

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
Nick 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, June 9, 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  
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services  
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director  
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: If everyone would please rise. And welcome to the Tuesday, June 9th, 2009 meeting of Allegheny County Council. If everybody would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. And then please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer or reflection and to keep in your prayers our good friend and clerk, John Mascio.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please be seated. At this point in the meeting, I normally turn to John and ask him to read the roll, which he has done for this Council for the last ten years. And I want to thank the public for their indulgence. We cancelled the meeting last week, our June 2nd regularly scheduled meeting, for the first time in our history, because this Council was grieving over the loss of John Mascio.

John passed away on May 29th. He was taken from us suddenly. And not only for the 15 members who sit here right now, but for the 35 total members who served on this Council since its inception in 1999. John was the first person that we hired to help us run this government, and he was a friend and an advisor and, you know, more than just a clerk, certainly. And not only is this Council grieving, but our staff as well; not only present staff but former staff members who we got to reunite with a little bit over the last week under the unfortunate circumstances.

And what I'm going to do before I call the roll is I have a resolution that I want to read into the record for tonight. And then, also, to let all Council members know, we are going to be bringing in the Mascio family; his wife, Nina, his sons, John, Danny and Dino, at a later date in a few weeks, when the family has a little bit of time to get through some of the grieving process, to make a more appropriate presentation to the family. But I would be remiss if we'd not done this tonight, so I am going to ask for a waiver of the Second Reading to do the resolution tonight, and then I will read it into the record.

(Motion is moved.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. I'll just call for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Reading the resolution. A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, honoring the memory and giving thanks to the life and service of John Richard Mascio, Allegheny County Council's first Chief Clerk.

Whereas, John Richard Mascio was born January 13th, 1952, and spent his formative years in the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with sisters, Jayne and Judy, and parents, Richard and Christine; and

Whereas, John Mascio passed away on May 29th, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, at 57 years of age; and

Whereas, John Mascio met Nina Milazzo in 1979, and the two were married in 1982; and

Whereas, John was the proud father of three sons, John P., Danny and Dino Mascio; and

Whereas, prior to dedicating his life to public service, John Mascio was employed as a paperboy at the age of eight and later as a vendor at Forbes Field, landscaper, grocery clerk at Grocery Italian in Bloomfield and print shop worker; and

Whereas, John Mascio began his service to the residents of the county in 1976 as an aide for the Council of the City of Pittsburgh and remained a faithful and dedicated city employee through 1999, at which time he was the Deputy City Clerk; and

Whereas, in 1999, the newly-established Allegheny County Council chose John Mascio as its first employee in the capacity of Chief Clerk, a position that he retained until his passing; and

Whereas, as Chief Clerk, John Mascio provided invaluable service to the residents of Allegheny County by guiding Allegheny County Council through its infancy and establishing the Council as an effective legislative body for the county; and

Whereas, throughout John's service to Allegheny County Council, his grace, wit, charm, compassion and enthusiasm with which he shared his love of music and the performing arts, inevitably made a tremendous impression upon his co-workers, all of whom came to regard him as a friend and a mentor; and

Whereas, the skill and tact with which John provided advice and counsel to County Council and its

staff, will never be forgotten by those who were privileged to work with him; and

Whereas, John Mascio's other contributions to this community, as a Eucharistic Minister and choir member at Saint Therese in Munhall and as a member of the Italian Sons and Daughters, as a loving father and husband and as a citizen of the county, are innumerable; and

Whereas, John's commitment to public service, skilled professionalism and devotion to his family serve as inspiration to us all. While we cannot hope to replace him, we will honor his memory by emulating the spirit of his dedication.

The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby resolves as follows: the Council of Allegheny County hereby resolves to pause its deliberations to honor the life and memory of John Richard Mascio, its first Chief Clerk, who dedicated his life, his family and public service to his community. Council further resolves that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Clerk, John Richard Mascio. Presented by all members of Council.

And as I stated --- I know some of the members were just walking in --- we do plan at a later time to have the Mascio family come in and, you know, to share some remembrances with the Mascio family of John at that time. So I just wanted to put this into the record. And I would just ask for a motion to approve this resolution, and we'll just do a voice vote.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Thank you. Mr. Catanese, would you please call the roll?

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeber?  
MR. GASTGEB: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green?  
MS. GREEN: Present.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Present.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Present.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.  
MR. CATANESE: All members present.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Proclamations/

Certificates. 4907-09.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation recognizing the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association for supporting the American Heart Association and naming the week of June 1st through the 7th, 2009, as National CPR and AED Awareness Week. Sponsored by Council members Cleary, Fitzgerald, Martoni, Burn, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Macey, Robinson and DeFazio.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Thank you. I'd like to bring a few folks up, Jim Scahill, Nora, Doctor Mosesso, Phil Vargo and Mark Sway (phonetic), come up, please; and Andy Baechle, of course, from the Parks. I know Andy accepted some of the AED machines for the parks a couple of years ago. And I think everybody here in this group can attest to how well they work and they are absolutely needed. So let me read the proclamation, and then we'll let the folks here say what they have to say about the machines and sudden cardiac arrest.

Whereas, sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States, resulting in nearly 300,000 lost lives; and

Whereas, though only eight percent of those who suffer cardiac arrest survive, the nearly 1,000,000 AED implanted cardioverter defibrillators have been placed within people who are at risk for sudden cardiac arrest. The survival rate is attributed to the early intervention of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a shock administered by the AED machine; and

Whereas, the National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association was founded in 2005 to educate the public about sudden cardiac arrest, to advocate for better emergency responses and to lobby for better access to preventive medical care; and

Whereas, Western Pennsylvania Chapter of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association was formed in 2008; and

Whereas, the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have joined together to educate the public about the necessity of CPR and AED training to reduce death and disability as an effect of sudden cardiac arrest.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, hereby recognizes the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association for its support of the American Heart Association's efforts to educate people about sudden cardiac arrest.

Furthermore, we proclaim the week of June 1st to 7th, 2009, as National CPR and AED Awareness Week in Allegheny County and urge all citizens to receive training to support residents who are at risk for sudden cardiac arrest. Sponsored by myself this 2nd day of June or whatever day of June --- 9th day of June?

DOCTOR MOESSO: Ms. Cleary and Mr. President, members of Council, on behalf of the local chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association and as, actually, the National Medical Director of the association, I do want to thank you for this recognition of this proclamation. I think the greatest benefit to this is not so much recognizing our organization but --- in that it provides an opportunity to raise some awareness about cardiac arrest and the lifesaving interventions that can occur.

As you indicated, this is really the leading cause of death in the United States, and it's really

equivalent to --- if we would have two fully loaded 757s crash every day. That would make a major impact, I think. But that's how many people die every single day from cardiac arrest. The truth is, many of those people could survive if we have the proper systems in place and bystanders would take the proper actions. And that's what this is all about today, is to try to increase the awareness that it is possible for a lay person without medical training, to do CPR and to use an automated defibrillator to save someone's life.

And it's not that hard, but I think a lot of times we don't realize the importance of that. It's often just --- it takes too long to learn. We're blessed here in Allegheny County, and I actually live in Upper St. Clair where Tri Community South services the area. And we have one of the finest EMS systems around in the whole state. It just is --- you can't wait for EMS to get there because action has to be taken within the first few minutes of when the victim collapses. And that's an important message to get out there.

We're really honored and privileged here today to have a witness to those lifesaving actions. Mr. Scahill, here behind me, who's actually a commissioner in Armstrong County, is witness to the fact that immediate CPR and early defibrillation can actually save your life. And he is about to celebrate his 10th re-birthday this year, if you don't mind me abusing your phrase, and he was ---. So he's a member, also, of our Cardiac Arrest Association, and he was actually using his political expertise --- he's the one that actually authored the proclamation for us and proposed it. So without further ado, I want to present Jim to you.

MR. SCAHILL: Thank you, Doctor. It's not often I get this opportunity, my colleagues, and I'm glad to be here today. Anybody can die of sudden cardiac arrest. It's not a heart attack; it's usually a mix-up of signals. In my case, it's very rare to --- it was a fulfillment of plaque that just crashed all into my system at once. Basically, you can be on the soccer field. How many times have you seen a man that's at a football game but not at a girls' volleyball game? Folks, it can happen; from cardio thumps it can happen by the things I said that happen.

But it can happen, and it did. And it actually happens to invincible people like commissioners and council members under warning. I will give you the basic

facts. It was September 21st, 1999, 1:32 in the afternoon. I didn't feel good. I came back from a groundbreaking, one of the many things we did that day. I said, I'm going home. I made it ten feet behind my truck in the back parking lot where nobody could see me. When I basically took my last breath, it was a wonderful breath, and then I was dead. I was clinically and biologically dead for 14 minutes. And they worked on me. I didn't have a defibrillator at site because it was too expensive ten years ago. They are cheapening in price, folks.

And the other part was, once I got defibrillated --- I was defibrillated three times. This is a pretty big body to do, you know, just one shock. And the point of the matter is, quite frankly, I came back and I'm regional, as I've always been, because I got stabilized at Armstrong Hospital and then I was life-flighted to Allegheny General. And by 4:52, I was in a room. I didn't wake up until Friday.

We all have missing time, us dead people. Now I'm going to put it this way to you. Now we call ourselves that. I'm going to end this by just saying this to you; when you think about it, we have out of the University of Pittsburgh, a fine program we started back in 1999. Jeez, that's a funny year; same year I died. And in 2003 a remarkable thing happened; I'm one of what's called the founding 42, 42 people that were selected throughout this country that met in Washington, D.C., instantly bonded. And as a result of that, there's a Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association.

And the SCAA now has the Western Pennsylvania Chapter. This is our first official action. We thank you for this long time that we've taken, but I can tell you this; SCAA will become your sponsor for re-birthdays. And we need your help by putting AEDs as plentiful as fire extinguishers. Thank you.

MS. CLEARY: Okay. And really, when everybody learns how to do CPR, they teach you how to use these machines, too, and the machine tells you what to do. You don't have to know what to do. They are fairly simple. They shouldn't be intimidating to use. Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4908-09.

MR. CATANESE: The remaining proclamations will be read into the record.

4908-09. Proclamation honoring the career of Ambassador Luis Gallegos and welcoming him to Allegheny

County. Sponsored by Council members Fitzgerald, Martoni, Burn, Cleary, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green, Macey, McCullough, Rea, Robinson and the Chief Executive.

4909-09. Certificate of Achievement honoring Colin Jeffrey Martinez for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Futules.

4910-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 25th anniversary of Walnut Grove Christian Day Care. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4911-09. Proclamation honoring the 40th anniversary of Milestone Centers for People with Behavioral and Intellectual Challenges. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4912-09. Certificate of Achievement honoring Donald Korinko for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4913-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 60th anniversary of Joseph and Evelyn Van Horn. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4914-09. Proclamation honoring Urban Youth Action's 43rd Anniversary Banquet. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

4915-09. Proclamation honoring the 35th anniversary of Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Approval of Minutes.

4916-09.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council held on May 5th, 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. 4917-09.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council held on May 20th, 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Motion to approve?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Presentation of Appointments. Let's take 4899, 4900, 4901, 4902, 4903, together.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting the recommendation of the following appointments to the Community College Board of Allegheny County: Ms. Amy Kuntz, Mr. Mark Evans, Mr. Gregory K. Peaslee, Ms. Mona Generett and Ms. Joyce Snell.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer these to Committee on Appointment Review. 4904-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Herky Pollock for reappointment to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, for a term to expire on May 23rd, 2014.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. And take 4905 and 4906-09 together.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Onorato submitting the names of recommendation for appointment to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Councilman Bob Macey and Ms. Lynn L. Heckman, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. Unfinished Business. There is none this evening. Liaison Reports. Councilman DeFazio, I believe you have something.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes, it was just on the election. On the last election we had, there was, like, 24.5 percent of the Democrats voted and 18.9 percent of Republicans come out to vote. In Monroeville, there was, I guess, a local election. There was a protest of a couple vote difference or something, and they're still working on that. And that's about it, unless Chuck has any more to add.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. Just a few liaison reports. I'm the liaison to the RAD Board, and I have talked to the Executive Director about the meeting we had. And as we found out in the Committee meetings, RAD is a member organization, and that's great.

And you can imagine what they think is appropriate with regard to funding. But the Executive Director told me it is customary that RAD does look over the recommendation each and every year, and this year will be no exception. So I just wanted to confirm that to you and my fellow colleagues that it did come out during the meeting.

And we are able, on your own if you'd like, to talk to the Executive Director of the RAD Board, if you have any specific questions. And the RAD Board will be looking it over to see exactly what recommendation was made or is made by ALFA (phonetic). Additionally, there are two other activities going on. I'm not sure if everybody got one of these or not for the flag retirement area. There's one in front of my desk here.

Every year around Flag Day, a private citizen puts on a great remembrance to our flag and to our veterans at our Flag Retirement Plaza in South Park. This year the event will be Thursday, June 11th, at 6:30 p.m. Obviously, everybody is invited to come and partake in what has become a fine ceremony.

I want to publicly thank the person that puts this on, John Kovach, for his diligence and his love of his country; also our staff, in particular, Joe Catanese, and also our Chief Executive, Dan Onorato, who has been most gracious with his time and his inputs as this event continues to carry on; and last but not least, members of this body who worked very hard not only to fund this financially a few years ago, but to keep this going in respect to our veterans. So thanks to all.

Lastly, there is another event occurring at the fairgrounds on July 11th. It's called Rev Up for the Kids. It's a great endeavor. It's a car cruise to raise money for kids' activities. I think it's more recreation than sports oriented. This is taking over for another event that occurred. It's a different type of group putting it on; however, it is showcasing our fairgrounds again. They anticipate 1,000 classic and antique cars being parked inside our oval. So it's a tremendous undertaking and a great fundraiser and a great time to come out. If you enjoy cars and food and just being around, come to our fairground area and partake in a great park. So hopefully, Council members can make it, and the public is invited as well. It's on July 11th at 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. That's a Saturday. Thank you, President Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Would you ask my esteemed colleague if I'm invited, since I was omitted on the program?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We missed one.

MR. GASTGEB: You're on the back. What else do you want? We got your back.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: It's a draft. It's a rough draft. We'll fix it.

MR. CATANESE: It will be final. That's just to get an idea of what the program's going to look like, and that will be corrected.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I never thought that there would be someone up here that people would forget.

MR. CATANESE: We apologize for that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You're not forgotten, Jim, I'll tell you.

MR. GASTGEB: We'll fix anything to do with the program. Thank you for bringing that up.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I also wanted to let everybody know that on July 7th, we're going to be taking a tour of Marcellus Shale well. A discussion came up at our Government Reform meeting, talking about Marcellus Shale. And Councilwoman Rea was interested in possibly having us maybe look at one physically --- a number of them physically --- to see how they might be used in some of our county facilities that we talked about during the Government Reform Committee meeting.

So that's going to be scheduled for July 7th --- that's a Tuesday --- of our normal meeting. It will be in the early afternoon for a few hours, and we'll be back here by 4:00 from taking that tour, so anybody that's interested in doing that. Any other liaison reports this evening? If not, we'll move on to New Business. Ordinances and Resolutions. 4890-09.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County --- Council of the County of Allegheny, ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Health and Human Services. 4891-09.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of donations of personal property by the Allegheny County Parks Department. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Parks. 4892-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission 09-09). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 4893-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, extending the duration of time for the exemption of certain taxes within a specified geographic area designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone within the Township of Neville, Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4894-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, extending the duration of time for the exemption of certain taxes within a specified geographic area designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone within the City of Duquesne, Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4895-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, extending the duration of time for the exemption of certain taxes within a specified geographic area designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone within the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4897-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, extending the duration of time for the exemption of certain taxes within a specified geographic area designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone within the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4896-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, extending the duration of time for the exemption of certain taxes within a specified geographic area designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone within the Township of West Deer, Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 4898-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission 10-09). Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. New Business, Motions. Yes, sir, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: At the --- we need to confirm. It's my understanding, sir, that we will be honoring Mr. Mascio at a subsequent meeting and his family will be present?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, we will, Councilman. And I think it probably would be very appropriate at that time for all of us to maybe talk about our remembrances of our first Chief Clerk and our dear friend. That is correct. We don't have a date yet, Councilman. We're going to certainly work that out with the family and at their convenience and their schedule.

MR. BURN: Thank you, sir. I'll save my remarks for when we're with the family. Thank you for allowing me to participate by phone. I wish you and my colleagues a pleasant evening. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. Public Comment on General Items. We have one speaker this evening, Mr. Kenneth Miller. I see Mr. Miller is here with us this evening. Mr. Miller, please come forward and state your name and address for the record.

MR. MILLER: My name is Kenneth Miller. I live at 7125 Thomas Boulevard. I come to this Council more than most, representing a number of groups. And I just want to say that John Mascio was someone who always did his very best to make everybody that I knew that came behind --- before this Board feel welcome and informed. He signed people up. He oriented the people who had not spoken before Council before. He helped us look up legislation. He advised us as to where bills were in process. This Council --- I know you already know this --- couldn't have asked for a better representative to

represent you to the public. That said, Mr. Fitzgerald made a copy of a document on subsidizing the sweatshops for you. Several months ago, there was a report that listed 11 different factories that frequently do procurements --- that provide Allegheny Council in light of government such as that with apparel, the tax.

So I want to refer real worker testimony. I'm not going to elaborate on how bad working conditions are, the factors that's vital to governments. And I want to refer you to that report. One of those reports was about Rocky Brand, one of the factories in China. And John Degan (phonetic), Chief Purchasing Officer, after we called this to his attention, began a series of correspondence with Rocky Brands. And their response to Mr. Degan is in front of you.

I want to point out that every time we begin to follow up with workers' testimony, the company vehemently denied that there are any sweatshop working conditions there. This is a contest where the challenge will be legitimacy of the testimony we present. I want to point out that you have lots of resources available to you about Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production Program. The RAPP program is the bogus program. They certify sweatshops as not being sweatshops all the time. Ninety (90) percent of the workers that I have advocated for in all the years that I've been doing this work, that work in factories that were endorsed by the RAPP Certification Program.

The fact that Rocky Brand is mentioned in here discredits this letter. I also want to point out that they got an award for excellence in social responsibility from the American Apparel and Footwear Association in 2007. This is an award that they gave themselves. The American Apparel and Footwear Association --- they're not talking about work that is done in this country; they're referring to us as a consumer market. And this is an award that they gave themselves. And this is the type of correspondence that we expect, that we get frequently from companies when we start wrestling the testimony that those workers --- that workers have submitted to us. You have --- the county has at its disposal the tools to wrestle with what companies say and to get empirical evidence as to what's going on in those sweatshops. I want to thank Mr. Fitzgerald and the rest of County Council for hosting the State of Pennsylvania. Roxanne Deitz (phonetic) from

the Department of General Services, she was here and gave a presentation to county administration about what they should be doing to adequately enforce this ordinance.

I want to thank you members of Council that were there. And I want to say how disappointed I am that the county administration is not taking any action to do more to enforce this policy. And I think that when you wrote this policy, it was your intent that they would leverage the procurement done by this county in some limited resources, to wisely protect workers' rights in the factories, so apparent for this county. And I hope that this Council can do more to set the administration going in the right direction. Every contract that they go into requires more diligent policy. We've really stepped backwards because of your efforts in anti sweatshop community alliance. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Miller. Any other business before this Council this evening? Seeing none, do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

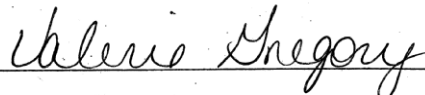
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:36 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

  
Court Reporter