

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President
Patrick Catena	-	District 4
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12

Father Ryan Arts Center
420 Chartiers Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 - 5:52 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219
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IN ATTENDANCE:

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Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We are prepared to start the fourth of four public meetings to discuss the possibility of developing and passing an ordinance governing a citizens' police review board for Allegheny County.

My name is Dewitt Walton, and I am co-chair along with my co --- my fellow council member, Paul Klein. Before we get started, I'd like to introduce the other members that are here. To my left is President of Council, John DeFazio. To my far right we have Council Member Patrick Catena. To his --- to his left, we have Council Member Robert Palmosina and again co-chair, Paul Klein.

We'd like to thank the residents of Allegheny County for its concern and consideration and willingness to participate in these four public meetings. They have been lively and insightful, and we've gained a good deal of information for which we're going to take back and consider as we move forward with this process.

Tonight's meeting is going to take a somewhat different format in that we do not have --- we are not going to have presenters at this meeting. This meeting will solely consist of public comment from the audience. If you have not signed up and want to speak, please raise your hand and our staff will come and put your name on the list. If you signed up, we will call you as part of your process.

So with that in mind, we'd like to thank everyone who has opted to spend some of their valuable time providing Allegheny County Council with their insights this evening. Your comments are extremely important as a means of informing the Council's decision-making process and we are grateful to you for sharing them with us.

With that said, we are, of course, all aware that recent events and the issue of police accountability have become profoundly controversial topics, and that emotions sometimes run high when the matter is discussed. While it is certainly not our intention to minimize or gloss over anyone's feelings, please note that we do not expect --- that we do expect and require that decorum be maintained at all times this evening, and that the following guidelines must be observed at all times.

Please be respectful of other speakers, and allow them to fully avail themselves of their right to speak. Please do not interrupt or disrupt their remarks with heckling, applause or other noise. Regardless of the number of individuals waiting to speak, please adhere to all time limits and do everything possible to allow easy access to the podium for speakers when their turn is called.

A timer will be visible to all speakers as they make their comments. The time limit for this evening is two minutes per speaker. The timer will give a single warning beep with a yellow warning light when one minute remains, then multiple beeps and a red light at the conclusion of the two minute limit.

Do not, under any circumstances engage in any inflammatory, threatening or confrontational behavior. Doing so will be cause for immediate ejection from the meeting. Do not engage in or display profane language of any kind. Only individuals who are registered to speak and who are called to the podium may do so. If anyone has a handout for Council, please provide it to our staff members who will distribute it to us. Do not, under any circumstances, approach the Council Members directly.

Speakers should address the Council only. The Council Members are not to engage in conversation or debate with any speaker during their remarks to Council. Council does not restrict --- restrict the use of cameras or recording devices during meetings.

That said, please do not use these devices in a fashion that disrupts the hearing or any speaker. Larger cameras, tripods, must be placed around the perimeter of the room, but may not be placed behind Council's table or behind the speaker's podium. Signs may be displayed provided they do not obstruct the audience's view of the proceedings. Larger signs must therefore also be kept to the perimeter of the room.

We do wish to be able to contact everyone who is present tonight in order to provide or request additional information. Accordingly, for individuals who are not speaking, please use the general sign-in sheet with our staff members. Obey all instructions from the Chair. Failure to do so may constitute grounds for ejection from the meeting.

Please be aware of the rules regarding public speakers. Speakers must register at least 24 hours

prior to the start of the meeting in order to reserve a time slot --- and I just voided all of that by saying there is a sign-in sheet, so --- trying to find common ground.

So once the pre-registered speakers are finished, individuals will be called from the last minute list on a first come, first serve basis.

Due to the facility rental agreement provisions, tonight's meeting must end no later than 7:00 p.m. If we must end the meeting before you have a chance to speak, please feel free to submit written comments before the close of business on September 28th. Please see our staff or the published advertisement for tonight's meeting for contact information.

For individuals that do make verbal remarks this evening, please begin by identifying yourself and the municipality in which you live for the record. Speakers are specifically prohibited from allocating or deferring their time to other speakers. If you're not present when your turn --- when your turn comes and your name is called, you may not get the opportunity to speak. A listing of the speakers who signed up and the order in which they appear will --- and the order in which they will be called is posted near the door.

Only residents of the County are granted the right to speak pursuant to Section 710.1(a) of the Sunshine Act. If there is not enough time to hear all the speakers, some or all --- some or all of the comments can be deferred --- well, you'll have to do it in writing because this is the fourth of four meetings. Thank you in advance for your consideration and cooperation and welcome to tonight's meeting.

With that being said, I'm going to start by giving my co-chair a moment to share his perspectives about tonight's proceedings and the --- and the process behind which we are --- we're working.

MR. KLEIN: Well, thank you, Mr. Walton and --- I'd like to thank everyone who has made it a priority to be here tonight. I know that people live busy lives, but when matters come before us that are important to you, we --- we encourage you to offer your input and so we will be listening very closely to what you have to say this evening.

Obviously, people have very different perspectives on this subject and --- but it's important

that we come together and that we, you know listen attentively of what --- what each other has to say. So with that, I again thank you all for being here this evening and I'm looking forward to hearing your comments.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: President DeFazio, any comments?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: No. I just want to hear from the people, you know.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I'll poll the Council Members. Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: No.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: No, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: With that being said, our first speaker is?

MR. BARKER: Sister Janice --- Janice Vanderneck.

SISTER VANDERNECK: I'm Sister Janice Vanderneck. I am the founding director of Casa San Jose. We do --- we are a resource center and outreach for the Latino immigrant population in Southwestern Pennsylvania. I live in the Beechview section of the City of Pittsburgh, but we serve Latino immigrants in Allegheny County, Washington County, Butler County. We get calls for assistance from many different counties.

Ever since I started this work in 2003, opportunities to collaborate with and have ability to speak with police forces and chiefs of police is extremely important. My --- the community I work with has many members who are undocumented. The government calls them illegal aliens. These people live in fear of the police, many times because in their home countries police are not there to protect and serve. Police are there to be arms of the military.

Our people are afraid of police also because they are afraid of being deported. They have set roots here, they have children here who are American citizens who are in our schools who are growing and thriving. For a long, long time we've worked with the City of Pittsburgh police and the citizens police review board because years ago, police in the city felt it was their right to protect people from illegal aliens and our people were being terrorized.

However, we have had tremendous cooperation with the City of Pittsburgh police and they have assisted

our community in instilling a sense of welcoming them. In --- is that the thing about my time?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, ma'am, you're done.

MS. VANDERNECK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, ma'am. Thank you so much.

MR. BARKER: Next up, Jay Walker.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Jay Walker? Next?

MR. BARKER: Diane Schmitt.

MS. SCHMITT: Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Diane Schmitt and I reside in McKees Rocks and I'm --- what I need to say to you tonight is that last night I attended the municipal meeting at the McKees Rocks borough with the intent of talking to them about this issue. However, I never got the chance to speak because the room was so crowded with residents who were there regarding shootings in the borough and the issue of their community being made safer.

There were many speakers from McKees Rocks. One of the issues with keeping communities safe is to have effective police departments. The majority of the 1.2 million people in Allegheny County all desire to live in safe communities no matter what their opinions are on this issue or any other political issue. Everybody wants to go home to a place where they're not going to get a bullet through their window.

As well, there is a distinct fiscal obligation to the inception of a police review board. The City of Pittsburgh spends up to \$500,000 a year and I would expect that should this occur countywide, we will wind up absorbing the cost of the city as well as the countywide review board. What that price tag might be, I have no idea.

So I stand here to tell you that I support safe communities, I support robust law enforcement, and I do not believe that the creation of an additional layer of bureaucracy is going to solve the problems of keeping our community safe for people to live in. And thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Garrett Wassermann.

MR. WASSERMANN: I am Garrett Wassermann. I live in Coraopolis Borough. I came to tell you a short story of mine. My wife recently was abused with --- physically and verbally by a couple of local police

officers. Not knowing exactly how to handle that, I contacted the Borough mayor, as you would expect, told him the story about what happened. And in response of an investigation I was told, well, these officers are good people, that I know them, they're upstanding citizens and that I wasn't allowed to have any access to the information of the investigation when I asked.

I've found from previous hearings that part of that is because of County and State laws that protect those investigative records, but it puzzles me how we can have a justice system and all based upon democracy when I'm not allowed to see the evidence, I'm not allowed to talk to them and --- and immediately they're taking the side of the police officers. And I can sort of understand that, being they work with them every day, but that's kind of a problem.

They --- an internal investigation method like that cannot be a fair one because it's always going to be biased. There's going to be people that - you see them at work every day or whatever, and I think because of that I --- I support a County level review board because I think that would give an independent mutual voice for people who are reporting incidents like this.

I understand it needs to be a fair process, and that's why I think that, you know, having that independence would really help make sure that we're not taking either side here, we're being completely fair to everybody, we're investigating complaints and that kind of review board can have powers to subpoena and do things and have all the appropriate powers.

I think the review board could also support doing statistics on crime and advocating for any changes that are necessary to either county or state laws that would make that sort of application better. Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Tracy Merrick.

MR. MERRICK: My name is Tracy Merrick. My wife and I live in Franklin Park. We are members of the joint multi-racial racism team of the First United Methodist Church and Warren United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh.

Last Monday evening during a discussion of the book Tears We Cannot Stop, the discussion leader asked all 15 of us to answer the question, what does it mean to be black in America? Overwhelmingly, the responses of both black and white folks included statements like to be

black in America today is to live in fear. We all need to ask ourselves, why should African-American families, and particularly young men, constantly live with the fear of being stopped by police officers just because of the color of their skin?

For me, these hearings are about how to foster a higher quality of life for all County residents as stated in the preamble of the Home Rule Charter for Allegheny County. After researching this topic and recognizing that there are a wide variety of approaches in the United States, I would like to advocate for an effective citizens' police review board which will be uniquely designed for Allegheny County, will practice as its number one priority fostering a higher quality of life for all County residents, that will collaborate with County entities and those municipalities which agree to participate, will be designed to and will function in ways that over time, will be seen as beneficial, increasing numbers in municipalities, will be led by and comprised of highly qualified citizens with varieties of expertise and backgrounds, will be supported by a reasonably sized staff, will function with a significant degree of independence, will provide the service of reviewing and making recommendations regarding law enforcement policies, procedures and systems which do and do not foster a higher quality of life for all Allegheny County residents and will investigate specific cases lifted up by County citizens or municipalities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, sir. Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Raymond Fisher.

MR. FISHER: I think Dianne Schmitt said what was on my mind, about not creating additional layers of bureaucracy. Things have been running pretty smoothly with as much crime as there is that has been occurring in McKees Rocks. The police force has been doing their best. You're going to have problems. Every city or County have them. There is a police shooting, police abuse, we all see that now. The cowboy days are gone.

So I think things are being handled pretty well the way they are that we don't need an additional layer of that. And that's all I've really got to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, sir. That is our pre-registered list. Are there additional sign-ups?

MR. BARKER: We do have a couple.
Elizabeth Delgado?

MS. DELGADO: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Elizabeth Delgado. I live in McKees Rocks. I'm a Council woman here. I'm also a retired prosecuting attorney from California. I started my career with the Department --- the US Department of Justice in the license division and police brutality. I ended my career with the Department of Insurance of California which had their own investigative task force as a special assistant re-writing all their policies and procedures to be more in line with what the law expected and what prosecutors were looking for in a case.

In between those two things, I spent many years working --- prosecuting cases, working daily with police investigations, working on task forces hand in hand. I have great respect for police, but I also have a personal knowledge that bad apples get through and they are not always known or recognized immediately by the department.

I support a countywide task force. I think it would be an excellent idea if it is structured properly, and I think how it is structured will be very important but I do think that citizen input is very important to hear from --- to understand what's going on with interaction. I know we don't have a lot of the big problems in some of the smaller towns, but we do have the small town problems that everybody knows everybody and sometimes you do need another set of eyes. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, ma'am.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Louis Berry.

MR. BERRY: Hello, Council and I'll --- I'll be brief. Everyone knows that, you know police have this blue wall of silence within departments. It's rare for an opportunity to tell on another officer, even if there's bad apples. And I understand that they got to protect each other while they're out on the street. But we'll never get the justice that we deserve as long as that blue wall of silence is there. And I think a citizen review board will go a good ways in tearing down that blue wall, so we can finally get the justice that some of these cases deserve. Thank you.

MR. BARKER: And that is it for the list I have currently. Is there anyone else that has come that wants to speak?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Come down front, will you, sir?

MR. RAHEEM: All right. Thank you very much for another opportunity to address the County Council once again. I just want to say, as you all know, I support the creation and facilitation of establishing a countywide civilian police review board. I think it's a time --- it's an idea to kind of paraphrase the Councilmen here --- it certainly is an idea whose time has come.

It's time for us to move police into Allegheny County into the 21st century and not let the police departments run roughshod as if this is the 19th century. So it's time for us to move forward. I want to commend County Council for taking up this --- this battle and this call to do so, to move this initiative forward. I think it's important for us as a region and as a County to make sure that we attract more businesses, that we attract new technologies and students and workers that everyone feels comfortable with the possibility of not just working in Allegheny County, but perhaps living in Allegheny County in order that human rights and civil rights will be honored and will be respected. Thank you very much. I appreciate the good job that you all have done and most importantly for allowing the people to voice their perspective and opinions. Thank you again.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: My co-chair has asked that we deviate a little further and if anyone would like to take a moment --- a brief comment we --- we're inviting you to share your perspective with us. Yes, ma'am?

MS. SIMPSON: I would just like to say the last one of the comments that police were often judged and the people that say --- that try to make me think that --- and that you would say that kind of made me uneasy, that you recognize that fact, that they are acting outside of the role that they are supposed to adhere to. So as far as Council is concerned, I am in favor of it, but I do not believe that we should know that they are judge, jury and executioner. That apple is still --- exists that they did.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Ma'am, I have to take a moment to acknowledge that that was --- that phrase was

embodied in my comment, but that was not the totality of the comments that I made.

MS. SIMPSON: And you're right.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: What I said was that police officers have an incredibly difficult job, and as part of that, sometimes --- sometimes within fractions of a second, within milliseconds, they have to be --- they have to be because of the nature of their work, judge, jury and potentially an executioner. Now, because they have a difficult job --- they have a difficult job and they have to not only observe, they have to interpret and they have to act and they have to be able to do all of these things not --- not with a plethora of time. They have to make instantaneous decisions, and as a result, their training, their character and their integrity have to kick in.

And so it's not an easy task. So looking at it holistically --- looking at it holistically, some of them, in my opinion, should not be police officers. So there are a host of things that are going on. So with what --- with that thought, thank you for sharing your comment, ma'am. We're going to take other comments but the president of Council has a comment that he'd like to make. Yes, sir?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: So what I want to make --- make it clear to the people. We don't have the jurisdiction to do anything countywide with this. We're only allowed to work with the County police and it's not because we don't want to get involved in doing this. We don't have the power. But Senator Fontana, I guess he has a Bill that he is trying to get passed for the whole county.

So a lot of people keep saying countywide, countywide. We can't go countywide. For now we can only go for the Allegheny County police because we don't have that power or jurisdiction right now.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: I've been informed by our chief clerk that there is one person on the list that we did not call and they will --- we'll --- this gentleman had a comment that he wanted to make.

MR. BARKER: There actually may be more than one because one of the sign-in sheets isn't back yet, however, I believe Shallegra Moyland (sic).

MS. MOYE: It's Moye (corrects pronunciation).

MR. BARKER: Moye (changes pronunciation).
Okay.

MR. BARKER: Even if you don't want to speak, please sign up so we have your information. Did everybody sign up, even if you don't want to speak?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Ms. Moye?

MS. MOYE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: And if you can come down front, please, ma'am.

MS. MOYE: All right. Good evening. My name is Shallegra Moye. I'm a resident here in McKees Rocks. I, too, would like to thank you all for this opportunity to accept public comment. I agree with having a civilian --- citizen's review board. I love our police force here in McKees Rocks. Our chief is wonderful, our officers are wonderful, but I have to tell you, as I've talked to people who live in this corridor, they don't have some of those same experiences and that's just a reality for them.

I have actually gone through the Pittsburgh police citizens police academy which I thought was a tremendous eye-opening perspective about those split second decisions that police officers have to make, about the reality of policing in a world that, you know, is kind of haywire and having to make those split second decisions that could really impact a whole lot of lives.

And so I have a tremendous amount of respect for police officers for the work that they do, and I understand that most of them are phenomenal people who want to return home to their families at the end of the night.

On the flip side of that, even somebody who's been accused of a crime or who is a suspect of a crime has a family that loves them and is hoping that they return at the end of the night, too. So I would just ask that if we are able to do a civilian review board, it would be mandatory that everybody go through the citizens police academy training and back to Mr. Tracy's point, we are selective in the types of citizens that we allow on that board. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, ma'am. Jared?

MR. BARKER: We have ---.

MR. POLLARD: Again, my name is Melvin Pollard. I live at 1502 Radford Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15227. I come to these things because I have a lot of

investments on my --- on my plate, and what I mean by that is that I sit here and listen. I'm 63 years old and a great great grandfather, so you can just imagine what my download looks like. I really only spoke up because of that gentleman over there, with the reference of the color.

I like to research so I will not stand up here and try to convince you, but I would like to give an opinion to someone who will give you some information that I would say that they are your inspiration. One's name is Tim Wise. The other is James Ellis. These are two people I ask you to look up and hear what they have to say about their experience of being African-American in America. That's better than me trying to say it.

She holds these forums and been holding these forums since 1968 after Dr. King. She did a blue-eyed, brown-eyed study and --- and denoted where she showed racism among white children and made them feel very feared because one had blue eyes and was blonde and --- one had brown eyes and one had blue eyes. But the gist of what I'm trying to say is that there's just so much history in the African-American community. When you say distrust, there are reasons for distrust. So it's not like, oh, we walk one way --- if they walk out --- I just don't want to trust you.

There are many reasons not to trust --- like my brother said up here, but there's also a blue line. You have to protect your own. So see --- I mean, where do we come to a point like --- especially myself as a taxpayer, can I feel that there's a check and balance because I want to ask you is there a --- what is this called, internal affairs? Nobody can tell me if there's an internal affairs. So therefore, all I am trying to say is that somewhere we have to come to an understanding of each other and that something that needs to be done.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, ma'am?

MS. SHIMER: My name is Annette Shimer. I'm with the League of Women Voters, but I'm not speaking yet about --- from the League of Women Voters. I have been to --- this is the fourth of these types of hearings. I've been to the --- some of the demonstrations. I have been to the public hearing or the meeting that the state legislators had. I have read the material, but Mr. DeFazio this is why I'm speaking.

You cannot think narrowly. To do nothing is dangerous. We have a problem in Allegheny County and to ignore it and to do nothing is not good for us. I don't know exactly what the process should be. I understand that it's only --- that you effect technically only the Allegheny County police, but you've got to do something else. You've got to in some way provide training and a way for the public to present their complaints and know that action is taking place. And do not --- please don't do nothing. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. DeFazio would like to respond and then I'll make a comment as well?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, let me say something. I never don't do nothing. Okay? That's why we're having these meetings. I just want to tell you what our jurisdictional powers are, and we're also going beyond that talking to senators and legislators to do that. Okay. So I'm not not doing nothing. That's not true. It never was true since I was involved in politics here. Okay? So I had to speak up and say that.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: And we, as an aside --- well, not an aside, as part of our core values, this is a multi-dimensional issue that we're trying to deal with. President DeFazio is correct. Under the current regulations, we can only impact the Allegheny County police. We don't have the current legislative authority to impact any of the municipalities nor the district attorney police nor the sheriff's department because they are different --- they're set aside.

However, notwithstanding that, there are a number of municipalities that have shared with us that if given the option, they will opt in to a --- a citizens' police review board. Additionally, State Senator Fontana has proposed legislation that mandates that all second-class counties be mandated, if there is a citizens' police review board, his legislation will mandate that all municipalities within second-class counties be covered by that legislation.

Additionally, State Senator Jay Costa is proposing legislation that provides additional training for municipalities to ensure that officers are better trained and better equipped so they --- and they can maybe better address those challenges that they're confronted with, and also to discern where there may be an opportunity to remove officers.

Lastly, State Representatives Jake Wheatley, Ed Gainey and Officer Davis from Allegheny County delegation, along with the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus is proposing legislation that goes beyond that --- that addresses certification. Currently, the only requirement, to the best of my knowledge, is Act 120. There --- there certification requirements will go beyond Act 120 so that law enforcement officers have to receive additional certifications much like doctors, lawyers, hair dressers, nurses, physicians receive as well.

Again, we recognize --- we recognize that the overwhelmingly majority of police officers just want to go home at the end of watch the same way that they started their watch. We know that police officers, the overwhelming majority of them are decent, community-minded individuals. However, that small number of individuals that are not prepared or committed to the proper behavior taints the whole body. The same way in society at large, a small minority of individuals are law violators and the overwhelming majority of individual citizens just want to do the right thing. And so as a result, many folks are colored in their perspective.

So we have to have a system that addresses all those kinds of entities in a constructive way. So with that being said, Mr. Polland?

MR. POLLAND: I just want to state --- look at the Penn Hills Borough, look at Gateway Borough. These are comparable sized municipalities --- boroughs, municipalities liken as to what to do. You could not be able to see Penn Hills having six or seven different types of police departments within Penn Hills. You couldn't perceive Gateway having six or seven or eight types of police departments inside of Gateway. But you have Woodland Hills, Rankin, Swissvale, North Braddock, Braddock. If you can't do nothing in Allegheny County, please help us in that Woodland Hills district. You was able to --- those school districts together, and make it Woodland Hills School. The police department needs to come together. There needs to be a Woodland Hills Police Department. Rankin, Braddock, now, I'm going to go to the municipalities and stuff like that, but that's my concern. I mean, it's not like you couldn't see that in those other two boroughs of comparable size.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you. Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: And then, Mr. Palmosina. I think we have a couple minutes left.

MR. CATENA: My only comment obviously is that thank you so much for coming out this evening. These meetings mean the world to me as a County Councilman because this the time that we get to interact with all of you. And thank you, everyone in the audience tonight and the other 100 --- probably 100 plus residents that we've seen at the other three Council meetings.

Obviously, coming forward and speaking up about a subject when it's a difficult subject obviously isn't easy for anybody, and I think all of you should be commended for doing so. So thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yeah, I'll be brief. I voted to have these meetings and the reason was is because we have an open forum and everybody can speak their mind. You know, we're on all different sides sometimes, but in the end, you at least have to hear what the individuals have to say and I think that's the most important thing here.

Sure, we are limited to what we can do, but we do have a voice of the Council. So being here, like Councilman Catena said, to hear what the public have to say whether there against or for it at least it's an open forum, and we can all hear what everybody has to say. So I also want to thank everybody for coming out and that's just why --- that's why were on a Council to here what you folks have to say.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Mr. Klein?

CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Well, I'd like to add one more thing. So this evening, we are joined at this gathering by someone who has been present at all four of the --- of our hearings. And he is our very thoughtful leader of the Allegheny County Police, Superintendent Coleman McDonough. And I --- I'd like to say, I think we're all very grateful for the fact that he would make the point to be here --- and that he would take the time to be here. I would imagine his days being early and end late. And we're making him add a little later, but we really appreciate your being here. We appreciate your leadership as Superintendent of the Allegheny County Police, and thank you for being here and joining us and

--- and listening to the concerns that so many people are expressing that are, in many respects, really heartfelt. So thank you for that.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Ma'am, there is a lady who --- right there that wanted to --- yes, ma'am?

MS. O'BRIEN: Me?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, ma'am?

MS. O'BRIEN: Should I come down there or ---?

CHAIRMAN WALTON: No, you can stand there.

MS. O'BRIEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: We --- I think we hear you. You have to project.

MS. O'BRIEN: All right. You got it. My name is Kate O'Brien, and I am from McKees Rocks. I am a resident, concerned community member. Anyway, all I wanted to bring up was we have all of these ordinances in our town that people thought about, deliberated and voted on. If I feel --- and this goes for all communities, but I feel that if these ordinances were enforced, that would take like the whole top layer of stress off because that would keep a lot of instigators from coming because they don't want to deal with uncomfortability (sic), not at all --- uncomportability (sic), not at all.

So --- and there's always trouble everywhere with, you know, other --- people, they just don't get up right somedays I guess. But my point is if this was enforced and the Sunshine law was truly enforced --- which I'm speaking to the person that wanted the investigative reporting --- that this --- these boards and extra bureaucracy would not be an issue. And little communities like ours would be able to maintain I think very well. You know, we're not going to be trouble free but we can be trouble less. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you, ma'am. And with that --- with that thought in mind, we want to thank you again. We, in our July meeting when we passed the resolution authorizing these meetings, we intended that we do two meetings in August, two meetings in July and Friday come back with the proposed legislation in October. I have to share with you that we are not going to be able to make those --- that October timeline. We are going to push it back to sometime in November. We don't have the transcripts from our first two meetings yet and so we are going to --- Councilman Klein and I are going to meet next

week and try to --- try to build out a schedule that we
--- we can begin a process where we draft more legislation
for consideration for the remainder of the Members of
Council so that we can come back and deliberate it at a
Council meeting and hopefully have an opportunity to take
a vote as quickly as we possibly can.

So with that, we ask you again to continue
to share your views, your thoughts, your supports or your
complaints and we will be as considerate as humanly
possible and thank you. With that, good night.

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:17 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 23rd day of November, 2018



Court Reporter

Sarah Hunt