

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President District 4
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Jack Betkowksi	-	District 1
Suzanne Filiaggi	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6 (by phone)
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia "Liv"Bennett	-	District 13

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

June 7, 2022 - 5:02 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services

PRESIDENT CATENA: 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 prayer or reflection.

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. Pamosina?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Phil Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA:	Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 15 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have Proclamations/Certificates, 12324-22.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation honoring Clarence Hopson on his outstanding service to the residents in Allegheny County and congratulating him on his retirement,

sponsored by Councilmember Walton and all other members of Council.

MR. WALTON: Clarence, would you come up and you can bring your daughter with you, please, sir.

As I move toward the podium, I would - I'd like to offer an opportunity for all members of Council to be co-sponsors of this Proclamation.

MS. HALLAM: We already are, aren't we?

MR. WALTON: No, you're not.

Okay. Okay.

And it's going to reflect that. It is with a true moment of pleasure and distinction that I get an opportunity to deliver this Proclamation.

I moved to Pittsburgh in 1995 and Clarence was someone that I met at an early stage of my tenure here in Pittsburgh. Clarence was an old-timer, playing and shooting hoops with a bunch of boys and a bunch a guys that my wife and I were friends with and I met Clarence over in Kenny Roebuck's crib at a barbecue. And Clarence stood out to me as a man of integrity, and character and dignity when I first met him. And every time I interacted with him at different gatherings over a few years, he always impressed me with those same characteristics and qualities.

When I become a County Councilperson, through my engagement with the administration and county manager, I got an opportunity to work with Clarence on a different --- from a different perspective. The county and Rich Fitzgerald, through his integrity, has hired a number of graduates from my Workforce Development Program, breaking the chains of poverty, newly-transforming folks lives. And in a number of occasions they've done the work in Clarence's operation. And Clarence has been a mentor, he's been an ally, he's been a friend and I've had to call Clarence on a couple of occasion and say, Clarence, hey man, look here, me and you. And then Clarence tell me, Dewitt, no, I don't need to go for that because I know there but for the Grace of God, he's always provided leadership. He's provided support. He's been caring, conscientious and always --- never wavering, always operating with the utmost integrity. And it is a privilege for me to be standing with here with you tonight.

You are a friend. You are an ally and I'm going to miss you. And let me say this, Clarence told me that

he decided to retire because of a personal incident, a friend of his, something happened, and Clarence said, hey, man, I thought about it and I made a decision. It's time for me to go and enjoy myself. So bruh, I respect that. I'm going to miss you and I'm going to call upon you to help me season your replacement with my guys.

So hey, man, look, so with that said;

WHEREAS, Clarence Hopson served the residents of Allegheny County with distinction, honor, diligence, pride and now he's retired from Allegheny County after nearly 42 years working in various roles. He began his career in 1980 as a field monitor and then a counselor over the division of the federal programs. In 1984 he joined the Employee Relations Department as a job analyst and became a manager-in-training. Now, I know why you got all those job skills.

WHEREAS, Clarence began working in the Parks Department in 1983 and his dedication, commitment and pride in his department truly inspired those within the department to make our county parks second to none. Now, where Clarence --- once he moved to the Parks Department, Clarence Hopson has held several roles from a Recreation Program Coordinator and Recreation Superintendent and Assistant Operations Manager before being named Deputy Director in 2000, the position from which he retires. And you know Clarence helps sets up all of the concerts and stuff, a couple of acres in the South Park, and you know, he's never given me special privileges and special parking and special seating. So you know, ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Me neither.

MR. WALTON: And so WHEREAS, in 2017, Clarence received the Frank Lucchino Distinguished Service Award, which was presented to an employee or an employee group who has exceeded all expectations and made significant impact upon the county and has represented the county admirably in his or her actions.

And WHEREAS, Clarence Hopson is a graduate of Neshaminy High School and St. Francis Class - College of Loretto with degrees in Elementary Education and History. He resides in the Hill District with his family. I'm his representative

Now, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that I, Allegheny County Councilmember Dewitt Walton and all members of Council do hereby congratulate Clarence Hopson on a wonderful and distinguished career with Allegheny County.

We wish him great health and happiness as he begins a new chapter in his life. And witness whereof, I hereunto cause the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 7th day of June, 2022. Clarence, bruh, my man, thank you.

MR. HOPSON: Thank you.

MR. WALTON: All right.

MR. HOPSON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you all.

I just want to say a few things. First of all, thank you.

Okay?

I really feel that the Parks Department is in a better situation now than it was when I first came here 30 years ago. And it's because of you here on Council and it's because of the Administration. You realize that the Parks Department can provide a better quality of life, for not only people in Allegheny County, but anyone who uses the parks. The concerts are free. A walk in the park is free. To play tennis is free. To play basketball is free. All through the County. And I think it was important for me to maintain the parks the best that we could and I think we've done that.

I really feel good where the parks is at right now. I think our golf courses are second to none. I think we have some of the best public golf courses, not in Allegheny County, but in the country, and I'm really proud of the direction that the parks are going.

Now, I've got to say this, okay, I've worked with most --- quite a few of you on Council before and I really appreciate the help that you provided us in the Parks Department. That's important to me. But I never forgot my perspective, Willy and Dewitt Walton, they know where I'm from.

Okay?

And if not for the grace of God, I could be one of those guys that you were helping out, believe me. I was very lucky. I grew to be seven feet --- six-foot-seven. I wish I was seven feet. And I could shoot a basketball. If not for that, I might be one of those people that Dewitt helps on a daily basis. And I never forgot that. I've always just considered myself a jump shot shooter from a one-way street on the Hill, and I've never forgot that perspective and I'm going to keep that all through my life.

I want to thank you all. Really, thank you very much. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Hey, bruh, can you still hoop? Can you still hoop?

MR. WALTON: No, but I can shoot a little bit.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12325-22?

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation honoring June 18th as Juneteenth and Voting Rights Parade Day in Allegheny County, sponsored by Councilmember Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: I feel like we're just rolling along, kind of on the same trajectory with someone who, I'm going to say, just own the month of June. You just own the little month. We had a really good time last week and at the gala, and next weekend I will be in Mellon Park with Juneteenth festivities and then the following weekend of Juneteenth, we'll be downtown. So you're a busy guy.

So we appreciate everything that you're doing, because it really, really speaks to the culture of the --- of this region. It really helps to show that culture and it's just a vibe. I mean, last year we were in the Point listening to everybody from Raquel to --- who else did we have last year? The Ohio Players, I mean, like the concerts and everything is free. So just like the last proclamation when they're talking about the concerts that occurred in South Park being free, everything that he does for Juneteenth is absolutely free and he brings in amazing artists and amazing activities to --- to just encompass the whole ---. We just had Pooch Hall here last weekend, as well as Lamman Rucker. So yeah, B., you're doing it. And Mrs. B. as well.

So WHEREAS, in June 1865, the U.S. Army informed enslaved Africans in Texas that Congress passed and President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. From 1865 to the present, Senators of this country have celebrated the end of slavery with a festival called Juneteenth. Fun fact, I was born on Juneteenth. So that might explain a lot to some people.

So WHEREAS, in February 1870, the U.S. Congress ratified the 15th Amendment granting black males the right to vote. Then in August 1920, the U.S. Congress ratified the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

And WHEREAS, in April --- on April 26, 1870, citizens of Pittsburgh, Allegheny City and Birmingham City organized the Grand Jubilee of Freedom Parade, honoring passage of the 13th and 15th Amendments. This parade was

organized by the PA Chapter of Equal Rights Lead and led by Reverend Henry H. Garnett, who founded the first black Presbyterian congregation in Pittsburgh at Grace Memorial Presbyterian. Reverend Lewis Woodson and Reverend John C. Peck, both of Bethel A.M.E. Church, founded the first and oldest African church established in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Reverend Woodson would later establish Wilberforce College. And Reverend Peck, president of the Bay --- or the Jubilee Parade were the first people to establish an oyster house and ice cream parlor business in Downtown Pittsburgh.

And WHEREAS, reported in the April 27 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette the 1870 Grand Jubilee Parade saw over 5,000 participants and attendees, which included marching bands, citizens and wagons, clergy, youth groups, military units, women's groups, political leaders, Native Americans and brass bands, carrying flags and banners celebrating the end of slavery and black voting rights in America.

And WHEREAS on May 3rd, 1914, leaders of the women's suffrage movement held a parade in Downtown Pittsburgh calling for equal voting rights for women. This parade was the first integrated women's suffrage parade in America with both black and white women, where black women played a significant role in planning and then marched in lead positions.

And WHEREAS, since 1920, the League of Women Voters have fought to improve lives of all Americans. Formed from a movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's effort remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans.

And WHEREAS, on June 17th and 19th, 2022, Stop the Violence Pittsburgh Organization will host the annual Western PA Juneteenth celebration in Market Square and at Point State Park. The Juneteenth will include speakers, vendors, youth activities, national entertainment and more. On Saturday, June 18, Stop the Violence Pittsburgh will host its annual Juneteenth Grand Jubilee Reenactment Parade in honor of Pittsburgh's 1870 Jubilee of Freeman Parade in 1940 - '14, Women's Suffrage Parade.

And WHEREAS, in honor of the Western PA Juneteenth Celebration, we want to recognize Mrs. Margo L. Marshall for all her years of sacrifice, commitment and dedication in hosting, financing and producing the Western PA Juneteenth. In honor of June 18, Juneteenth Voting Rights Parade, we want to recognize Ms. Mary Evans of

Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church and Henry H. Garnett Historical Group for her service to the community. Presiding Elder Reverend Thomas H. Fant of the 3rd District of the A.M.E. Church for his service to the community; Mrs. Lorraine Cross for her many years of dedication and service to B-PEP and Pittsburgh African-American community to Get Out The Vote. And the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the League of Women Voters for their continued efforts to secure the right to vote for women in this region. This has been --- this is a very crucial time for voting rights, as you know. So I really appreciate your --- your all kindness, your relevancy in the themes that you select each year for the Juneteenth events. It's not just you doing the same thing over and over. It's you actually paying attention, being in tune to what's going on and actually being the change that you want to see. So I really do appreciate that.

So NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Allegheny County Councilmember, Olivia Bennett, do hereby honor June 18, 2022 and Juneteenth as Voting Rights Parade Day in Allegheny County, and I commend every person, never worked so diligently to ensure the rights of all black Americans and women in this country. And witness hereof, I have --- here unto to cause the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19th (sic) day of June 2022.

I really, really implore all of our --- my Councilmembers to attend this year's Juneteenth Parade. You will be educated and entertained all at the same time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Jared, I'd like to be added, is there anyone else that would like to be added?

MR. BETKOWSKI: Everybody wants on.

MR. DUERR: I do.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anybody not want on?

MR. MARSHALL: Yeah, you guys should all be added because the parade --- our reenactment is the parade that was actually held here in Allegheny County. That was created in 1870 and what it involved was Allegheny City was its own city, Pittsburgh was its own city. And then we had to do a whole bunch of research to find out that Birmingham, which is on the south side, was its own city. So it was the Allegheny County Parade. It wasn't a Pittsburgh Parade. It was Allegheny County Parade.

MS. BENNETT: See, it's education. I like it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12326-22, it will all be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation recognizing Alysse Dambrot as CCAC's 2022 New Century Workforce Scholar recipient, sponsored by Councilmember Palmieri.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12327-22.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation honoring Bobby Hunt upon his retirement from North Allegheny School District after 41 years of service, sponsored by Councilmember Filiaggi.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12328-22.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation recognizing June 19th, 2022 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Day in Allegheny County and honoring the efforts of Prostate Cancer Pittsburgh and hosting the 16th Father's Day 5K run/walk, sponsored by Councilmember Palmieri.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12329-22.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation commending Nicholas Ditmore for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, sponsored by Councilmember Macey.

MR. MACEY: We'll now have public comment on any of the Agenda items.

MR. BARKER: Nothing on Agenda items.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

Approval of Minutes?

MR. BARKER: None of those.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Presentation of Appointments?

MR. BARKER: Also none of those.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

We're going to Unfinished Business. Committee on Economic Development and Housing for the second reading, 12277-22.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance approving the sale of the County's interest in a parcel of property located on Valley Street in the Borough of Oakmont, Pennsylvania and identified in the County's Block and Lot system as 0363-S-00277 for the sale price of \$1,200 to Mr. Wesley Moorhead, and the sharing of the sale price with Oakmont and Riverview School District, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilmember Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: I make a motion to approve this ordinance.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?
Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take 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 zero. So that passes.
PRESIDENT CATENA: 12289-22.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance approving the sale of the County's interest in a parcel of property identified as 2608 Crestas Avenue, North Versailles, PA, 15137, Block and Lot 0376-M-00201, for the sale price of \$6,000 to Mr. Melvin Gooden and the sharing of the sale price with North Versailles Township and the East Allegheny School District. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilmember Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: I make a motion to approve this Ordinance.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: On a 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. Pالموسينا?
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 zero. The Bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Committee on Health and Human Services, the Second Reading. 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: Councilman Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA:. At its meeting on June 2nd, the Committee on Health and Human Services considered this Ordinance that is before us tonight and it comes to us with an affirmative recommendation. At this time I would entertain a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion had been made seconded. Any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote. 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:	No.
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 14, nos 1. The Bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have Liaison Reports. Does anyone have a liaison report this evening?

Councilman DeMarco or Councilwoman Hallam, would you like to - I know you had an Elections Meeting. Would you like to provide any updates on that?

MS. HALLAM: Do you want me to or we can tag team, if you want.

MR. DEMARCO: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: So it was a juicy meeting. We got a lot accomplished. There was a lot of public speakers that showed up just to talk about what they saw at their polling places on Election Day. We voted on two things in addition to the certification of the results. And remember, when we vote to certify, we don't vote to certify winners. We just certify numbers.

Okay?

So the two other things that we voted on, we voted on an additional certification meeting where we will vote to certify write-in results. The write-in results for having a county committee, both Democratic and Republican are still uncertified. We certified the write-in results and we voted to have a separate meeting for that. And then the second thing that we voted on is that for the upcoming November general election, every precinct's polling places, because the number one concern we heard was precincts running out of ballots. And so for every precinct's polling places will have a hundred percent of ballots. So every voter who is eligible to vote at that precinct, who has not registered to vote at that precinct, who has not yet requested a mail-in ballot at the time the ballots are printed for Election Day on November 8th, there will be that number of ballots available at the precinct.

So basically we'll have way too many ballots and no chance that we run out. And that's what we are trying to avoid. The overall main concern that we heard was how many folks ran out of ballots, judges' election and the majority and minority inspectors. And so what's happening is it's taking time away from county workers that have to go to and from the warehouse out to all of the precincts throughout the county that this happened to.

So that --- that's my summary. Do you have anything that you want to add?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah. We also heard from the Board, from the Division of Elections, ---

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: --- about some of the steps that they were taking to try to address this. So they have a hotline that starts at 6:00 a.m. in the morning, in which workers at the polls are able to call in if they're having problems setting up the machine. They can open that up to other issues. In addition to that they're also going to add additional people there to be sure that someone's there to answer the phone. You know, when these folks call, instead of just being a busy signal because the staff is already on the phone, you know, with someone else.

We also talked about the need, from a scheduling perspective, that they need to take to work with the poll workers. What you have out there is you have a split. You know, before this year, how elections, we typically schedule a poll worker, much of it was done manually, you know, over the phone and with spreadsheets. Well, you know, they try to do it with a software system, to try to automate it, because people had complaints about the system, but many of our poll workers are older and maybe not as conversed in technology as the other folks. So this has caused a problem with some of the votes.

So I think we're going to have to bridge, you know, during this transition in order to be able address, you know, people's concerns. So those were the big things and then, you know, folks brought up they had a number of issues. And some of the things that they talked about, they just don't --- they weren't informed. It wasn't explained why there's certain things. Like, for example, the warehouse. You know, someone brought up that they were kept 25 feet away, you know, to view the processing of the mail-in absentee ballots. The thing is, you probably had, you had --- we had, I don't know, 40 or 50 candidates on the ballot, at least, right. Well, every candidate and parties are allowed to have representatives. So if all those folks were down there, intermingled with the people that were trying to do their job, that could be disruptive.

So that's why --- and according to the law that the County's following, by providing the area where folks were able to view what's taking place --- there are monitors above them. They have cameras showing all areas

of the warehouse where they're able to see the things that are taking place. But you know, again, I think one of the things that people --- the good news is, people are showing incredible interest in our elections and our elections processes. And I think the more we're able to share with that on how elections are conducted, and why something happens a particular way, you know, the better off we'll be.

Allegheny County took some shots because of this process here during --- they try to figure out who is where in the Republican primary. But all the steps that the County Division of Elections followed, these are the same steps they followed every election. It's just that typically races aren't this close. So the people aren't following, you know, that close attention to it. But I mean, the folks, overwhelmingly, with the exception of the shortage of ballots, did a very good job. All of the mail-in and absentee ballots at the warehouse were stamped by 4:00 p.m. that day, on Election Day.

Okay?

You know, so overall, the folks do a good job, but the --- unfortunately, you know, to mess up the ballots, you know, which is unacceptable. Someone doesn't --- every time you go to vote, is given a black eye. You know, to the elections folks. So many folks who were there yesterday said they intend to keep coming back. So good for them and hopefully we'll be able to learn more as we go forward. Thanks, PRESIDENT CATENA:.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah, the one thing I'll add is I know like Councilman DeMarco and I don't usually agree on many things, but the one thing that I know we both agree on is that David Boyd and his team at Elections Division have worked so hard every election to just make sure things run as smoothly as possible. And I mean, you've ever gone there, before or after Election Day, it's just chaos and they handle it and they do the best that they can, so ---.

MR. DEMARCO: Anybody that's ever run any type of business or organization of any kind where you managed employees have to recognize the incredible task or challenge ahead of trying to get 6,600 people, you know, scheduled and on the same page. And when you have --- they deal with people --- I don't know how many call-ins they had the day before, folks just call in and say, hey, I'm not coming.

Right.

And then you have to fill those, as well as the people that just on Election Day. You know, Judge of Elections isn't there to open up the doors. But it did get folks out to there, you know. And as I said at the last meeting, I mean, I was out running around delivering ballots myself, to try to make sure the people were able to vote. So you know, again, getting shanked, and you got a black eye for what is otherwise an incredible group of hard-working people who typically do a very good job.

MS. HALLAM: And it's looking like 36, 37 percent turnouts ---?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes. Over 36 percent.

So thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA:.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Tom, have a comment?

MR. DUERR: I'd just to comment on what Councilmember Hallam and Councilmember DeMarco said. And I'd like to thank you for putting it out there. Because I think there are too many people who really believe that the Elections Bureau drops the ball. And my experience has been much like what you shared, that we have people who are really working very hard. These are very different times in which we're living and the resources that we --- most municipalities would like to make available for elections are just not there. And in spite of that, they do a pretty incredible job. So thank you for a great job.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there any other reports this evening? Seeing none, we'll move on to New Business Ordinances and Resolutions.

12320-22.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that revise Section 2105.13, Gasoline Loading Facilities, and 2105.14, Gasoline Dispensing Facilities-Stage II Control, of the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Now we'll go to Health and Human Services. 12321-22 --- or I'm sorry, 12321-22.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation, permanent rights-of-way in fee and temporary construction

easements from two parcels of land required for the reconstruction of the Thompson Run Culverts No. 2 and 3, County Road No. 2303-00, Thompson Run Road located in Ross Township, 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: Now we'll go to Public Works. New Business Promotions, 123-22-22 (sic).

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to amend the Commonwealth's Uniform Firearms Act to permit home rule jurisdictions within the Commonwealth to fashion their own regulations regarding acquisition, carrying, and possession of firearms in order to protect the safety of their residents and visitors. Sponsored by Councilmembers Duerr and Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilmember Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Thank you, President Catena. I'm sure all of us to some extent have been following some of the events over the past couple weeks. First off, the horrible shooting and loss of life in Buffalo and the subsequent shooting and tragic loss of life in Texas as well. I have a number of constituents over the past week or so, since really with the Texas shooting and also the tragic shooting and loss of life of an 18-month-old in Downtown Pittsburgh, reach out to me and say, why aren't you doing anything? Why isn't anything being done to prevent these shootings in Pennsylvania, in Allegheny County right now? And my response to them was, well, right now, we can't. As a County Councilmember, I can't pass any legislation when it comes to the acquisition, carrying or possession of firearms because of the Commonwealth's Uniform Firearms Act. The State prevents for us to do so.

There is a State Supreme Court case right now that could change that, but even before that, I thought it, you know, relevant, given the events of the past few weeks. Councilwoman Hallam and I were just at a memorial service for all of Allegheny County residents we've lost to gun violence this past Saturday.

The answer to this problem is not nothing. The answer to this problem, whether it's the state, federal or local is not thoughts and prayers. It needs to be action. It needs to be preventative action to stop these mass

shootings and all gun violence from happening in our county, in our state and in our country. And right now we have a number --- dozens of Bills sitting in committee, in the state legislature that will not be called to debate because the majority party in Pennsylvania, quite frankly, in my opinion, does not have the courage to discuss this topic. These issues range --- are not, in my mind, controversial. They range from something as common as expanding commonsense, background checks, closing the gun hole voice loophole. The introduction of red flag laws in the State of Pennsylvania.

I mean, these are things that the majority of Pennsylvanians, the majority of folks across the country want, that, in my opinion, does not infringe on 2nd Amendment Rights, but will make our country, our schools, our places of worship, our grocery stores safer going forward.

So in that spirit, if the state legislature is not going to do the task of protecting our streets and our communities and our places of worship and our schools going forward, then I will happily take up that task on this legislative body, because I cannot, in good conscience, sit back and let this happen in Bethel Park or in Upper St. Clair or in any of my communities, if I can help it. So I would ask my colleagues today, to join me in supporting this motion. Not in terms of supporting one specific policy or another when it comes to commonsense gun reform, but this motion is to give us the ability to have that discussion here and to discuss how we can best protect the residents of Allegheny County going forward from discourage that is gun violence.

So thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: The Pennsylvania State Constitution is clear, Article 1, Section 21 states, the right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves in the state, shall not be questioned. Uniform Firearms Code that was referred to, says that no county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when

carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.

That's the preemption language. The preemption language has been upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court who's ruled that gun rights can sue to strike down the laws passed by a municipality to try to do so, such as the City of Pittsburgh.

Folks, we're all outraged at gun violence and things like that, but there's a tremendous of gun laws already on the books. My colleague mentioned a couple of cases here, talking about the case here where we just had an 18-month-old, I believe, infant, you know, that was killed. Many of these people have criminal records. You know, I would urge, if we want to do something here, we need to urge the Administration and urge our judiciary to hold these people accountable. Anyone that commits a crime, a violent crime with a firearm, should be held accountable for that. There are too many plea bargains. There's too many letting folks go or giving too many folks a second chances for these people who commit violent crimes.

And when you talk about Criminal Justice Reform, it's one thing to say, hey, somebody shouldn't be kept in jail because they can't afford bail; they lose their job over a DUI or something. It's another thing to say, well, somebody shouldn't go to prison because they possess marijuana, but we're talking about something completely different. We're talking about people that are predators that commit violent crimes with guns and wreak havoc on the communities.

Okay?

And these folks need to be held accountable. So if you want to do something about it, let's enforce the laws that are on the books now first. And should not try to take it and pass new laws. Because the last time I checked, you know, murder, robbery, assault, all these things are already against the law, but that's not stopping these folks. The only thing passing more laws does is remove the ability, the right of self-defense from law-abiding people. Thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA:.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome. Councilwoman Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena. I don't disagree with some of what Councilman DeMarco says, as far as there are laws on the books and we need to

enforce those. However, I also don't agree with my Councilmember Duerr who introduced this motion because I am also being asked these questions by constituents as the Airbnb mass shooting happened in my district. And they're asking, what is County Council going to do in response to these mass shootings, and shooting and gun violence period? And so I --- I am in support of this, because, yes, while we understand what the preemption law says, that is --- the point of the motion is to change that so that people who are wanting and willing to do something about this are able to do something about this.

We --- our state legislature and our federal --- in our federal level, not doing anything about this, while our local localities, such as Pittsburgh and others who would like to do something about it, but are unable to. So I am in full support of this, because like I said, at the top, like Councilmember Duerr, I am being asked by many constituents what are we going to do about the increased violence that we are seeing in our community. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: If I may?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, and then we'll come back to you, Councilman.

MR. WALTON: I truly respect my colleagues, and I will not dispute that the Constitution and the Firearms Act spells out most conditions that our colleague described. The fact that they're spelled out doesn't mean that they truly address and reflect the current day in this ---. As we, and many of us agree, that the United --- many of us agree that the United States Constitution is a living document and evolved.

So should many of the rules that we operate under today. While I don't want to get into the weeds and get into a debate about the rights or increasing the issue of criminals having guns and criminal activity, but what's going on in far too many situations is that individuals, based upon a specific action, will come to harm as opposed to being a criminal before that activity. I think it is only commonsense that we try to address this issue as constructively and as practically as we can.

We can't put police under reform, but we can try to end the violence where counties can provide reasonable and legitimate regulations. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes, PRESIDENT CATENA:. What I neglected to mention earlier was --- in my statement was the reason why we have preemption in the first place. You know, it is to prevent folks --- innocent people who are otherwise lawfully controlling their firearms that they have licenses from inadvertently breaking the law because in transit from one place to another, you know, they cross the boundary, you know, and --- you know, don't know the laws that may be present in that particular area.

So for example, if you leave in McCandless and you were coming to Bethel Park, and if the City of Pittsburgh had an ordinance or something like this in place, you know, you could have a legitimate reason to have your firearm illegally carrying it there or having it, that you could inadvertently be breaking the law and become a criminal by passing through the City of Pittsburgh, so they would have to be stopped or whatever, something like that. That's the whole reason why they have preemption, to be able to provide consistency across the Commonwealth, so folks only have to know, you know, what the applicable law is and not have to take and try to understand when we live ---.

You know, we talk about Allegheny County is a home rule county and many --- there are some municipalities of the 130 within Allegheny County, are home rule as well. If you'd leave it open, you could have whole hot spots of different regulations from one municipality to another. And then that causes a problem. You know, so that's the whole reason why you have preemption in the first place. And that's the reason why I believe this exists in state law and it's best wisely followed. And what we're doing here today talking about this, this is where --- this is a rabbit hole we dove down, because we don't have the ability to change this or do anything about this, but we're here today, you know, okay, controversial issue and not spending our time focused on trying to solve the problems that we have here in Allegheny County that we do have jurisdiction over. Thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA:.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Well, I would say that I think that in a democracy law it is created or it's intended to be tested and challenged. And I think that that is --- that that comes with the territory, so to speak. But I have to tell you that over the past couple of weeks ---. And this

is not the first experience for me, I have to say that Buffalo, and down in Uvalde, I --- I have really been shaken to my core, and I really can't shake it loose. And I think that the one thing that we're not addressing here is that there are obviously no easy fixes here, but we're really talking about a cultural problem in this country.

You know, we talk a lot about God in this society, and value is --- in many respects, I think --- and he set what our priorities are. And I think that we live in a society, we live in a culture that has been largely defined by groups that have an inordinate amount of power and influence and money to spend in securing their posture. That has, in no small measure --- in no small measure, defining the culture that we live in today.

There's a good deal of talk about the 2nd Amendment and what it really guarantees, but I don't believe that the 2nd Amendment was created to make sure that everyone could have as many weapons as they would like to have, where they would like to have it, as often as they would like to have it and then the quantity that they'd like to have it, everywhere and anywhere. But that is the country that we live in today.

When the firing of shots starts, we don't know where it's coming from, because everybody's packing heat. Everybody's packing weapons. I mean, it is like a birthright, a birthright that you should have a gun, and it's something that has really distorted our country. It has poisoned this country in no small way. And I think that what Mr. Duerr, Ms. Prizio are doing by way of introducing it is saying, Harrisburg, you have the power to do something here and to give us the power, which might require unsettling the law as it is right now.

So this is a mere motion in order to get their attention. And obviously we, at this point, don't have the power to do this. We don't have the legal authority to do anything, but I think that we do have the moral responsibility to speak about this and not carry on with business as usual.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman, go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you.

First of all, I may want to suggest that we send this to the Committee for further discussion, because it

seems to become clear to me that it's asking the General Assembly to amend the Commonwealth Uniform Firearm Act, but it says the Commonwealth can fashion their own regulations regarding acquisitions in carrying. So who --- who are they referring to their own? Is it municipalities, home rule jurisdictions, but who's that? Is that municipalities? Is it counties? Is it boroughs? Is it townships? You're telling each township in this entire state to make their own rules and that seems to be not too uniform as far as state law, that's ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I think it says give them the option to do it.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I mean, you can go in every town it'd be different. That's why it's a state law. But I really --- I mean, I support the fact that the state should be doing something statewide, but to tell each municipality or home rule charter to do something on their own, well, I think that's a bit much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Thank you. Well, first off, I appreciate all the robust discussion about this from all of my colleagues. I want to address two things here. One, I'm actually in agreement that going home rule municipality or kind of like a home rule municipality, trying to fix the problem is not the best we can do. The best we can do is to pass commonsense gun legislation at the state or federal level to try and solve this problem. That has not happened, that is not happening in the federal level right now and that is certainly not happening at the state level right now.

So if the answer to that problem is making --- is trying to piecemeal this and try to make each community safer as you go, then so be it. I know that is a much harder way to do it, but all I'm asking in this motion is for the State to consider that as a possibility because right now ---.

And this is the second point I wanted to make, there was a comment by my colleague, we need to address the laws we have now. The laws we have right now are clearly not stopping nationally in this country, or in this state or in this county. They are not enough to protect our communities. And we need to take a serious look at commonsense legislation that a vast majority of folks want and support that don't --- that does not infringe on 2nd Amendment rights to make our communities

safer. And if we have to go by municipality by municipality to do that, then I'm willing to start here in Allegheny County if we're given that option.

Because once again, I am horrified of waking up one day and seeing on the news that something like what happened in Texas happened in Bethel Park High School. Or what happened in Upper --- or happens in Upper St. Clair High School. And I'm sure every single one of my councilmembers here have that same fear about something like this happening in one of their school districts and Councilman Klein, this happened in your district ---.

MR. KLEIN: Yeah.

MR. DUERR: I mean, an event that within our communities, they're still reeling from to this day. So that's it. That's all I'm asking for. I understand it's a bit unorthodox, but doing nothing is clearly not working. So let's try something different and give them an opportunity from the State, and I think many of my colleagues here would have, at the very least, have welcomed that discussion and that chance to try and actually legislate for constituents on this issue. So thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Bennett, then we'll go back to you, Councilman DeMarco.

MS. BENNETT: I just want to ask if I could be added to this motion?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

Jared, please add her. Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah. Thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA: . You know, I wish I was a fly on the wall down in Washington and to hear the conversations that are taking place between the bipartisan group of Senators down there. They are having discussions about things that we might be able to do and come to an agreement on, right, to try to take and address something so that folks can say, hey, we did something. And I think one of the problems that we had, is while all of us sharing the horror when something like this occurs, I think folks reflectively go back to their corner in what they propose to be the solution that they --- you know, too many on the left could be just passing a law to ban something. Too many on the right say, well, you just can't do anything, okay, because it infringes on rights.

But you know, if we sat down and had a real conversation about how do we keep guns out of the hands of

people that shouldn't have them? And that would be people suffering from mental illness, you know, people that may be --- has had a criminal record.

Okay?

You know, they've committed violent crimes in the past, things of that nature. So you have a discussion around these sorts of things, perhaps there's some common ground, but I think what you have to do is, you have to make any progress whatsoever, I think you start with a --- that's fine, but you start in the area where you have common ground and you build from there. You don't just go back to opposite ends of the room, in which case we never end up meeting in the middle. So that's just my two cents. Thank you, PRESIDENT CATENA:.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else? Hearing no one else, to answer your question, the motion was made and seconded, so we'll go to a roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: On a motion to approve, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Betkowski?
MR. BETKOWSKI:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO:	No.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Duerr?
MR. DUERR:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Filiaggi?
MS. FILIAGGI:	No.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	No.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:	No.
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 11, nos four. Motion passes.
MR. BETKOWSKI: PRESIDENT CATENA:, I would just like to ask again, when we pass these types of motions on that, that it reflects on the motion.
MR. WALTON: Motion can be ---.
MR. MACEY: Correct.
PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point we'll have Notifications of Contracts, 12323-22.
MR. BARKER: Communication summarizing approved Executive actions for the month of May 2022.
PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a motion to receive?
MS. BENNETT: So moved.
MR. DUERR: Second.
PRESIDENT CATENA:: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying yes or aye?
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT CATENA:: Thank you.
Public Comment on General Items?
MR. BARKER: We had two individuals sign up. first is Robert Maddock.
PRESIDENT CATENA: I don't believe anybody's here that looks like Robert.
MR. BARKER: Second is Lacey Ecker.
PRESIDENT CATENA: No. Thank you.
MR. MACEY: I make a motion to adjourn.
MS. HALLAM: Seconded.
PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
PRESIDENT CATENA: All opposed?
Motion carried. Have a great night. See everyone downstairs. Thank you.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:59 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 9 day of August, 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amber Garbinski", is written above a horizontal line.

Amber Garbinski,

Court Reporter