

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
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
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

February 21, 2023, 5:04 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
Frederick Frank - County Solicitor

MR. PALMIERE: Could you please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of allegiance recited)

MR. PALMIERE: Jared, roll call.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco? Mr. DeMarco, are you with us?

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: President Catena?

Mr. DeMarco, are you

with us now?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah.

MR. BARKER: Thank you very much.

We have 14 members present.

MR. PALMIERE: Can we have Proclamations/Certificates, please.

MR. BARKER: First up will be 12581-23, a proclamation declaring the month of February as Black History Month, and commending the efforts of the Honorable James Warren Watson for his essential role in shaping the story of our county and region through his many

accomplishments and contributions sponsored by Council Member Walton.

That one actually is converted to being read into the record and not presented.

Next up is 12582-23. A proclamation celebrating Black History Month and recognizing Sto-Rox School District, sponsored by Council Member Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: So as we know, February is Black History Month. And I had the pleasure of running into my good friend here, Ken Hohman, out in Sto-Rox when I was doing a clinic, and he shared this wonderful illustration with me of the history of Sto-Rox and the African American history there, specifically. So I thought that would be a great proclamation for this month, and so wanted to read this and educate us all, because there's things I didn't even know in here.

So a proclamation celebrating Black History Month at Sto-Rox School District. Whereas February is Black History Month, a time to recognize the achievements of African Americans and their role in U.S. history, since 1976. The White House has designated the second month of the year as a time to reflect and honor the role of African Americans in our society and organizations and entities across Allegheny County will take steps throughout the month to recognize the contributions of African American figures throughout history. And Sto-Rox School District recognizes the first of African Americans who have been vital to the growth and development of the district through a timeline of remarkable events. And whereas in 1966, Jazel Riley and Darnell Tate were the first black football players at Sto-Rox, and in 1967, Darnell Tate was also the first black to win the Muha Award. In the same year, Greg Smith, Larry Young and Herbie Brown were the first black young men to play varsity basketball in both 1967 and 1968 seasons. And whereas in 1969, Mr. Brock Barr was the first black teacher at Sto-Rox. And Linda Lee, Alfonso Dennis, Anthony Powell and Carlitos Jones became the first black members of the chorus.

Also in 1969, Regina Gary, Wanda Jones and Gwen Boyd were the first blacks to be a majorette or Vikette. Wanda Jones later became a McKees Rocks council member. I like to put another little asterisk next to Ms. Wanda Jones because she also became pregnant as a teenager, such as myself, and was made to leave school. And so to have

this honor and be able to achieve all that even after being a teenage mom and being made to leave school is remarkable.

MR. HOHMAN: She also worked for the county for 20 years also.

MS. BENNETT: And she also worked for the county for 20 years. Whereas Sandra Wright and James Wright were the first black band members in 1970, and seven years later, Darlene Griffin became the first black cheerleader in both 1977 and 1978 seasons. Following two years after Michael D. White was the first to be senior class president of all classes at Sto-Rox. In that year, Bunny Boyd and Cash Jones were the first black delayers for the girls softball team, and whereas in 1982, Edgar Banks was the first black quarterback of Sto-Rox football team, and five years later Darnell Tate became the first black assistant football coach. In 1990, Celestine Cater was the first black valedictorian, and whereas Myron Brown was the only Sto-Rox athlete to get drafted and play in the NBA for the Minnesota Timberwolves. Three years after came the first black homecoming queen and first black head football coach, Joe Golden.

And whereas having the second highest rank in her graduating class, Morefield was the first black solitarian. After a decade later, Maurice Wiggley became the first black principal and was a principal at Sto-Rox for almost ten years. And Tim Haynes as the first black school director. Whereas two outstanding athletes, Mark Beavers and Myron Brown were the first black athletes to get inducted into Sto-Rox Sports Hall of Fame. And in 2013, Howard Bullard was the first black athletic director. In the same year, Kelly Young was the first black assistant girl's basketball coach, assistant softball coach and the first black female to get inducted into the Sto-Rox Sports Hall of Fame. And whereas over the past five years, Mackie Upshaw became the first black Sto-Rox athlete to wrestle competitively.

In the year of 2020 and 2021, Dwight Hines was the first black coach for the boys basketball team and Cameron Culliver became the first black school board president. And whereas in the last year, Alicia Young became the first black woman to become an all time leading scorer for the girl's basketball team with setting a record of 1462 points. And whereas in honor of Black History Month at Sto-Rox School District, students will

work on research projects for Black History Month ahead of the school's annual Black History Celebration on February 24th, 2023, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., to which parents are invited. Those projects started at the end of January in the wake of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and in the past has included things like a Black History wax museum, periodic table and quilts.

