

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
Suzanne Filiaggi	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. 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
Fourth Floor, Gold Room
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

September 20, 2022 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services

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.

(Moment of Silence.)

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?

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. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio? Ms.

Prizio, are you with us?

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: For the moment we have

13 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton?

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that we amend tonight's agenda to include an item under new business to address the issue of staffing of three new hires of council.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded, no discussion. Just take the vote.

MR. BARKER: Roll call. On the motion to amend the agenda. 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: Yeah.

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, noes 0, the motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Proclamations/certifications. 12445-22.

MR. BARKER: I apologize, was there going to be another motion after the amendment?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. BARKER: I apologize, just for point of clarification, was there going to be another motion after the agenda was amended, or was that it?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No, that was it.

MR. BARKER: That was it for the moment. Okay. 12445-22, a proclamation congratulating and honoring Gail Shrott on the occasion of her retirement from Global Pittsburgh, sponsored by Council Members Bennett and Prizio.

MS. BENNETT: I had to pause there, I didn't know what was happening for a moment. But we are here to celebrate Ms. Gail Shrott and to give her her roses as she retires as the executive director of Global Pittsburgh. So Allegheny County Office of County Council proclamation honoring Gail Shrott on her career at Global Pittsburgh. Whereas after more than 30 years helping Welcome a Changing World to Pittsburgh, Gail Shrott will retire as executive director of Global Pittsburgh, and whereas Global Pittsburgh, formerly Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors, is a non-profit organization aimed to connect local people and organizations to the world through professional exchanges, member activities and hosting opportunities.

And whereas Ms. Shrott was originally from Freehold, New Jersey. She obtained a degree in art history from the University of Delaware before earning a certificate in museum studies and a Master's degree in American Culture from the University of Michigan in 1982 and whereas Ms. Shrott began working in Delaware, but then moved to Pittsburgh for better opportunities, finding opportunity at the Mattress Factory in 1986. I still have no visited that place. I need to go.

Whereas during a seminar in 1989 Ms. Shrott was asked to speak about international visitors' experiences with museums at a seminar hosted by Global Pittsburgh's predecessor. Two months later, the organization called to hire Ms. Shrott. In her early days at Global Pittsburgh, Ms. Shrott worked on the project teaching Russians business skills by placing them with a host family and matching them with local companies, and whereas in 1995 Ms. Shrott was elevated to executive director, the same position she will retire from at the end of this year.

Some of her most satisfying moments over the last 30 years include working on the G20s when hosted in Pittsburgh and working with some of the first groups that were invited to Pittsburgh from Afghanistan. And whereas Ms. Shrott recognizes that Pittsburgh and the world look much different today than the day she started with Global Pittsburgh. She has enjoyed playing a role in connecting

Pittsburgh to the world through impactful exchange programming.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, Allegheny County Council Members, Liv Bennett and Anita Prizio, do hereby honor and congratulate Gail Shrott on the occasion of her retirement after over 30 years of a successful career at Global Pittsburgh. This Counsel wishes her much health and happiness and rest in her retirement, and witness here thereof, I have here unto caused the seal of County of Allegheny to be affixed this 30th day of August 2022.

Thank you so much for your work for the last 30 years, Ms. Shrott, and please enjoy your retirement.

MS. SHROTT: Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: Councilwoman Prizio is not here this evening, she could not make it, but I wanted to extend the opportunity and see if she had any remarks this evening for Ms. Shrott, as she is a co-sponsor to this proclamation.

Ms. Prizio, do you have anything to add?

MR. PRIZIO: No, just thank you very much for your service. I appreciate it. Thanks.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you. And do you have anything you'd like to say.

MS. SHROTT: Thank you so much. I'm really touched to receive this honor. It has been one of the most gratifying opportunities to work for Global Pittsburgh. I have worked with amazing people from our region and I continue to work with them now. We're still programming actively. And I'm sure that Global Pittsburgh will continue to work through the - with you and hopefully some of you will meet with Visitors For Us.

Thank you so much.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

(PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. 12447-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and honoring The Children's Institute on the occasion of its 120th anniversary helping children, sponsored by Council Members Macey and all other members of Council.

MR. MACEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to introduce Wendy Pardee and also Jessica Monahan. This is Wendy.

All right. Now, normally I look at proclamations 25 year, 30 year, 50 year. 120 years, can

you imagine? 120 years of serving one of our most vulnerable groups of people, and that's children. We can see what's happening in our borders, we can see what's happening around the world to our most vulnerable people, and that is our children.

Whereas this year, the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh is celebrating 120 years of helping thousands of amazing kids, which started in 1902 by Mary Irwin Laughlin to care for a six year old boy who lost his legs in a train accident, has become a leader, provider of the highest quality care in services to thousands of amazing kids and their families. Whereas the Children's Institute has evolved into an organization that provides a range of high level outpatient rehabilitative and behavioral health therapies as well as family social educational and care coordination services. And whereas, the Children's Institute and its team members have been involved in monumental changes to the care and services provided to those in need.

Some of these services include the staff and children take part in Dr. Jonas Salk's new polio vaccine in 1955. The Children's Institute became the first comprehensive rehabilitative center for children to be accredited by the Commission on accreditation and rehabilitation facilities, Dynavox. And argumentative communications device was placed on the market with help of the staff in 1991.

In 2002 Jim Bopp, a conceptual model integrating the educational specialties of music and adaptive physical education was developed. And in 2004 Family Support Services, formerly known as Project Star, a reflex neurovascular dystrophy program was created, and whereas the Children's Institute seeks to be a lifelong partner to individuals with a disability and their families, and to continue to reach more individuals with more services. They provide services revolving around autism, educational, behavioral health, family support, early intervention and physical health in person and via telehealth. And whereas the Children's Institute continues to bring the best care and services they can to children.

In order to achieve their core values of compassion, integrity, excellence, innovation, team work and collaboration and fun, the Children's Institute has

over 400 team members and over 50 volunteers. Go volunteers. Helping more than 6,000 children.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council and all of County Council, do hereby honor and congratulate The Children's Institute on 120 years of helping thousands and thousands of amazing kids and families. Congratulations.

MS. PARDEE: Honestly, on behalf of our team, we are honored and humbled to do the work of supporting kids and families across this region. We are blessed to be supported by the community and we are truly grateful that you recognize the work that we have done, so thank you very much.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Councilmember Macey, may I say just as as former employee of The Children's Institute, I just want to attest that amazing kids and amazing staff are under each roof in each facility that you have. And amazing learning and amazing healing happens every single day, and I'm very, very appreciative for all of the work that you do. Thank you.

MR. KLEIN: And I might add that I'm a neighbor of The Children's Institute. I live right around the corner, and it's - you know, it's always been a community asset. And I can remember from when I was a wee lad that back in the day it was called The Home for Crippled Children. And it has changed dramatically over the years, and it's a wonderful facility. And thank you for all that you do.

MS. PARDEE: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Well, if you'll join me.

(PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Now, the remaining proclamations will be read into the record.

12446-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation welcoming the Global Clean Energy Action Forum hosted by US Department of Energy and Carnegie Mellon University to Pittsburgh, sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12448-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the 20th Anniversary of Kennywood Park's Phantom Fall Fest, sponsored by Councilmember Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12450-22.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and honoring Bishop Ketlan Solak as the first black female to

become Bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, sponsored by Councilmember Walton.

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

MR. BARKER: Not on agenda items, no.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Approval of minutes.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Presentation of appointments. 12449-22.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Timothy Sandstrom to the Friends of the Park for Boyce Park for a term to expire on September 20th, 2025, sponsored by Councilmember Naccarati-Chapkis.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review.

Any unfinished business?

MR. BARKER: None.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any liaison reports this evening?

Seeing none, we'll move on. New Business ordinances and resolutions.

12451-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, repealing Chapter 475, Article V entitled Senior Citizen Relief of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, and amending Chapter 475, Article VI entitled Property Tax Relief Program, Section 475-40, to expand the definition of Eligible Taxpayer, to include certain trusts and expand the definition of Longtime Owner/Occupant, to include a property owner who has owned and occupied any dwelling place within Allegheny County as a principal residence and domicile for at least ten consecutive years, amending Chapter 475, Article VI, Section 475-41.B to limit the real estate tax discount that may be received by an Eligible taxpayer to \$650, and amending Chapter 475, Article VI, Section 475-42, to state that applications are to be submitted to the Office of the Treasurer and to provide for County Council to increase the maximum household income of an eligible taxpayer by resolution if the same is raised by the law of this Commonwealth, sponsored by Councilmember Catena, the County Treasurer and Councilmember Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to budget and finance.

