

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Richard Fitzgerald	-	President District 11
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Chuck McCullough	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
Joan Cleary	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 - 5:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services  
John Mascio - Chief Clerk  
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Counsel for County Council  
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services  
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Welcome to the Tuesday, March 17th, 2009 regular meeting of County Council. If everybody would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. First of all, Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of our Irish friends out there. And if we could keep in our thoughts peace for the people of Northern Ireland and Ireland and of all friends across the globe.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Burn?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. MASCIO: We have 12 members present at this time.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Proclamations/ certificates. 4707-09.

MR. MASCIIO: Proclamation recognizing Giant Eagle, Incorporated for their environmentally conscious business practices. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. If I could have Bob Garrity and Jackie Dixon, both of Giant Eagle, to come up and stand behind me. They will be receiving this award. It wasn't all that long ago, I don't believe, that this Council recognized and commended Giant Eagle for the market district concept at the time. It might have been a year and a half ago or so. And at that time, we spoke to the business climate that Giant Eagle provides to Allegheny County, and really, western Pennsylvania and beyond with regard to being a good corporate partner, a good partner to the county, and also, to sustaining jobs, which is ever so important in today's climate.

Today's paper, the Post-Gazette, has a section on many companies in this area. And of course, Giant Eagle was leading the private companies with regard to the revenue and things in leading the way. And thankfully, they're continuing to drive forward. One of the things that I think, as we move forward, that has to be addressed is the commitment we have to our environment and sustainability. And Giant Eagle has taken a leadership position there, too, with three of their stores that I'm aware of, two in Ohio and one here in Pittsburgh.

And because of that, Allegheny County Health Department, through their Energy Star Program, recognized Giant Eagle as an Environment Star Award winner with regard to the commitment they have to sustainability and to the environment, which I think is great. So not only are we wearing green today for St. Patrick's Day, we should wear green today for the environment. That was Jackie's line I just stole from her a little bit ago. But I do want to read the proclamation and have Bob, who's the VP of environmental and sustainability, and Jackie, who's the director of the government relations, speak to this, because it's probably something we don't do enough, recognize the companies and corporations who are doing a little bit extra, a little bit more, to make their business model successful. So with that in mind, I'd like to read the proclamation.

Whereas, our county has been home to some of the nation's most successful corporations, which progress into

the future by promoting an environmentally conscious attitude.

And whereas, Giant Eagle, Incorporated has been an Allegheny County Health Department Energy Star partner since 2001, and this year their company received recognition for the 2007 initiatives to remove their impact on county environment.

Whereas, Giant Eagle was acknowledged for updating and renovating stores into energy-efficient entities and for their encouragement of customers to recycle through plastic bag drop-off sites.

Whereas, through this program, the company reported a savings of approximately 309 tons of plastic waste.

Whereas, Giant Eagle's efforts help lead our county into a future of environmental sustainability and responsibility.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of the county, hereby commends Giant Eagle, Incorporated for its proactive actions towards pollution prevention. Furthermore, we hope others will follow their examples in our county in the sustainability of the future. Sponsored by me, Councilman Vince Gastgeb. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. GARRITY: I'd like to thank the entire Council for this honor. We at Giant Eagle certainly take environmental sustainability very seriously. We recognize that it is not only something that we should be doing, but it's also an obligation for the unity, all the geographies that we serve. And we're quite pleased with a lot of those things that we have done. Yet, we also know that there is much more yet to be done. We do not consider ourselves to be the ultimate environmental sustainability company by any stretch of the imagination. We know that we have a lot of work to do. Sustainability is a very broad subject and it gets into all aspects of our business. And we're happy to report that we are continuing to work feverishly on a number of different fronts for sustainability. So with that, I'd very much like to thank you and recognize that this is an honor for us, and certainly, it will motivate us to continue on environmental sustainability activities. And Happy St. Patrick's Day to everybody.

(Applause.)

MS. DIXON: Hello. I see that you have a lot of people to honor, so in the interest of time, I'm just going to say thank you to Councilman Gastgeb and the entire Council. I know most of you. I was here last year for market district. So I thank you very much. And I want to thank Bob Garrity, who does a wonderful job with our conservation area. Thank all of you so very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4708-09.

MR. MASCIO: Certificates of Recognition honoring members of the Swissvale and Wilkinsburg Police Departments for their efforts in the line of duty. Sponsored by Council Vice President Martoni and Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Martoni and Councilman Robinson. I'm also glad to see we're joined here tonight by the Mayor of Swissvale. Deneen Swartzwelder has joined us to be part of this. Councilman Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: It's always good to have the Mayor in the house. Certainly, as Councilman Martoni is coming, I'd like to say we want to thank the police departments in Swissvale and Wilkinsburg and the mayors and councils of those communities for working very hard on public safety, not only doing their jobs, but as these awardees this evening demonstrate, they've gone above and beyond the call of duty, not only because they are being paid, but because they, too, want this to be a safe county, starting with their communities. Councilman Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Thank you, Mr. Robinson. I'd like to read a proclamation that we're going to present, our officers, to you in a moment. We're very pleased to have --- this shows you the cooperation that's happening within our area, the two communities like Swissvale and Wilkinsburg, two great historical communities in this region, how they work together in a crisis. And I think this is great. And all of our communities are tremendously proud of our police departments. These particular communities are extremely proud of their police departments. And as you can see here, we're represented by some fine people here. I'll do the first proclamation, which is the closest to me, Chief of Police in the Borough of Swissvale, which is Greg Geppert, a long-time friend of

mine and a wonderful Chief, and before that, a wonderful police officer. I'll read that one, and we'll let Bill read some of the Wilkinsburg citations.

Allegheny County is honored to present this Certificate of Recognition to Swissvale Police Chief Gregory Geppert for his outstanding service to our community on July 29, 2008 when he helped discover the location of an at-large gunman in Wilkinsburg. Chief Geppert was able to work closely with agents from different departments to secure the neighborhood and protect the community's safety. This Council recognizes Chief Geppert's professionalism in the line of duty and praises him for taking the necessary measures to protect those in danger. This dedication to serving his community has conferred great pride upon the county to be shared by each of us, and for that, we commend him. I'd like to present this to Chief Geppert. And Mr. Robinson will read some of the Wilkinsburg officers' proclamations. And believe me, they work together hand and glove in these kind of situations. Chief Geppert?

(Applause.)

CHIEF GEPPERT: I'd just like to thank Dr. Martoni as well as the rest of the members of Council. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: We're blessed to have the Mayor of the Borough of Swissvale here, Deneen Swartzwelder. Deneen broke a record. In over a 100-year history, she's the first time, to my knowledge, that a woman has been elected mayor of the great Municipality of Swissvale. Deneen?

(Applause.)

MAYOR SWARTZWELDER: Thank you very much. I'd just like to say I'm very proud of our department and the Chief and Wilkinsburg Department. And I'd like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you. For those of you who don't know, Wilkinsburg and Swissvale abut. And sometimes when you're going down Swissvale Avenue, you don't know you're in Wilkinsburg. And Swissvale Avenue goes into Swissvale. So there's some common interests that these communities have in keeping each other safe. We have three presentations here for Wilkinsburg police officers, and let me start with Detective Richard Grande. Did I

pronounce that name correctly? If you would come forward, sir.

This certificate is awarded to Detective Richard Grande, Wilkinsburg Police Department. Allegheny County Council is honored to present this Certificate of Recognition to Wilkinsburg Police Detective Richard Grande for his outstanding service to our community on July 29th, 2008, when he helped discover the location of an at-large gunman in Wilkinsburg. Detective Grande was able to work closely with agents from different departments to secure the neighborhood and protect the community safely. This Council recognizes Detective Grande's professionalism in the line of duty and praises him for taking the necessary measures to protect those in danger. This dedication to serving his community has conferred great pride upon the county to be shared by each of us, and for that, we commend him. And this is sponsored by myself and Councilman Martoni. And I'm sure we reflect the sentiments of all of our colleagues who have courageous police officers in their communities as well. Detective, would you like to have a word?

DETECTIVE GRANDE: Thank you for putting me in for this award. I just wanted to say that I consider myself lucky to work with several officers like Chief Geppert in Wilkinsburg and Swissvale. They really are a really good bunch of good officers, and I consider myself lucky to work with all of them. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: Next is going to be Sergeant Daniel Cuiffi. Did I get that correct? Cuiffi (changes pronunciation). All right. Thank you, sir. If you haven't already noticed, this information is the same for each officer. Each of these officers deserves some of our time. And Dr. Martoni and I thank you, members of Council and those who are guests, allowing us to read the same certificate to each of these officers. This is special for them and their families, and we want to do this right. So we thank you in advance for your indulgence.

This Certificate of Recognition is awarded to Sergeant Daniel Cuiffi, Wilkinsburg Police Department. Allegheny County Council is honored to present this Certificate of Recognition to Wilkinsburg Police Sergeant Daniel Cuiffi for his outstanding service to our community on July 29th, 2008, when he helped discover the location of an at-large gunman in Wilkinsburg. Sergeant Cuiffi was

able to work closely with the agents from different departments to secure the neighborhood and protect the community safely. This Council recognizes Sergeant Cuiffi's professionalism in the line of duty and praises him for taking the necessary measures to protect those in danger. His dedication to serve his community has conferred great pride upon the county to be shared by each of us, and for that, we commend him. Again, sponsored by Councilman Martoni and myself and reflecting the sentiments of all members of this Council. Sergeant?

SERGEANT CUIFFI: Again, I'd like to thank Council, Dr. Martoni and Mr. Robinson for having us here this evening. Unfortunately, on that date of July 29th, 2008, there was nothing we could do for the victim, 24-year-old John Banks, at the time. However, I think I can speak for these guys and say that we're happy that we could bring some closure to this incident for the family. And I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the Banks family at this time. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: Last but not least, Officer Larry Langham. Officer, if you would come forward, please. Thank you.

This Certificate of Recognition is awarded to Officer Larry Langham, Wilkinsburg Police Department. Allegheny County Council is honored to present this Certificate of Recognition to Wilkinsburg Police Officer Larry Langham for his outstanding service to our community on July 29th, 2008, when he helped discover the location of an at-large gunman in Wilkinsburg. Officer Langham was able to work closely with agents from different departments to secure the neighborhood and protect the community's safety. This Council recognizes Officer Langham's professionalism in the line of duty and praises him for taking the necessary measures to protect those in danger. His dedication to serve his community has conferred great pride upon the county to be shared with each of us, and for that, we commend him. Again, sponsored by myself and Dr. Martoni on behalf, I'm sure, of every member of County Council. Officer?

OFFICER LANGHAM: Thank you very much. I want to thank the Council for their recognition. I'm both honored and humbled, and I appreciate your time.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: We have the pleasure of having the Chief of Police from Wilkinsburg, Ophelia Coleman, here, and the Mayor, Wilkinsburg's John Thompson. If the two of them will come up. I'm sure they have some words of praise for those officers in their communities who worked with the Swissvale officers in not just this instance, but in others. And these officers, I think, represent the fine work that these two communities are doing. Mayor?

MAYOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Councilman Robinson. We are extremely proud of the officers in Wilkinsburg. I think, as most of you know, if not all, that our officers are extremely busy throughout the day. And in that particular situation, we were proud to hear that the collaboration or support of the departments was great and according to protocol, as I understand. So I do apologize. You know, sometimes it's a little difficult to get here exactly on time, but --- and then the tight security system downstairs. But we are happy to be able to be here in time enough to see our officers recognized for the great work they've been doing.

(Applause.)

CHIEF COLEMAN: It is an honor and extreme privilege to be here, to watch officers that I see every day put their lives on the line for the citizens of Wilkinsburg and for Allegheny County. I like the cooperation that we have with the other departments. And these officers are just an example, a small example, of the whole entire Wilkinsburg Police Department. They are very well trained, these three officers, led by Sergeant Cuiffi, Dan Cuiffi, who is their sergeant. And I am proud that we have never, ever had an officer-involved incident in this type of situation. And again, thank you for the honor which you have bestowed on our officers today.

(Applause.)

MR. ROBINSON: What we'd like to do now is have the Mayors and the officers join us for pictures. And we'll make sure that the Mayors, Chief Coleman and the officers get a copy of the pictures we take with an appropriate letter from this Council. So we thank everybody for your indulgence. And let's give these officers, these Mayors, these Chiefs, one more hand.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4709-09.

MR. MASCIO: Please let the record reflect that Council Member McCullough is present at the meeting. 4709-09. Proclamation recognizing Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS, Incorporated for their efforts in designating March 2009 as an HIV/AIDS Awareness Month. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary.

MS. CLEARY: Thank you. I'd like to bring Dr. Ellison up now. She's a big part of this group. I've become very aware of her group now because she invited me to be on her advisory board. So I went to a meeting and saw how they begin to teach some of the teenage girls about this subject, and it's very powerful. It moved me, let me tell you but very important. I learned a lot there. So I want to thank her for that honor, and I'll read the proclamation.

Whereas, Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS, Incorporated is an organization whose mission is to inform pre-teens, teens and young adults about how to prevent the contracting and spreading of HIV and AIDS.

And whereas, the organization collaborates with the business community and encourages schools, houses of worship and community groups to plan programs to educate teens about the disease.

Whereas, March 2009 marks the ninth annual Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS Month, and the group has spearheaded numerous programs to call attention to the awareness of it.

Whereas, March 24th, 2009 signifies Teen HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, furthering the effort to notify our community youth about the disease.

Whereas, the group has established programs that will continue to inform the community about how to prevent and avoid contracting the virus, a service which is to be greatly commended.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, hereby honor Educating Teens about HIV/AIDS, Incorporated for their dedicated service to our community. Furthermore, we hope that the group continues its quest to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by myself this 17th day of March, 2009. Dr. Ellison?

(Applause.)

DR. ELLISON: Thank you so much, Councilwoman Cleary. We really are delighted to have this. We

appreciate it on behalf of Kezia Ellison, my daughter, and the Board of Directors. Thank all of you for this. And we really invite you to come and join us on March 24th at the Twentieth Century Club, where you can meet some of the teens we've been working with over the years. But please, if you can't come, think about us, and we appreciate it. And we'd like to thank Jackie. You've met her several times. She's a volunteer for us to help us raise funds to support the program that we do. We really appreciate it.

MS. DIXON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4710-09.

MR. MASCIO: Certificates of Achievement honoring students for their participation in the Power of Youth in Government program. Sponsored by Councilman Ellenbogen, Council President Fitzgerald, Council Members Futules, Green, Vice President Martoni, Councilman Robinson and Councilman DeFazio.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I see Brad Barr here. I'm going to ask Brad to come up and introduce some of the young people who are here with us this evening. This is something that we do every year to honor our young people who want to get involved, and want to get involved in a way to improve and learn about governments. And I think it's --- you know, obviously, the future of any government is its young people. And certainly, that's the case for us here in Allegheny County. And I'm going to ask Mr. Barr to say a few words, then I'm going to read just one of the certificates. And then I'm going to ask him to introduce some of our students who are here this evening.

This Certificate of Achievement is awarded in recognition of the diligence and furthering the knowledge of government affairs, for the initiative that has been shown, accepting the challenge of the 2009 Power of Youth in Government program. For your determination and resolve, you have learned to identify leadership style and have been educated in Allegheny County's particular form of government. Your achievements are those for which the entire community can be proud and which set a positive example for the youth of Allegheny County.

We hereby commend you on this distinguished accomplishment, which has earned the respect and esteem of this Council and the citizens of Allegheny County, on this 17th day of March, 2009. And I'm going to ask Mr. Barr to

come up and say a few words and talk about the program that they have. Mr. Barr?

MR. BARR: Thank you. This is a program that's been going on for eight years now. It started as an idea to teach the young people just how this county works. At the time, this form of government was rather new, just a couple years old, so we thought it was great. The cooperation we've gotten over the years has been fantastic. We couldn't do this without your support, the support of the county staff. They open their office to us. They help us set up dates.

And this isn't easy for the young people. I'm always amazed every year when I find so many that have so much fun because they go through --- after a day in school, they come here to the first meeting. They may be here for over three and a half, four hours with the meeting. This year, they met with Ms. Green. Some of the County staff stays late and talks to them about what's going on and then I take them through a leadership training, having them identify their various styles and whatnot. Then we have them attempt to get in touch with you. Some of them still are, because we want them to get a feeling and find out how you got involved in public life.

What happens is, every year, there's always some youngster --- because of our form of government, there's some youngster that has somebody in their family that knows you, somebody who went to high school, somebody --- and they're always amazed that you are normal people. They're amazed that you actually came from where they are. And it develops in their mind that they could be this. They could get involved.

Last week we had a tour of County departments, and the departments are great. We always --- truly, I have to turn down people every year. I never have to beg departments. I always have people that I have to tell, next year. We don't have enough youth to go through. The departments make what could be a very dull day very, very interesting, sparks a lot of comments from youth. We come together on this day a little early to go over the tours, to take a look at what they saw, the different things, to get an idea, truly, of who it is that makes this county work and how it --- those that are involved.

I'd like to introduce a few. Tonight some of our youngsters weren't able to be here. And I'm sorry,

because this is the easy part. They really put in a lot of hours of working after school getting this done. First, we have Samantha Mock and Martha Larkens (phonetic). There's Matilda Allderdice. In the back there we have Anthony Johnson. He's actually going to CCAC. Wallace Goldston (phonetic). Wallace, what school are you going to? Come on up. I lost two of my other youngsters, which is amazing, because they were always the most diligent. They were sitting up front. I don't know what happened, but I need to mention --- oh, they got some kind of emergency call. Okay. Cameron Sanderson and Anthony Roberts are a part of the JROTC program at Oliver High School. And they are diligent beyond belief. One of the other cadets couldn't be here tonight because she's interviewing for scholarships and making the choice of whether she wants to go to Harvard or Yale. To say they work hard is an understatement. They do a great job.

Let me also introduce to you a couple of adults that I really couldn't do without. Mr. Trinidad is filming back here. We have Mr. Griffin in the back. Come on up. Ms. Thelma Smalls. I'm introducing them for another reason. They come from a program in the hills called the House of David. It's a youth development program, after-school program. They do a lot of different things. They like this program so much that even when they don't have youngsters, they volunteer to chaperone youth on the tours. They let me use their vans to move youth around. They have been integral in making this work. Also, I have my new director sitting in the back, Mr. Michael Mazia (phonetic). He's the new CED. He's the new director, but he's been in the office over 25 years and I've been there for 18 of them with him.

This program is fantastic. And I don't say it because I do --- I did originate it. I got the idea from other agents. I'm a 4-H agent for Penn State University. Those of you who know 4-H, I hope you understand that 4-H is even more than cows and crops, not that that wouldn't be enough for what it's done to agriculture. This was actually done in the eastern part of the state several years ago. I was glad when I could finally make the time to tailor it to what we are doing here.

We plan on making this bigger. Every year I come short. I have the numbers. This year we had 17. We actually have nine, Mr. Macey. We had --- nine had to drop out from West Mifflin because of snow days and

whatnot, because they were anxious. So I told them we'll get them again next year. My goal is to get at least two students from each of your districts, and I think next year we're going to make --- I cannot --- I need to repeat, cannot do this without your help, and you always do. Those jobs here are part time, but I know most of you make this a lot more than part time. You responded. Some of you in the past have actually gone out to the schools and talked with the classes. I thank you very much. I look forward to continuing to do this. And on behalf of Penn State and the youth of Allegheny County, I thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4711-09.

MR. MASCIO: Let the record reflect that Council Member Burn and Councilwoman Rea are present at the meeting. Certificate of Achievement recognizing Carter Redwood for his first place finish in the August Wilson Monologue Contest. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm delighted this evening. Mr. Redwood, please come forward. Carter Redwood --- we often give proclamations for people we know a little bit. I've known this young man for many, many years, since he was about this big (indicating), and I am not surprised in the least that he is standing here as the winner of the --- I think this is the first August Wilson Award, aptly named for a great Pittsburgh individual. And Mr. Redwood, Carter Redwood, won the regional competition, and now I understand he's going down to --- is it Washington? New York. I'm sorry, to New York for the national competition. We certainly wish him well. I know he'll represent this community very well.

Carter Redwood, I've known him since he was at Liberty School and Frick International Studies, and now he's a member of CAPA High School in downtown Pittsburgh. And he is really an example of what we would like our youth to emulate. Again, his character and his talent is something. You're going to be reading about Mr. Redwood, I'm sure, more as he gets --- as he even gets older. And I just hope he stays here when he's done with college. And I'm going to read this into the record.

Awarded to Carter Redwood from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. Allegheny County Council is honored to present this

Certificate of Achievement to Carter Redwood of the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts for his first place finish in the August Wilson Monologue Contest. We recognize Mr. Redwood's outstanding talents in the performing arts, and we appreciate his participation in a competition that honors one of Pittsburgh's greatest playwrights, whose memory and talent transcends generations and is instilled in young performers like Mr. Redwood.

We hope he continues to develop his unique talent, and we wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. And I don't think there could be anyone more appropriate to win the very first award named after Mr. Wilson than Carter Redwood. Carter, congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. REDWOOD: I'm extremely honored to accept this award. When my principal, Dr. Taliaferro, first told me about the competition, I had to jump on the opportunity, because first off, I'm an extremely huge August Wilson fan. And secondly, the majority of his works are based in Pittsburgh in the Hill District, where I'm a resident. So this is just a great opportunity. I plan to go up to New York, as Mr. Fitzgerald said, next month, to perform in the national competition on Broadway, at the August Wilson Theater on Broadway, on his birthday. So that will be a big treat for me, so hopefully I can bring this back for his hometown here in Pittsburgh. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4712-09.

MR. MASCIO: The remaining proclamations and certificates will be entered into the record.

4712-09. Proclamation recognizing the Community Outreach of Bon-Ami Temple Number 49. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

4713-09. Proclamation honoring Fred Honsberger for his 30 years at KDKA Radio. Sponsored by Council Members Futules, Macey, Burn, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Council President Fitzgerald and Councilman Gastgeb.

4714-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring D. Raja for receiving the 2009 Carnegie Science Entrepreneur Award. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

4715-09. Certificates of Recognition honoring the members of the Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Company

for their 2009 appointments. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

4716-09. Certificate of Recognition commending Scotty Kunz's 20 years of service with the Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Company. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

4717-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Bialobok. I think it's Bialobok (changes pronunciation). Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4718-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Petrow. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4719-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Piekut. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4720-09. Certificate of Recognition commending Cliff McElrath, Sr. for his 50 years of service to the McKeesport Volunteer Fire Company Number Three. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4721-09. Proclamation recognizing the retirement of Lee Albacker from the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

4722-09. Proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

4723-09. Certificate of Achievement honoring Patrick Michael Carroll for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Futules.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public comment on agenda items. We have two speakers this evening, Mr. Sol Gross --- I see Mr. Gross is here. Mr. Gross, would you come to the podium and state your name and address for the record? Followed by Dan Friedman.

MR. GROSS: Good afternoon, members of Council. My name is Sol Gross. I live at 5847 Aylesboro Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15217. My wife and I and my brother-in-law, Will Garmin (phonetic), own a building at 625 Stanwix Street. The following is a formal list of complaints that we'd like to bring to your attention in regard to the North Shore Connector Project, taking place in front of our building on 625 Stanwix Street. Please offer any assistance that you can provide.

Dust produced from the project is affecting the cooling tower in the top of our building and also causing an increase in the need to service the air conditioner.

Dust film covers our entire building and windows. Mud is a direct effect of dust buildup. I assume that's from the project. It has ruined our outdoor carpeting, tracked through our building and doubled our inside janitorial maintenance. The water line and gas line were both broken twice in the same place, disturbing our tenants.

Vibrations from the project have had the most devastating consequences on us, eight toilets broken, unaccountable water leaks, a tenant's mirror falling down and breaking. Most recently, the shaking caused a hanger holding the exhaust pipe in our brand new boilers to fall and subsequently cause all five boilers to shut down, and our entire building lost heat. The vibrations are so severe that the tenants feared that there was an earthquake or the building was falling.

The most excruciating and bothersome side effect from the construction is the noise. It's outrageous that the night crews work until 4:00 a.m. in the morning, keeping our tenants awake. At the February 20th, 2009 North Shore Connector stakeholder meeting, I was reassured that P.J. Dick-Trumbull Corporation would stop using a hydraulic hammer and that any concrete removal would be done with a saw. The following Tuesday, we witnessed P.J. Dick using a hydraulic hammer and also again, two, three tube drops --- 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Gross. Dan Friedman? Mr. Friedman, would you state your name and address for the record, please?

MR. FRIEDMAN: Good afternoon. Dan Friedman, supervising manager of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, 4489 Campbells Run Road. I'm here to urge you all, hopefully unanimously, to support 3854-08 regarding reduction for the rental car taxes. It's been pretty well discussed why that's important. I'm also here to urge you to make sure that you allow it to go into effect immediately, as most bills would, and resist the urge to delay implementation of it until January 1st.

I know there's some concern about the fiscal impact of the lost revenues, but I'm here to alleviate those concerns. The fiscal report that you have indicates that the losses would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$91,000. It's very well studied. It's very comprehensive. There's very, very, very little risk that somehow --- that would balloon to the \$750,000 that other entities have predicted. It's also already been collected

for 3 out of the first 12 months of this year. So the actual impact is more like \$68,000.

Last year, the total collections from the rental car tax was \$5,893,000. This year, you only budgeted \$5,800,000. So even without that \$70,000 or so, you're still likely going to collect more than what was budgeted. Any suggestion that the loss of this \$70,000 could throw the budget out of whack is simply untrue. That having been said, the \$70,000, if it were put back into the hands of the service providers who actually need it desperately, more so than ever given the current economic conditions, it could be put to real good use.

That lost revenue is impossible to find in a \$760,000,000 budget. But for a non-profit, for a school, for anybody else who needs that to provide a service, such as the woman who testified last year regarding the Center for Hearing and Deaf Services, said that they rent a car once a week to take their clients on a trip. The tax prevents them from taking one extra trip for the year. She said it's a one-to-one relationship. She's going to spend 100 extra dollars this year in taxes. That's equivalent to one trip. If you were to allow that to go into effect now, you would be able to provide an instant increase in their ability to deliver those kinds of urgent services.

It seems to me as though it would be pretty awesome if the Council could release a press release --- issue a press release tonight saying that they've done something really, really good, really meaningful for the most vulnerable, the most needy in Allegheny County and that it would take effect now as opposed to January 1st. It really seems to me to be a no-brainer. There's very little risk. There's very little downside, but tons of upside. I appreciate your time and I really encourage all of you to do the right thing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Friedman.  
Approval of minutes. 4690-09.

MR. MASCIO: Motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 17th, 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do I have a motion to approve?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move, second?  
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Presentation of appointments beginning with 4691-09 and just read the title.

MR. MASCIO: The following are communications from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendations for appointments in various forms.

4691-09. Lorina W. Wise to the Industrial Development Authority, Hospital Development Authority, Allegheny Higher Education Building Authority, Residential Finance Authority, for a term to expire December 1st (sic), 2012.

4692-09. Victor H. Diaz, Industrial Development Authority, Hospital Development Authority, Allegheny Higher Education Building Authority, Residential Finance Authority, December 31st, 2013.

4693-09. Dr. Walter Goldberg, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4694-09. Louis A. Naugle, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4700-09. David P. Mazzocco, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4701-09. Kate Tomayko, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4702-09. Chester R. Babst, III, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4703-09. James T. Cobb, Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, December 31st, 2009.

4704-09. John M. Daley, Plumbing Advisory Board, December 31st, 2011.

4705-09. John W. Inks, Jr., Plumbing Advisory Board, December 31st, 2011.

4706-09. Peter Czuczman, Authority for Improvements in Municipalities, December 31st, 2013.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please refer the previous 11 bills, beginning from 4691-09 through 4706-09, to the Appointment Review Committee. Unfinished business. Committee on Budget and Finance, second reading. 3854-08.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled Administrative Code, Article 808.B, Rental Vehicle Taxation, in order to provide consistency with regard to exemptions from the County tax on the

rental of certain motor vehicles within the County and the exemptions from taxes imposed by the Commonwealth on such rentals.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members of Council, I have an amendment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We'll get Mr. Barker to distribute that. Will you proceed, Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this amendment would add a section to the bill establishing an effective date for this ordinance to become effective, January 1st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Is that amendment the amendment being made?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes. I move ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So amended --- motion to amend. Do we have a second to that motion?

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.  
Discussion? Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: I want to point out on this --- first and foremost, we ought to eliminate the tax altogether. If we're talking seriousness about economic development in Allegheny County, do you know how many letters we receive from all these businesses out here? That's one checkmark less for people in industry coming here and staying here. It's a cost to them. They rent these cars every day, and the cost to them is a lot less than if they pay their employees to use their own personal cars. So it's a big, big factor.

We got from the president of the largest --- what I believe is the largest foreign-owned company in the United States. Think of that. All the way down there, every officer in that corporation, every one of them sent a letter saying to us, don't enact this tax. Now, we've talked so much about the drink tax, which we know where we stand on those issues. But we glossed over this car rental tax.

If we're serious in Allegheny County that we're going to be competitive with those counties surrounding us, then we better do something about this tax, believe me on this, and that's elimination. Because it doesn't bring that much tax money in here compared to what we're going to lose in industry, lose another checkmark. So if we really enact this right now, at least to the non-profits,

those of you that are on the Board of this community college, you're paying for it. Your students are paying for it. Because believe me, the non-profits use these cars, and these community college --- that's less money in their coffers for those students. So if you believe as much as you believe to help those students, not only community college, but --- not all these colleges --- I know at Penn State we used it.

We saved money by using rental cars, and that's a tax. It was an additional tax that cost that institution of public learning more money. And that's less for the students. So if you believe that you really want to help the students while at the same time helping industry, at the same time with the non-profits in this case, then let's vote for it, enact on it now, put it in place. And let's do it. Let's get it done right now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb, then Councilwoman Green.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. I think the good thing with this ordinance is that we're unified on uniformity, I believe. I believe at this point in time, the main issue is that we'd like the non-profits and charitable organizations to have the same exemption benefits the State does, which will relieve the tax burden, which is good.

The amendment specifically speaks to timing. At a committee meeting we discussed, at least for 2008, this tax was over-collected by \$2,000,000. So this is 2009's budget, however. I think if you look at 2009's budget, you have to look at a couple different things. I think there's a great concern any time something like this happens to the budget, because it is lost revenue. There's no doubt about it. It would be irresponsible not to think about the type of revenue that could be lost, and it should be, I believe, looked at very closely.

But however, that being said, it's not a concept but an amount here, \$91,000 documented by our staff. By the time this bill would be enacted, I believe the treasurer would have to promulgate new rules. I don't think it would be as immediate as my colleagues may think. I mean, it may be around --- it could be June. So six months of the year might go by the wayside with time. So you're looking at maybe \$45,000 to \$50,000. So that's what we're discussing tonight. Can our budget absorb

\$45,000 to \$50,000? And where does this go? It goes to where the speaker says, charitable organizations and schools and people who are paying this tax for reasons that are important to the non-profits. So for that reason, I wish we would not support the amendment, not put a finite date in the future. This tax would be for two years on non-profits, all of 2008 and willingly, tonight, all of 2009. So I urge my colleagues to think about the very small amount.

To put it in perspective, the amount is less than the raises given out by the Chief Executive to some of our directors. I'll go on record to say that those directors deserve those raises. They're completely competent, and I stand behind the Chief Executive for making that decision. Most of the people he has on the staff are excellent. As a Council member, I enjoy working with them. They're extremely diligent. This is just as deserved as their raises. We need to look at what we're doing here financially and find \$45,000, if we have to. And I believe that we're competent in doing so. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I would like to say that under the leadership of Chairman and fellow Council Member Bill Robinson, I have come to learn a lot about the budget process in the County, and I think that he does a fantastic job of guiding us in drafting a budget and presenting ideas. And part of what I've learned is that although we may look at something as one pot of money in isolation, the ramification of touching one pot of money tends to have an effect on various parts of the budget.

And I'm not convinced that we could make this effective immediately and not impact other parts of the budget. And I also have a question as to reopening the budget and how many votes does it take to reopen the budget, or is that just something someone can do upon motions? Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the Robinson amendment.

MR. MASCIO: Do you want a roll call?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes. I'm sorry. Councilwoman Rea.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I think opening the budget is for significant amounts of money,

but I agree with Mr. Gastgeb. We're not talking about a significant amount of money. And I also think we did, as a Council, pass the tax. But I think we were remiss when we passed it that initially when it went into effect, this provision should have been in it. And a lot of Council members have, you know, brought the issue up over and over and over again, and so to wait, you know, another, really, over half a year to enact it ---.

I could see if it was a significant amount of money that would have some impact on the budget, but I don't believe even \$90,000 would have a horrible impact on our budget. And I do believe we didn't do due diligence when we did pass the tax and not enact this provision in the initial bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Yes. I just have a legal question. If we don't have this amendment in here and there's no statement as to an effective date, when is the effective date? I know there's some law that would indicate that the --- or there would be imputed or implied effective date of 60 days.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Robinson, I believe this was discussed at the committee meeting. I think that question came up, if I recall.

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, it would be 60 days, as Mr. McCullough indicated.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes. Just real quick. Sixty (60) days would take us almost through the half of the year. That's why, like, you're talking about \$50,000 for the real amount. I do want to make one thing clear, though. It actually pains me to not support Chairman Robinson. I do find myself more times than not on his side, so I hope he doesn't take this personally. We've talked about this privately. Has he come up with good things before? Yes, he really has. You know, keeping some money here under Council control, this Port Authority-directed money, of which this Council decided not to support his idea, also continuing resolution on spending, so ---.

I mean, the budget comes up in December. If we wanted to, we could go past our due date. That was also a good idea this Council would support, so --- you know, I don't think it's a personal thing. It's just --- do we think \$45,000 to \$50,000 is too much for something that

probably shouldn't have been in effect two years ago?  
Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the Robinson amendment regarding the effective date, please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Nay.

MR. MASCIO: Nay?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: No.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: No.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes 11, noes 4. The amendment passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. On the bill itself, move for approval of the bill as amended.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: On Bill Number 3854-08 as amended,  
Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?  
MS. CLEARY: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?  
MS. GREEN: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ayes 15, noes 0, the bill as

amended passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4661-09.

MR. MASCIO: A resolution amending the Grants  
and Special Accounts Budget for 2009, Submission Number  
04-09.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Move for approval.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Discussion? Please call  
the roll.

MR. MASCIO: On Bill Number 4661-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?  
MS. CLEARY: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?  
MS. GREEN: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ayes 15, noes 0, the bill passes.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Liaison reports, any liaison reports this evening? Councilwoman Cleary?  
MS. CLEARY: Thank you, Rich. I just want to make an announcement that the Health Board is seeking comment on the Clean Air Fund changes. On Tuesday, April 14th, they are proposing changes to the Clean Air Regulations concerning permit fees and they would like comments on it. It's going to be at ten o'clock in the Clack Building in Lawrenceville. And you can give comments --- it began March 13th and you can give them until about April 14th if you want to give written testimony. And the number --- you can either call here or the number is 412-578-8008. Thank you.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Any other liaison reports? Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I'd just like to give a little report on the aviation community, grants and passenger traffic. Pittsburgh International Airport and Allegheny County Airport were the first to receive funding allocations for the airport infrastructure projects under the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It was \$12 million. This funding will most certainly increase jobs, improve the airport's infrastructure, enhance airport safety and improve the airport's economic benefits to the community. The FAA would allocate \$10 million to the Pittsburgh International Airport for repair of Runway 1432, one of four commercial service runways. The projects include grading, paving, marking signs and lighting upgrades to the runway. There will be \$2 million allocated for Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin. It's a general aviation airport. That will renovate a taxiway and a ramp.

Some good news. Air Tran, which I know Jan Rea is a fan of, reported a 44.5-percent increase in passengers in February 2009 as compared to 2008 at the Pittsburgh International Airport. However, in regard to overall passenger declines, there is a good local story here that reflects what's going on not only nationally, but internationally. Our passenger-only traffic has dropped 12.7 percent. But I still think we've made the turn and things are --- better things ahead.

Another value added to Pittsburgh --- added in Pittsburgh, is that our fares continue to be significantly lower than those of the national average. That will have a positive impact, even during times of uncertain demand.

A little bit local for me is the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is here to help you. There's going to be an evening distribution on Thursday, March 26th, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:30. We're here to help the underemployed as well as the unemployed. There's no need to register. Just remember to bring some containers to take the food home with you. If you have any questions, you may call area code 412-460-3663. That's 412-460-3663. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman Macey. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes. I received a phone call from Mary Conturo. She is from the SEA, the Sports and Exhibition Authority. And she has invited County Council

to come to the new site of the arena to tour the project. And I believe she couldn't come to County Council. She's coming in a couple weeks to also update us for those who don't want to make the tour or are unable to based on work. So we'll let you know when this will happen. Hopefully we can schedule it soon. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. And finally, I would like to acknowledge a couple members of Council who have distinguished themselves outside of our body. Councilwoman Green has been named as one of the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab Forty. She's going to be honored at a dinner coming up next week. Congratulations to Councilwoman Green.

And then there's a book out, I don't know if anybody has seen it, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Pittsburgh. It's a book called Pittsburgh Born, Pittsburgh Bred. And in it, it highlights the 500 most famous Pittsburghers in the history of our region. 500 sounds like a lot, but over the 250 years, it really isn't, from, you know, people such as Jonas Salk or Andy Warhol. And I think there's maybe one or two politicians that made the list, and one of them is our John DeFazio. So congratulations to John.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You know, he's famous in a lot of areas, so he's a renaissance man.

MR. BURN: Mr. President, my four-year-old called him out at a breakfast about a month ago, just so you know.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The next generation. New business, ordinances and resolutions, 4695-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance authorizing the County to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the City of Pittsburgh under which the County will provide purchasing and procurement services on behalf of the city. This was sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. 4696-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny authorizing the conveyance of the County of Allegheny's interest in a parcel to the American Ukrainian Citizens Club. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4697-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance authorizing the development of certain portions of County-owned property known as the Kane Regional Center-Ross and the transfer of the County's interest in such property to the developer in phases through deed or ground lease. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4724-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances through the creation of a new Chapter 491 entitled Investment Policy in order to provide for the divestiture of certain County investments in companies doing business with the state sponsors of terrorism. Sponsored by Council Members McCullough and Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilman McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a few brief remarks. I think this is an idea that really, its time has come. I see we have a handout from the Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition and I'd like to thank them for that. I look forward to the committee discussion on this and I'd also like to thank Councilman Robinson for cosponsoring this legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4725-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances through the creation of the new Chapter 492 entitled Contract Policy in order to establish a County policy for contracting with companies doing business with the state sponsors of terrorism.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilman McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: No comment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4726-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5-905.04 entitled Allegheny County Professional Services Review Committee Reporting Obligations to clarify the ongoing reporting obligation of the Professional Services Review Committee. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: No comment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4727-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances Chapter 435 entitled Minority Business Enterprise Program through the creation of a new Chapter 435-13 entitled Allegheny County Contract Reporting Obligations in order to establish a requirement for reporting the M/W/DBE status of parties to contracts with Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: No comment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4698-09.

MR. MASCIO: A resolution amending the 2009 Capital Budget for Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 4699-09.

MR. MASCIO: A resolution amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009, Submission Number 05-09. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. New business, motions, 4728-09.

MR. MASCIO: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County pulling Bill Number 4162-08 governing lobbying activities by the County's authorities from committee for an immediate final vote. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President. This ordinance is similar to several of my ordinances. It's been in committee for 261 days. I thought that Council said that they would do due diligence and the chairman said that they would bring this ordinance out and to do due diligence on these ordinances. 261 days is unacceptable. First and foremost, this is a very serious situation, I think, in Allegheny County. I think the people of Allegheny County would be very upset to think that their monies, tax monies, are being used for lobbying, lobbying by our authorities.

I have here some expenditures, just estimates, in the last four years, just for authorities, just for, and we're talking about budget crises and budget issues within Allegheny County. ALCOSAN alone for the last four years, \$325,000. Then we have the Airport Authority, which was mentioned tonight, \$340,000. And let's go to

the Port Authority, \$540,000. And then let's look at some others and others and others and we're getting those facts and those figures on those others, including our own county.

I can't understand --- I've always said, you know, it's always been said to me that it's more in the essence of the state legislators and state senators is better than maybe half as many in Texas, which has a larger population. In California, a far larger population and half as many legislators, and on and on and on. It's better. What's better to me is they're supposed to be better representing our interests, that's their job and that's what we pay them for, approximately over \$150,000 taxes to each of those legislators, which includes cars, use of cars, up to \$600 a month.

Now, if they bring us back what they're supposed to bring us back, then I think that's what their job is to be. But why do we have to lobby not only all the legislators, which includes them, and pay to lobby them to do that which they're supposed to do? I would ask them if they think that we really need to pay them, lobbyists, to go after them and talk about where we're going to get monies for our county and for these authorities. I think it's time that we look at this very, very seriously in Allegheny County. These are very, very serious economic situations and there's a lot of people out there right now that are watching us tonight that are going through some hard times. How can we or any of these authorities justify spending these kind of monies when they themselves can't even afford to live in homes?

I ask that Council bring this and vote to enact it. And what it basically says is dollar for dollar, if you want to spend tax dollars, there's going to be less in Allegheny County and the taxpayer dollars of Allegheny County, one for one. You spend a dollar, we pull a dollar. That's basically what the ordinance says. And I think that's fair and I think we need to do this. And no one can ever convince me that the return is there on these lobbying efforts when that would save --- I would ask the legislators if they think that they haven't done a lot of this. I would ask to bring them in here and say do they think that they've done what the lobbyists are doing now. I would say no, I don't think they'd say that. So that's what their job is and let's let them do their job without having to pay outside firms, pay lobbyists, which are tax

dollars, hard-earned tax dollars, to go after these congressionalists. So I ask you, my motion basically says, bring out my ordinance and let's vote on it, 261 days is long enough, long enough to sit in committee. In fairness to any one of you, I would ask how many of you --- of your ordinances sat in committee and what's the average of that sitting in committee. I don't think it's a year, probably half, maybe a quarter of this, and I'll probably get those stats. Vote on it tonight. I'd like to make that motion and I'd like to have a second on bringing it out.

MR. GASTGEB: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Mr. Drozd, we actually did discuss this in committee. It was not the sentiment from the members of the committee to bring it out. We did have a discussion on why, the cost benefit of certain projects, et cetera. So we can certainly continue to consider it in committee, but I just wanted to get that on the record.

MR. DROZD: And I'd like to follow up, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Go ahead, Mr. Drozd.

MR. DROZD: How much more can you talk about spending money? These are hard-earned tax dollars. I don't know. I mean, how much more can we deliberate? I don't know. Enough is enough. It's hard-earned tax dollars. There's people out there right now that can't even afford to live in their homes. Let's do the right thing. Vote on it. Vote it now. This is tough economic times in this county and this country. And every dollar means something to us. Let the legislators do their jobs and what we pay them for and let's remove the dollars from the lobbyists. Bring it for a vote, please. I again ask for that motion.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Just a question. This vote is to simply pull from the committee, not on the merits of the bill?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: That's correct.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please call the roll on the motion to pull the bill from committee.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: No.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?  
MS. GREEN: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.  
MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Nay.  
MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No.  
MR. MASCIO: Ayes 5, noes 10, that motion fails.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4729-09.

MR. MASCIO: A motion expressing the sense of Council of Allegheny supporting the Employee Free Choice Act, which would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union as the bargaining representative when a majority of employees voluntarily sign authorization designating that union to represent them, provide for first contract mediation and arbitration and establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to chose a union. Sponsored by Councilman DeFazio, Council President Fitzgerald and Councilwoman Green.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to put it in committee, Budget Committee.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I see a couple members have their hands up. Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: I would like to be added on as a cosponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Same.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Futules, Mr. Macey, Mr. Martoni. And I just want to announce that we will be having a Government Reform Committee meeting next Thursday, March --- I believe that's the 26th at five o'clock, because there were some members who wanted a little bit more information. And we're going to have a discussion and some of the information coming forward at that committee meeting. So refer to the Committee on Government Reform. Notification of contracts, 4730-09.

MR. MASCIIO: A communication from County Manager Jim Flynn submitting a summary of Executive Action relating to contracts for the months of December 2008 and January 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do I have a motion to receive it into the file?

MR. MARTONI: So moved.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Discussion? Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Public Comment on General Items. We have three speakers this evening. Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Ellenbogen ---?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just want to bring something up. Everyone has read recently about the McDonald's Corporation, all the drug dealing and everything that has been going on. First of all, I wanted to commend those city undercover police officers for the sting that they did and exposing this. Some of them I know will, but because they're undercover, I won't release their names. And I think District Attorney Stephen Zappala should also be commended for the simple fact that he took this to McDonald's --- instead of just following just his police role in this, he went to the corporation and made them become a partner and made McDonald's a partner in trying to solve this problem. And for this I think he should be commended publicly. I think it's great that, you know, businesses that are downtown should become a partner in

law enforcement and these kinds of activities. And Mr. Zappala took this to McDonald's and made them a partner in this and he should be commended for it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Ellenbogen. Speakers this evening, Mr. Les Ludwig? I believe I see Mr. Ludwig here this evening. Marjorie DeAngelis? Is Ms. DeAngelis here? Come forward and state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. DEANGELIS: Marjorie DeAngelis from 2603 Lincoln Avenue in Clairton. I've just come today because of the attention that has been in the press recently. For example, this article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette last week, the County gets \$3.3 million for law enforcement. And there's been several other articles recently in the paper. And when you read through them, you'll see certain municipalities mentioned, the City of Pittsburgh, of course, and a number of other municipalities. But I would like to just to remind you about the City of Clairton, not that Clairton has been ignored completely. And Ms. Cleary has reminded me today that there is some money being put aside for a recreation center. That recreation center will probably take several years to get up and running.

But for example, in this article about law enforcement, one of the things that's mentioned is money for summer jobs for youth. And we had a meeting about violence in our community in Clairton recently and we have people from One Vision, One Life and Community Empowerment in Clairton at the moment trying to help us. We are asking our city officials to apply for monies, but I just came to ask you that in your capacity as County Council, if anything comes up about allocation of funds, we ask you please to remember the City of Clairton. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. DeAngelis. Larry Walker? Mr. Walker, if you'd come and state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. WALKER: My name is Larry Walker. I'm at 257 Shafer Road in Moon Township. I have a special DVD that has been prepared for each of the Council members. It's been prepared by the American Family Association. This is in regard to the proposed ordinance 4201-08, which is in committee, which is the Human Relations Commission (sic). And this DVD is the background concerning the agenda and their hopes and their goals and to further help to make a final decision on that bill in committee. I know you're probably looking at the state situation, which

is Bill HB-300, which has been passed out of the House and is presently making its way through committee. So I trust you will avail yourself to that DVD and hopefully make a final decision.

And I've come tonight on March the 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick, he was a true believer in Christ and Ireland and a true believer, in fact, of the Irish people for the cause of Christ and was a man who stood up for great morals. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you tonight.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Walker. Any other --- for the good of the order? With that, do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

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MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:21 P.M.

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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.

Valerie Gregory  
Court Reporter