Sto-Rox alumni will also come to the Black History Celebration to give words of advice to students. There will also be many other projects, lessons, celebrations throughout the district during February. Now therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council Member Olivia Bennett and President Pat Catena, do hereby commend the individuals of Sto-Rox School District for their essential role in shaping the story of our county and region through their many accomplishments and contributions.

We call upon all the people of Allegheny County to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that highlight and honor the contributions African Americans have made to our county and our nation and witness thereof I have hereon to cause the seal of the county to of Allegheny to be affixed this 21st day of February, 2023. Thank you so much for your contribution in getting this put together and thank you for yours as well.

MR. HOHMAN: Thank you. Many years ago --- I'm a school historian, I have over 45 of the 55 year books. I went to the Wax Museum eight years ago and I saw what a great job they did. I was mentioning to one of the teachers, but we've had a lot of people who've opened the doors through the history of Sto-Rox. She says, do you mind making a list together? Well, I put a poster out --- a list, and thanks to the Mckees Rock CDC and the Gazette 2.0 who took my dream and my idea and put it together into a poster and they posted it in their newspaper. Each year as I update the poster and get more information, and as we continue to add people who --- blacks who opened the doors for others and blacks who gained achievements in district, we continue to make a new poster.

What we've done this evening, we have over here on the table over here, there's a copy of the latest issue of the Gazette 2.0 with a copy of the poster. So each of you members were able to have a copy of the actual poster that's in the newspaper. When we've had the Wax Museum,

I've been able to bring back at least five to six alumni who opened the doors for black history. In fact, Mr. Barr, who was the very first black teacher, has been coming back each year because he actually looks forward to this and gives a little speech about how --- to give a little bit of history, if I may. Back in 1968, first, second graduating class of Sto-Rox, there were 367 graduates that were seniors, only three were black. In 1969, there were 380 Sto-Rox seniors, there were only eight were blacks. In 1970, there were 1,074 students in 10th through 12th grade, and only 40 were black, and only 14 were the graduating class. Now, Sto-Rox's graduating 90 students this year, and the school district itself now is 74.6 percent minority or black.

The changes --- and I think that a lot of the students and the people in the community need to know --- in fact, the last wax museum we had one of our gentlemen, who was the first basketball player, posted a poster that he had when he played in the very first round ball, Mr. Larry Young. He showed the poster, and the kid was sitting way in the back, and he goes, that's my crossing guard. I didn't know he could hoop. So the students can now --- when they see the poster and see some of these names, that they could see their aunts, their uncles, their cousins, who were the ones who opened the doors for black students and blacks in the community. They can look up to and say, hey, I'm proud of this person. This was my aunt. That was my uncle. You know, because a lot of times I think that history has been kept aside, people not remembering who was related to who, and we don't sometimes recognize our family members who did a lot of things for us. Thank you, Ms. Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: You're welcome.

MR. HOHMAN: Thank you for everything.

(Photographs were taken)

MR. BARKER: Next up is 12583-23. A proclamation commending Mike Nichols in his support of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and declaring February 21st, 2023 as Mike Nichols day, sponsored by Council Members Bennett and Palmosina.

MR. BARKER: Thank you again so much. So Mr. Nichols I ran into at our neighborhood little hangout, and he starts telling me all the incredible work that he has been doing over the years and how he's been working with youth and impacting the lives of youth. So we always want

to celebrate that. And so I'm honored to give Mr. Nichols a proclamation today with Councilman Palmosina, who apparently cosigns as having known Mr. Nichols for many years.

So a proclamation commending Mike Nichols and his support of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Whereas Allegheny County commemorates the service provided by individuals who take time out of their daily lives to enrich children's imaginations and learning skills. And whereas Mike Nichols grew up in West Oakland, is a lifetime resident of the City of Pittsburgh, graduating from Shinley High School in 1979. And whereas Mr. Nichols has been volunteering to read to children across Allegheny County, devoting his time to provide an invaluable service to Pittsburgh Public Schools while encouraging literacy among our youth, he continues to exhibit exceptional qualities of a role model to our children, serving families across the county with great passion. And whereas for over 30 years, Mr. Nichols has been reading to children.

In May of 1992, he first volunteered to read at Pittsburgh Arsenal. Along with being heavily involved with the guest reader program, he used to bring members of the community into various Pittsburgh Public Schools to read to children. Whereas in addition to reading to children, Mr. Nichols also serves his community by being a member of the Take a Father to School Day Planning Committee, along with transporting children to City Hall for various performances and to gain knowledge about city government. And whereas he also was employed by the City of Pittsburgh for nearly 30 years in the Department of Public Works. That explains the relationship between Mr. Palmosina and himself.