12452-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Section 5207.08 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County to extend the time period for the filing of real property tax assessment appeals in Allegheny County for the tax year 2022 only until November 30th, 2022, sponsored by Councilmembers Walton and Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the special committee on assessment practices.

12453-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to the Allegheny County Health Department's rules and regulations, article XV, plumbing and building drainage, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

12454-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that revise Part G, methods, including Sections 2107.01 through 2107.20, and other related sections of the Allegheny County Health Department rules and regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

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

12455-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments that revise Section 2105.21, coke ovens and coke oven gas, Section 2109.01, inspections, and Section 2101.20, definitions, of the Allegheny County Health Department rules and regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Health and Human Services as well.

12456-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying an amendment that adds Section 2105.08, additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of Nitrogen Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS, to the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Health and Human Services as well.

12457-22.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the grants and special accounts budget for 2022, submission 04-22, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to budget and finance.

New business and motions?

MR. WALTON: I would like to move, Mr. President, that we - that Council moves forward with a recommendation from the executive committee that has been brought to council, but that we hire three staffers that have been approved - approved by the executive committee, with the positive recommendation that we hire them.

MR. MACEY: Second.

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

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. PALMIERE: I just wanted - I just want to say - I chaired this committee for - it seemed like forever, and I just want to thank the committee members and everyone for cooperating and getting this done today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else? Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yeah, I just want to go on the record and say I think - and nothing personal against any of the people that have been interviewed or that we're hiring, I just think it's a complete waste of resources of taxpayer dollars to hire additional staff members. I would wonder - because I ask our staff for a lot and never have I been told oh, we can't do that, we're too busy, or no, we don't have the capacity to do that. They've always been able to help me with everything I've asked for. So I'm just wondering if there's any councilmembers who have asked our staff for something and thought, oh, they didn't have enough time, we need to hire more people and spend more money. Because I think we have a great team right now, and I can't think of a single time, again, where I thought hey, I need more staff on council, because the current staff cannot handle the things we're tasking them to do.

And so if anybody on this council wants to speak to that, speak to a time that they were told by a staff member I don't have the time, we need more staff, we're short-staffed, it's one thing to replace somebody that we lost, but it's another thing to add even additional staff members when I just don't see the need is there. And when we're always talking about how do we fund the things that we care about, there's not enough money, I know that is a nonsense excuse, but yet here we are, pouring tons of money into staff that I just do not see the need for, so I'm going to be voting no. It is not against of the candidates individually, it's because I do not see a need for additional staff.

If we want to talk about the structuring of the current staff, I am down for that conversation, but as far as adding additional people to the staff that I don't feel is needed, I'm a hard no on that, so -.

MR. WALTON: Mr. -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: With all due respect to my fellow Council members, this issue has been discussed thoroughly and on multiple occasions, and all of the Council agreed that we need to replace individuals that we've lost over the past year and past several years. So while I respect my colleague for having her opinion and wanting to stage her objection, she's entitled to, but that's a decision that all of council has discussed on multiple occasions, and as a result we do what we agree to do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yeah, just for the record, not all of Council has discussed and agreed to this. The executive committee, which is a segment of this council has discussed and agreed to this, not all members of council. So please don't misinterpret our position on things as a whole.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Well, as a matter of record, we actually lost four employees in the last, I believe, four years. Trying to replace some of them, you know, you can make that argument, do we really need them. I say the answer is probably. Members of council definitely want to get new staff. We've lost our social media, I don't see that. Constituent service may be a little bit lacking. We need somebody to answer the phones, administrative assistant. We need people to help

in the budget department, we don't have anyone. We don't have anybody helping the legislative director, manager. We have no assistant.

It's in our budget, and we're well above our budget as far as employees and I don't think it's a bad thing to hire people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton, anything to add or are you good?

All right. At this point in time the motion has been made and seconded. Jared, we'll 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:	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. 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 14, noes 1. The

motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We actually do have four individuals signed up, the first of whom is Jacqueline Cavalier.

MS. CAVALIER: Good afternoon. My name is Jacqueline Cavalier, and I'm a professor of history at CCAC at the Allegheny campus on the north side. In addition, I am the vice president for the AFT for Allegheny campus.

I live in District 12, which is your district, Mr. Palmosina. As a resident of the City of Pittsburgh, I prefer to support my local businesses, the local establishments, especially those that give back to the community. As my husband and I ate dinner the other night at one of our local favorite establishments, I was talking to him about coming to the meeting today.

The server overheard our conversation, and she said my son attends CCAC right now. He's in nursing. He loves it. After she said that, another patron overheard and spoke up and said I went there myself when I lost my job. These stories are not unusual. In fact, I could have polled the patrons there and come up with many more stories to share with you today. Because 87 percent of our graduates live and work in the region, and CCAC returns \$2.50 for every dollar Allegheny County invests in the college.

Since 2000 CCAC has served over 600,000 students, 468,103 of those students were Allegheny County residents, and they live in your districts. That's 46 percent of county residents, 18 years of age and older, which means they are old enough to vote, by the way. During the 2019 to 2020 fiscal year, CCAC had a 1.3 billion - that's billion with a B - dollar impact on the region's economy. Supporting the equivalent of 15,705 jobs, that is one in every 57 jobs in the region.

As members of County Council are aware, the Community College Act passed in Pennsylvania in 1963 and CCAC was founded in 1966. In Pennsylvania, Article 198(a) of the Public School Code committed that the Commonwealth would provide one-third of the operating costs of approved community colleges, local sponsors, meaning Allegheny

County in our case, would provide one third. And student tuition was prohibited from exceeding one-third of total college operating costs, and yet our students at CCAC are currently burying the brunt of the burden at 40 percent of the costs between tuition and student fees that are added.

What I'm asking for you all here today is to do for CCAC the same thing that we do for the businesses and local establishments that give back to the community in your districts. We support them financially as much as we can, as much as we can and except in this case CCAC is certainly one of the -

PRESIDENT CATENA: If you could wrap it up, please?

MS. CAVALIER: - one of the most valuable resources of the region, and so I ask you to please consider the increase in funding for CCAC when it comes time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Stephen Bannister.

MR. BANNISTER: Good afternoon, my name is Stephen Bannister. I'm a professor of physical therapy at the Community College of Allegheny County Boyce campus and I'm on my 34th year. I live in East McKeesport, and I work - and I live in East McKeesport and I work in Monroeville, so this is the District 8 for Representative Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis. Did I get it right?

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yeah.

MR. BANNISTER: As Professor Cavalier stated, CCAC is an exceptional value for the students. But CCAC is also an exceptional value for Allegheny County, especially in the area of Allied Health. CCAC is one of the nation's leading producers of graduates with Associate Degree's in Health Professions. CCAC offers over 27 associate of science and certificate - associate of science certificate programs in the health careers.

And let me show you some of the information from my program, the physical therapist assistant program. We have 87 percent graduate weight of all the graduation rate of all the people that enter. Our national exam scores average over the last years a hundred percent. Our graduate employment rate is currently a hundred percent. Our graduates received jobs that are in demand and they pay well. Approximately nine out ten graduates live and work in the region and in all of your districts. Although the cost of my program is a bargain, at only about

\$10,500, the cost burden upon my students has increased markedly over the past few years.

Approximately 50 percent of our students arrive with college debt from other institutions, having maxed their financial aid and find CCAC as their last hope to find a career that has a good paying job. These graduates serve the community by providing the healthcare needs of the citizens of Allegheny County.

Over 20 percent of Allegheny County's over 1.25 million residents are over the age of 65, and they are the largest consumer of Allied Health. Professionals other than physicians deliver greater than 75 percent of all healthcare.

On the CCAC website we say the following. At CCAC you can prepare for one of several health-related careers in the classroom, in our state of the science lab and clinical facilities. Providing these services require state of the art labs, furnished with the latest equipment and faculty who are trained professionals as well as educators.

I'm sure you can see and agree that CCAC is an incredible asset to Allegheny County. Finally, I hope you will consider each increase funding for the college so that we can continue to serve the needs of the region, and specifically the most vulnerable populations of the sick and the elderly. Thank you very much.

MR. BARKER: Next is Helena Liddle.

MS. LIDDLE: Good evening, everyone. My name is Dr. Helena Liddle, and I live in the Borough of Oakmont, and I work at CCAC as an academic advisor and Achieving the Dream facilitator, and the AFT Local 2067 President.

I'm here to speak about CCAC's role in supporting the community. Community College students have always needed more support than students who traditionally attend four-year colleges. That is why CCAC exists to provide opportunities for non-traditional or underserved students to help the people of Allegheny County to gain life-sustaining wage, or afford a four-year degree that would otherwise be out of their reach.

To speak directly to Council Person Walton's district, for example, CCAC's Homewood-Brushton Center has been at the center of a historically black and underserved Pittsburgh community for many years. And it has been my privilege to teach and advise there, and I have assisted

many HBC students, with setting the stage for their success.

After recent events, however, CCAC students at all of our campuses and centers needs so much additional support. Our already underserved students can now carry burdens compounded by growing mental health needs, long COVID, inflation and the effects of social unrest to name just a few things that have happened in recent years.

And now CCAC students who are not historically defined as at risk are struggling due to these same issues. As an advisor I work with students every day who desperately want to succeed, but who are having difficulty negotiating their new normal.

We do our best to help each of these students, but we often cannot do enough. CCAC's ability to serve our students is so tied to enrollment dollars that we simply don't have the resources to support students growing needs in the face of the current local and national enrollment crisis.

CCAC requires additional funding from Allegheny County so that we can continue to provide our students with pathways to a better life, and I hope you will all vote for increased funding for our college this year. Thank you.

MR. BARKER: And last up is Don Breitbarth.

MR. BREITBARTH: Good afternoon, my name is Don Breitbarth and I'm an academic advisor at the Allegheny campus of CCAC. I live in Mr. Klein's District 11, along with 1,305 CCAC students, and it's my job to clean up today and provide you with a brief summary of what we've heard so far.

As Professor Liddle stated, CCAC strived to be an equitable, educational opportunity regardless of age, socioeconomic status, heritage, physical ability or previous academic experience. CCAC also serves one of the largest veteran populations in the state. As Professor Cavalier stated that CCAC is an exceptional value for students. In-county residents pay only \$122 per credit hour. Students living in Allegheny County can save \$24,000 over public universities and \$68,000 over private colleges by spending their first two years at CCAC.

As Professor Bannister said, CCAC has outstanding career and workforce programs. In fact, CCAC has 32 career and technical programs with a 90 percent or better placement rate in the first six months after

graduation. But career and workforce programs are very expensive. Science and lab instruments are costly and challenging to maintain. Due to budget constraints, CCAC does not maintain service agreements on this equipment.

Career and workforce programs are heavily dependent on grant funding. CCAC is also an exception - exceptional value for its funders, and returns \$2.50 cents for every dollar Allegheny County invests in the college. As Dr. Cavalier stated entering 2019 and '20, CCAC had a \$1.3 billion impact on the region's economy, and since 2000 CCAC has served over 468,000 Allegheny County residents.

During that time, however, funding from Allegheny County has remained flat, placing an even greater financial burden on our students and their parents, your constituents. CCAC cannot continue to meet the needs of the region with reduced budgets and flat funding because it forces our administration to balance the budget by cutting.

For example, since 2020 the college has let go 52 SCIU staff members. Our supportive services are also understaffed and we currently have only one student success coach down from nine. This is not sustainable.

In conclusion, as Professor Cavalier stated, the Community College Act of 1963 says students tuition should never exceed 33 percent; however -

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Can you wrap it up?

MR. BREITBARTH: In closing, the projected 2023 budget for CCAC will show students and their parents paying 40 percent of the operating expenses while Allegheny County, our sponsor, pays only 21 percent. That's not fair and we're asking you to make it right. It's time for Allegheny County to step up and properly support CCAC and its students.

Thank you for this opportunity.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else?
Motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(CHORUS OF AYES)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Have a nice night.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:37 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 16 day of November, 2022

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

Amber Garbinski,

Court Reporter