

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
John F. Palmiere	-	Vice President District 6
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
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

May 9, 2023, 5:03 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: Good evening. I'd like to call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance Recited)

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?
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. Macey?
	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:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA:	Here.

MR. BARKER: At the moment we have 13 members present. I apologize, Mr. Macey is definitely with us by phone.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12667-23 is actually going to be held tonight, Jared.

12668-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Woodland Hills High School as the 2023 outstanding individual

school library program in Pennsylvania, sponsored by Councilmember Naccarati-Chapkis.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Okay. I would just like to first say hello and welcome to everyone beside me here who is also in the presence of our awardee. Mr. Kevin McGuire. Hello. Woodland Hill High School library media specialist. Dr. Dan Castagna, superintendent. Mrs. Manns, Principal. And Mr. Willson, assistant superintendent of curriculum. Thank you. It's nice to have all of you here.

Let's read what we've got here. This is a proclamation recognizing Woodland Hills High School. Whereas, the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association is a statewide organization representing over 550 members. It is an independent organization for school library professionals who serve in public, private and parochial schools within the Commonwealth and is the voice of the school library profession in Pennsylvania. And whereas at its annual conference in March, the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association recognized Woodland Hills High School, my alma mater as the 2023 Outstanding Individual School Library Program in Pennsylvania. This award is given to recognize an outstanding individual school library program, which is an integral part of the students' educational program.

And whereas under the leadership of librarian Kevin McGuire, the Woodland Hills High School Library provides an educational program that meets the varied needs of the students, faculty and school community at large. It supports the curriculum, provides a creative atmosphere for learning and exploration, and fosters a lifelong interest in seeking knowledge and building connections. And whereas faculty members, administrators and other professional educators describe the library's role, is central to the school and view Mr. McGuire as an instructional partner, valued collaborator, and leader within the school community, according to the Consortium for Public Education, the Woodland Hills High School Library is a model of what future oriented thinking should be. They explain. While some may have the perception that libraries are the place for academics, Woodland Hills High School focuses on their library being the place to include all students inquiring exploring, collaborating, and engaging in a wide variety of curated experiences for their futures.

This includes a variety of literature and so much more. And whereas the library at Woodland Hills High School is inviting, flexible and student centered. There is a balance between the library as a hub of activity, a place to collaborate, and a quiet, independent work space. And Mr. McGuire works hard to cultivate an environment that supports the varied ways in which students learn and work across all grade levels and content areas. In the library, students receive exceptional instruction and support in everything from literature appreciation to digital citizenship and information literacy to sophisticated research practices. The library program is truly an integral part of daily life at Woodland Hill. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council Member Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, do hereby recognize Woodland Hills High School as the 2023 outstanding individual school library program in Pennsylvania. Congratulations.

DR. CASTAGNA: So first of all, thank you for recognizing Woodland Hills. This has been - it's a challenging time for public schools everywhere. You're always looking for cuts to do things leaner and cheaper, and library is untouchable because it impacts so many students. It's not the old library of the past where you went to check out books. It's a multimedia center now. This guy deserves all the credit. I deserve none of this credit. Our high school principal, Ms. Manns, is a huge supporter of the library, and Mr. Willson, of course, so I am just here to recognize them as well as you are. So this guy deserves all the credit in the world. So thank you.

MR. MCGUIRE: I'd like to thank Dr. Castagna and Mr. Willson and Ms. Manns and our whole high school administration. And this to me, libraries promise libraries promise possibility to our students. And I see that every day, no matter if a kid is coming to get a book or to use a computer or to ask a question. And I'm really grateful to be the librarian in Woodland Hills, and I'm really grateful for all your support. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We're going to do pictures at the end, Michelle.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Pardon me?

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll do pictures at the end again.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: All right. We're going to do it at the end. So come up when we're done here.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12669-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring Take a Father to School Day in Pittsburgh Public Schools, sponsored by Council Member Bennett and the Chief Executive.

MS. BENNETT: It keeping with the school theme here. I'm going to have our fathers - hey, Ms. Candy. We're going to have our fathers up here representing from Take Your Father to School Day. And I just want to - I'm just taking it in, so just give me my moment and let me take this in. Because in the era where we hear about fathers not being active in children's lives, and especially black fathers, this is a very hopeful picture that I'm looking at right now. So I thank you all for your investment in your work and Taking Your Father To School Day.

In the 25th anniversary of Taking Your Father to School Day. So you all ain't just start this yesterday, you all been here for a while. I think Mr. Barker might be the youngest one up here right now. So whereas on May 19, 2023, Take a Father to School Day is celebrating its 25th anniversary, this year's theme is PPS fathers, Proud, Purposeful and Supportive.

Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Take and Father the School Day Committee are celebrating 25 years of promoting and increasing father involvement in the city of Pittsburgh. And Whereas since its inception in 1999 by Mr. Mark Brentley, Senior, the goal of Take a Father to School Day is to bring fathers and male role models into the school space in order to establish better communications with school, explore opportunities for volunteering, and engage men to take a proactive role in their child's education. And whereas, this annual event involves every branch of the Pittsburgh Public School District, and has attracted annually over 6,000 fathers and male guardians for the last five years. And whereas for this day, a father is any positive male role model in a child's life, a grandfather, cousin, uncle, older sibling, community leader, mentor, minister and others. And whereas, research suggests that the involvement of fathers exerts a distinct and independent influence on whether children ever repeat a grade, mostly get A's enjoy school and participate in extracurricular activities,

within the past years, Take a Father to School Day has received a Magna Award from the American School Board Journal and National School Boards Association and Sodexo. And whereas, during Take a Father to School Day, fathers and father figures across Allegheny County will visit the schools of their children to meet teachers, staff and participate in organized activities. And whereas Pittsburgh public schools would like to acknowledge this year's partners, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh literacy Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Penguins, Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Steelers they all had to get in there. And Pittsburgh Science Center, as well as local men's groups and a variety of organizations that have continued to support the success of the initiative.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny Council Member Liv Bennett and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, do hereby recognize Mr. Mark Brentley, Senior and the Committee for their achievement in engaging families and in boosting student achievement in Pittsburgh Public Schools. This Council does hereby declare May 19, 2023 as Take a Father the school day in Allegheny County.

In witness hereof, I have unto caused the seal of County of Allegheny, to be affixed this 9th day of May, 2023. Thank you again for your work, Mr. Brentley, and congratulations.

MR. BRENTLEY: Thank you, Councilwoman Bennett. We are honored to receive this recognition. And yes, it's been 25 years, and if I can take a quick second to kind of explain to you what it is we ask for fathers or positive male role model to simply show up at one of the schools one day out of the year to just simply volunteer. The other side is that we encourage the staff to find a way to keep them there, creating different activities, and then, of course, encouraging them to sign up to be members of the PTA, PTOs and PSCCs. We are not an anti anything. This day is nothing more but a call to duty.

Our schools in the Pittsburgh Public Schools are successful because of only one reason, and that's because the mothers and the women have never, ever abandoned this district. We left, but they've never abandoned us. And so this is nothing more but a call to duty to encourage men to get up, to get out, and to get involved. It's important that you simply be there. On the 19th of this month we're simply asking anyone to participate. If you get on the Pittsburgh Public Schools website, there's what

we call - we put together a Pittsburgh Public Schools take a father to school day directory. It will show you all the schools and the special activities that are designed to bring the men in. And I would encourage you all to check it out.

Secondly, we're excited about the fact that this is 25 years. Our salary is zero, but we're committed to it. And we have a total of about 14 members we've been able to find over the years that served as committee members to come out. And so we're happy about it. We're excited, but we also want to encourage you. We believe it is the secret weapon to resolving to some of these issues going on in our schools. And finally, the old way to look at it. For me, I'm one of nine born to my mother and father. And my mother always identified the problem, but my father solved the problem. He would come in and remind us - and he was a good man. He worked two or three jobs and he would get forgetful, sometimes get forgetful, and he would come and say, hey, Mark, did you come in here with alcohol on your breath three weeks ago? Your mother told me about it. My point behind that story is there's a balance and we have to be responsible, men. We have to simply get up and we got to step up and do our share.

So we're excited about this. Thank you so much for the recognition. And I hope someday we can have a conversation with County Council about spreading this thing throughout the county. Everybody needs to invite men and reach out, and everybody should acknowledge the fact that it takes two to create that child. Thank you so much again, council members.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Pictures at the end.

MR. BARKER: How many more procs? There's like two more, three more?

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we're going to go back to 12667-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation honoring the tenth Annual Disability and Mental Health Summit hosted by Representative Dan Miller, sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmiere wants to be added to that and so do I.

MR. MACEY: So do I, Mr. President.

MS. BENNETT: I would like to be added.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone that doesn't want to be added? There you go.

MR. BARKER: Everybody.

MR. DUERR: All right. Hello, everyone. So I am absolutely honored to have my favorite state representative from Mt. Lebanon here today to recognize the great work he's been doing over the past ten years with the Disability and Mental Health Summit. So Representative Miller has been a great partner and friend and mentor over the past couple of years. I've been in office and seeing the work he's done in Harrisburg has been tremendous, but the work he's done here in district and across the region here in southwestern Pennsylvania has been cool. He is impressive and one of the, I think he would say, crowning jewels of his work over the past years, since he's been elected in office, has been the Disability Mental Health Summit. I had the privilege to be able to attend the one in 2019 or 2020, right before COVID shut down the last in person one. And it is a true labor of love and it's a combination of a bipartisan group of people coming together to provide resources, discussions about legislation in Harrisburg surrounding disability and mental health and it all comes through this guy.

So it's a tremendous event and the next one, which is going to be once again the 10th version of this event is coming up this Thursday, May 11, from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bethel Congregation in the South Hills. And I would invite any and all council members here if they've never attended, to please make an effort to come. It is a wonderful, wonderful event chock full of resources that I'm sure your constituents would love to hear from and know about.

So without further ado, I will read the proclamation here and turn the thing over to Representative Miller. So I'm going to go through the whole thing. I'm going to make you sweat. So whereas Representative Dan Miller is hosting the 10th annual Disability Mental Health Summit on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bethel Congregation, South Hills, and whereas the free annual Disability and Mental Health Summit has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people. It's brought together 2,000 people, 180 participating organizations and offered many hours of free sessions on a variety of disability and mental health topics. And whereas, this year's program will feature two keynote sessions, each of which will be followed by a



legislative panel, a morning panel will focus on mental health and afternoon panel will focus on disability issues in Pennsylvania.

The first keynote session, starting at 9:00 a.m., will feature Dr. Dale Adair, chief psychiatric officer of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, who will discuss the mental health landscape in Pennsylvania. And whereas the afternoon keynote session will begin at 1:00 p.m. with Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, State Department Human Services Acting Secretary, and Kristen Ahrens, Deputy Secretary's, Office of Developmental Programs discussing the changing landscape of disability services in Pennsylvania. Whereas there will once again be a community resource fair from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Featuring many organizations, nonprofits and support services in our region, experts will be on hand and available to answer any questions and provides valuable insight. Now, therefore be resolved that I, Allegheny County Council member Tom Duerr and all members of County Council do hereby recognize 10th annual Disability and mental Health Summit hosted by Representative Dan Miller and commend the efforts of the summit. As it has become one of the largest collection of disability and mental health resources in western Pennsylvania and a staple event for many advocates, self advocates and professionals alike.

In witness hereof I here unto cause the seal of Allegheny to be affixed this 9th day of May 2023.  
Representative Miller, congratulations on your work.

MR. MILLER: Thank you. Thank you. Speaker 1  
What do I have, 45 minutes? No, look, I want to thank obviously Tom, John and everybody who was kind enough to invite me here and to recognize our event. Most of you - many of you have been there and I appreciate that over the years, all right? And like you all know, with a disability, mental health issues have no partisan label. They have no demographic of any type to effectuate to it. And it's something to which unites us. This event here started off with just really a couple of dozen people. We ended up sort of peaking at that event where we had 2,300 in attendance. And we continue to find ways in sort of the post pandemic world to try and bring people together to talk about disability and mental health resources, opportunities and how we better keep promises. I want to say to you that the county has always been a terrific

partner. Very much appreciate. I don't really think there's been much that has been done without the county and the county exec sending over personnel, giving us assistance to be sure that we are offering as great a program as possible. Without your help and the county's help, it would not have been as successful over these years. It is my favorite event. It is bipartisan. It is bicameral.

Those things in some ways are too rare. But on the disability and mental health front, it does unite us. It kind of brings us to that shared humanity. And I would say to somebody with it, I guarantee you make a difference in a person's life with a disability mental health issue, they don't care. They don't care what your yard sign looks like. Not at all.

Okay? They're looking for how to have that better tomorrow. And as we shine a light on these issues together, then we can, I think, hopefully lift more and more people into that greater sense of opportunity. So I just want to thank you very much. I appreciate - thank you for all the work. We are very proud to be from Allegheny County and to help sort of represent everybody as you do. And so please do reach out to us in that role anytime. But again, thank you Tom and John and everybody appreciate being here today. Bethany, thank you as well. Thank you, Pat, everybody. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12670-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing North Versailles Township Commissioner Sam Juliano sponsored by Councilmember Naccarati-Chapkis.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: I would like to recognize Sam Juliano this evening, who is here with colleagues Joe Barhala and Alan Wagner. Hope to come up for a picture, please. You don't have to --- come on now. Like that, support of colleagues. All right.

So I want to explain to you a little bit about this particular proclamation. I saw this in the Community News, and I said, we've got to have Mr. Juliano down here as well. You'll hear why in just a moment. Whereas on April 12, 2023, Sam Juliano, to my right, was honored by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development with the 2023 Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioner's Career Recognition Award. And whereas this prestigious Governor's Award for Local Government

Excellence is awarded to honor leaders across our Commonwealth who have shown exceptional dedication to improving public services through innovative initiatives and a continued focus on getting things done for their communities. Mr. Juliano has been nominated for contributing in such a way through his extensive public service. And whereas in 2009, Mr. Juliano was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the North Versailles Board of Commissioners, and in 2010, he was elected to the seat and has remained on the board ever since.

Thirteen (13) years later, Mr. Juliano believes North Versailles positive financial picture is one of its biggest strengths. And whereas, during his tenure as Commissioner, Mr. Juliano has served as vice chair of both the Public Works and Public Safety Committees. He is also the current president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and even has a regional presence by serving as the immediate past president of the Allegheny County and Western PA Association of Township Commissioners. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council Member Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, do hereby commend Sam Juliano upon his deserved recognition.

Mr. Juliano always acted in the best interest of the municipality's citizens, and his unwavering commitment to the North Versailles Board of Commissioners serves as an exemplary model of leadership. This Council thanks him for his dedicated public service and offers best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

MR. JULIANO: Thanks for having me today. Thanks for recognizing North Versailles partnership with the county, that all our resources it's important and imperative that we all work together. And what this award demonstrates that I do that, and that's very important that all my colleagues and I thank you and commit you for doing your job also, because I can't do mine - we all work together, but thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We shall bring them up for pictures. We're going to start pictures. The last proclamation is going to take a while longer.

(Photographs were taken)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We're going to 12671-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Multiplying Good at Pittsburgh ChangeMakers in the 2023

spring class of Multiplying Good ChangeMakers sponsored by Councilmembers Duerr and Bennett.

MR. DUERR: So I have once again been given the honor of filling in for our now no longer here on Council colleague Councilman Baker as the other Tom. But I am, as always, humbled to be able to be asked, along with my colleague Councilwoman Bennett to present this award for the ChangeMakers and Multiplying Good Pittsburgh and all the great work highlighting all the great work that they do in Pittsburgh and around the region. So whereas ChangeMakers is an initial, whereas ChangeMakers is an initiative of Multiplying Good Pittsburgh and celebrates several leaders across southwestern Pennsylvania.

For over 50 years, Multiplying Goods has been honoring those who put others first as they have seen the power and impact of recognition. And whereas, according to the Harvard Business Review, in a culture obsessed with measuring talent and ability, we often overlook the important role of inspiration. Inspiration awakens us to new possibilities and allows --- by allowing us to transcend our ordinary experiences and limitations, inspiration propels a person from apathy to possibility and transforms the very way we perceive our own capabilities.

And whereas since 1972, multiplying Good has recognized a host of national public figures for their outstanding contributions to our country and its communities with the Jefferson Award. Those receiving the prestigious Jefferson Awards are not only empowered to do more, but their stories of extraordinary public service also inspire others to action as well. And whereas ChangeMakers understand that representation and inspiration matter. The multiply Good ChangeMakers program is a series of volunteer, networking, fundraising and celebration events that take place over 12 to 16 week period. This prestigious opportunity opens young professionals across the southwestern Pennsylvania region recognizes a group of individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to several leadership and the potential to truly move Pittsburgh forward.

And whereas throughout the program, ChangeMakers will embody and encourage three of multiplying goods pillars service, leadership and recognition. Based upon these three pillars, Multiplying Good unleashes potential and youth through the service elevates unsung heroes and

professionals in our communities who are making positive change and partners with organizations, institutions, small businesses and corporations to recognize excellence in a volunteer service. And whereas in the spring class of 2023, multiplying Good ChangeMakers Pittsburgh will hold its graduation Jefferson award ceremony on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at the Frick Environmental Center in Frick Park. And now for be it resolved that we Allegheny County Councilmembers, Tom Duerr, Olivia Bennett, do hereby commend the work of Multiplying Good ChangeMakers of Pittsburgh and recognize the commitment and dedication of these individuals in the 2023 spring class of Multiplying Good ChangeMakers.

And witness hereof I unto cause the seal of Allegheny to be affixed this ninth day of May 2023. Congratulations to all the recipients. And Councilman Baker, you were part of the group?

MS. Klebick: Hi, I'm Jodi Klebick. I'm the executive director of Multiplying Good Pennsylvania and I'm very pleased and honored. Thank you council persons to our event for this recognition for our ChangeMakers. These are amazing servant leaders who are 21-plus we'll just say who are role models, representation and inspiration and facilitators for our students in action.

Our students in action are middle school and high school students in Allegheny County and nine other counties, including all the way out of this Mercer down in Greene. And we work with young people in middle schools and high schools, public charter, private schools, out of school time organizations from Clairton to One Nation Mentoring, the Pittsburgh Hardball Academy up to Pine, Richland, Perry, you name it. We are inspiring change by giving young people a voice in change in their community. They're addressing things like gun violence, mental health, the environment and a variety of things that really impact them from social justice and racial justice, to poverty and food insecurity.

The students are making the difference, the ChangeMakers are fueling the students and this is what these young people can grow up to be. And so I'm very honored to be able to recognize them as ChangeMakers. And thank you so much.

(Photographs were taken)

PRESIDENT CATENA: The remaining proclamations we be read into the record.

12672-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring May 12, 2023 is Provider Appreciation Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12673-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Pittsburgh Sakura Project sponsored by Councilmembers Prizio and Filiaggi.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12674-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate for his extraordinary contributions to global health, sponsored by Council Member Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12675-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Dr. Baba Adam's unwavering commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in academia, sponsored by Councilmember Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12676-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Ted and Ellen Eileen Fischer on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, sponsored by Councilmember Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12677-23.

MR. BARKER: A certificate of recognition presented to the 2023 annual Spring Black History Achievement Awardees, sponsored by Councilmember Betkowski.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12678-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and congratulating Logan Waters on achieving the rank of Eagle Scouts, sponsored by Councilmember Palmosina.

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

MR. BARKER: Not on agenda items, no.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Approval of Minutes. 12679-23.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023 regular meeting of Council.

MR. BARKER: So moved.

MR. DUERR: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made. Second. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? The motion carries. Presentation of appointments.

12666-23.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Lilas Soukop to the Friends of Park for South Park for a term to expire on May 9, 2026, sponsored by Councilmember Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the Committee on Appointment Review, unfinished business, Committee on Government Reform for the second reading.

12607-23. And at the request of the primary sponsor, we'll be holding that Bill. Moving on.

New business ordinances and Resolutions.

12680-23.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances Division 4 entitled finances by the addition of a new chapter 492 entitled Criminal Justice Funding Parity in order to provide for adequate and fair representation of indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses within the county. Sponsored by Councilmember Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the Committee on Budget Finance. New Business Motions.

12681-23.

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County urging the General Assembly to enact with all deliberate speed the provisions of S.B. 400 introduced on April 26, 2023, and providing for the institution of a semi open primary election voting process in the Commonwealth sponsored by Councilmember Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Tom, if it's okay, I'd like to send that to committee, because I'd like to have a discussion.

MR. DUERR: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I personally don't know a lot about this, and I'd like to look at it more.

MR. DUERR: No. Yeah, so one of the things you personally seen is I'm fine with that. One of the things Jared and I did was we included the legislation in the motion as well. So if members wanted to. Find it easily. We attach it to the motion as well. But I'd be happy to, but I definitely want to make sure this comes back up. I think it's a very interesting conversation, especially given we're living in a year where we have a lot of cross filing races, judicial, some school board races, where we have quite a few, we have thousands of independents in

Allegheny County who are not able to cast their votes in those races that are supposed to become partisan. So I think it's an interesting conversation and I would welcome any discussions in whatever committee. I would say respectfully, given that government reform is backed up, if we could send it to executive or somewhere else to have that discussion just because I think it would take quite a long time for it to come up in government reform, given all the bills that are already there, so -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Well, let's send it to government reform, and if we don't have the discussion, we can't get to it there. We'll have discussion on the floor.

MR. DUERR: Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: All right, fair enough.  
Notification of contracts. 12682-23.

MR. BARKER: Communication summarizing approved Executive actions for the month of April 2023.

MR. MACEY: Received and filed.

PRESIDENT CATENA: There's a motion to - is there a second?

MR. BARKER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there any discussion?  
Hearing no discussion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries.

MR. DUERR: President Catena, before we get to public comment, we skipped over liaison reports. I just wanted to very quickly - we had the board of elections meeting. I just wanted to update. Director Voye, since we're one week out from Election Day. Director Voye said everything's going very, very well. The preparations for the May 16 primary poll worker recruitment is up this year. It's going very, very well. He said the only three areas as of last week when we had the meeting that needed some additional poll workers that they would like a little bit more, was the 19th ward Harrison and Shaylor. He said specifically, Harrison has always been trouble. They've always had trouble getting poll workers specifically in Harrison. So I think that's Councilman Futules. So Nick, if you know anyone in Harrison who wants to work the polls, I'm sure reach out to them. But everything else seems to be going well.



Mail-in and ballot return is going well. And if anyone has any questions or issues, especially regarding mail-in ballots before election day, please send those folks to me so we can get this issue resolved as soon as possible. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Since I did skip Liaison reports, is there any other liaison reports?

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Catena, this is Councilmember Hallam. I have one.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah, I just wanted to - you know, as the jail oversight board's representative - Council's representative on the jail oversight board, I wanted to let everyone know that the May jail oversight board meeting, which is typically on the first Thursday of every month, was inexplicably postponed. So I wanted to let everyone know that if you were planning on coming, it's no longer, of course, the first Thursday of the month. It is this month, May 18th, which is not this Thursday, but next Thursday.

And also for any of my colleagues who were not aware and for anyone who is paying attention to this meeting. A young man died in the Allegheny County Jail this weekend. He was 42 years old. And so if anyone would like any further information on that, please reach out to me. If anyone wants to talk about a way to stop these deaths from happening, I am open to those conversations. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Any other liaison reports? Hearing none we'll move on. Go ahead. Public comment?

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up, and I'm going to apologize in advance for pronunciation. Pomadaj Chakman Yabalaji.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Next?

MR. BARKER: Not here. Next up would be Rachel Radky. Next up would be Carlos Thomas. Thank you. Next up would be Philip Battle, Jr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up would be Jacob Poole. Mr. Battle. Thank you.

MR. BATTLE: Hello, everyone. My name is I'm the Reverend Phillip Battle, Jr. Here again for families who are homeless and have children in school. A big thing happened today at the City Council building. They

actually declared Pittsburgh homelessness as a public health emergency. All the things that they did at Wood Street Commons, and the other well-known shelters, none of them included families with children in schools, at least not on the surface, nor was it mentioned on the council steps. Okay.

As I said the last time, 17 percent of children in school have or are actually actively homeless. They're living in cars. They have a community. The senator or the representative, he's gone. But they're right there in North Versailles in the Walmart parking lot, and they're living there. We have unaccompanied youth. We have programs, but all the programs are full. I've just been made aware of a prison or a jail or a mental health building on the north side that's empty that has several thousand beds or at least over a hundred beds. Those are the kinds of places like Shinley - not Shinley, but wherever this juvenile place that you were talking about opening.

In that area, you have that veterans hospital that is standing there falling apart, be a great place to house some of the people or some of the families that have children in school in that school district. The reason I'm here at the county is because you guys pretty much govern school districts, at least public schools in Allegheny County. So those places, those vacant buildings that they have, and places like that can be repurposed to house people or families that have children in school K through 12. And then we can't ignore those unaccompanied youth that, for whatever reason, don't want to be at home. So they're sleeping over their friend's house and over Grandma's house and sleeping on Auntie's couch in different places.

So we have to find a solution for this. We've already identified it as a health emergency, at least in the city. But I want you to imagine yourself if you had your family living in a hotel and had to get up at 04:30 a.m. -

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do you want to wrap it up, please?

MR. BATTLE: - to get your children to school. Yes, sir. I want you to imagine yourself and put yourself, your family in a place of desolate and in a cycle of poverty, if you can imagine so most of us can.

But just for a moment, for the sake of argument, consider yourself in their place.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BATTLE: See you all next week.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Normally, I don't engage, but just to clarify, we don't have any control over The city of Pittsburgh Public Schools or the County's schools for that matter.

MR. BATTLE: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. BATTLE: But I was using that for an example. You do control the public school system, not control the government or have some - you have leverage?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No, we do not.

MR. BATTLE: What do you have leverage on?

PRESIDENT CATENA: We don't have any control over any school district or any leverage over any school district. Those are totally separate entities. No, we don't have any - we don't have any control - those are totally separate entities.

MR. BATTLE: I understand. What I'm saying - I don't expect you to have oversight, but if you have knowledge of it, there has to be something that you could do. Not - maybe not as a council, but out of your position, out of your place of power.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We can help advocate. That is the best way to put it.

MR. BATTLE: As I am.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Next?

MR. BARKER: Next is Jacob Poole.

MR. POOLE: Hello, I'm Jacob Poole, formerly Yakub of Europe. I'm here because - well, I just heard a great presentation of all the families and fathers and children and all these things, and it's all heartbreaking and touching and I have none of those things, because people in the Pittsburgh area and Ligonier area literally said I want a child from Eastern Europe and they paid money to get it.

And after the Berlin Wall in the 1990s when East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, all messed up, people targeted my family. They had families connected to Einstein, John Von Newman, because people in the Pittsburgh area, through Ligonier, they wanted a smart child and they paid money for it. So people held people

captive, hunted them down and got me. And I was a little kid, I was held captive, forged my records in Eastern Europe and transported me to Ligonier PA through Church Networks and then to Pittsburgh, forced me to get a Ph.D., invent stuff, discover stuff for them.

I'm alone with mysterious illnesses, sicknesses. I have no family. I'm by myself all the time. I have three kids I was forced to father when I was held captive in isolation in Pittsburgh with sicknesses on the campus of University of Pittsburgh, people took pictures of us and posted them online and forced me to contact Jewish families in Europe so I can show them the pictures of me with those kids who were poisoned to be mentally handicapped and sick along with me. And I did. I myself coerced to contact Jewish families all over central and Eastern Europe and prayers to show pictures of me fathering mentally handicapped children in Pittsburgh on the campus of University of Pittsburgh, where I was forced to attend, and that the National Energy Lab in Pittsburgh area, I was forced to work.

I'm here by myself. I don't know my real name. I have forged records, and every single day is misery. I have no family, no friends, no contact. I have strange sicknesses, illnesses and pains. I went - trying to go to the homeless shelter for the holidays. It was closed. And that's going to be the rest of my life. People child trafficked me because they said during the chaos of the central Eastern European conflicts in the '90s, somebody said, give me an Eastern European child, and better yet, make it a smart one. So people did. People abducted families, held them captive, raped them, manufactured a child sold me for money, transported me here for exploitation. I know this because European police tried to intervene, and they turned on my birth certificate to have river market not at the location. My birth certificate says river market so that I'll always know that it's a true story. You can never change it. European police try to intervene, and that's how they intervene. They stamp my birth certificate as river market.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Mr. Poole, I'm going to ask you a question. I mean, you come here, obviously, to a lot of meetings. What are you asking us

to do, or what are your - what are you getting at or what - where do you want us to go with this?

MR. POOLE: I have no idea.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Because there's probably better uses of your time than coming here than speaking to us, which we have no control of. Maybe we can get you in contact with law enforcement so that you can share your concerns with law enforcement.

MR. POOLE: I've been to law enforcement. I've been to the FBI. I've been to every police station in Pittsburgh.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I mean, you're more than welcome - I guess you're more than welcome to keep coming to every meeting that we have, but unfortunately, there's nothing that in our preview that we can do to help you. But we can try to help you get in contact with someone that might be able to help.

MR. POOLE: I guess the point of that is that I exist here like this, and I'm not the only one. So that means that there's a massive deep root human trafficking that work in this area that I'm part of. My Facebook is partially blocked, my LinkedIn is blocked. All these things are blocked. People target me for exploitation.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I understand all of that, but again, we don't have any control over - I mean, everything you're talking about Allegheny County Council has no control over anything that you're talking about, unfortunately. You need to speak to someone in law enforcement, -

MR. POOLE: Oh, I have.

PRESIDENT CATENA: - I mean, speak to them to try to get you some resolution for what you're talking about. But like I said, you're more than welcome to keep coming to us, but unfortunately, there's nothing we can do. I mean, we'll listen to you, but there's nothing we can do.

MR. POOLE: I mean, people say they have nothing they can do, but at the same time, when I was forced to work at the National Energy Lab, people thought it was funny to walk by in the hallway wearing military logos and things and say, deported. And then a year later, when they didn't like me USCIS - they got USCIS to withdraw my citizenship, sending letters of citizenship.

PRESIDENT CATENA: But again, there's nothing we can do about any of that.

MR. POOLE: So I'm saying that common people doing weird stuff at the military lab apparently contacted people and had federal agencies withdraw documents and alter documents again.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Again, but there's nothing that we can do to basically resolve any of that for you. That's what I'm telling -.

MR. POOLE: This is a public forum.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We can help advocate for you.

MR. POOLE: You don't think you do, because every law is connected to every other law. Locally, federally, everything is connected. I guarantee there is at least half dozen county laws that this is touching them. You just aren't aware, because I'm not a liar.

PRESIDENT CATENA: But we're not the ones enforcing those county laws. The county police would better, obviously, talking to you is what I'm trying to redirect.

MR. POOLE: But you create legislature, eventually you create laws, ordinances.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We have no control over the county police. We don't direct the county.

MR. POOLE: Not the police, but local legislature, laws.

PRESIDENT CATENA: They're under the offices of the county executive.

MR. POOLE: Until things change, I exist. I guess I'm going to utilize public forums -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Like I said, we're more than happy to listen to you. I'm trying to get you some assistance and bring you to get some resolution to some of your concerns.

MR. POOLE: I would like resolution, but I don't even know where to begin.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Mr. Suley, happy 73rd birthday.

MR. SULEY: Good to see my friends on County Council again. I was here in January. Thank you. All of you voted for that second chance appeal, which I want you to know, next week, the day after the election, May 17, Wednesday, the State Tax Equalization Board will officially certify that lower number. Your vision back in January was, hey, if that number changes, we want to give people an opportunity to appeal for last year. So that will kick in, and that's a good thing. As of now, the

step ratio for last year's appeals is still 81-1. So there will be a dramatic drop, and that shoe will drop, and that's the end of that chapter. The reason I'm here, I want to give you a heads up, the plaintiffs - and as you know, I'm part of the lawsuit as a consultant. The plaintiffs are asking the administration, the Fitzgerald administration, to do a recount of the 2021 file, which would be affected for this year.

The county and the law department said, no way. We're not going to - we've been there. All they did was fix one year. That will be fixed next Wednesday. And what I'm telling you is, when real estate values go up, the common level ratio goes down. If the county does nothing. If you do nothing two years in a row, the common level ratio will be the same. That means Allegheny County is telling its citizens property values didn't go up. And on appeal, you're not going to maintain your fair share in taxes. So I'm just giving you the heads up. I know it's a complicated issue, but this is second chance appeal 2.0. I'm just giving you the heads up. I'm going to go eat some birthday cake. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Happy birthday, again, Mike.

MR. SULEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. BARKER: So moved.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All opposed? Motion carries. Thank you. Everyone have nice evening.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:03 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 30 day of June, 2023

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

Chelsea Curry,

Court Reporter