Mr. Nichols is an esteemed model for community engagement, service, and compassion to Pittsburgh Public Schools, the Department of Public Works, and neighborhoods throughout Allegheny County. And whereas Mr. Nichols has preserved following --- I'm sorry, has persevered following the loss of his son and conquering cancer, all while remaining devoted to reading to children, thus showing his unwavering devotion to youth across Allegheny County. And whereas during both challenging and prosperous times, Mr. Nichols has impacted children throughout the county in innumerable ways. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny Council Member

Olivia Bennett and Mr. Bob Palmosina, do hereby recognize Mike Nichols for his astounding service in a multitude of ways to Allegheny County and declare Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, to be Mike Nichols Day in Allegheny County. In witness hereof I have here unto caused the seal of Allegheny County to be affixed on this 21st day of February 2023. Thank you.

MR. NICHOLS: Yes, I've been reading for over 30 years. Last year, I was honored by the City Council and the Mayor, along with when Ed Gainey was state rep. I was in Harrisburg. During those years --- it's been fun. I'm still doing it 'til this day. Back in 2013, I remember my son had sickle cell disease. He had a double lung transplant. He was the first African American kid to receive double lung transplant in 2010. When he was in the hospital, Mr. Palmosina, they called him and say, anything we can do? You know, he was very instrumental, and so --- and he lived a decent life. You know, he went home. I had cancer, 2013, and I survived that, but he didn't survive. He went home to God. I've been through COVID and I'm still hanging in there. I will always read African American books to children, and that's my goal.

I always wanted to ask you something. Some schools don't have enough money to go on field trips, you know, and I'm asking for you to give a helping hand. Yes, and a helping hand that means, like, South Side, the Hill, Westwood, you know, Lawrenceville, North Side. Adopt the school. Let them know that you care. Go see them. Read to them, talk to them. They love to see a face --- you guy's faces. You know what I mean?

This week we're having two guest readers day on Friday. Miller at 9:30 and Wolfslayer at 11 o'clock. It's only one hour, but if you could give an hour of your time, it would be good. The reason why, because this year will be my tenth year that he's gone. I think about him a lot, I really do. One thing that he's home with God and he's looking down on me, but I also like to thank Mr. Palmosina. When he was alive, he was very instrumental of looking after me, making sure Bob was okay, you know, because I went through a trying time. But still here nor there. I'm going to continue reading because I made a promise to God that I would continue reading to his children. I was given a second chance when I had prostate cancer. I'm just letting you know, don't ever, ever be ashamed to come to the school and read to the children.

We need more men in the school, more African American men. It ain't about the suit and tie. It's about clothes like I got on. Let's sit and talk to them and read to them, and that's the most important thing. I just want to let you know thank you very much for your time and for your effort. Thank you.

(Photographs were taken)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Bill 12584-23, a memorial proclamation honoring and recognizing The life of Chance William Kacin Halloran, sponsored by Council Member Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: So I am honored today to celebrate the life of Chance Lightning Halloran. And so I would like to read a proclamation honoring his life.

Whereas Chance William Kacin Halloran was born on March 2021 at UPMC McGee Women's Hospital in Oakland to Kasee Lynn Kacin, who grew up in Vandergrift. And whereas a placental abruption when the placenta separates from the inner wall of the uterus before birth caused delivery at 23 and a half weeks, 109 days before his July 7th due date, resulting in chance weighing 1 pound and 12 ounces. And whereas Chance spent his first week of life at McGee's neonatal intensive care unit, he was then transferred to UPMC Children's Hospital for treatment of a suspected intestinal obstruction. At times, he had to be fed by total parenteral nutrition, a method of feeding that bypasses the gastrointestinal tract, which can cause damage to the liver. Whereas on April 14, he underwent testing so he could be placed on the United Network for Organ Sharing list.

Up to this point, Chance had undergone five surgeries, breathing on a ventilator, and was being fed through a tube. Whereas one night, Chance became critically ill, and they thought he wasn't going to make it through the night. At the time, doctors were discussing a do not resuscitate order. Chance's grandmother, Eileen Halloran, and her wife Sandy, as well as Chance's parents, Kasee and Cameron, all sat together in the baby's room, hearing news that no one ever prepares themselves for. Whereas a storm was rolling in, and the biggest strike of lightning lit up Chance's hospital room in less than an hour. After the lightning strike, Chance started to recover continuously throughout the day, earning the nickname Chance Lightning. And whereas on October 31st, Chance's mother, Kasee, lost her battle with

addiction. She had been sober for a long time, but her disease still had a powerful hold on her. And after Kasee succumbed to the disease, she became Chance's angel.

Chance's strength comes from his mother.

Whereas, Chance's continuous fight led to his first birthday celebration in the neonatal intensive care unit with theme as my favorite book, where the Wild Things Are, inspired by the children's book. His party included balloons, presents, and cake while being joined by Chance's family, doctors, nurses and hospital staff. Whereas Chance at the time was currently the longest neonatal intensive care unit resident in UPMC Children's. The plan for him was to leave the hospital and live with his grandmother and her wife because the support of two people would better serve his needs. His care also required the assistance of medical professionals trained in children with a trach. Also, Chance most likely would spend time in the children's home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center in Bloomfield, where family members could learn additional care.

And whereas after a long and tireless fight, Chance passed away due to liver failure on April 23rd, 2022. And whereas, Chance's family received multiple daily wishes and requests from people all across the country following his story with one news story reaching over 20,000 hits on Google News. Countless individuals told the family that Chances will to survive despite his many surgeries and almost losing his life multiple times gave them purpose during the pandemic. Whereas today, there is still a network of people that have bonded together over Chance and the story of his short lived life, giving so many hope and inspiration.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Allegheny County Council Member Bethany Hallam, do hereby honor the life in memory of Chance William Kacin Halloran and extend our deepest condolences to his family.

I'd like to hear a few words from Chance's dad. Thank you.

MR. HALLORAN: I just want to thank the County Council and Bethany Hallam for the opportunity to just recognize Chance. He had an impact on a lot of lives, mine especially. And he's also my main motivation, so I just thank you guys. Thank you so much.

(Photographs were taken.)

MR. BARKER: 12585-23, a memorial proclamation recognizing the heroic life of McKeesport Police Officer Sean Sluganski who was killed in line of duty, sponsored by Council Members Bennett, DeMarco, Macey and all their members of Council.

12586-23, a proclamation honoring the heroic actions of McKeesport Police Officer Charles Chuck Thomas and wounds received in the line of duty, sponsored by Council Members Bennett DeMarco, Macey and all the members of Council.

12587-23 a proclamation recognizing and congratulating Justin Maxwell Slavko on achieving the rank of Eagle Scouts sponsored by Council Member Palmosina.

12588-23, a proclamation recognizing and congratulating Jack Miller on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

12589-23, a proclamation recognizing and congratulating Cavan Gable on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

MR. PALMIERE: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. BARKER: We have one. Brooke Gwin.

MS. GWIN: Good evening. My name is Brooke Gwin. I serve as Deputy Chief of Staff in the County Controller's office. I'm here to speak on behalf of County Controller Corey O'Connor to thank the sponsors of Bill Number 121-8422 entitled Sustainable and Socially Responsible Procurement. The Office of the Controller is pleased to see so many alignments between the legislation before council members today and the climate action recommendations recently released by Controller O'Connor. Beyond the exciting codification of procurement protocols, the Bill also includes the implementation of a public facing website to track the county's progress toward its sustainable goals for procurement, which is an incredible opportunity to advance transparency.

Additionally, the Bill establishes procedures for the regular review of compliance with the policy, developing a pathway to ensure the county holds itself accountable for prioritizing sustainability. For the long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability of the county decision making must incorporate climate action in the everyday operations of how the county runs.

County Controller O'Connor looks forward to collaborating with County Council on enabling Allegheny

County to lead by example in climate action for our region. Thank you.

MR. PALMIERE: Motion to approve the minutes.
Okay. Motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: All in favor. Let's do a voice vote. All those in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

MR. PALMIERE: Motion is approved. Okay.
Now we're --- Presentation of Appointments,
please.

MR. BARKER: 12580-23, approving the appointment of Jennifer M. Liptak as the Allegheny County Manager, to commence immediately upon confirmation by Council sponsored by the Chief Executive.

MR. PALMIERE: That will go to committee on appointment review.

MR. MACEY: Mr. Chairman?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. MACEY: Is there an opportunity for us to waive it? Going to the committee and having this appointment approved this evening?

MR. WALTON: Is that a motion?

MR. MACEY: That's a motion, sir.

MR. PALMIERE: Motion and a second.

ATTORNEY FRANK: It's been referred. Whoever referred it would have to take it back and ask for reconsideration.

Councilman Paul Palmieri was the one who referred it. Okay. Do you ask for reconsideration?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, I do.

ATTORNEY FRANK: Then we can proceed.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. And that is --- do a roll call, vote on this?

ATTORNEY FRANK: Act on it tonight. Not refer it to committee.

MR. MACEY: Do you want to act on it?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, sir.

MR. WALTON: We have to vote whether or not we want to act on it, and then based upon the vote then we vote.

MR. PALMIERE: Then we vote again.

MS. HALLAM: Do we have discussion on this after the motion and second before the vote?

MR. PALMIERE: You can do that.

MR. FUTULES: You have to waive the second reading.

MR. PALMIERE: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. So this is a really important job in the county. I think at the very least, we should send it to committee to interview the person and talk about them before just rushing to confirm the County Manager of Allegheny County. I'm not going to be voting to waive the second reading and push this through tonight. I think we should go to committee and do the due process that is afforded to every other appointee that has put up for an appointed position.

MR. PALMIERE: Any other comments?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah, I have no argument with that, but she's here. We could bring her to the podium and ask all the questions we'd like to ask, if that's a question. Just an observation.

MR. PALMIERE: We had a motion and a second on the floor. We'll have a roll call vote, please.

ATTORNEY FRANK: Do you have a motion to approve our appointment.

MR. PALMIERE: A motion to approve the ---.

MR. MACEY: No, to waive.

MR. PALMIERE: To waive the second reading.

ATTORNEY CAMBEST: That's been made and seconded?

MR. PALMIERE: It's been made and seconded, yes, it has.

MR. BARKER: I apologize. Who made the motion and seconded? I did not have either of those recorded.

MR. MACEY: Mr. Macey made the motion. I seconded.

MR. BARKER: Thank you very much. Okay. On the motion to reconsider the referral, Ms. Bennett.

MR. WALTON: No, waive the second reading.

MR. BARKER: There is no second reading requirement for appointments.

MR. WALTON: To waive the second reading.

MR. BARKER: There's none required. You're good.

Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: No.

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. Pamosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena is not

with us. Ayes 12, noes 2, the motion to consider referral passes.

MR. PALMIERE: A motion to approve our appointment and a second.

Motion to approve?

MR. KLEIN: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: I'm going to be abstaining from this vote. I think it's reckless for us to make a decision without any interview process whatsoever. Again, the same interview process that we afford to every single appointee that comes before this council for any border authority in Allegheny County. So I do not feel comfortable weighing in on this decision without that opportunity.

MR. WALTON: You don't know her.

MR. PALMIERE: Is there any other comments?

MR. DUERR: Yeah, I'd like to make a comment. I think I've attended every appointment review meeting this

entire two years. And it's just interesting that Councilwoman Hallam would stress the importance of that process, considering she's attended maybe three of them. So thank you.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: So just for clarification. So this confirmation then, is there a time period? So does that time period, then --- because with each confirmation, there's a term, and so I'm not hearing anything specific regarding a term. So would that coincide with the end of the administration, December 31 of 2023?

MR. PALMIERE: The end of the administration, yes, probably.

ATTORNEY FRANK: That should be clarified in the motion.

MR. BETKOWSKI: I don't believe for this position that there is a term. It's not like a board appointment.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: But does it end, though, with the end of the administration and the change?

MR. BETKOWSKI: No.

MR. WALTON: It is subject to the Chief Executive. As long as the Chief Executive chooses to have her hold that individual hold that position, the appointment is valid. Subject to a new Chief Executive being elected and taking office in January, then the new Chief Executive has the ability to appoint their chief of staff or county manager. That's the reality.

MR. PALMIERE: Go ahead, Bob.

MR. MACEY: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point of the matter is, I think we all know Jennifer Liptak, and I think we all know that she has done a fantastic job in the administration. I think we all know that she is going to be here. If you vote her in or you don't vote her in, she'll be here to the end of the administration. So let's just move forward, put her in place so we can continue to do business for our constituents in Allegheny County. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: On the motion.

MR. PALMIERE: On the motion.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve Ms. Liptak's appointment. 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: I abstain.
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?

Ayes 13, abstentions 1 with one absence, the motion passes.

MR. PALMIERE: Congratulations. Unfinished Business.

MR. BARKER: Bill Number 12184-22, an ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the administrative code of Allegheny County, part 9, entitled Competitive Procurement and Contracting by the creation of a new Article 921 entitled Sustainable and Socially Responsible Procurement, in order to implement a unified, sustainable and socially responsible procurement policy sponsored by Council Members Prizio, Nacaretti-Chapkis, Bennett, Hallam, Klein and Macey.

MR. PALMIERE: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Thank you very much. On 2/15/23, the Committee on Sustainability and Green Initiatives met and affirmatively recommend unanimously this ordinance. I make a motion to approve.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: Motion and second. Roll call, please?

MR. DEMARCO: Can we discuss it?

MR. PALMIERE: Discussion.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco, I believe.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. DeMarco, go ahead.

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah, I would just say I've reviewed this legislation. I have some serious concerns about it, particularly, like one, additional departmental duties and requirements. We're supposed to work towards procurement of carbon free energy to offset county electricity consumption with a goal of 100 percent carbon free electricity by 2028. That's five years away. Not even the folks in Washington, you know, living in Lala land with a Green New Deal and everything else are talking about trying to get the net neutral or 100 percent carbon free in five years. And I'm also concerned the county procurement folks buy so many different products, and we want them to take a look at every product they buy and try to investigate, you know, whether there's another more environmentally friendly, all the way down to what type of packaging it comes in.

Listen, procurement already does a lot of this stuff today. I'm just against taking and trying to create this in law. One of the things that's missing here is anything in regards to taking care of the taxpayers. I'll be a no on this because I'm not going to virtue signal with somebody else's money. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. DeMarco. Any other comments? Roll call, please?

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: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Filiaggi.

MS. FILIAGGI: Sorry, I am going to abstain in my vote. And if I am, I think I am permitted to give reason. Yes, this was initiated way before my time on Council, which was February of 2022, and I have to tell you that with all the other committees that I have

been on and been participating in, I have not followed this. I do want to say that I am concerned about the remarks that Councilman DeMarco brought up, but I haven't had an opportunity to properly review and vet this material like I have some other ordinances. I will be abstaining for that reason. Thank you.

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? He's

still absent. We have 12 Ayes, 1 no, 1 abstention with one member absent. The bill passes.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you. Congratulations on your achievement here, and this is a great idea. Thank you.

Liaison reports, do we have any liaison reports tonight? Okay. New Business Ordinance and Resolutions here.

MR. BARKER: Here Bill Number 12592-23, an ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing Article 903 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County entitled Formal Procurement Process by the creation of a new Section 5-903.01.A. entitled vendor responsibility. In order to require that any vendor considered by the county during the formal procurement process be current on any real estate tax owed to the county, including any interest penalty and/or costs, fees and expenses associated therewith prior to bid acceptance, sponsored by Council Member Macey.

MR. PALMIERE: That'll be going to Committee on Government Reform.

At this point I'd like to recognize Mr. Palmosina for the purpose of making a motion regarding staff cost of living adjustments. Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Mr. President. Last week, Chairman Palmiere and the members of the Executive Committee met and unanimously recommended to approve three percent COLA retroactive to January 1st of 2023 for our staff.

At this time, I would like to follow through on that recommendation, make a motion to full Council to approve a three percent COLA retroactive January 1st of 2023 for our staff, and I thank you.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: Motion and second. Discussion?

MR. WALTON: Yes. First, with all due respect to my fellow member, Palmosina, that was not a unanimous recommendation. I opposed it, and I oppose it tonight. The reason that I oppose it is the reasons that I raised in both an Executive Committee and the subsequent discussion. While I am not trying to denigrate the character or the quality of the staff of County Council, I am truly concerned and truly appalled and truly troubled by the lack of diversity in the time that I've spent on Council, there's not been one African American on the staff of the County Council.

I've been a strong advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. I think it is disrespectful to the constituents that I serve and to the African American and minority residents of Allegheny County that we don't have any minorities on County Council staff. Until we take the responsibility that we have, then I am going to oppose every effort to change the conditions in the current Council, do what we need to do, ensure equity, ensure diversity, and then I'm all on board. It's just that simple.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. Walton. Go ahead.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. As I stated last week at the Executive Committee meeting, relative to the concerns that Mr. Walton has expressed, I think that it's all well and good to talk about diversity and inclusion, but the real test is whether we are willing to live up to that call. I think we need to take a hard look at this. We need to commit to doing something to

casting a wider net in terms of candidates that we attract for the few positions we do have in County Council. And you know, just reaching the conclusion that there aren't candidates out there is really just kicking the can down the road. I think that we really have to recommit to this and make sure that we're walking the talk. If we're really committed to creating an organization, that ought to be a model that is certainly inclusive.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. Chairman, members of Council it's my belief that -.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. Macey has the floor right now, Mr. DeMarco. I will recognize you next. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: In public service in any community organization, we should be a direct reflection of our community. Now, we haven't been able to reflect that in our staff. There was an opportunity for a person to come by, but we waited three months to hire somebody, so I can understand why that African American moved on and found other employment.

But as I said, as a representative of the communities, we should be a direct reflection in our employment and our hiring practices. Thank you.

MR. PALMIERE: Anyone else?

MR. PALMOSINA: Mr. President?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes. Okay, Mr. DeMarco, go ahead, please.

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I was going to say what Councilman Macey had said. While I agree with Councilman Walton, I thought we made an offer to a woman of color here and that she turned that offer down because she'd taken another position. It's certainly something for us --- it's certainly something for us to take into consideration as we look to add staffing. But again, I think this was something that he had brought up previously, which we had agreed with and which we had attempted to rectify, but we did not move quickly enough when it came to putting these offers out to these folks, because she wasn't the only one that declined.

You know, I believe an offer was made to somebody else as well who declined the position and took another job. So we need to do a better job as a whole, as a body as we look to add staffing here with process, and

that should be one of our major initiatives as we move forward into 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. DeMarco.

MR. PALMOSINA: Mr. President?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. PALMOSINA: I do believe with all the comments who were said in my colleague, I do respect his comments, and I agree, he is correct with that. But I want to clarify, when I said unanimous, it was by the Executive Committee.

MR. WALTON: You're right. I apologize.

MR. PALMOSINA: That's okay. That's fine. I just wanted to clear that up. I do agree with you, and you have my word, I'll work with you.

MR. WALTON: Let's get it done.

MR. PALMOSINA: That's all.

MR. PALMIERE: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm chair of the Executive Committee, and I did tell Mr. Walton last week or two weeks ago, whenever it was, that we're going to move on this and we're going to get some things done and we're going to right the situation. And that's a promise.

Can I have a roll call, please?

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: In the words of Dr.

King, it's not where a man stands doing calm and convenient, but where he stands on crisis and controversy. No.

MR. BARKER: And President Catena is not with us. We have 13 ayes, one no with one member absent. The motion passes.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, everyone. Okay. Notification of Contracts.

MR. BARKER: 12591-23 is a communication summarizing approved executive actions for the month of January 2023.

MR. MACEY: Receive and file, please.

MR. DUERR: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: All those in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. PALMIERE: Motion passes. Thank you. Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is Wanda Guthrie.

MS. GUTHRIE: Hi, I'm here on behalf of the Friends Meeting in Pittsburgh, and I would like to submit some assigned letter. We are really disturbed about the Youth Detention Center and really strongly urge you to study and advocate for a wide range of supportive services for our area youth. Keeping our young out of any facility should be our goal as citizens. The Schumann Detention Center has never been a healthy response to our troubled youth. When the detention center was closed because it became operationally negligent, the two solutions chosen by the county to warehouse young people in the Allegheny County Jail or send them to facilities outside of Allegheny County were neither well considered nor wise.

These decisions created a financial burden and potential negative job impact on black, brown and poor people. Twenty-four (24) community groups are opposed to the model of detention services of the former Schumann Center as a physical facility for troubled youth. We also know from the experience of many others that it would be

worsened if it were to become privately owned. We are asking that you, as Allegheny Council members, pass a resolution that supports the position of the 24 organizations with regard to the Schumann Center, and that the Council resolutions require the County Executive and County Council to hold public hearings on any conversation on the reopening of Schumann Center and/or the creation of a new youth detention facility.

We want the resolution to clearly support the position of the community organizations to oppose any privatization of any such facility. We also strongly urge the Allegheny Council to pass a resolution to request the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board to actively and seriously address the unacceptable conditions in the jail identified by several community organizations and identify in the report --- identified report of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. We request that you, as Allegheny Council members, create a task force for council members to assess how you can assist in expediting the corrections needed to the jail, including how you can effectively urge the Jail Oversight Board to act.

Here is our letter and our signatures of the Working Group Against Racism and Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Rodney Poteat. Or perhaps not. Next up would be Tim Stevens.

MR. STEVENS: Good evening, Council. Thank you for your work. I'm here supporting what you just heard from my good friend of decades, Wanda Guthrie. You all have received the communications regarding the recommendations of 24 community groups regarding Schumann Center. It's very simple. We don't want our kids sent to jail. We don't want them sent outside of our county because the people affected most are going to be black, brown and poor to have to go to these other districts to visit.

Number three, the focus should be on what services can we provide so our kids are not sent to any facility, recreational, social, mental, whatever. That should be the focus. And lastly, on this issue, we cannot afford to happen in Allegheny County what happened in Luzerne where people made money on our children. That is unacceptable and do not do that.

Our understanding is that the county exec has the greatest power on that decision. We hope that county

exec will have the wisdom to agree with recommendations of the 24 organizations. Secondly, that you, as council people, request a public hearing on that issue of what should be done, and that somebody have the wisdom to pass or request a resolution of support.

On the issue of the jails. If you sat, as some of us did in this room on several occasions for the past several months, and if you heard the reports from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, your heart should have been ripped. Unacceptable. Absolutely unacceptable. The report is here. Brother Guenther will be sharing that with you. We ask that you put that task force together. We're not happy with the board oversight board in their movement. We ask you to put some strength behind what our community requests have been over the past several months.

I don't think you'd want to be in that jail right now, or loved one that you care for to be in that jail. We want a jail that should be a model for the nation. This isn't it. Again, pass the resolution for that, as well as the resolution regarding the Schumann Center situation. Thank you very much.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Alan Guenther.

MR. GUENTHER: Tim referenced the two letters and here is the letter. Wanda was talking about this. Here's the letter. How does it go? Here's one for everybody. All right. Thanks. Okay.

So what we're here today for is we're asking you to pass a motion saying that any detention center should not be run by a private company and that any discussion concerning such a detention center should be held in public and not be a decision made in secret by the County Executive. This is such an important thing. It needs to be discussed publicly. We're asking you to, first of all, have as many alternatives to any kind of detention and then, please, discuss this in public. Pass a resolution pass a motion that asks the county executive to have public hearings.

And then the second thing, we have a document here, 19 Ways to Fix the Jail. It catalogs the good work of so many groups who have brought to the attention of the Jail Oversight Board what the conditions are only to have the Jail Oversight Board ignore the report from Pitt or the complaints from so many community groups. Here it is, all in one document, what has not been done by the Jail

Oversight Board. So we are asking you to form a subcommittee or a task force and please look over the failings of the jail and see what you can do to pressure them to do something about it. Please, don't make the Schumann Center decision in private. Have public hearings and please form a task force or a subcommittee to get some action going on the jail. Thank you very much.

MR. BARKER: And last up is Elizabeth Schongar.

MS. SCHONGAR: Hi, I'm Beth Schongar. I attend the Pittsburgh Friends meeting, and I am a member of BPEP. I wrote most of this independently of them. I'm going to read what I have to say. We should not build replacement Schumann Center, private or public. The children in a Pennsylvania detention center are held until court hearings determine their final placement.

Of course, it's convenient for the police and the courts to have one place to dump children until their eventual placement is decided. The issue with Schumann was not primarily funding. It was the difficulty of warehousing large numbers of children for short periods of time, often two or three weeks while their lives felt like they were falling apart. The children didn't know where they would end up. Don't have a time to build positive relationships with the adults. The adults can't predict who will become suicidal or traumatized under the stress.

The impact of removing children from school classes that they may return to is severe. That's why the goal should be to keep the children well supervised in school, in after school programs and/or with family members or friends of the family as far as possible into the completion of the hearings that determine where they will go.

I did see Tim Stevens' memo and from it I take we advocate for the wide-ranging supportive services that must be provided to area youth to keep them out of any facility that our youth not be sent to Allegheny County Jail or to facilities outside of Allegheny County Jail. I also support the resolution to hold hearings before any decision is made.

MR. BARKER: We did have one individual who signed up untimely. His name is Roy Blankenship.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Sorry, do I have permission to speak? Good evening, Council. I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak. Some of you know me. A lot of you may not. You will get to know me as I

become more apparent part of our community and work and help. My name is Roy Blankenship. I'm sorry. Roy Blankenship, BPEP community organizer. And the last name is Blankenship, B-L-A-N-K-E-N-S-H-I-P.

Basically, I'm here to talk to the council about myself. I'm here as BPEP's community organizer but I'm here as a fellow Commonwealth resident father and also a committee man in my community. I represent a lot of African American and I want to say marginalized communities in the days I walk, during the days and working. I would like to say as a father of 14 and 8 grandchildren you guys, there's constitutional violations happening to other residents and citizens that are in our custody.

Basically, that county jail. The atrocities that are happening there's majority cruel and unusual punishment that can be defined by these reports. It is incumbent upon each member of this council that you have been warned and also notified that these constitutional violations are happening. We're imploring that you move and act upon accordingly with our recommendations or just even put some together from a Commonwealth and fellow resident perspective, something needs to be done.

As far as the youth, it's the same model. I cannot believe our county is committing constitutional atrocities to its residents and expecting to call them constituents. A lot of these people are still out here voting and representing --- represented in your communities. Under these violations, I ask that you possibly please think about what your decision is. Think about the non-movement.

I was in a meeting, the J-O-B meeting with a 90 something year old lady that pleaded for the council to do something before she died. I'm 47 years old. I don't want to be an elder like that in my community standing there, fighting, believing the process you told me I'm supposed to stand for and the process I'm supposed to be a part of. I'm watching non-movement and human rights and constitutional violations. Thank you.

MR. JAMES: Sorry. May I have permission to speak?

MR. PALMIERE: State your name and address for the record.

MR. JAMES: My name's Keenan James. Address is 841 California Avenue, 15212. I am the coalition

organizer for the Alliance for Police Accountability. When we are talking about the youth I'm going to just state the facts of the matter. You know, we're strip searching youth, interrogating them without adults or attorneys being present. They're not even allowed to take showers on a regular basis. When we're talking about the Allegheny County Jail and how we're treating the people that are incarcerated, 17 people have died since 2020, and the administration takes zero responsibility for that.

When we're talking about food, it's inedible. There has been spottings of black mold in the kitchen, condensation within the food, rodent feces and poisoning as well. We're talking about dinner being served lastly at 5:00 p.m. And breakfast not being served until 8:00 a.m., sky high commissary prices. When we know for sure that most of the people in Allegheny County Jail are poor and can't afford a bond, let alone these prices not getting hygiene products. The only people that are allowed to have bottled water are pregnant women. It's an issue, you know.

We just had at the last GOP meeting arguments about how Kendrick wasn't receiving life-sustaining medicine. He had sickle cell anemia. The lack of mental health services, the fact that people are waiting up to 85 days after putting in sick slips months and months prior. So I don't understand how any of you can sit there and not see this as an extreme problem. It's an extreme problem. That's all I have to say.

MR. PALMIERE: Motion to adjourn?

MS. BENNETT: So moved.

MR. WALTON: I second.

MR. PALMIERE: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:14 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 22 day of March, 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chelsea Curry", written over a horizontal line.

Chelsea Curry,

Court Reporter