sisters update in lieu of Tom Baker no longer being here. That was a joke. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. I'm sure he'd like to call. Okay. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of council. Sometime ago I'd say around ten years ago we put

together a program called FireVEST. That's for the volunteer emergency services training and what's unique about this particular program is that those individuals who want to become a firefighter can get up to two years free college education and all they have to do is sign on as a volunteer for five years. Now, remember a free two year college education. That is books, tuition, fees, everything and it doesn't have to just be curriculum. It can be for a trade such as carpentry, welding, electrical and others. So in the light that we've went from 500,000, 300,000 volunteer firefighters in the State of Pennsylvania we're now down to about 30-40,000 so our communities are lacking in the ability to fight fires and to watch emergency situations such as car accidents, chemical spills and things of that nature. So we are going to be going out --- I will be going out, and I'm sure some of my other colleagues, to various school districts and talking to the schools and finding out exactly what we can do to meet with some of the students, maybe the ROTC, maybe boy scouts and girl scouts, and find out who would be interested in such a program.

It's a win-win-win situation, and I think that for those who aren't familiar with it it's very easy just to Google FireVEST and Allegheny County Community Colleges. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

MR. FUTULES: I have something.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: I'm sorry that I didn't realize we weren't supposed to do liaison reports of the things of other committees that we serve on, but I had wanted to make an exception just for this one time if I may. The last week Tony Taliania we just gave a proclamation to has served as East Deer Commissioner. It doesn't mention but he served 50 years on his --- as East Deer Commissioner and that's a long time to be an elected official and I just wanted to recognize him this evening for that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome. Anyone else? Okay. Moving on. New business ordinances and resolutions. 12162-22.

JARED 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 facilitate private and/or public entities engaging in any industrial or commercial land uses within Allegheny County's parks sponsored by Council Members Hallam, Prizio, Bennett, Betkowski, and Naccarati-Chapkis.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to parks.  
12163-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance amending the administrative code of Allegheny County section 5-801.05 entitled public hearings in order to establish a uniform mechanism for fostering transparency regarding county salary budgeting sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to go to government reform. 12164-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance amending the administrative code of Allegheny County section 5-801.06 entitled adoption of budgets in order to prohibit the enactment of any annual operating budget resolution containing one or more line items authorizing salary increases totaling over three percent for any county office, bureau, division or department sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to go to government reform. 12165-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the county of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending the administrative code of Allegheny County Article 301 entitled county council section 5-301.03 entitled councilmatic districts in order to provide a uniform process for the reapportionment of council districts within Allegheny County sponsored by Council Members Duerr and Klein.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to government reform. 12166-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania directing that a referendum question regarding the amendment of Article III section 6 of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County which places restrictions on the ability of certain persons to run for federal, state, county and local elected office be placed on the November 8, 2022 general



election ballot sponsored by Council Members Macey, Catena, Futules, Duerr and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to government reform as well. 12167-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing the Oliver Miller Homestead Associates to continue to use a certain portion of the County's South Park for operation of the historical property known as the Oliver Miller Homestead sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the committee on parks. 12168-22.

JARED 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 two parcels required for the reconstruction of Mount Troy Road County Road No. 2312-02 located in Reserve Township and the City of Pittsburgh Allegheny 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 goes to Public Works. 12169-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation a permanent right of way in fee and a temporary construction easement from one parcel required for the Crawford Run Road Culvert Replacement, Crawford Run Road over Crawford Run, East Deer Township, Allegheny County and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including by not limited to the eminent domain code sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Public Works. 12170-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to the Allegheny County Health Department's Rules and regulations Article XV Plumbing and Building Drainage sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Health and Human Services. 12171-22.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that revise section 2105.90 gasoline volatility, section 2107.15 methods-gasoline volatility and RFG, and section 2101.20 definitions of the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations Article XXI Air Pollution Control sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12172-22.

JARED BARKER: I apologize. That's referred to?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Health and Human Services.

JARED BARKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12172-22.

JARED BARKER: A resolution approving the project for the benefit of Carnegie Mellon University, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation to be financed by the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority by the issuance of the Authority's taxable and/or tax-exempt revenue bonds in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$120,000,000 provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the bonds and declaring the financing of such projects as desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the county sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Economic development and housing for that one. New Business and Motions. 12173-22.

JARED BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County strongly encouraging Visit Pittsburgh to withdraw its bid to host the 2024 Republican National Convention and expressing the sense of Council regarding such hosting sponsored by Council Members Hallam, Bennett, Prizo and Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to go to government reform. 12174-22.

JARED BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County authorizing the publication of a request for proposals for Allegheny County Council Solicitor sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Obviously I've been in contact with a number of you over the past few months, six months or so, and this has come out that a majority of you expressing interests that we put out an RFP at this point in time to interview for new solicitors. So at this point in time I'd like to make that motion. Is there a second?

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Now we'll open it up to comment. Does anyone have any comment? Seeing no comment, Jared ---.

MR. WALTON: Here's a comment.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. Go ahead, Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: I can appreciate that you indicated that you had conversations with a number of members of council. At no time have you had a conversation with me and while that is clearly your privilege I believe that's a fundamental flaw in how we operate. If we're going to be transparent, if we're going to be progressive, then those kinds of conversations should be broadly shared and discussed.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. If you recall, we talked about this I believe in September at our caucus meeting and the desire at that point in time not all of our caucus was obviously present at that point in time and they decided to hold off on that at that point in time so actually we did discuss it at that point in time and then we said we'd revisit it at a later date.

MR. WALTON: I don't remember that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. But that actually did take place in caucus so just to remind you. Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any other comment? Hearing no other --- Councilwoman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Regardless of the merits of the motion, I thought we were heading towards, as Councilman Walton said, more transparency as far as taking all motions unless they're critical timeframe that we take into a committee meeting. I thought that's the direction we were headed.

PRESIDENT CATENA: For the executive committee because time is critical at this point the solicitor's contract is actually up next month. So it's either we look at it at this point in time and possibly extend his contract in order to get us through the interview period.

MS. KIRK: Okay. I wasn't aware of the timeline.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Jared, will you please take a roll call vote?

JARED BARKER: On the motion to approve.

Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?  
MS. BENNETT: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?  
MR. DUERR: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: No.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?  
MS. HALLAM: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Macy?  
MR. MACY: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis  
MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Pالموسينا?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: No.  
JARED BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ayes 13, No's 2 the motion

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point in time I would like to extend our contract with our current solicitor by a three month period to go through April 30th, from February 1st to --- ending April 30th. Is there a second for that?

MS. HALLAM: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

MR. FUTULES: I have a question. I recall back in December didn't we make a motion to rehire our ---?

MS. HALLAM: We extended it.

MR. FUTULES: We did what?

MS. HALLAM: We extended it, right?

PRESIDENT CATENA: There was no motion.

KEN VARHOLA: Contract ends on the 31st of January.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The contract ends on the 31st of January.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we would be extending it three months basically. Any other ---?

MR. MACEY: Mr. President? I understand three months is your wish. However, don't we have some legal actions that are going on that may prove detrimental not to have our current solicitor available?

PRESIDENT CATENA: What actually happens in that case is actually we have outside legal counsel but obviously our solicitor would be involved with outside legal counsel as need --- our current solicitor --- would be basically as needed.

MR. MACEY: So in other words what you're saying is he could be --- I forget the term. He could be pulled into the legal action by virtue of a judge soliciting or ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I mean he would be available moving forwards if we needed, Solicitor Cambest, provided he's not the attorney and he's not the new solicitor when we get to that point but, if he is the solicitor, he's still available.

MR. MACEY: I'm sorry. My professor friend doesn't have the term either.

KEN VARHOLA: Do you mean retained?

MR. MACEY: That's okay.

MR. FUTULES: Is this getting sent to the executive committee?

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry?

MR. FUTULES: Is this getting sent to the executive committee right now?

PRESIDENT CATENA: It's being voted on to extend the contract up to the 31st.

MR. FUTULES: I have a question that should be asked but not maybe here. I just ---.

MR. MACEY: I'm sorry, Mr. President. The word is subpoenaed. Sorry I'm getting a little old and Alzheimer's is kicking in.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. So he could be brought in at any point in time. Is that it? Councilwoman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Just verifying is Solicitor Cambest willing to stay on at least for three months and hopefully we'll vote then.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Are there any other comments at this point in time? So, again, I made the motion to extend the contract by three months to April 30th. Is there a second? Oh --- motion has been made and seconded. Jared, please take a roll call vote.

JARED BARKER: On the motion to extend, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macy?

MR. MACY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ayes 15, No's 0 the motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: This evening I also have a non-agenda motion that I'd like to make. Motion to amend the rules of council in order to return the executive committee to its previous structure rather than specifying

that it's a committee of the whole. Obviously over the past two years the committee of the whole is inefficient to the point of being unsustainable. So I'm going to Ken to hand out the hard copies but the sole change is deleting the one sentence that says the executive committee to be a committee of the whole. The committee will still function the same way, and we'll still need a vote from the majority of the seated committee members to take any action and then go to full council. So take a minute to review the change.

MS. HALLAM: Are you looking for a second?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: I'll second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. It's just one line so the motion has been made and seconded. Is there any comment?

MR. DUERR: President Catena, just as a --- do we need a separate motion to add this to the agenda? I just want to make sure that that is --- I don't really know the term.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah. Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Are we discussing this?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah. Comment.

MR. DEMARCO: In regards to comment here right now I would be opposed to this without having discussion about it. I think a lot of what we talk about how to have two years here the committee as a whole hasn't worked that well. We've also been in the middle of a global pandemic for much of this period of time many of the folks weren't attending in person. The executive committees typically require us to get together to be able to discuss personnel matters so I just think that, you know, while I appreciate the comment and things like that, I think this is something that should be discussed further because the executive committee and any rules of council that they pick, you know, personnel they pick affect all 15 members of council. I think folks should have the ability to be able to discuss and understand what's going to happen or go on so I would be opposed to this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, just to clarify it would still go for a vote before council.

MR. DEMARCO: I understand but it wouldn't have any input into what's taking place in executive committee.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other comment? Hearing no other comment, Jared, would you please take a roll call vote?

JARED BARKER: On the motion to approve the change, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macy?

MR. MACY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: No.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ayes 12, No's 3, the motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Notification of contracts 12138-22.

JARED BARKER: A communication summarizing approved executive actions for the month of December 2021.

MS. BENNETT: So moved.

MR. DUERR: 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. Is there any public comment on any of the general items?

JARED BARKER: We had three individuals sign up. First is Al Smith of the City of Pittsburgh.

AL SMITH: Good afternoon, folks. Thank you for giving me the time to speak. My name is Al Smith. I'm a business agent for SCIU Local 668. I've been a business agent for 35 years. I've bargained over 300 contracts. I say that so that you understand that we don't get to this point that often in bargaining, so I've bargained many contracts in Allegheny County. You probably don't know my name which means things went pretty well. The fact that I'm here means things aren't going as well as we would like them to do. We represent the lion's share of members, organized members, in the county anywhere from the 911 folks, folks at the prison, folks in the row offices, court-related, court-appointed, election department, the health department. Since the pandemic our members have stood up and many of the departments they weren't allowed to telework so they have were here during the entire pandemic which, you know, they got a lot of thank you and pats on the back but that doesn't do much for folks after, you know, when you're here. The pandemic doesn't stop at your door because your boss said thank you for putting in the work here. Some of the county called them heroes and then they decided it was necessary to mandate folks to be vaccinated which 95 percent of our members did. The union took the position we had to figure out a way to make sure that we maintain services for the folks in Allegheny County. That was the union position. Our collective bargaining agreements expired on December 31st, and quite frankly we don't believe our members are being treated fairly at the bargaining table. There has been a serious snag in bargaining. We think that going forward we're open to try to get this thing resolved with your help without having to withhold our services. We have many of our folks who are still working at \$15 an hour and as you well know you can get \$15 an hour working at Wal-Mart and Costco's. We will be returning to bargaining next week. I hope that the county has a plan to recruit on some of the departments that we're sufficiently below the staffing rates. 911 being one of the main departments that we're looking to figure out how to recruit actively help the county in that department and

the Kane hospitals. We're having trouble recruiting folks in the Kane hospitals, but one of the serious issues we have is that the inflation rate is above what folks are offering us.

PRESIDENT CATENA: If you could wrap it up, sir.

AL SMITH: Yes. We will. I'm sorry. I'm just hoping we can get the support of the County Council here to help us bring this to a close. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

JARED BARKER: Next up is Michael Steinmiller.

MICHAEL STEINMILLER: Good evening. Michael Steinmiller I'm a resident of Shaler Township and I'm an elected union official and spokesperson of SCIU Local 668 and the 911 workers. I work as a 911 telecommunications officer for the department of emergency services where I've been employed for over 10 years almost 11 years answering 911 calls, dispatching police, fire and EMS units each day. We answer 1.4 million calls per year answering more than any other county outside of Philadelphia. Today we have been mandated to work 12 hour shifts since early December. Answering back to back 911 calls is mentally, physically and emotionally exhausting. No call is routine. Since the pandemic we have had more violent calls, shootings, domestics, calls for instance that are involving weapons. Our EMS system is overwhelmed with COVID related calls, and we are doing all this with half of the minimum number of staff and we are combining call taking and dispatching operations far too often. This practice places the public and our first responders at risk. This has impacted our lives away from work, and we face longer drive times to and from work due to schedules. Twelve (12) hour work day means less time with our families, less time to volunteer in our communities and less time for self-care such to decompress.

I would like to reiterate the Post-Gazette wrote in 2019 and I quote, emergency center dispatching by its nature is a high-stress demanding career that can result in burnout and resignations, and it's partly systemic. Employees retire and management fails to replace them. I'll clarify that the majority of the staff that we are losing are not retiring. We are losing workers who are great at their jobs, and they leave because of working conditions such as mandatory overtime and work-related stress. We're also losing current staff and our pool of applicants to jobs with better pay and benefits.

Post-Gazette also wrote the answer is not undoubtedly complex. Offer good pay, attractive fringe benefits and reasonable work environment, more prospective candidates would come knocking and the revolving door would stop spinning. The staff at the 911 center we perform above and beyond each day. Management hangs banners in our workplace saying thank you heroes. It's time for them to respect us, protect us and pay us. This is a must if we're going to recruit and retain workers. PEMA has directed county 911 coordinators to do --- find new ways to recruit, train and retain staff. I urge you as council to take action because if we don't fix this now we are going to be facing a public safety crisis. Thank you for your time.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

JARED BARKER: One more. Ron Bandes.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: He will not be speaking.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MS. BENNETT: So moved.

MR. DUERR: 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. Thank you. Good night everyone.

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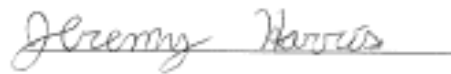
MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:03 P.M.

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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 22 day of February, 2022

 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter