

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice-President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-at-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-at-Large
Jack Betkowski	-	District 1
Susan Filiaggi	-	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 "Liv" Bennett	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 - 5:01 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
John 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: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection.

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

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

MR. BARKER:	Ms. Bennett?
MS. BENNETT:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Betkowski?
MR. BETKOWSKI:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Duerr?
MR. DUERR:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Filiaggi?
MS. FILIAGGI:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?
MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Pالموسينا?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.

MR. BARKER: Thank you. President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Tonight I'm here to present a proclamation to the Avalon Public Library. Whereas of June 1, 2022 the Avalon Public Library will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in its current location 317 South Home Avenue and;

WHEREAS, the Avalon Public Library originally opened in 1946 in a small basement room of the Avalon Elementary School and to

WHEREAS, from 1954-1970 the Avalon Women's Club ran the Avalon Public Library and had very limited hours. And

WHEREAS, in 1973 the Avalon Public Library moved into the basement of the borough building located at 640 California Avenue and;

WHEREAS, the move to the borough building also enabled the Avalon public library to expand its operation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Council President Pat Catena do hereby recognize the dedication of all the individuals responsible for establishing, maintaining and growing the Avalon Public Library and I wish them all the best for many more years of success at its current location. In witness thereof I attach the seal of the County of Allegheny today this evening. Thank you.

MS. WOLESKI: Thank you very much. I can officially say this is the first time I have represented a building. Never done that before. So I am Library Director Heather Woleski, I have been the director since July of 2019. Perfect time to become a new director right before a pandemic hits, but we do thank you in Allegheny County. We are so fortunate you guys are so supportive of the local libraries in the county. Without the CARES Act Funding we would have lost \$15,000 in funding in 2020 which for us basically would have meant either firing staff or not having new books in the library so that was very important for Avalon.

In 2021 we saw 17,571 people through our door at the Avalon Library. Avalon Borough is less than a square mile so that's pretty significant. We had people taking two buses to get to us because other libraries were not open. So we opened as soon as we could during the pandemic and we remained open. We had 235 programs last year and saw 2,345 people attend those programs, so again, for a small library we may be small but we are mighty and we are enjoying our 20th anniversary and we have some new fun things happening later this year that I can't quite announce yet but stay tuned. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Jared, go ahead and read the rest.

MR. BARKER: Next up is the bill number 12304-22 a proclamation recognizing May 23rd as Teen Mental Health

Awareness Day in Allegheny County sponsored by Council Member Bennett and all other members of council.

MS. BENNETT: All right. So we're here to recognize Teen Mental Health Awareness Day, and we'll start by reading this proclamation and follow by having statements from the two representatives here this evening. So a proclamation declaring Teen Mental Health Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Teen Mental Health Awareness Day is designed to raise awareness that mental health is essential for teens and that mental health issues deserve to be treated as health issues with care and compassion and;

WHEREAS, the majority of safe to say something hotline tips in the Pittsburgh region involve bullying, suicidal ideation, and discrimination all of which have a mental health component or can worsen one's mental health and;

WHEREAS, according to a CDC study approximately 37 percent of high school students in the United States experience poor mental health at least most of the time during the COVID-19 pandemic and;

WHEREAS, teens in Pennsylvania are not currently protected by legislation granting excused mental health days from school which can cause mental health crises to compound and;

WHEREAS, teens today face significant academic pressures, increasing anxiety and mental health disorders with limited supportive resources, existing resources within and beyond school environments lack of visibility and;

WHEREAS, youth are often dismissed because of their age we recognize that our youth are the future and they deserve to be heard and respected.

Therefore it is important that youth have leadership positions at the decision making table and;

WHEREAS, people with disabilities deserve access to a safe and inclusive education. Factors that create unsafe conditions such as bullying, exclusion and lacking accommodations including limited remote schooling options can negatively impact mental well-being and;

WHEREAS, teens can struggle to find safe and helpful mental health support due to the underrepresentation of people of diverse socioeconomic statuses, on gender expressions, sexualities, races and cultures in the mental health systems.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Council Member Olivia Bennett do hereby declare May 23, 2022 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day in Allegheny County and recognizing the importance of teen mental health dialogue and policy. In witness whereof I have hereunto caused the seal of Allegheny County to be affixed this 24th day of May 2022.

MR. SHEDEED: Hello, Council Members. Thank you for allowing us to come here today. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mohamad Shedeed, and I'm a junior at South Fayette High School in Allegheny County. And I'm a youth advocate for legislation for mental health in promoting and recognizing resources for mental health. Thank you again for ratifying this proclamation as it is a monumental stride in the face of combatting this mental health crisis which has become a crisis for teens especially since COVID-19. As we said 37 percent during the pandemic suffered from mental health issues and experienced symptoms, and I believe that having this county recognize our efforts, teen's efforts, to ratify and promote this issue will garner further support and encouragement for teens to express when they do have a - mental health issues, and how they best combat them. as I feel that in today's society due to social media, bullying, people are deterred, in fear of admitting when they do have mental health crises which causes increases in suicides obviously but showing that there are people that care about this topic and that want to see teens recover and be able to talk about it and promote resources for it, education around this topic will allow a greater society and youth to be more comfortable speaking about this topic so thank you again.

MS. PESSI: Hello, Council Members. My name is Sarah Pessi and I'm a policy associate with Youth Healthcare Foundation and I work with teens like Mohammad as part of the PA Youth Advocacy Network. This proclamation was completely written by teens across the state and the day was also recognized by the state government. I'm going to limit my remarks to the two other seniors from Allegheny County that worked on this proclamation and just read the words that they were going to say. They're seniors so with regrets and all the end of the year senior activities they weren't able to join but their voices and what they have to say is really powerful.

So I'll start by sharing Luna Plaza's testimony. Hello, my name is Luna. My personal pronouns are she/her, and I'm a mental health advocate with the PA Youth Advocacy Network. Awareness is the beginning of creating lasting changes in society to normalize seeking help and providing resources to get help for all people.

The global crisis has impacted the mental and social emotional health of all students but some have been more affected than others. Historically marginalized students were more likely to experience negative effects and fall further behind in school. Rates of anxiety and depression already on the rise pre-pandemic have increased among all students.

Black students continue to face disproportionate and traumatic impacts from COVID-19, the pandemic, recession and racial violence. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth. While no single intervention can address all of the needs of students, there are positive impacts on a student's academic achievement, behavior and well-being when they are being taught about mental health and there are efforts to increase their mental wellness.

We need to change these statistics. We can respond sooner. We can help people who are in need, we can reach out to people who we know are suffering. We can look for the warning signs and we can be a compassionate people to others. We should always check in with one another and provide safe, non-judgmental space that will allow them to express themselves freely. We need mental health resources that are accessible and inclusive to students. In particular all the work needs to be approached with a racial equity and trauma informed lens to ensure all students are receiving the support they need.

We need mental health days as well. We should not have to earn our rest. Rest is important. Breaks are important to rejuvenate our minds and our bodies. It is important to give ourselves time to breathe, tend to our knees and to keep ourselves going in a healthy manner. Healing is not a one size fits all. My liberation is tied to my ancestral lineage and to the well-being of all black, indigenous and people of color. To me healing is liberation. Thank you.

And then I will read from the other senior Connor Delgard.

Although I am incredibly happy to see my elected officials validate the importance of youth mental health,

one day or one signature is not enough. We need to continue to strive for equitable mental illness treatments, prioritize de-stigmatization measures and support local organizations. Thank you for your support of Youth Voice and please continue to do so. Connor Delgard Finley Township Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12303-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the week of May 23 through May 28 as Period Poverty Awareness Week sponsored by Council Member Macey and all other members of council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And Councilman Macey I believe you're going to make more of a comment on that during our liaison reports; is that correct?

MR. MACEY: That's correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. 12305-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating the Fox Chapel Boys Basketball Team on capturing the Class 6K Basketball championship sponsored by house members Prizio and Futules.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And that's just to be read into the record. 12306-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 2022 Castle Shannon Community Days sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: In the record. 12307-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: This one and all the rest will be read into the record. 12308-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 2022 Castle Shannon Community Day sponsored by Counsel Member DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 1209-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation honoring the service of former Ross Township Police Chief Vernon Moses who was the first and only Ross Township police officer to die in the line of duty in 1932 sponsored by Council Members DeMarco and Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12310-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 2022 Clairton Memorial Day celebration sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12311-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation honoring the Pennsylvania Ancient Order of Hibernians for accepting the MEN Challenge against domestic violence sponsored by council Member DeMarco and all other members of council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12312-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 150th Anniversary of The Linden Grove in Castle Shannon sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

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

MR. BARKER: We have one. Michael Steinmiller who's commenting on the 911 residency staffing issues. Or perhaps not.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. No minutes to approve. No appointments. We'll move on to unfinished business. 1290-22.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2022 submission 01-22 sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Mr. President. The budget and finance committee met on May 19th and affirmatively recommended this bill that would allow for the acceptance of \$1,162,000 in grant funding that would be used to increase the use of home and community-based services for Medicaid eligible individuals and reduce the use of institutionally-based services. I move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, Jared please take a roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve.
Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr.

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Filiaggi?

MS. FILIAGGI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?
MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0 the bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Committee on government reform for the second reading. 12163-22.

MR. 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 Members Catena and Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point in time I'm going to re-refer this bill back to government reform. It needs some additional discussions with administration to see if we can work out some common ground and find out what exactly would work with both sides of the equation on this so that goes back to government reform.

12208-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Administrative Cod of Allegheny County Part 4 entitled Executive Branch Article 401 Section 5-401.09 entitled staff organization and appointments in order to implement a unified structure governing the appointment of departmental directors and equivalent positions sponsored by Council Members Catena, Bennett and Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Again, this one is going to go back to --- re-refer to government reform as well pending additional discussions. There are several members that I've talked to this afternoon that have concerns, and I'd like to talk to the administration again to see where we

could find common ground so that goes back to government reform.

Liaison Reports? Councilman Walton?

MR. WALTON: Thank you. I'm really pleased --- at our last meeting I shared with members of council and the public that we were --- had been working with the director of the public defender's office, the county manager and the Pittsburgh A. Phillip Randolph Institute and with the intent of holding an expungement clinic this past Saturday at the Irene Kaufman auditorium next to the Hill House.

I'm really pleased to report that at that event 194 individuals attended looking to determine whether or not their records could be expunged. Fifty-eight (58) of that 194 were --- filed applications and had their records cleared. In addition because of the commitment of the county, the human resources department was there as well. Sixteen (16) individuals applied for county positions this past Saturday. It was a rousing success. It really begins to give people a second chance. It also gives us an opportunity to fill vacant positions within the county so I think it's a win-win for everybody involved.

We continue to work --- we are going to continue to work with the public defender's office and the county manager and his team and look to schedule one in the Wilksburg Borough in the very near future. I'm going to give true kudos to the administration for working with us and trying to find solutions to the problems that residents of Allegheny County are confronted with on a day-to-day basis. Thank you, Mr. Manager, and for all of your team and to the executive and everybody. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of council. As you heard earlier there was a proclamation that was to be presented on period poverty awareness week. Unfortunately Anna Joiner could not be here. She's from the Pennsylvania Diaper Bank, and she contacted the office today to let us know that she couldn't make it.

But the good news is to why she couldn't make it is because they were blessed with a large shipment of formula through the National Partner Baby to Baby Program and are busy getting families and that together.

Now, the other good thing is that we as county council and others are invited to the Point Breeze office and that is at 201 North Braddock Avenue and that's from 12:00-2:00 tomorrow. I'll repeat that. Tomorrow

Wednesday from 12:00-2:00 at 201 North Braddock Avenue at their facilities, and we all have an opportunity to see how they operate and the wonderful things that they do to help others.

That's it, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. I know we got a number of emails and phone calls about this past primary, and I was wondering if, Councilman DeMarco, since you sat on the election board could maybe provide some details surrounding everything that transpired.

MR. DEMARCO: I don't know that I have a lot of answers, but I would like to speak to the issue. Since early, probably about --- before 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday Election Day I started to receive calls and text messages from people who were saying they were running out of republican ballots at the polls. This continued throughout the entire day. I received calls from Robinson, Kennedy, Pittsburgh at the strip district and the medical examiner's office, Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh, North Fayette, Finley, Elizabeth, Jefferson Hills, Clinton, South Fayette, Ross, Marshall, Hampton, Banksville Middle School, Bethel Park. It was crazy all day long with people that panicked because they run out of republican ballots and there were people who were waiting in line.

I mean, I actually called in to the warehouse, drove down and picked up ballots and drove back out to deliver to five polls to ensure that people could vote. There's an article in WESA the day after the election that they were told they don't believe anybody was turned away. I don't believe that because I received anecdotal evidence from multiple locations from people in West Deer where not only voters were there and the employees didn't understand once they were out of ballots they could have allowed those folks to vote on the AVA compliant express vote machine.

It's a shame that what took place on Tuesday has placed a cloud over the 6,600 workers that were working the polls as well as our folks in elections. Now, I do know that when I went back to the warehouse that night after delivering to the precincts I was told by folks there that this wasn't restricted just to republican ballots but that many polls had --- democrat ballots were running out as well. I checked with my colleague

Councilwoman Hallam who told me she had been fielding calls all day as well.

I tried to do some investigating or looking into this, and I was told by some folks that in elections they had gone back, looked at the previous numbers of primaries, last three primaries, taken a look at how many ballots were going to be required and made an estimate and added five percent to that. But somebody --- and I don't know who was concerned about the amount of waste and took and actually count back those numbers.

Coupled with all this as you had a traffic nightmare because there was a fire in a garbage truck on the Liberty Bridge which shut down the bridge. So that resulted in a traffic mess delaying the couriers they had out delivering ballots to these precincts that either got stuck on the traffic going out to the location or got caught on the traffic coming in. And I know that even though the warehouse is on the north side I got caught in it in the afternoon going back out and so I'm looking forward to the board of elections meeting when we vote to certify this election to get a detailed response, you know, from the folks on --- hey, I want to know how many democrat areas were affected as well as republicans and what steps are we taking to ensure that this never happens again.

And just to be fair to folks again, you know, we have six --- we have 1,323 precincts, you have 6,600 employees in those precincts. You try to train everybody or provide training but you don't know if everyone gets it or everyone understands. You provide training and you ask them, do you understand or have any questions. They say no. You assume they understand the protocols so that if they run out of either democrat or republican ballots they can then use the AVA machine express vote.

However it's much more time consuming and resulted in long waits and lines and that was also a problem on Tuesday. So I think for the folks that wrote in their concern, they're very right to be concerned and to be angry; okay?

I join with the other members of council, and I join with the administration who I know is diligent about trying to get to the bottom of this, find out what happened. Not necessarily to assign blame but to ensure that it doesn't happen again and you will hear a lot of folks out there that will say --- and I saw this, because you know, it all comes to me; right? With all the name

callings, I have been the judge of elections for 20 years and this never happened before.

Well, you're right because we only had ballots for the last two. Okay? So not to make light of these things but we get it and what happened on Tuesday shouldn't have happened and we need to take steps to make sure that it doesn't happen again. And I, along with the other members of the board of elections, am certain that we're going to try to get to the bottom of this and the public will know about what took place. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. When's their meeting? Do you know yet?

MR. DEMARCO: No. Because normally it's three weeks after Election Day but with the recount taking place certification will most probably get pushed off.

MR. DUERR: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DUERR: I just very quickly want to kind of go and kind of go off Councilman DeMarco's --- I mean, folks here on council know what I do for a living in addition to serving on council so I was also fielding calls on the democratic side on Tuesday with some precincts. I don't think it was as robust in terms of the amount of folks, because republicans --- a lot more democrats this election tended to vote by mail so it wasn't as adamant, but there were a couple calls from my district specifically Upper St. Claire where the democratic side of folks were in danger of running out of ballots as well. So I also have full trust in the administration, and the election's office paved the way to get to the bottom of this to make sure it doesn't happen again. But it was something I saw on the democratic side of things as well so probably not to the extent that Councilman DeMarco saw on the republican side of things given the amount of in person vote there, but it did happen so I wanted my comments to provide --- so folks know it just wasn't a D and R. This was a --- both parties were affected by this in some way.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, I would just in adding to what my colleague said. I am convinced that this isn't an attempt at voter suppression. This isn't an attempt, you know, a partisan thing to it. What I believe occurred was that somebody didn't want to be stuck with a lot of ballots at the end of the night that would have to be shredded and for that reason since they were concerned about waste and we had a very high turnout primary. You

know, we had in excess of 36 percent people turn out for this primary when normally primaries are 26-28 percent range so I think that, you know, those things all start to play in to this, but again, for anybody that was affected, you know, these answers aren't good enough and I understand that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, hopefully you'll get to the bottom of it, and we can fix it moving forward so like you said it doesn't happen again.

MR. DEMARCO: I've been assured they will be overprinting in November. Okay. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Filiaggi?

MS. FILIAGGI: Thank you. Because I am new to this, I was just going to comment on Councilman Walton's expungement clinic and the efforts taking place there because Sam and I have covered the voting. We did get a lot --- I did get a lot of calls about Franklin Park and the McCandless area as well, but I am confident that those issues will be resolved because everybody knows that the world or the nation is looking at Pennsylvania in November for the results. No question it's going to continue to be interesting so we do really need to get that tightened up. But as to Councilman Walton's expungement clinic I would certainly offer the value of that and having worked in the criminal bar for 17 years and how an expungement can --- letting someone realize they can get an expungement can change a person's life and get a value they never imagined. And I would like to be part of that going forward if there is room for other input in getting that out to the public. Because the value of giving a person the ability to get a job, the ability to vote, the ability to do a lot of those things and --- you can sit on a jury --- is --- makes them a more valuable citizen to the rest of our county. So thank you for those efforts, and I would be glad to help with any further if you wanted to do more of those expungement clinics, because they --- the value is --- we don't even know.

Sitting here we are kind of privileged people. We really don't even know so thank you very much for those efforts.

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

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. WALTON: Councilwoman, I thank you for your comments, and we welcome your willingness to assist. I

have to first say that Director Matt Dugan from the public defender's office did a hell of a job. He organized, he pushed, he cajoled, he worked with court records, he worked with all the agencies, and he consulted with Willie and his team to make sure the HR Department was there. And so it was a hell of an effort. It was a day that I'm really proud to be part of.

But to your comment, the county exec came and spent about an hour there and I every day run a workforce development operation through the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and a young lady that is in our program, in our cohort now. I urged her to come, and she had an offense that she was charged with that was not in the best of situations and it is --- it was a real barrier to her and she came and participated in the clinic and they determined she could get that expunged. She stood there and cried.

And Rich took note of that. You know, he was really moved by the young lady to be put in a position where now as opposed to working at a gas station and earning \$12 an hour we're going to be able to put her in a position where she can have a family sustaining career. And so look, I'm really blessed to be able to work and do those kind of things, and there is no greater joy than to see someone in a position to transform their life, to make a difference and to be independent and self-sustaining. She sees a future, a real bright and prosperous future for her and her son, so look.

Everything that we can do we're proud to do, and we want to do as much of it as we can that's humanly possible. Thanks to everybody.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening on liaison reports? Hearing none we'll move on to new business. 12313-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending Section 1007.11 of the County Administrative Code codified in chapter 5 of the county code of ordinances as Article 1007.11 to provide for an exclusion from the residency requirement for county employment for telecommunications officers and shift commanders in the 911 communications division of the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services sponsored by the chief executive and Council Members Walton, Klein, Duerr, DeMarco, Macey, Filiaggi, Futules, Palmiere and Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Committee on Public Safety. 12314-22.

MR. BARKER: That's an ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that revise Section 2105.90 Gasoline Volatility 2107.15 Methods Gasoline Volatility and RFG and Section 2101.20 Definitions of the Allegheny Health Department Rules and Regulations Article XXI Air Pollution Control sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And that bill has been withdrawn by the administration; correct?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. 12315-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of The County of Allegheny ratifying the repeal and replacement of Article III of the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations concerning food safety sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to health and human services. We now have new business for motions. 12316-22.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County authorizing the publication of a request for proposals for Allegheny County Solicitor sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Filiaggi, since you worked on that will you make that motion, please?

MS. FILIAGGI: Yes. I will. The specific wording of it or just?

PRESIDENT CATENA: You just make the motion.

MS. FILIAGGI: I'm making the motion. Thanks. I make the motion to authorize the publication of the request for proposals for the Allegheny County Solicitor.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none ---

MS. HALLAM: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: --- go ahead. Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. I just want to explain a little bit as to what happened with the last proposal that was sent out and the response to that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. You really broke up.

MS. HALLAM: I'm sorry. What I'm asking is can you speak to what's happened to the last one?

PRESIDENT CATENA: You want to know what happened with the original RFP?

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. And any bid that was submitted.

PRESIDENT CATENA: There was one individual that was submitted. The executive committee decided as a whole to re-put the process out to garner to see --- to basically garner additional interest at this point in time. And since it's an RFP we have the ability to do that.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. So the original bid was not voted on?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No, it was not voted on.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Is that something we're able to do? Just reopen?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. It is something we're able to do. We talked with our solicitor.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Thanks.

MS. FILIAGGI: It's also because it's a professional service as opposed to goods for sale.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, it's also because the bid didn't meet the specs if you wanted to close amount and that wasn't what was submitted.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Public comment on general items.

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is Adam Hart.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Not here.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Tom Pike.

TOM PIKE: Hi everyone. My name is Tom Pike. I'm a new resident in Forest Hills in Councilmember Walton's District, District 10. I'm very glad to hear about the council member's efforts on expungement. I'm here to voice my strong support for Bill Number 12184-22 which would update the county's purchasing policies to take sustainability into account.

Our air quality is some of the worst in the country with residents in 2021 experiencing 52 days when the air was not healthy to breathe even for residents with no medical conditions according to Group Against Smog and Pollution.

This ordinance alone would not fix our air quality, but it would be a solid first step. In the fight against the climate crisis this ordinance is low-hanging fruit. The state legislature restricts the county from regulating businesses including making utilities to be more sustainable, but the state cannot stop the county from spending its own money more wisely. This ordinance represents the easiest step the council can take to clean up the air quality in our back yard.

The bill is also fiscally responsible. Studies show that electric vehicles and LEDs save money in the long term due to their lower energy consumption, and the ordinance is nearly identical to the sustainable procurement policy that is already on the books in the city of Pittsburgh.

Allegheny County's one billion dollar budget can send powerful market signals. The cost to manufacture electric vehicles dropped as more are bought for example, and the status quo that we have is not neutral. Our current policies end up promoting fossil fuels.

On a personal note I am a first time home owner. My budget is not a billion dollars, but I am taking what few resources I have and dedicating my time and money to building a zero emissions home. It's not even hard. You have just have to decide to do it. Today I installed 200 amp electric service which is going to accommodate all my new electric appliances and the heating systems I'll be installing.

My newly adopted borough is also leading by example. Forest Hills has a zero emissions public building and I'd be thrilled if the county follow the examples of cities like Forest Hills and Pittsburgh and passed this bill. Please schedule Bill 12184-22, and pass it into law. Thank you for your time.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Lori Brown.

MS. BROWN: I just came here today. Sue Means had sent out an email to talk about the election issue where republican ballots, we didn't have enough of them. This is the first time I've ever done polling and you only had, I think, seven people to work four machines, and the table that I was at with my daughter we got 50 republican ballots and 150 democratic ballots.

We knew at about noon just based on traffic that was coming through we were going to run out, so we tried to call all the numbers that they told us to call and was

told it was just an administrative decision. I think they also --- my husband had also called Susie Neft who had --- was in charge of trying to man the different ballot places and she had said --- I think she had said they were going to give us some, but that help never came. We kept waiting and it never did come so we did end up using the ADA machines and everyone was able to vote. We didn't run out of those thankfully.

The only other issue we had was one machine stopped accepting ballots altogether so we did have those people vote by the ADA machine also, and that then the other machine did accept the ADA slot and that's all I really came here to say so we had enough for everybody to vote. It wasn't an issue.

One lady got very angry that there weren't republican ballots, and she did rip up the ADA ballot and walked out, but a person that she came with, I think, kind of reasoned with her outside and she did come back in and vote and I tried to calm her and tell her not to give in to the rage and just vote and she did, so that was that.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President? Could I ask what precinct were you at there in Bethel?

MS. BROWN: This was not in Bethel. This was in Lincoln Place.

MR. DEMARCO: Okay.

MS. BROWN: We were at the West Mifflin Elementary School.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Richard Brown.

MR. BROWN: Good evening. Thanks for allowing me to come in and speak to the elections issue again. You did quite a good job of explaining it. I wanted to expand on it a little bit. I worked the 31st ward city of Pittsburgh poll District 4, I believe, and that's where my wife was also. She misspoke when she said West Mifflin, City of Pittsburgh 31st Ward.

And this is the first time I'd ever done this. We were understaffed, but that wasn't really the issue at hand. The issue at hand was we --- upon opening the packets that are sealed when they come in we had 40 republican paper ballots and 140 democratic paper ballots and that didn't look right to me ratio-wise, so you know, we proceeded and opened the polls and everything and about 10:00 or so it became apparent that we were probably going to run out of paper ballots and due to the training, you

mentioned the training, I realized that we would use the ADA machines, make sure everybody would be able to vote even without the pre-printed paper ballot.

So as the morning went on there was a poll, county employee, I don't know the gentleman's name. I believe Tom Mangden. I'm not sure.

He comes around and checks out everything, ask if you have everything you need and everything and unanimously there were four polling districts in this one physical location and we were all very low on the republican paper ballots and we all expressed this to him and he told me, he said, well, count how many names are in your book and you'll probably have enough. And I said I got up to the G's and I'm already at 50 so I don't have enough.

And he did not seem concerned. He was very nonchalant. He said well, it'll be okay. Don't worry about it and I thought that was unacceptable.

We then were given a training booklet, you know, when you work the polls it's a booklet with contact information people to call and everything. We called every phone number in there. Either got no answer, nobody picked up the phone, which you're kind of stranded out there if you've got something wrong, and when we did get through, expressed that we needed more ballots, we were told they'll be on the way. They never came.

And this was very early in the day so I have a hard time believing a traffic jam was the sole problem. I'd like to summarize by saying I echo your sentiments that we need to maintain a confidence in our voting and I had a lot of people that were very skeptical when they came in said wait a minute they're voting this way and you're giving me this vote. My vote's not even going to count.

And I don't believe we can accept that as a position going forward. I actually had one person walk out and didn't even vote because he said my vote's already wasted. I'm not even going to bother and I think we need to, in your words, tighten this up going forward and I appreciate your efforts to do that. Any questions I can provide, any more information.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Next.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Sue Means.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman.

MS. MEANS: All right. I'm Sue Means. It's an honor to be here this evening and face some of my fellow and former colleagues and new colleagues and I just wanted to tell you that on election day at 10:00 in the morning that my friend Ron Werkmeister when opened up the polls he saw he only had 100 republican ballots and he knew that wasn't enough. And he was in five one in Bethel Park and he was --- he called down to the county and he told them I don't have enough ballots to make it through the day. And they said, well, you know, call back later when you see how things are going. Why was he told to call back later?

And he was also told at that time there were nine people, other judge of elections, ahead of him who had called so he called back at 2:00 and said I don't have enough to make it through the day. He's a very logical engineer, and he decided to use the express machine. Because he had 30 ballots less at 2:00, he knew there would be a big push after dinner and so he wisely started using the express machine because that's slow and it was a slow time.

But fortunately he did get more ballots at dinner time and he did not run out of ballots. Now, at the Bethel Park Community Center they did have a shortage of ballots, and there was a line, and so I encouraged people to call hotline and report, but it's not acceptable, this is not acceptable. And as either of the Browns spoke the people's confidence in the election process is severely, you know, eroded and I also have a long list of all the places I heard of and I was, you know, during election day I'm thinking oh my goodness there's a shortage at Bethel Park and Jefferson and that's where there are people with tight races. We have two republicans, you know, running for the same seat and it's going to maybe be a thin margin and we're looking now at Oz and McCormick. It might come down to 200 votes.

Were 200 people disenfranchised? Did they turn them away because they saw a big line at the Bethel Park Municipal Building? They couldn't wait. They left.

And I really would like to see someone held accountable because I think it was a gross miscalculation. If you can't just have one percentage for the whole county when you know there's places where there's a contested race where people worked really hard going door to door as a candidate and of course there's going to be a better turnout.

So I appreciate you giving me the time and your attention and I really hope this never happens again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Next.

MR. BARKER: Next is Cynthia Scott.

MS. SCOTT: Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight and I too have concerns about the election. I've heard many reports, but I'm concerned about the upcoming election in the fall. How many of you have seen the movie 2000 Mules? Show of hands? Anybody?

Okay. It's a must see. It is shocking what they have revealed in five different cities about ballot trafficking and they have used geo-tracking which is the same system they use to track criminals to identify people who were going from ballot box to ballot box ten plus give other locations.

The worst of the cities was in our own state. Pennsylvania with 1,100 of the 2,000 Mules, ballot traffickers, having been identified by geo-tracking as well as cameras that were placed on the drop boxes, and I'm concerned about Allegheny County.

Our vote is sacred and people want to know that not only can they vote but their vote is not going to be suppressed by a fake vote or by some other process problem, so I'm asking each of you to watch that movie and defend the rights of Allegheny County citizens to have a true and honest election because our country was based on that and the will of the people is what matters.

If people are allowed to cheat in Philadelphia, who's to say that they're not going to be cheating here? And every one of those cities by the way said, oh no, no cheating here. There's nothing to see here, and yet this evidence is now being used to bring criminal charges against people. Thank you for hearing me. I ask you each to watch that movie. The freedom of the people of Allegheny County's at stake here. Every person's legal vote matters and, if people are stuffing ballot boxes, we're disenfranchised. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Next.

MR. BARKER: Next is Kathleen Cunningham.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Not here.

MR. BARKER: And last up is Brian Nuckols.

MR. NUCKOLS: Thank you, council members, for hearing my comment tonight. I am, first of all, really excited to hear about the expungement clinics and hopefully they'll

spread across the county, but I'm rising in support today of --- first of all, I should say I live in the City of Pittsburgh Council Member Klein's district, District 11.

I'm rising in strong support for Bill Number 12184-22 which would update Allegheny County's purchasing policy to be more sustainable. I think we must use the county's budget to send a strong statement. It's a billion dollar budget. It could move us towards a more sustainable future.

Our air in Allegheny County is poison. In 2021 over 15 percent of the days, 52 days, were --- had bad air quality and just to put that in perspective we sleep, REM sleep, is our most rejuvenating sleep. We spend about 15 percent of time in REM sleep so we're breathing poisoned air at about the same amount of time as we're getting rejuvenating sleep.

And this worrisome trend I think we have to do everything we can in the county to reverse this. We can't allow this to continue and, while this bill alone isn't going to completely reverse this, I think it's a good solid step for us to take together. I think --- I was so grateful to hear about the teen mental health day that was recognized yesterday. If we care about teen mental health, I think these are the kind of actions we need to take. I personally work to reduce accidental overdose in the teenage population. I've seen personally the ravages that systemic causes can have on our mental health as a community.

Poor air quality is an additional barrier in our search for health and vitality in our communities. Pollution puts our children at risk for developmental delays, our parents and grandparents at risk for dementia and Alzheimer's and all of us at risk for depression and my sources on this you can find in the written comment.

We're living in historical times right now. In the fight against the climate crisis this ordinance is a low hanging fruit. We need a movement of human beings that rise up to demand and enact the changes necessary to save our planet. I'm asking county council today to join that movement and pass bill number 12184-22 to create a more sustainable future for our communities. Thank you.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, point of personal privilege. You know, Ms. Scott came up and mentioned a movie and for those that may not know there was a filmmaker named Dinesh D'Souza who made a movie called

2000 Mules and they presented it in which they showed the geo-tracking data and things like that and he made a case about they used five cities where they said this could have occurred. But I just want to speak to the people of Allegheny County just to let them know that we only had one drop box in Allegheny County. Just one.

It was at the County Office Building. It was manned the entire time it was available. It was not available outside regular business hours so I just want to speak to the people of Allegheny County who may be watching or listening to this to know that what was shown, purported, to have happened elsewhere didn't happen here. I just wanted to make sure that folks in Allegheny County know that was the case. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. At this point I believe our meeting's over so motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: All in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion carries. Have a nice night.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

Ron Werkmeister Bethel Park

My precinct has almost 700 voters, but we were given only 100 republican ballots. We also knew from the main-in absentee ballot list that we had only 30 percent of that list being republican that had voted. The other 70 percent were democrats. This meant that most republicans were coming in to vote or not vote at all. If we assumed a 30 percent voter turnout, I was guessing we needed about 150 republican ballots so luckily we were proactive and called our Rover Bria to see if she had any extra ballots for which she said no.

So around 10:00 I immediately called the county's election office, took many calls to get in, to ask for more ballots. They told me that I already was the 9th JOE asking for more republican ballots and since I said I still had many left, for me to call in the afternoon if my prediction of running out became more apparent.

By 2:00 we had only about 30 ballots left so we switched to the ExpressVote for the republicans just to

make sure that we had plenty if a rush came later around dinner since these ballots take much longer to fill out with only one machine. My lead man was given more ballots and he was able to get them to me. In all that night we would have been over 30 ballots short. Worse when I was standing in line at the county warehouse that evening to return my voter stuff, other JOE's there were complaining about how they had run out of the republican ballots. Not many happy faces.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:58 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 day of July, 2022

 _____

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter