

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

|                     |   |                           |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Patrick Catena      | - | President, District 4     |
| Robert Macey        | - | Vice President District 9 |
| Samuel DeMarco, III | - | Council-At-Large          |
| Bethany Hallam      | - | Council-At-Large          |
| Tom Baker           | - | District 1                |
| Cindy Kirk          | - | District 2                |
| Anita Prizio        | - | District 3                |
| Tom Duerr           | - | District 5                |
| John F. Palmiere    | - | District 6                |
| Nicholas Futules    | - | District 7                |
| Paul Zavarella      | - | District 8                |
| Dewitt Walton       | - | District 10               |
| Paul Klein          | - | District 11               |
| Robert Palmosina    | - | District 12               |
| Olivia Bennett      | - | District 13               |

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

March 24, 2020 5:01 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  
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff  
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

PRESIDENT CATENA: We're going to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. Please rise.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have a silent moment of reflection. Thank you. Roll call, please, Jared.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules? Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I'm here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein? Mr. Klein? Mr. Macey?

MR. DEMARCO: He's trying to log-in.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina.

MR. PALMOSINA: Here. Here.

MR. MACEY: Hello, everybody. Bob Macey on.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point I'd like to make a few opening remarks. We're in the midst of extraordinary times this evening. As the saying goes, extraordinary times require extraordinary measures. In order today to get --- the COVID-19 virus, the Council is adhering to the guidance of the Commonwealth and the County Health Department, and the CDC by having as many members as possible participate by telephone or other teleconferencing, by operating with only the bare minimum staff present, and by limiting the total number of individuals in the gold room. We strongly encourage all residents of Allegheny County to remain aware of and to follow the recommendations of our healthcare and emergency management professionals. Please practice social distancing and only leave your home for the purposes

permitted by the governor's most recent order. And take every possible precaution to avoid spreading the COVID-19 virus. Please also be respectful of all senior citizens who are just as concerned about their health and their loved ones safety as you are. By working cooperatively, we can and will get through this.

Lastly, I would like to make one quick procedural request of the Council Members. Because a large number of you are participating via teleconference, please remain aware that we may not be able to see or recognize your voice as you speak. Accordingly, I would ask that any member who does speak identify themselves for the record and enunciate as clearly as possible. And please wait until you are recognized by the Chair before making any extended remarks so we can avoid having multiple members speaking at the same time. Thank you very much. We have no proclamations or certificates this evening. We'll now have public comment on any agenda items. Jared?

JARED BARKER: We did have a couple individuals sign up under the agenda items. First up is Jennifer Hudson, 204 Shady Hill Road in the city of Pittsburgh. Ms. Hudson had a series of general questions. What is the county doing to help small businesses who have been forced to close or modify operations during this time? I know loans will be offered with state declarations, but realistically, how can a business pay back a loan when they are struggling with day-to-day survival. And that's the extent of her comments.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we'll refer that one to economic development for some answers to that.

JARED BARKER: The second one is Sharon Shepard who lives at 1609 Noble Street, also in the city of Pittsburgh. Again, she had a couple of general questions. Can you get the virus more than once? Can it be spread on money or take-out food? Please clarify in details what areas they are from and where they have been so people with compromised immune systems can know. I believe that's her reference to the Health Department notification.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Let's have her contact the Department of Health, please.

JARED BARKER: Okay. Last up, we have Maryanne Ramer who lives at 1662 Orchard Avenue in Bethels Park. I'm sending this email in support of legislation being

proposed to release non-violent offenders from the Allegheny County Jail into alternative placement. Allegheny County is beginning its crisis. We do have confirmed cases of a death in county. We have ramped up testing at a slow rate because the tests are scarce and the Health Department needs to identify who most needs tested; medical personnel, first responders, elderly, patients in hospitals. With limited testing ability, inmates in the jail will not be a high priority to test. How many in the jail have been tested thus far? Do we actually know if there are inmates now that should be isolated in the general population? Are the personnel tested know if they have symptoms? If the inmates are identified, will they be moved to a separate area of the jail for isolation? Will there be additional medical staff to care for these sick inmates? This is all part of the protocol needed to handle the large population at the county jail. We have 2,200 inmates in the jail and an additional 172 in small, cramped communal alternative placements. Many of the older inmates have serious health conditions, in particular, diabetes. Many veterans have mental health conditions. This is a large number of potential COVID-19 victims that can quickly spread this disease. Why not identify the non-violent offenders who have short sentences to serve and release them? Look at those in alternative placements that have very short time to complete their sentences and release them? This would reduce the burden on personnel with that population out of supervised program. Per the Abolitionist Law Center, 81 percent of individuals at the Allegheny County Jail have not been convicted of a crime and the rest are serving relatively short sentences. There's a high turnover rate at the jail. Over 100 individuals pass through intake on a daily basis. The result is that many individuals enter an environment where the risk of contracting COVID-19 is relatively high. Simultaneously many individuals will be leaving and eventually spreading the illness to others. This high turnover also increases the likelihood that staff of the jail will contract and spread the disease. All of these factors converge to create the perfect storm for potential COVID-19 outbreak and spread quickly amongst the incarcerated population. I have a personal interest in this issue because my 38-year-old nephew is in an alternative placement in a small facility. He's a non-violent drug offender. He has responsibility to the

county. He could remain under monitoring at home and would be at less jeopardy of contracting COVID-19. The experts predict that this crisis will peak in the next two weeks. Why not be proactive and solve this jail problem before there is a crisis conserving limited personnel and resources.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Will there now be approval of minutes?

JARED BARKER: We have none.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, I'm sorry, this is Bethany Hallam. Controller Wagner reached out and said that she had sent in public comment to be read into the record, and if it wasn't brought up, if I could please bring it up to be read into the record.

PRESIDENT CATENA: It's on the non-agenda topic, Councilman Hallam. We haven't gotten to those yet.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. It's not about an agenda item.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does that answer your question?

MS. HALLAM: Yes, it does. Thank you. I just -- she asked me to make sure. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Presentation of appointments.

JARED BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any unfinished business?

JARED BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll now move on to liaison reports. Are there any liaison reports this evening?

MR. MACEY: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. MACEY: Bob Macey. I just want to reach out and these troubled times, I just want to give some accolades to Michelle, Jared, and Kenny for all the work that they've been doing in these troubled times. It's not easy and they're out and about. And I just want to thank them again for what they've done for us.

PRESIDENT CATENA: All right. Thank you, Councilman. Are there any other comments? Seeing none, we'll now have new business. 11459-20.

JARED BARKER: And ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, extending the County real estate tax discount deadline from March 31, 2020 to April 30, 2020, and the gross/face period deadline

from April 30, 2020 to May 31, 2020. Sponsored by Council Member DeMarco, all other members of Council, and Treasurer Weinstein.

MR. MACEY: Okay. I make a motion to approve.

MR. PALMOSINA: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. Who made the original motion?

MR. MACEY: Bob Macey.

MR. PALMOSINA: I second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. And Councilman Palmosina seconded.

MR. PALMIERE: I seconded also.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Seconded by Palmosina, so.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, this is Sam Demarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: Don't we need to make a motion first to waive the second ---?

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion is being made. I believe the motion is now being made to waive to read the second reading. If that's not what Councilman Macey did, that's what needs to happen.

MR. MACEY: That is correct. That's what I did.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. DEMARCO: Okay.

MR. PALMIERE: And I second that, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. And at this point, we'll have a roll call vote.

JARED BARKER: On the motion to waive the second reading, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr

MR. DUERR: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton? Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton votes yes. Mr.

Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ayes, 15. No's 0. Motion to  
waive the second reading, pass.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: We now need a motion on the  
main bill.

MS. HALLAM: This is Bethany Hallam ---  
the bill.  
MR. PALMIERE: Second.  
MR. PALMIERE: Second, Councilman Palmiere.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Bethany's main. Palmiere's  
the second. Jared, please make the roll call.  
JARED BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr.

Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?  
MS. BENNETT: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?  
MR. DUERR: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?  
MS. HALLAM: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ayes 16, no's 0. The bill  
passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11460-20.

JARED BARKER: A resolution of the Council of  
the County of Allegheny authorizing and ratifying the  
Declarations of Emergency proclaimed by the County Chief  
Executive due to the imminent threat to public health,  
safety and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County  
caused by the existence and spread of the COVID-19 virus.  
Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

MR. MACEY: I'll waive that second reading.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do we have a second?

MR. PALMIERE: I'll second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Roll call.

JARED BARKER: On the motion to read the second  
reading. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ayes 15. No's 0. The motion to  
waive the second reading passes.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion on the main bill.  
MR. DUERR: I would like to make a motion. This  
is Duerr.  
MR. PALMIERE: Palmiere second.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We're not going  
to do a roll call vote on this one. All those in favor,  
signify by saying aye.  
ALL RESPOND AYE  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Those opposed? Motion  
carries. 11461-20.  
JARED BARKER: A resolution of the County of  
Allegheny amending the grants and special accounts budget  
for 2020. Submission number 03-20. Sponsored by the  
Chief Executive.  
MR. MACEY: Make a motion to move forward with  
this.  
MR. PALMIERE: Second. Second.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and  
seconded. Roll call vote, please.  
JARED BARKER: The motion to waive the second  
reading. Mr. Baker?  
MR. BAKER: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?  
MS. BENNETT: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?  
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?  
MR. DUERR: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?  
MS. KIRK: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?  
MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?  
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?  
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?  
MR. WALTON: What is the number of that ordinance again?  
JARED BARKER: 11461-20.  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?  
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: President Catena?  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
JARED BARKER: I's 15, no's 9. The motion to waive the second reading passes.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on ladies and gentlemen for a second. Okay. We're going to refer this actually to budget and finance committee. Now, we're moving on to 11462-20.  
MR. WALTON: Wait. Wait a minute. I have a question.  
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.  
MR. WALTON: It's DeWitt Walton. There was a motion to waive the second reading and a vote has been taken. So how do we or how would we eliminate that motion and that vote that was actually being taken?  
MS. HALLAM: I agree.  
MR. WALTON: How would you do it?  
MS. PALMIERE: I agree.  
MR. CAMBEST: Mr. Walton, can you hear me? This is Jack Cambest.  
MR. WALTON: Yes.  
MR. CAMBEST: Okay. This is a waive. There should not have been a motion on that issue. It's sent directly. But the motion on the bill itself was not made

and voted upon. So the President can send that to the committee.

MR. WALTON: I trust what you say, but if I heard correctly, there was a motion to waive the second reading.

MR. CAMBEST: That's correct.

MR. WALTON: That's what we were voting on. And if that is in fact the case, then we can't suspend the vote. We must continue and follow a determination. Am I incorrect?

MR. CAMBEST: No. No. You are incorrect. The president has the right to send that bill to committee even though we took the motion to waive. The motion to waive would be secondary to the original motion. And since we did not vote on the original motion, the President can send that to committee.

MR. WALTON: I would yield on this point, but I don't believe that that's factually correct, Jack.

MR. CAMBEST: I understand.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now move on to 11462-20.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny directing the implementation of certain strategies for the mitigation of disease transmission within and outside the Allegheny County Jail. Sponsored by Council Member Hallam, Bennett, and Klein.

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Catena, this is Bethany Hallam. I would like the motion to waive the second reading on this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion has been made and seconded. That was Councilman Hallam and Councilwoman Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: It was. Sorry.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Motion has been made and seconded. At this point, since this is your bill, Councilwoman Hallam, I'll let you speak to it before we take the vote.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. I really appreciate that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. This is the motion to waive. So we can take the vote on the motion to waive and then --- I'm sorry. I'm being corrected here.

MS. HALLAM: Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Roll call.

JARED BARKER: On the motion to waive the second reading. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: No.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: No.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: No.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

PRESIDENT CATENA: That was a yes.

MR. WALTON: I'll abstain.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No.

MR. JARED: Ayes, five. Nay is nine with one abstention. The motion to waive the second reading fails.

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point, since that failed, we'll not have any new business.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, excuse me, point of order. What committee is that bill being sent to?

PRESIDENT CATENA: That would go to public safety.

MS. HALLAM: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we'll now have new business.

JARED BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You have none?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contract.

JARED BARKER : Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Public comments on general items?

JARED BARKER: We did have one individual who signed up timely. That was Joyce Sommel and the aforementioned Controller signed up.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And does anyone --- Controller Wagner sent in a comment after the deadline. Does anyone have an objection to entertaining her comment this evening?

MR. MACEY: No. We should hear it.

MR. PALMIERE: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's Macey no.

MR. PALMIERE: Palmiere, no.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I assume everyone else is good as well?

MR. MACEY: Yeah, we're good.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: I'm okay to read it.

JARED BARKER: 108 Willard Street in the city of Pittsburgh.

PRESIDENT CATENA:: Would somebody please mute their phone? They're making a lot of noise.

MR. JARED: --- between 100 and 700 votes for presidential primaries. Many locations --- both. Coronavirus exists for hours in the air, hours to days on surfaces. This level of football ---.

MS. HALLAM: Please mute your phone.

JARED BARKER: just as there is money in the budget to mailing, no postage required self --- to every registered voter. Additionally, rather than requiring an in-person training of every poll worker, how about putting report trainings on YouTube and Facebook live to allow remote participation. I happen to have about the other three polls at our location. That's a horrible feeling. Please make it official that everyone, voters and workers, must respect social distancing, including the distancing when the polls close. We recognize that new technology won't cut down on face-to-face or hands on dirty surface contact. And if you're counting on internet access for our polling place is a dead zone. Not enough signal for a phone call, let alone support data connections. One of my regular board members has already had to excuse himself and others probably should. Another is considering working and then isolating. I have asthma and a mild immuno suppress from steroid treatment but am committed

to working. We are some of your younger and healthier poll workers. Thank you. And these are the comments submitted by Controller Wagner.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena, point of privilege.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on one second here. Please mute your phones if you haven't already.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: This is Councilman DeMarco. Just a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: Before we close the meeting, I would like to recognize all the Allegheny County employees who are still working and supporting the residents of the County during this trying time. While many of us are trying to work from home and have the ability to do so, there's a tremendous number of folks that don't. Some of those folks are the people that take and work at Shuman Center or they're caregivers at KANG, the people, the corrections officers and the folks at the jail. Our sheriff's, our police officers, and other folks who don't have the ability to work from home. I just want to express our appreciation to those employees before we adjourn the meeting. Thank you very much for the time.

MR. MACEY: Here, here.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena.

MR. PALMIERE: I'll second those remarks, Mr. President.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, this is Councilmember Hallam. Point of personal privilege?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. I would just like it to be remarked on the record that my reading of the County Code is that emergency ordinances do not need to have a two thirds majority and have to waive the second reading. My understanding along with other legal opinions that I have received outside of the County are that we should be voting on emergency ordinances tonight as opposed to voting on whether or not to waive the second reading. I would just like that to be entered into the record, please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. So done. Jared, go ahead and read the last comment.

JARED BARKER: Okay. These are from Controller Wagner. I would like to thank President Catena and all members of council for permitting me to submit the following remarks be read into the record during the next meeting. I also commend each of you for continuing to work and meet on behalf of our County residents and workforce during this unthinkable time. I would like to speak to you tonight specifically about our County workforce. The treatment of very many county employees during this crisis has brought to light public health advisories even by the County's own health department, and frankly they should bear it. To date, nearly all County employees under the administration are being required to report to work unless he or she is symptomatic and provides an excuse from a healthcare provider. This is in spite of the clear science that indicates that COVID-19 can be spread by asymptomatic individuals and that we are experiencing community spread in Allegheny County. Of course sometimes this is totally unnecessary. A worker with whom I have spoken fully acknowledge this. Totally necessary. With regard to nurses, public safety, and health personnel and others, such as our custodial staff are on the front lines of this crisis and are stepping up. That doesn't mean that other county workers should also unnecessarily be reporting to work when we know that the best thing we can do is stay home and reduce the spread of the virus so that those who do what is considered essential work may be less at risk, and so that our healthcare system may also be preserved to the greatest extent possible. It's clear to me that the County is not following these advisories in any meaningful fashion. I've received calls from employees and their family members who are both scared and outraged. In addition to reporting to work, often working in close proximity to others including traveling to go to worksites, sitting next to one another in the same vehicle. I acknowledge that alternating work schedules have been put into place so that fewer individuals are in an office at once, but that is still a woefully inadequate fine or jail time due to this behavior.

The government must lead and be an example in this crisis and we must show that we are going to compassionately and ethically care for the wellbeing of our employees. We have orders to provides a blanket exception for public administration, that in no way

justifies the requirement that all employees report to work. Over a week ago, my office began allowing all employees without an absolute need to report to work to do so remotely. Out of 100 employees, we now have just seven who are spending very limited time at the office using tight safety measures, a staggered shift to continue processing of payroll and voucher. Without any problems, they have completed payroll for the nearly 7,000 county employees and millions of payments to our vendors, including many local business and families who rely upon those payments in areas such as child support and foster care. Other Departments such as the court treasurer's office have taken similar measures showing that this can and should be done. In this day in age, work does not have to stop if we are not at our desks, as you all are agreeing tonight. Now, if you are a carpenter or a laborer, working from home may not be possible. But those individuals shouldn't be made to report to work that is not absolutely urgent. And of course, many of the projects that our employees and administrators are a part of are not active because of the governor's order. We must ask ourselves and I hope council will ask the administration why does this county have workers reporting for reporting's sake. That is the time limit. Why does the county have workers reporting for reporting sake, meanwhile putting them, their families, and our entire community at risk.

MR. MACEY: Mr. President, point of privilege.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. MACEY: This is Bob Macey. I'm Chairman of Public Works, and I've worked and I talked to people in Public Works. And we are doing everything we can to limit the chances of escalating. We're trying to keep only two people to a truck. We're trying to keep people from gathering in certain locations because I know they go to certain places for lunch and breakfast and things like that. So we are doing our part as far as Public Works is concerned. We're doing, you know, as best we can. So, you know, I understand, you know, what the Controller has said. But I think there's people out here like myself and others, you know, that are trying to do the best we can to limit the contact of people meeting people. So, you know, I think she's just a little off the mark. I appreciate what she has said. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. At this point  
we're adjourned. Thank you.

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter