

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
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green-Hawkins	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 15, 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:

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

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: If everybody would please rise. I'm going to ask Daniel Sax, who's an 11th grader at Hillel Academy, if he would come to the podium to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. First of all, welcome to the Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 full meeting of Allegheny County Council. Daniel's going to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. And I would ask you to please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer. And please keep in your thoughts Officer Michael Crawshaw, who died in the line of duty, a Penn Hills police officer, keeping us all safe.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Cleary?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Present.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. BARKER: McCullough?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Robinson?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here. 5296-09.

MR. BARKER: Communication from the Return Board of Allegheny County submitting a Certificate of Election certifying that at the election held on the 23rd day of November, 2009, Amanda Green-Hawkins was duly elected to the Office of Member of Council, District 13, in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: And it is a special night. Councilwoman Green-Hawkins, if you would please come to the podium. And I believe she has somebody with her to administer the oath. And just for explanation so that everybody understands, we had elections and many of the members are going to be sworn in in a couple of weeks. But Councilwoman Green-Hawkins was elected to fill out the remainder of the term that was originally filled by Councilwoman Brenda Frazier. So because of the Home Rule Charter, it requires her to be sworn in after the election was certified, which was just done. Your Honor?

JUDGE PETITE: Thank you. I'm District Judge Oscar Petite, Jr., and I will be presiding over the oath of office for Amanda Green-Hawkins today. And with her is her husband, Mr. Hawkins. Would you please place your left hand on the Bible? Please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Amanda Green Hawkins, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of Member of Council of the County of Allegheny and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: I, Amanda Green-Hawkins, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of Member of Council of the County of Allegheny and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE PETITE: Congratulations.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Are you going to say a few words?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Thank you. And I just want to first say that I am thankful for my husband, who's here tonight to hold the Bible for me and to also support me as he has been doing throughout the past almost two years that I've been serving on County Council. Without your love and support, I could not do this. And to my fellow

Council members, I thank you as well for your support and for your assistance through this past almost two years. It's been great working with you all. And I look forward to a productive relationship going forward. We have a lot of business to take care of here at the County, and let's get to it, actually. I won't take too much of your time. Let's get to it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Presentations and addresses. We have our quarterly address from Chief Executive Onorato. And I have a letter that I'll just read here very briefly.

Dear Council members, I'm writing to let you know that due to a scheduling conflict, I'm unable to attend the December 15th meeting of County Council. I'm requesting to join you at your next scheduled meeting on January 4th, 2010.

By our resolution that we passed a few weeks ago, we'll have to make a motion to have Mr. Onorato come at our next meeting. So I'd entertain somebody to make a motion to have that done.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll make that motion.

MR. GASTGEB: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Any discussion on that? I'm just calling for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. We'll hear from the Chief Executive at the January 4th meeting. Proclamations/certificates. 5281-09.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation recognizing Iron Workers Local Union Number 3 for their efforts to assure the worker and civil rights of refugees. Sponsored by Council Member Green-Hawkins.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Green-Hawkins. Putting you to work right away.

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: That's what I'm here for. Thank you. I understand that representatives from Iron Workers Local 3 and Three Rivers Coalition for Justice are here, so I will have them join me at the podium. I have two proclamations, one for the Iron Workers and one for the Three Rivers Coalition for Justice. And no one can tell this story better than they can, so I will just read the proclamation and ask the representatives to speak.

Whereas, the labor unions and justice organizations of Allegheny County fight for labors' rights and for equality in the workplace.

And whereas, Iron Workers Local 3 and Three Rivers Coalition for Justice have been defending 14 Burmese workers who came to our county as refugees in hope of establishing families and a hopeful life.

And whereas, unfair and dangerous working conditions have forced many of these workers to struggle through their search for a better life.

And whereas, Three Rivers Coalition for Justice, the human rights-based organization that has taken responsibility for the workers' plight, provides our region's refugees with assistance in acquiring a higher standard of living for themselves and their families.

And whereas, while the organization and Iron Workers Local 3 continue to support refugees and their search for justice, we proudly commend the organizations' efforts to give the refugees a sense of community and a place where they are welcomed and appreciated.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, commend Iron Workers Local 3 and Three Rivers Coalition for Justice for fighting for the worker and human rights of our region's refugees. We acknowledge their efforts to seek justice and to open our community to the refugees, and we hope they continue to work tirelessly to achieve their goal. Sponsored this 15th day of December by myself, Council Member Amanda Green-Hawkins.

(Applause.)

MR. RINK: Thank you, Councilwoman Green. We appreciate this. I'm Chad Rink. I'm with the Iron Workers Local Union here in Pittsburgh and the director of Three Rivers Coalition for Justice. Our coalition is based in several organizations. We have Emma Long from Pittsburgh Refugee Center, Pastor Maurice Trent from Lighthouse Cathedral Church. We have Aung Oo and some of the community leaders of the Karen community here in Pittsburgh, and Casey Longo. She's with a student group at Pitt. And they are advocates for refugees also. We also have Paula of United Steel Workers, who has been supportive of us, and the Labor Council here.

We were approached by Aung Oo and Tim Hand, who's here also, about the working conditions. And they were on strike at a steel plant --- W&K Steel here in

Rankin. Once we learned about the number of refugees working in there and the unsafe conditions, we had no other choice but to stand up and help these refugees. We're their voice. They have nobody. We have workers other places that are refugees that were sent to work, never even paid. We have them getting hurt on the job, afraid to report their injuries or go to the hospital in fear of losing their job. Most of these refugees are families of six and eight, making \$12,000, \$14,000, \$16,000 a year, \$15,000 to \$20,000 under the national poverty level for their family size.

They're suffering. They're suffering here in Pittsburgh and throughout this county. This has turned into an international movement. We've got organizations from Thailand supporting us, getting involved. We have representatives from United Nations, from Washington, D.C. A lot of our local politicians and Congressmen and senators are involved in this. And once you come to this community and meet them and see how they live, you'll be appalled. It's a shame that this is what's happening here. And it's the right thing to do to stand up and help these refugees and these workers. Aung Oo would like to say a couple words to the Council. He'll be translated.

MR. OO: Thank you, all. My name is Aung Oo. I lived in Burma. Because of civil war in Burma, I fled to Thailand, Thai-Burma borderlines, registered as refugees. So I lived in refugee camps over ten year. After ten year, because of U.S. planning, I have been in U.S., in Pittsburgh almost four years. And I work --- stay with my family in Pittsburgh four years. The first time, the first job we were in, W&K. W&K, he stuck up for the family, but he did not --- because he has faced many problems. There's like discrimination in there, like females. I get like \$9. Other worker, like \$17, \$18, like that. So we want equal right in what we are paid. We have the conditions here and in other states in America, in other states, too, we have many refugees that have faced the condition as we face now. So we want all organization, all the work organization here to work with us, Karen Center. Karen Community Center works together with us. We want that. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MR. RINK: I'll just sum up some of the stuff that he was saying. At work, a lot of refugees are paid nearly half of what the American workers are paid. That's

putting them into poverty. They're living on cash assistance from the County every month because of this. They're living on public assistance. If their wages were equal and they got equal rights there, they would not be in poverty. This is generations of poverty that we're seeing right here in this community before they can ever get out of it. Their children, their grandchildren are all going to be in poverty.

Some of the conditions at work, these workers literally stand in water while they're welding. They're painting structural steel without respirators. They have no training. You can see they don't speak or read English. Nobody's there to educate them on labor laws, worker rights or anything. And that's something this coalition has dedicated itself to, is to try to educate them when we settle here on their rights in the workplace, that they are heard. They deserve and are required to go to the hospital and seek help and not be afraid of their job.

They deserve protection while they're at work. Nobody should suffer. If one of these workers are killed, nobody is there to take care of their family. And we thank Councilwoman Green for acknowledging this, and we look forward to partnering with Allegheny County and see how we can help these refugees. There are several hundred a year that settle here. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5282-09.

MR. BARKER: Before I do that, please let the record reflect that Mr. DeFazio and Mr. McCullough are both now in attendance.

5282-09. Proclamation honoring CCAC alumna Yvonne Crawford-Burns. Sponsored by Vice President Martoni and Council Member Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Is Councilman Robinson not here tonight? Councilman Martoni is going to do the proclamation. Is Yvonne here? There she is. Okay. She's coming forward. Councilman Martoni.

MR. MARTONI: Thank you very much. This particular proclamation gives me great pleasure to present not only to a wonderful friend, but also a colleague of mine. I'll read the proclamation and let her say a few words and introduce our guests.

Whereas, Ms. Yvonne E. Crawford-Burns has exemplified the definition of a dedicated citizen of our great County in her demonstration of professional civic and community leadership.

And whereas, Ms. Crawford-Burns earned a Business Management Certificate in 1995 and an Associated Science degree in Business Management in 1996 from the Community College of Allegheny County, propelling her to Geneva College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources and a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership.

And whereas, Ms. Crawford-Burns joined the Community College of Allegheny County as an administrator in the year 2002 and has been instrumental --- has been an instrumental leader, holding essential positions, such as the league administrator, director of registration, and currently, as dean of student development, where, among her significant responsibilities, she oversees the Pittsburgh Promise Program.

Whereas, Ms. Crawford-Burns has served on various committees and boards that advocate for the children of our community to become empowered educationally. And for all of her efforts to better our region, she was selected as one of Pittsburgh's --- one of New Pittsburgh Courier's 50 Women of Excellence for the year 2009.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, recognizes Ms. Yvonne E. Crawford-Burns, an alumna of the Community College of Allegheny County, for serving the County productively, proactively and honorably. Furthermore, her fine leadership should be adopted by the residents of the County for the betterment of our community. Sponsored by our Council here. Now, let me present Ms. Yvonne Burns for a few remarks. By the way, she was a student of mine, too. Okay.

(Applause.)

MS. CRAWFORD-BURNS: Certainly I want to thank Dr. Martoni and also the Executive --- Chief Executive Officer Dan Onorato and his Executive Board for this great honor. I certainly don't take it lightly. Certainly had it not been for CCAC --- me entering CCAC, which galvanized my academic career, I certainly would not be here today. So I take great pride in that. I want to

thank the Executive Board as well as the Allegheny County Council for their continued financial support for CCAC.

Some of you may not realize it, but we serve and educate over 65,000 students between our credit and non-credit programs on a yearly basis. That is certainly a lot of students that come through our doors. I have the pleasure of meeting with so many of those students at our Allegheny campus, where we house and have an enrollment of over 8,600 just from our Allegheny campus. And I am so proud that I have had the opportunity to make a positive impact in their lives. I am proud of our Pittsburgh Promise initiative, which is one of our newest initiatives, which have just completed their inaugural year, and it is very successful.

Certainly without the funding that we get from the County, certainly without the support, we would not be able to educate so many students. A lot of our students come to us deficient in their academics, and we are able to promote them and get them through our program. That is why we are the first choice for faster results. We take pride in that. And I do want to thank you again for honoring CCAC and supporting CCAC, and I beg that we continue to have that support so that we can continue to meet the needs of our students in our Allegheny County region. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. CRAWFORD-BURNS: I'd like to introduce our guest, who will come and say a few words.

MS. LYONS: I'm Betty Lyons. I'm the president of the Alumni Board. And thank you for all you do for us. Thank you for all the recognition that you give to CCAC and to the alumni.

(Applause.)

MR. MAKOHUS: My name is Kraig Makohus. I'm also on the Alumni Board. And I just want to say thank you also from the Alumni Board, but also adding that this alumnus is one example of thousands of what CCAC produces in students, which is also another example of an individual who's giving back through her work at the Community College and now helping with Pittsburgh Promise to develop future leaders that will continue to give back to our region. So I just thank you and encourage the Council to continue to support the Community College. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5283-09.

MR. BARKER: Proclamation honoring students and staff members from Hillel Academy of Squirrel Hill for generating ideas and plans to rejuvenate Braddock Borough. Sponsored by Vice President Martoni, President Fitzgerald and Council Members Burn, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Gastgeb, Green-Hawkins, McCullough, Futules and Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Martoni. And the young man in administration from Hillel Academy, would you please come forward?

MR. MARTONI: Okay. This is a really good proclamation for a young group of students who are making a tremendous impact in our communities. They created a cross-culture venture between the English and history departments to allow students to critically analyze the economic and social problems facing Braddock. They work in the Borough of Braddock. Through abundant research and exercises, the students create plans and ideas to revitalize the Braddock community. Adam Reinherz is the director of student affairs there. He will accept the proclamation and say a few words. Before that, I'm going to read the proclamation and have him come up and accept it and say a few words and introduce his group here.

Whereas, the communities of Allegheny County have experienced both success and plight throughout their history, relying upon community members to maintain and revive their neighborhoods.

And whereas, in a cross-culture venture, staff members and students of English and history departments of Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh and Squirrel Hill started Project Braddock to critically analyze the economic and social dilemmas facing the Braddock community.

And whereas, the research and composition and oratory exercises where students observed, reflected and articulated possible means for revitalizing Braddock.

And whereas, the students conducting the project generated a list of ideas, presented them to Braddock Mayor John Fetterman, who met with the students to consider implementing their ideas into Braddock's plan.

And whereas, we commend the academic ambition of professionalism that the students of Hillel Academy demonstrated through Project Braddock, and we look upon their efforts with great pride.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, commends the students and the staff at Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh for engaging in a cross-culture venture to better the community of Braddock. Their efforts bring attention to the exemplary care that our neighboring communities possess with each other. And we hope their efforts help to benefit and revive the community of Braddock. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. REINHERZ: Thank you. Six weeks ago, we began a cross-curricular venture between our English and History departments titled Project Braddock. This enterprise enabled our students to critically analyze the economic and social dilemmas facing Braddock, Pennsylvania. Through observations, reflections, research and a walking tour of Braddock, dialogue with Mayor John Fetterman and compositional and oratory exercises, our students engaged in a multi-sensory learning experience. The educational lessons derived from Project Braddock have been substantial. Through the statistics and proposals that our students have presented, our consciences have been reawakened to the civic responsibility that we each bear.

It is for us now the time of Hanukkah, a celebration of eight days in which we commemorate a miraculous and inextinguishable flame. Through Project Braddock we at Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh ignited a single spark, not knowing where it would finally radiate. We thank you, the members of this great Council, for recognizing this endeavor and further illuminating the efforts of our students. I would now like to call upon Ben Kohane, a student who took part in Project Braddock. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. KOHANE: As Mr. Reinherz said, six weeks ago we began our Braddock Project. We launched the program by traveling down to Braddock in order to observe what Braddock was really all about and what it faces as Allegheny County's poorest community. We were told to record our observations as we took a neighborhood walk. The most prominent thing we saw there was how many houses were in disrepair, buildings and businesses run down. The streets and sidewalks were cracked and falling apart. We

did notice some positives: the steel plants, the urban garden and the Carnegie Library, the first in the nation.

After returning to school, we broke into two focus groups, researching Braddock and the problem it faces through both digital and printed sources. We then began brainstorming for various solutions while working with our English teacher, Ms. Tipton, and our history teacher, Mr. Marcus. We organized our findings into PowerPoint presentations, and a week later, presented them to the rest of the school, explaining our reasoning. Afterwards, the students voted on whose was better, and it was decided that my team won.

Lastly, as featured in The Post-Gazette, we welcomed the Mayor of Braddock, John Fetterman, to our school and engaged in discussion in a forum, where we presented our ideas to the mayor. On the whole, the program was interesting as well as enlightening. It used a different perspective of teaching through experience, illustrating how Braddock, a neighborhood so close to ours, could unfortunately be so different. The project taught us how to think logically in order to solve the problems that Braddock is facing. Finally, it taught us the skill of organizing our thoughts and ideas into a solid plan and format, used in our PowerPoint presentation, as well as going over those ideas to the rest of the school and Mayor Fetterman.

All in all, I think this project was a complete success. We thank our school, Hillel Academy, and our teachers for enabling us to participate in this program. And we plan to continue it through community service and other projects. On behalf of my classmates, I'd like to thank the Council for inviting us here today. We are honored to be recognized for what we accomplished. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: We're blessed to have brains. Mr. Jesse Brown, the President of the Council in Braddock, could you come up, Jesse, and take a picture with us, too?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Before we do that, I want to make sure we recognize all of the students by name. Do we have all the students who participated? Could somebody give everybody's name? Mr. Reinherz? Mr. Reinherz, if you would.

MR. REINHERZ: We're privileged tonight to have many of our students, staff and parents here, so I'll begin with our students. Mr. Daniel Sax in 11th grade, Mr. Asher Sohnen in 11th grade, Mr. Yosef Kohenbash (phonetic) in 9th grade, Mr. Ben Kohane in 11th grade, Mr. Demeil (phonetic) Kohenbash, 11th grade, Mr. Andy Joshuit (phonetic), 9th grade, Mr. Steven Kohane, 9th grade. And our staff here tonight is Rabbi Yisroel Smith, Rabbi Sam Weinberg, Ms. Erica Tipton and myself. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you.  
(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: Before we line up for a picture, I want to recognize the Council of Braddock. We have the president here, obviously. We have some other members here. Do you guys want to stand, whoever is here from the Council of Braddock? Braddock has a wonderful Council that really cares about their community. Okay. And you'll see that in a little bit, in fact.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: And before they line up for pictures, parents, if you want to come up --- please help --- with your cameras. Please take pictures of your kids.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5284-09.

MR. BARKER: The following proclamations and certificates will all be read into the record.

Certificates of Achievement awarded to the Deer Lakes High School Student Council for raising funds and hosting the annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon. Sponsored by Council Members Burn and Rea.

5286-09. Certificate of Achievement honoring Samuel West for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Drozd.

5287-09. Proclamation honoring Ms. Eleanor Ott for receiving the Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University. Sponsored by Council Member Finnerty.

5288-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 85th birthday of Ms. Ezeline Tierney. Sponsored by Council Member Green-Hawkins.

5289-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 60th wedding anniversary of Robert and Gladys Baer. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

5290-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Janet and Bill Scharritter. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

5291-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed and Barb Pfeiffer. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

5292-09. Certificate of Achievement honoring Joshua Gibbons for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

5293-09. Certificates of Recognition honoring the 120th anniversary of Beulah Park United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Public comment on agenda items. We have a number of speakers this evening. I believe we have 35 speakers. What I'm going to do is I'm going to name the speaker and then I'll mention who is next. If the next speaker could please come up and be next to the podium so we could move forward. Our first speaker, Joy Sabl. Is Ms. Sabl here? Yes. Followed by Virginia Eskridge. Ms. Sabl, if you would come forward and state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. SABL: Joy Sabl, 7008 Willard Street. I don't know how long the UPMC went to you about the bond issue before they actually prepared to float the bond issue, but I do know that they only gave all of you six hours of notification before they decided to pull out of the Braddock community. I don't know whether all of the other organizations that could float a bond issue for them have an A+ rating, but I know that Allegheny County does now have an A+ bond rating. I would say that they are taking your A+ bond rating for granted. I know that if you do not float this bond for them, somebody else probably can. But you know what? If you don't feel respected by them, why don't you make them go someplace else? And you know what? We'll follow them to the next place they apply to and we'll ask them not to give their A+ or any other rating to UPMC.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Orenstein, you're going to have to move somewhere else. You're blocking the camera. You're welcome somewhere else. We want to let Ms. Sabl be heard and seen by the audience in Allegheny County. I'm sorry about that.

MS. SABL: And after we then go to, say, the higher education folks and tell them, let's not use your A or A- rating for UPMC, maybe they'll have to go someplace

with a B+ rating. And maybe they'll eventually decide that as a non-profit, it behooves them to look out for the weakest in the community, especially when they get grants specifically to do so. They have a five-year grant for doing minority healthcare studies in Braddock, which has only gone about, I think, three years into the process, yet they're pulling out of Braddock.

So, as long as they want to be treated as a true non-profit, not merely a non-profit on paper, I think we should call them on it. And I hope you will do your small part this time by not rubber-stamping the bond issue. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Sabl. Ms. Virginia Eskridge, followed by Edward Grystar or Grystar (changes pronunciation). Hope I pronounced that right. Ms. Eskridge, would you state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. ESKRIDGE: Yes. My name is Virginia Eskridge, and I live at 6220 Kentucky Avenue. And my ZIP code is 15206 in the City of Pittsburgh. Okay. I'm going to defer a little bit from what I was going to say because of these wonderful young people from Hillel Academy that are here and the wonderful study that they did of Braddock, which I had read about in The Post-Gazette. It's kind of almost like we dreamed this combination of testimony here. But I'm not sure if they were still working on their project when UPMC decided to close Braddock Hospital or how integral Braddock Hospital was to their study, but they --- UPMC is ripping the heart out of what's left of that sad community. So I think this will be a great civic study for you guys, to see what can happen when a totally irresponsible corporation decides they don't need to be in a community to help them anymore.

But what I wanted to say was that I started out working in the Mon Valley back in the '60s. I had a job as a recorder editor for a paper that no longer exists, The Homestead Messenger, voice of the Steel Valley. And I learned so much about corporate power and how things really were. But I also learned what a thriving community Braddock was back in those days. And I watched the decline that was brought about by the steel industry's abandonment of Braddock. And now we have another international corporation that has abandoned what's left of Braddock. And I think it's just a tragedy.

The one experience that I will never forget is that I did an article as a naïve young reporter on a steelworker who had fallen into an acid vat. And I called his family. I talked to his union cohorts. I did this investigative journalist exposé because the company had been warned that the catwalk --- that this vat was defective and they had never done anything about it. At any rate, when I turned in my article to the editor, he came out of his office and started to laugh. And he tore it up right in front of me and he said, you know, in Homestead, what happens in the mill is what the steel company says happened in the mill, and we're not going to print this. So I learned early on about corporate power and how it can destroy truth and honor in a community and how it can hurt individuals and collective labor unions in a community. So please don't pass this.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Eskridge. Edward Grystar, followed by Robin Clarke. Mr. Grystar, I hope I pronounced your name correctly.

MR. GRYSTAR: Yes. Edward Grystar, 717 Washington Avenue, ZIP code 15139. I'm here as a representative of the Western PA Coalition for Single-Payer Healthcare and also as a union representative with the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals. And briefly, I'd like to start off by saying I know that there are a number of speakers tonight. I don't know the mix, whether they are for or against, but I know that many of them --- many of you will probably dismiss many of the comments we can make, such as the previous two, and say that legalistically, it doesn't really matter. The UPMC is going to run off. They've got the power. The Post-Gazette had an article the other day, and basically, they were saying it's a fait accompli. It's a fatalistic --- windmills, why are you saying anything? They're going to just run away and you're going to give them the money, and it's going to be over, ha, ha, and you can't fight City Hall.

Well, I think the first people that were here today with the refugees from Burma, talking about the underpaid workers who were being exploited, is a classic example of why you've got to stand up and do the right thing. This investment that Ginny Eskridge talked about in the steel mills, that's another example of what's

happening and what has happened in corporate power when they just take advantage of our community.

And here today you have UPMC, hypocrisy on hypocrisy, funding a study on Braddock about minorities, and at the same time, leaving Braddock. How much more do you have to take before you just take a stand? You really have the opportunity to send a message, to send a message to our state legislator, send a message to our federal legislators, that there has to be some accountability here. Nobody should sit around and say that my hospital is shutting down and I read about it in the paper. That is obscene. That is wrong. That is just unethical.

And healthcare is a human right. You have to stand up and say that we deserve to have healthcare. Communities have to be notified. The public has to be aware of it. And what is the benefit here? I represent the nurses at Butler Hospital. I heard the people here talking about --- they're getting paid \$2 or \$3 an hour less than what --- why is it --- who's benefiting here? We actually have nurses at Butler Hospital, a small community hospital 35 miles away from here, they make \$2 and \$3 an hour more than the UPMC nurses.

So you give them more money, there's no guarantee the community is going to benefit. There's no guarantee the nurses are going to benefit. There's no guarantee anybody is going to benefit. Call the question. Say no.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Grystar. Robin Clarke, followed by Tony Buba. Ms. Clarke, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. CLARKE: My name is Robin Clarke, and my address is 312 West Street, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. And I'd just like to say I teach at the University of Pittsburgh. And one of the things I talk about with my students is having an assumption or thinking you're going to believe one thing and then taking the time to revisit something that you thought you knew so well. And I would ask the Council to try to revisit what they might think they think about this issue.

If you say yes to give UPMC a no-strings-attached bond, you sanction the decisions Jeffrey Romoff and the UPMC Board have made to recklessly endanger the welfare of citizens in our region. You say that the people of Braddock do not matter. When a woman or a man

or a child is in critical condition, the time it takes to reach a hospital means the difference between life or death. If you sanction UPMC's decision to close Braddock Hospital, you tell the people of Braddock that their lives are not important, that when they need urgent and immediate medical attention, it does not matter. I don't know about you, but I don't want to live in a place where some people matter and some people do not. I don't want to raise children in a region like that, and none of my friends want to live in a region like that.

If Allegheny County is trying to keep its young people living and working here, this is not the way to do it. Young people don't want to be affiliated with lawmakers who put corporate profit before the citizens they're supposed to serve. I pray that you cannot live with this type of thinking, either, and will table this cart blanche bond in order to draw a line in the sand, or rather, reach your arms around the people of this County, the ones who need you the most right now, who can't afford Lamborghinis, whose lives can be unbearably altered by the decision you make today.

Recently in his Peace Prize acceptance speech, President Obama said, security does not exist where human beings do not have access to enough food or clean water or the medicine they need to survive. It does not exist where children cannot aspire to a decent education or a job that supports a family. The absence of hope can rot a society from within. And that is why helping farmers feed their own people or nations, educate their children and care for the sick is not mere charity.

You have a great power here to direct the course of human affairs in this region. Please tell UPMC it cannot turn its back on your citizens. Say no to a no-strings-attached bond.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Clarke. Tony Buba, followed by Carlana Rhoten. Mr. Buba, would you state your name and address for the record, please?

MR. BUBA: My name is Tony Buba. I live at 68 Ridge Road, Braddock Hills, 15221. Yes, it is very difficult to follow Robin as she's just brilliant. But I just want to say I'm opposed to the bond issuance. I agree with Councilman Robinson. I do not believe UPMC has met the criteria. Under the PA law, this bond issuance is going to benefit anyone's healthcare but UPMC's. UPMC has

not negotiated in good faith with County Council, the County Executive and the Borough Council on the closing of the Braddock Hospital.

In fact, UPMC appears to have taken the position they do not care what the governing bodies might say or what their opinions are. They look at the governing bodies with disdain. This cannot be more obvious than the lack of notification that was given on the closing of UPMC-Braddock. We elected all of you to fight for us, not to succumb to a financial pittance that UPMC is offering in passage of this bond. The \$175,000 the County Development Authority will receive a year comes to about 14 cents a person in Allegheny County. In the 11 communities that have so far passed the resolution condemning UPMC's closure of Braddock Hospital, there are over 60,000 residents. We could probably pass a hat among those 60,000 and come up with that \$175,000 that the County wants. We need to send this message that UPMC --- the residents of Allegheny County are not here --- UPMC is here to serve --- the residents of Allegheny County are not here to serve UPMC. UPMC is here to serve all of us in our healthcare needs.

I was at the hospital this morning with my 88-year-old mother. She was getting blood work done. The room was filled with elderly people, some in wheelchairs, some of them, walkers, all of them in need. These are the wise sisters and soldiers of --- World War II vets, Korean vets, the servicemen who fought for us, the servicemen who gave us the democracy that we have today. We cannot throw these people under the bridge just for that meager \$175,000 a year. You need to veto this bill or add an addendum that would keep the Braddock Hospital open for six more months. If UPMC balks at this and takes the bond issuance elsewhere and refuses to negotiate, so be it. You'll then know how UPMC truly feels about our County government. You know, in the old days, what they would call this would be a kickback, blackmail or bribery. But now you get some fancy lawyers, gussy it up with some language, and it is what it is, though. So please reject this offer. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Buba. Carlana Rhoten, followed by Patricia Morgan. Ms. Rhoten, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. RHOTEN: Yes. Carlana Rhoten. I live at 5485 Hays Street, ZIP code 15206. The main point I want to make is that tax evasion --- I said tax evasion --- is a crime. And I have a paper here by a Mr. Jennings who wonders why UPMC has not been investigated yet by the FBI and the IRS, because it's tax evasion if you have --- if you claim the status of a non-profit corporation, but you behave like a for-profit corporation and you use your assets and your money in the same way that a private for-profit corporation would do so. And one of the questions is, the money that was used to buy the jet and to buy these hospitals around the world, is that money that would have come to Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh and the United States government if UPMC had not claimed a non-profit status? So if you're raising a bond, it may turn out that you're raising a bond for an institution that eventually may be accused of tax evasion. So I hope your legal people will look into that.

The second thing is UPMC has developed a reputation for abusing their doctors and their nurses. And it has become so powerful that only a professional who is prepared to leave the Pittsburgh region would dare complain or say anything about it. So a lot of people are hearing terrible stories by the professionals, the doctors and the nurses, about the way they're being abused and jerked around by the administration. And you won't hear about it because they may want to stay in this region.

And the third is that Lincoln referred to of the people, by the people and for the people. And I think what we see now, here and across the country, is of and by and for the corporations, whether they are non-profit or for-profit.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Rhoten. Patricia Morgan, followed by Denise Edwards. Ms. Morgan, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. MORGAN: Yes. My name is Pat Morgan. I live at 640 Corey Avenue. From my bathroom, I can see the hospital in Braddock. I've been at that hospital, my mother, my brother, my next-door neighbor. Millie fell off the wall this summer. She's 88. She had to go to Presby. Chester had to get a heart --- a pacemaker. He had to go to Jefferson. My mother had to go to Shadyside. My brother, several years ago, fell off a roof. Luckily,

he was able to be stabilized at Braddock before he was sent to a trauma center. And this morning I took my mother out to Forest Hill, where they've shipped a lot of the doctors. And some of the nurses that work there said they're not even sure who they work for right now. They don't even know who to answer to. And one woman is afraid, after working 29 and a half years at Braddock Hospital, that she is going to lose her home as well.

So I'm here because, like Jeremy (sic) Romoff, I'm greedy. I'm greedy, just like he is, but I'm greedy for justice. I'm greedy for stopping serious social sin by this token non-profit. I'm greedy for this non-profit that is bleeding all of our resources, that prettied up in the last year and a half the whole outside of the building. We are not statistics. We don't want them to sell us out for a pittance.

So what do we want? This is what we want. We want a thorough disclosure based on --- I think that's a legal requirement for this bond, what they're using the bond for, what that money's for. We also want to know what they're going to save in interest and --- you know, you make \$170,000, but maybe they're getting \$10,000,000. And I bet we could do a lot with \$10,000,000 in Braddock, because --- the other things we would need from them, if they are leaving, we need you to say no to this bond, because we're going to incur \$200,000 in water bills for a loss of that building.

We're going to lose \$80,000 to \$90,000 in tax base because of that. We want them to pay for those taxes for at least ten years. We want an 18-month minimum transition. We want engineering studies. We want an urgent care. We want outpatient labs. We want transportation funds. We want a feasibility study that UPMC, with all this money, if you do pass this bond, which I hope you don't, would pay for because it is outrageous that any company --- that anybody has the power to come into a community and rape its resources and give nothing back.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Morgan. Denise Edwards, followed by Joshua Zelesnick. Ms. Edwards, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Denise Edwards. I live at 118 Peebles Street in

Wilkinsburg, PA. This evening I'm here before you speaking on behalf of over 100,000 retired steelworkers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am the SOAR president for that group. SOAR is the Steelworkers Union Retirees Group. Steelworkers not only created the products, from steel to glass to nuclear energy that built the Greater Pittsburgh region, but we also built homes, raised families, creating communities and neighborhoods that are the absolute signature of Western Pennsylvania.

While the corporations got the plaques and pictures in the newspaper, the truth of the matter about Braddock is it was the bi-weekly payroll deduction of \$5 that many of our retired steelworkers paid for a decade that put a new wing on that hospital. Indeed, we have not only a financial interest, but the interest of the steelworkers currently working for U.S. Steel at the Edgar Thompson Works on the issue of safety and rapid response to accidents which occur in the mill.

Steelworkers have a very revolutionary idea about healthcare, by the way. Our idea of community hospitals is actually bringing life into the world, treating and curing diseases, mending bones and improving the quality of life. That's why we go to work every day. It is really not about the bottom line. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center appears far more dedicated, like my employer, U.S. Steel --- or former employer, U.S. Steel, to profits and CEO paychecks. Their vision is not healthy, thriving communities and neighborhoods. Their reality is shuttered plants, boarded-up buildings alongside drug-ridden streets.

Their reality is the closing of the Braddock Hospital on January 31st. And like U.S. Steel and Westinghouse shutting down plants, UPMC is closing Braddock with one stroke of the pen. They asked for no public input, no impact study and certainly no consultation with the elected officials.

The point I want to make, because I see my time is expiring, is that in this community, we have all been lied to. In their October 16th letter to the community, UPMC said that it was closing --- I won't read the whole quote, but it was closing because of a lack of usage at the hospital. But the Pennsylvania Health Department disputes that. Employees at the Braddock Hospital actually exceeded West Penn and UPMC-Mercy and four other facilities in the area.

I would urge Council to please investigate before you vote. As one of the previous speakers has pointed out, voting on this bond issue tonight without a thorough investigation, without a thorough hearing and vetting of this issue places the county in jeopardy and certainly takes this Council, I believe, in a direction it does not want to go. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Joshua Zelesnick, followed by Gretchen Neibert. I hope I pronounced your name right, Mr. Zelesnick. Is that ---?

MR. ZELESNICK: Yeah, that's correct, Zelesnick.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Would you state your name and address for the record, please?

MR. ZELESNICK: My name is Joshua Zelesnick. I live at 312 West Street, Wilkesburg, PA. I'm only going to speak for a couple of seconds, and the rest of my time I'd like to yield to Jan McMannis, if that's ---?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Go ahead.

MR. ZELESNICK: I just want to say if you condone this, if you pass this bond, then you are condoning this type of business. And UPMC is going to do this again. They're going to do it again. Maybe they're going to --- what hospital is going to go next here? Which one of our community hospitals are going to go next? As a young person living here, this isn't the city I want to live in, to see this happening to citizens in my community, to see something like this go away. The burden is on you. You have the power to not pass this, and you know, set some kind of standard. Draw the line in the sand. Say we're not going to let you, UPMC, you know, get whatever you want, whenever you want it. So don't pass this bond issue.

People living in a poor community that Hillel Academy said in their study --- I believe --- did you say, Braddock is the poorest community in the state? In the county. How are people supposed to get to a hospital 15 minutes away? What if a child has asthma and --- you know, how long do you have to get to a hospital, five, ten minutes? Five minutes, something like that. All right. A minute's up. I got that. I'll end there.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Zelesnick.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Gretchen Neibert? Is Gretchen Neibert here? Neibert, Neibert (changes pronunciation), followed by David Hughes. Ms. Neibert?

MS. NEIBERT: Neibert (changes pronunciation).

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Neibert. I'm sorry. Would you state your name and address for the record, please?

MS. NEIBERT: My name is Gretchen Neibert. I'm a citizen of College Hill. I have talked to a lot of Allegheny County residents. And throughout the County, everyone is concerned that if UPMC-Braddock is allowed to move its location without being --- or get the bond and put money elsewhere within the County without being asked where those monies are going and whether or not they're serving the needs of the residents as a not-for-profit entity, that this is a sign of what will happen to the rest of the County throughout. And I think it's up to you to explain to them how that could be possible.

We want to know where the money is going, why it's not going to the residents of Braddock, why that hospital is going to be allowed to move when it's going to wreak economic havoc on the residents of Braddock. And furthermore, I'm concerned about competition in the region. If UPMC is allowed to put its money elsewhere, what will happen to affordable healthcare in the region and the competition that is --- whether or not competition can thrive in our region? I think that's all up to you, and we're looking to you to do that for us, to challenge them.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Neibert. David Hughes, followed by Jim Kidd. Mr. Hughes, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. HUGHES: David Hughes, 4037 Ludwick Street, Pittsburgh, 15217. I'm here wearing several hats. I'm the executive director of Citizen Power, which is a Pittsburgh-based healthcare and energy advocacy organization. But I'm also on the Board of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Single-Payer Healthcare and I'm a proud member of the organization called Save Our Community Hospitals.

On November 18th, I believe, County Executive Onorato came to Braddock and spoke to many people at the library, claiming that he's going to do everything he can to keep the hospital open. He never mentioned that on

November 6th, UPMC filed an application for this bond issue. He never mentioned that. So the first thing he does after he promises us that he's going to do everything he can to keep the hospital open is introduce this bill, to my understanding, to give UPMC \$1.275 billion. So I think we know where Mr. Onorato stands.

The question is where do you stand? Because we can't count on our senators, state senators --- I mean, our federal senators. Casey and Doyle, we can't count on them. They haven't said a word about this. We can't count on the Legislature. They let the Certificate of Need legislation sunset so these hospitals, conglomerates like UPMC, can use predatory practices to eliminate the predators. Because that's all they're doing. That's all this is about. The truth is that Braddock isn't underutilized and it didn't lose money. It's just set up that way so that they can justify the closing.

So you need to make a decision here whether or not you're going to make a symbolic gesture, especially Mr. Fitzgerald, because you're running County Council. Because listen, we have had testimony from people in our organization that because of Braddock Hospital, their loved ones were saved because of the proximity to their home. What that means is if that hospital closes, some people are going to die because of the distance they're going to have to go. And what that means is that if you take money from UPMC, you're taking blood money. That's what that means. I'm not saying you're responsible for the deaths, but you're taking money from an organization that unfairly and unnecessarily closes a hospital that causes deaths in the future. And you're taking that money from them. That's blood money. Think about it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Hughes. Jim Kidd, followed by Councilwoman Tina Doofe. Mr. Kidd, would you state your name and address for the record?

MR. KIDD: Yes. My name is Jim Kidd, and I live at 527 Corey Avenue in Braddock. And I don't want you to vote for this bond issue. I live in Braddock, and Braddock is surrounded by communities that are just as bad, Rankin, Swissvale, North Braddock, Homestead. And most of the people that live there are poor, minorities and underprivileged. But I'd also like to say for some reason, Braddock has become the poster child for all things bad. But the whole community is like that.

Rankin, Braddock, Swissvale is the same way. And it's filled with poor people. And another thing I'd like to say, what's happening is that UPMC is steamrolling over the hospital and the whole area, and what it's leaving behind are victims. And what it means is that poor people, minority people and underprivileged people become victims again.

So what I hope happens --- when you came here today, you did not --- and nobody talks about this. You did not leave your humanity outside, because UPMC is not in the business of healing or causing no harm. They're causing a lot of harm. So what I'm saying to you is that you vote with your hearts and not with your pocketbooks, because UPMC is going to save millions and millions of dollars and you guys are going to get pennies. You're not going to benefit from anything they have. So if you don't pass this bond issue, the bond issue will be past. And I'd like to yield the time I have left to Reverend McDonald. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Reverend McDonald is on the list. Braddock Council Member Tina Doofe. Did I pronounce that properly?

MS. DOOSE: No, you did not.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I apologize.

MS. DOOSE: It's Tina Doose.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Doose. I apologize.

MS. DOOSE: I have a handout.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: If you want to give it to the clerk, that would be fine.

MS. DOOSE: I'll be brief. And that is just an editorial piece I wrote that was in the Trib, because I won't be able to get all of my sentiments in about UPMC or Braddock Hospital. So I want to be concise. I'm here to discuss the bond issue. Again, my name is Tina Doose, and I live in Braddock at 13 Holland Avenue, and I'm a Councilwoman there. And after much thought and consideration, I do understand many of the difficult dynamics around this bond. I ask County Council to approve this bond request with the following contingency.

Currently, it seems like there is approximately \$175,000 a year the County will benefit from this bond issuance, and Braddock in no way directly benefits. And that amounts to approximately \$5,250,000 over a 30-year period, because that \$175,000 is annually, if I'm correct.

I want you to increase that. I propose this evening that you vote to increase that amount from \$175,000 a nominal amount, to \$200,000 annually. And then over a 30-year period, that would increase that bond revenue to approximately \$6,000,000. And that \$25,000 annually would go to offset some of the costs that we're going to incur with the tax revenue that will be depleted. It amounts to \$750,000 to Braddock over a 30-year period. I'd like it earmarked in that way. And that would be important to our community.

As many have stated, this is one of the poorest and predominantly African-American communities in all of Allegheny County. And we need help. UPMC has made a decision that --- I still believe meetings are not over. They're planning and they're talking to many involved. But we want more. We want help. We need assistance. I know we are --- we're fighting a difficult battle. But I think today by making that decision, by changing that amount, your fee amount slightly, will greatly help the Braddock community. And it will send a statement, because I know that County government has to function. I understand what a bottom line is. But it will send a statement to Braddock, to many people here that you've done something to say that you're concerned, something. We haven't asked out there, and you have not given them what they want carte blanche. You've made a change, and it will be an important statement, at least, by my assessment.

And I'm going to leave you with thoughts of a great leader, in my estimate, which is Franklin D. Roosevelt. And he said in 1944, help us to conquer the apostles of greed and of ignorance. And I ask today that you help us to conquer those apostles of greed and ignorance today. Help us.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilwoman. Reverend James McDonald? Reverend McDonald? Reverend McDonald, followed by Brett Banditelli.

REVEREND MCDONALD: My name is Reverend James McDonald. I live at 229 Rochelle Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Councilman President, Rich Fitzgerald, and members of Council, I'm Reverend James McDonald, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Braddock Hills and president of Greater Braddock Ministerial Association. For approximately ten years between the mid-'70s and '80s,

I was employed in Braddock as a respiratory therapist at Braddock General Hospital, later Braddock Medical Center, now UPMC-Braddock Hospital. I smelled the smoke of firefighters that have come on any shift that I worked. I have seen little babies come in that we've tried to save. I have seen a young lady come in pink by color that had carbon monoxide poisoning. I ran in approximately every room that is in that hospital to try and save lives.

UPMC-Braddock Hospital is about a 123-bed hospital, eight intensive care units, eight surgical intensive care units, seven-bed coronary care unit, operating rooms, emergency room and all related departments. Cafeteria, gift shop, certainly a viable hospital. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, UPMC, in their effort to receive additional finance in the form of tax-exempt bonds, knowing that down through the years they, UPMC, has received such financing of which they probably have never fully repaid; have they?

UPMC would have you believe that in 1996, they, UPMC, acquired the then-failing Braddock Medical Center. Further, they, UPMC, would have you, Allegheny Council, believe that UPMC has invested more than \$60 million in an effort to make UPMC-Braddock Hospital a financially responsible and viable institution.

UPMC contends that they provided \$30 million in capital projects to improve UPMC-Braddock Hospital, launched a number of outreach and marketing initiatives to better serve the community and increase awareness and have allocated funds in support of community-based physician practices and other in-kind health and social services. Braddock Hospital already had --- Braddock Hospital already had this when UPMC made their purchase. So in reality, what happened to the money? Who received it? How much of this money was borrowed tax-exempt funds? Furthermore, was any of this money used to pay off acquired UPMC debt?

UPMC would have Allegheny Council and perhaps the Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the Pittsburgh City mayor, that despite UPMC efforts, UPMC has absorbed nearly \$27 million in operating losses over the past six years at UPMC-Braddock, that they, UPMC, project another \$50 million in operating losses in the next five to six years. Council members, vote to rescind Resolution 5240-09. Rescind any request by UPMC president and executives of the issuance of financial relief, especially from the Allegheny County

Hospital Development Authority in respect to tax-exempt bonds.

I'm not going to read all of this because time is short. But there was an article that was written on December 1st where Council Member Chuck McCullough had an objection where County Executive Onorato is opposed to it. That's in the handout, so I'm not going to read that. I'm going to go to the very end. If UPMC wants to borrow money to provide a new hospital in Monroeville where there is an existing hospital, West Penn-Allegheny, they may need to borrow that money from places like --- there are hospitals in Qatar, in places like Ireland, a medical center in Cyprus. They need to. So I'm asking the County to rescind. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Reverend McDonald. Brett Banditelli, we're going to go out of order for a personal friend of Mr. Banditelli. We're going to have --- Councilman Jesse Brown will be next in line. Mr. Banditelli?

MR. BANDITELLI: Yeah. Brett Banditelli, 500 Della Drive, North Versailles. This entire debate, all I've heard is numbers and how the County has been helping Braddock so much. But they have been helping us, and we appreciate that. You're telling us this bond issue is going to help those numbers, but it's only a small amount, \$175,000. UPMC is saying they came here --- even though you have no power, but they came here because they want to give that money to the community.

UPMC has billions in assets. They give their CEO \$4.5 million a year. If they want to give us \$175,000 a year, they can just give us \$175,000 a year. For years, they've been fighting every inch and every penny to make sure that they're saving money around here, from limiting services to making sure that employees don't have safe work hours, and now closing community hospitals. And now they say they want to give back to the community? I don't really understand. Maybe they're doing that because they're getting bad PR from somebody. Or maybe it's just an economic thing. It's probably an economic thing.

In the course of that article, they said there was about ten other authorities with comparable fees. To me, that means there's probably nine with higher fees, because that's usually how people like this operate. In the same article in The Post-Gazette, they said how great

they were because they employ 50,000 people. Well, does that include the people they're about to fire from Braddock? Because that number still hasn't been solidified, though. It's been jumping around.

I'm serious. Do not pass this bond, because over the past couple of years, they've claimed that their main ethic is honesty, and they're not being honest to us. They claim that their main value is people, as the greatest asset. And they've proven that people are not their main asset in this hospital closure. They've lost sight of their mission. And tonight, if you deny this bond, hopefully, it will help them, along with us, get them back on the right track. We're with you if you're with us.

Now, I just want UPMC to know that they think that when this hospital closes, the community's going to go away. That's just the beginning of our campaign.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Next is the president of Braddock Council, Mr. Jesse Brown. Mr. Brown, welcome. Councilman?

MS. BROWN: Thank you. I want to thank you, President and Council members. I also want to commend and thank Amanda Green for being elected to a full term and the Hillel Academy for its coming to Braddock and doing some wonderful things. I'd asked for a change of rotation of how we're speaking this evening because I have to leave. I have to go back to Braddock for a budget meeting.

And I'm asking you, please do not re-finance the bond issue for UPMC. If you think that it's necessary that you have to sign this bond issue, I would request that you put stipulations in there. Put some stipulations in there to give Braddock a little more time. They notified me Thursday night at 8:20 that they were going to be closing and have an announcement Friday morning that Braddock Hospital was going to close. That's not the way to do business, not professional people. We should have been notified or even talked to long before this happened.

But I am under the impression that if that \$170,000 that we're going to get --- nobody has said how much it's going to save UPMC by refinancing the bonds. All I was told --- I was told this by a County member --- it's going to be millions, millions, millions and millions. I said, how many millions? He said, just a lot

of millions. And we're going to get \$170,000, being sold down the drain, as far as I'm concerned. I've got to go back to Braddock this evening for a budget meeting, and I'm going to have to raise taxes two and a half mills because of what they're doing. And I just think it's unethical for you to vote this thing in when we're going to raise taxes in a community that's halfway devastated now. It doesn't make sense.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. Ed Cloonan, followed by Carmella Mullen. Is Ed Cloonan here? I'm sorry. Go ahead. Mr. Cloonan, followed by Carmella Mullen. Mr. Cloonan, if you would state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. CLOONAN: Yes. I have copies of ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you want to give them to the clerk?

MR. CLOONAN: My name is Ed Cloonan, 877 11th Avenue Extension, Munhall, Pennsylvania. As a 62-year-old lifelong resident of Munhall, I am here to talk about three topics, hopefully one minute each, healthcare, UPMC and the Democratic party.

UPMC is a non-profit charity. Their unilateral announcement of the closing of Braddock Hospital is emblematic of the failed healthcare system in our country. There is an inherent irresolvable conflict between the idea that healthcare is a human right and the counter-imposing idea that healthcare should be a commodity to be bought and sold in the cancerous for-profit healthcare model.

We all see and hear the UPMC corporate excesses, the \$750,000 obscene sign on top of the building, Jeff Romoff's \$4.5 million salary, the UPMC corporate jet, the \$1,000-an-hour Hollywood-for-the-Stars public relations spinmeister and the latest picture of the \$250 million hole in the ground in Monroeville to put another hospital across the street out of business. At the same time, less profitable waiting lists of detox and mental health patients languish in the Mon Valley, victims of UPMC profitability.

I have seen my neighborhood of Homestead/Munhall, two miles from Braddock Hospital, change from working class to poor folks because lives were destroyed by corporate decisions to make profits in other endeavors in other lands three decades ago. Our

Democratic local elected officials said back then, we can do nothing to stop U.S. Steel. Today we hear Democratic elected officials are helpless to stop UPMC. Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, Homestead, Whitaker, West Homestead and Munhall have been loyal daughters and sons of the Democratic Party for 75 years, workers both white-ethnic and African-American.

We cannot blame George Bush, Sarah Palin and even the memory of Ronald Reagan. We have a Democratic president. We have two Democratic U.S. senators, a Democratic U.S. Congressman, a Democratic governor, a Democratic state senator, a Democratic State House member, a Democratic County Executive and would-be governor and a Democratic County --- I don't want to forget you guys --- and a Democratic-controlled County Council. All your actions speak more than your words, who this two-party duopoly serves. I suggest the wealthy and their political contributions.

Please, please, prove me to be as disingenuous as UPMC tonight. Prove me wrong. Vote to delay any approval of UPMC bonds until Jeffrey Romoff announces that Braddock Hospital will remain open.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Carmella Mullen, followed by Janice McMannis.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Mr. Fitzgerald? Point of order. I notice there's been some handouts delivered to the parliamentarian.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Is there any problem circulating those?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No. Sorry. Jared, can you pass those around? Ms. Mullen --- I'm sorry. Name and address for the record, please.

MS. MULLEN: Yes. Carmella Mullen, 426 2nd Street, Braddock, Pennsylvania, 15104. Good evening, President and Council members. Everybody's got a lot of things I wanted to say, but I'll just reiterate on some of the things that I want to talk about. I'm here to protest the bond issue to UPMC, and I will state some reasons why. First, I had an opportunity to watch the broadcasting of the County Council meeting on December 1st, where the bond issue was really a hot issue. There was a lot of discussion and questions raised by the bond issue in regard to the closing of UPMC-Braddock Hospital by many

Council members. What sticks out in my mind is the terminology that Councilman Robinson used. Send it to the committee and let it marinate, he kept saying, repeating it over and over again. What is the rush? And my question to you, what is the rush? There are so many unanswered questions that were raised by the recent press release from Councilman Robinson. And I mean, I don't know if I have to read some of these for the record, but I'm sure all of you see this. Where's the bond money being spent? What is the pay-down from 1988? What were the bonds used for back then? There's no answers to this unless you have and we're not being privy to the answers to that.

I also attended the Economic Development Committee meeting that was held last week. While we were not able to speak or ask questions, County Council Representative Dr. Martoni had asked UPMC solicitor many questions, one being to go back to the UPMC and ask them for a six-month extension, voicing our concerns as a community and to seek another facility who may be interested, as we would need additional time. The answer was --- he was supposed to bring it back from the UPMC. I guess the answer was in Friday's Tribune Review, but I have stated here, the hospital has already started the process of admitting no more patients, transferring patients, stopping surgeries, et cetera. Thank you, UPMC.

Also, there's a public safety issue in this community and other communities surrounding. When our police officers have to leave the street to go to another hospital, it leaves the officer in jeopardy, not only us. The numbers that are used by our ZIP codes are not really comparable to what the numbers are about the usage of the hospital. We have many people who come from Pitcairn, Wilkinsburg, Forest Hills, Braddock Hills, Swissvale, Munhall, Whitaker, Homestead. None of those numbers were used in their comparison numbers to say there's under-usage of Braddock Hospital.

I would ask you, please, to reconsider this. Table it. Put some contingencies on this bond issue. Make sure that they sit down at the table, that they will find a usage for this building, not leave a white elephant in the middle of Braddock that we don't need. We need some answers. And thank you, our representatives, for standing up for us. I appreciate it, Dr. Martoni. Thank you. If I have any time left --- I don't. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Mullen. Janice McMannis? Janice McMannis, followed by Steffi Domike --- Steffi Domike (changes pronunciation). Ms. McMannis, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. MCMANNIS: I'm Jan McMannis. I live at 68 Ridge Road, Braddock Hills, 15221, a ZIP code often left out of the service area that UPMC says it serves, although I'm a mile from the hospital. And I'm also a member of Save Our Community Hospitals. I'm requesting the Council vote against the resolution to approve the issuing of tax-exempt refunding bonds that will benefit UPMC. This resolution should not be approved by Council until agreements are reached among Braddock Borough, Allegheny County Council and UPMC about how healthcare will be provided to the Mon Valley residents who depend on Braddock Hospital to serve them if --- and that's a big if --- the hospital closes. These are residents who are too old, too sick and often too poor to travel far outside their community for timely care.

The resolution states that by approving the bonds, Council is benefiting the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County. However, if you approve this resolution today with no restrictions placed on UPMC, it sends a message that County Council is only concerned about benefiting UPMC for Council's own political agendas, and that you are unwilling to listen to the voices of the citizens of the Mon Valley.

I am holding a petition signed by hundreds of citizens who elected you as their representatives. The petition asks that Braddock Hospital be kept open. In addition to the hundreds of citizens who have signed this petition, ten Mon Valley boroughs have passed a resolution supporting Braddock in its efforts to keep the hospital open. More borough councils will be voting on this resolution this week. These councils are not simply supporting Braddock out of brotherly love. They are passing this resolution because they know their residents rely on Braddock Hospital.

I'm not going to read the entire resolution, but I do have a copy for you to read, and I urge you to do so. Tonight if Council passes the bond resolution without amendments, you're proving that you have no power. And therefore, we, the citizens you represent, have no power.

You are proving that we do not live in a democracy where elected officials fight for our health and welfare, but a society controlled by multi-national corporations which are governed by their own greed and not by what is best for the people they are supposed to serve. Please do not pass this resolution. Listen to the citizens, not the corporation.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, McMannis. Steffi Domike, followed by Apostle Edward Scott. Ms. Domike, if you'd just give those to the clerk. Mr. Barker, would you distribute those to members of Council, please? Ms. Domike?

MS. DOMIKE: One copy.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Oh, just one copy? Okay. Never mind.

MS. DOMIKE: Steffi Domike, 5633 Woodmont Street, Pittsburgh, 15217. And I am a former member of Steelworkers Local 1557 in Clairton, Clairton Works. And I just want to say that this year, there was a fatality at Clairton, and that both the steel mills --- U.S. Steel is cutting down on the health services available for emergencies in both mills. And they're counting on public facilities to save lives for accidents that happen. And industry accidents happen. We in the Steelworkers have a fatality every week, on average. And this is just within our union, and in the non-union plants it's even higher. And this is an industrial area, so we are very concerned that there are --- you know, these are lives that will be at stake.

And then another concern is for the residents of Braddock, many who do not have vehicles, that there is --- you know, we don't have transportation for people to go to other hospitals and other health facilities. But I'm going to cede the rest of my time to Mel Packer or whoever else needs it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Apostle Edward Scott, followed by Nathan Bunn. Mr. Scott, if you would state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. SCOTT: My name is Edward Earl Scott. I'm the founder of the Black Foundation Institute of Care Group International. That's a true charitable organization founded in Los Angeles. I watched the scenario --- thank you for this opportunity to speak ---

in Los Angeles. As I speak, the Los Angeles County Hospital is closed. That's a 500-bed hospital with a catchment area of over three million people. Many of them are poor and African-American and Latino. But that hospital was closed. And the reason it's closed is because no entity can pick it up. Once you close it, you lose the certification. You lose the licensure. So if you want to keep Braddock open to keep serving the community, you have some problems with the entity, it being a wealth --- they want to move from a poor area to a wealthy area. That's the big problem.

If the procedures were taken that were suggested, the facility would still be open. Here in this situation, Braddock and surrounding regions are asking you to help them to keep the hospital open and continue to provide services. I'm offering my services. I don't operate under any of the non-profit organizations. I've never taken a salary, but I do provide the skill and the abilities that have been given to me and the people that work with me to help both sides in this issue.

I will say this in closing. UPMC has a mechanism right within this organization to deal with this. It's called the diversity initiative and inclusion policy. I met with their people, and they're excluding the whole entity here. So that's the question. And if you aid and abet them in giving them more money to continue to develop, then that should be something you really want to consider. So again, I'm here to help in this situation. Thank you very much for hearing my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Nathan Bunn, followed by Kathy Sweeney. Mr. Bunn, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. BUNN: Nathaniel Bunn, 116 Ninth Street, Braddock, Pennsylvania. Hello, ladies and gentlemen of the Council. Hello, first of all --- and thank you for the opportunity to speak, and the gentlemen earlier, good job on your project. I'm here representing --- as president of Gathered Peoples Movement, a non-profit organization which has been established by me and my fellow colleagues.

Tonight is about the poorest community in Braddock losing its only hospital, losing many job opportunities, losing its once revered name and becoming a

school project. Tonight is about the hope and restoring Braddock as a neighborhood, making a stand once and for all on how the citizens of Braddock have been undermined. What job opportunities even exist? Couldn't some money be saved from what Mayor Ravenstahl received? I'm not sure what it was spent for, but it was in the paper.

There are a lot of mixed feelings in this room tonight. What is more important, healthcare, the life of the children, people, the elderly, or is it the money? The same thing that these small business owners are yearning for, to open up businesses and employ people. How do we give the youth or the rehabilitated more reason to do other than the right --- to do something other than the right thing, when the right thing is two to three busses away or you need a car to get to work?

As I grew up, I saw so many different establishments fall. I've also seen crime fall significantly, too. Rejecting this offer is an opportunity to show us, the proud and hardworking citizens of Braddock, that our citizens can have the same opportunities as other neighborhoods around Pittsburgh. Approving this bond is a way of truly turning Braddock into a ghost town and give the youth the impression that when they got sick or when the swine flu became a national emergency, it was cheaper to close the hospital. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Bunn. Kathy Sweeney, followed by Jim White. Ms. Sweeney, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MS. SWEENEY: Kathy Sweeney, 215 Lehigh Street, and that's in Edgewood, PA. Coming at the very end like this, everything's been said. And I say Amen. It's been said, we hope it's been heard. You are our elected officials. You have the power and you have the time. The world's not going to stop if you don't pass this bond tonight. You have the time to think, digest and really consider, do you absolutely have to do this for UPMC? What's their next request going to be? We know the needs of Braddock and Edgewood and Swissvale and Munhall. Really use your power. Really use the power of time. You do not have to act on this tonight. There's a lot to think about. Any time left, if anybody wants to take it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Sweeney. Jim White? Jim White, followed by Rick Williams. Mr. White, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. WHITE: I'm Jim White. I live at 6 Enfield Street in Pittsburgh. I'm representing the Military and Veterans Advocacy Council of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh. Our center, our little think tank on Pride Street, has produced several national publications this year regarding veterans, veterans' families and those returning Pennsylvania National Guard and their families. Braddock Hospital, on page one of my presentation that I'll give to the parliamentary, shows that UPMC-Braddock received a gold medal for the services that it provides for the joint accreditation hospitals.

If an Olympian goes to Beijing and wins the Gold Medal and they come home and they do a Nike commercial, Nike doesn't take away the Gold Medal if they don't make any money for Nike. Why are we taking away a gold medal in the areas of addiction care for an inpatient, medical detoxification based on a doctor's orders, which is an inpatient facility, the alcohol and drug rehabilitation inpatient and the mental health inpatient 24-hour acute care/crisis that Braddock is absolutely loved for in this community? UPMC receives a great deal of money from Tricare, and in the report that I'll give to the parliamentary, you'll find that in the last analysis, they've got about \$700,000 serving our families, our warriors with healthcare needs and may be transferred over to the VA or the Walter Reed, et cetera.

The point is, they are provided with so much by the staff, not the Board. The staff makes this happen, from the janitors to the doctors at Braddock-UPMC. I need to look out for them because quite a few of them have called me, and they're veterans. I'm imploring --- the veteran community in this area is horrible, and we need to preserve and protect every job we can. Also in your agenda, you call for a board to be presented to watch over UPMC. We want to make sure there's some veterans on board, that board, to watch out for the VA's interests and the Tricare interest as well. And we'd like to be able to have a word in that. I'd like to waive the rest of my time. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. White. Rick Williams, followed by Charles McCollester. Mr. Williams, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. WILLIAMS: Rick Williams, 206 Briaridge Drive, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. Esteemed colleagues, Council members, my request is to table this vote for UPMC until they adequately address the issues of the Braddock community. However, if the Council sees fit to pass this, County body, UPMC, to let me appropriately ask these conditions to be included in the allocation. Payment of feasibility study for multiple uses. You figure utilities, as far as the different types of usage in the facility that can be utilized for the 22,000 square foot facility. A five-year interest difference from their existing bond that they have. And to make it simple for everybody, it's just like refinancing your home mortgage. We want the difference for that for five years to go to the remediation and to the care of the facility and also for any additional information that I'm going to mention to you today.

Taxes on the property. You figure, if you live in a house, you have to pay taxes every year. UPMC should not be excluded from that. It should be collected and going to the Borough of Braddock until a suitable suitor is established at the current market rate value and the square footage. Payment of security of the grounds and the retainment of the medical equipment in the facility, engineering studies and current maintenance of the existing structure until a buyer is identified.

Multiple copies --- and Joy Sabl, our first speaker --- I should have referenced this earlier, but I want to give you the actual reference. It's called Healthy People 2010. It's a study that was conducted by UPMC five years ago in addressing the health disparities in the Mon Valley, which includes Braddock. A system of recruitment of a possible suitor that meets the needs of the community, community input on the design and future meeting and involvement that are transparent and forthright. Just like all of you, right, forthright.

If you choose to pass this bond issue in its true form, you're doing a disservice to the poor, the under-employed, the under-represented and elderly residents of the black community and the Mon Valley community. Please don't be a rubber stamp to this bond

issue. Please make these conditions before they run through. Do what's necessary and do what's important for all the people that are here and also the people that you're going to be neglecting if you pass it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Williams. Charles McColleston, followed by Mel Parker. Mr. McColleston, your name and address for the record, please.

MR. MCCOLLESTER: Charles McColleston, 35 Soffel Street, Pittsburgh, 15211. I want to make three points. First, we're here today asking Allegheny County Council to demonstrate backbone, demonstrate political courage and take a firm and decisive action to help UPMC to do what is right and reverse their decision to close Braddock Hospital. This community hospital is an important human asset in one of the most historic and poorest areas of our region. Older than UPMC itself, filled by generations of steelworkers and their families, this critical community institution is being sacrificed to an ambitious expansion plan that targets a weaker healthcare competitor.

This action by UPMC follows the closing of other community hospitals in Aliquippa, Pittsburgh's South Side and elsewhere. We fear for the survival of McKeesport and other community healthcare providers that are not generating revenue sufficient for the UPMC's global ambitions. Is this bond issued to be used to drive out all the local alternatives to UPMC's monopolistic control of our region's healthcare services? And can any of you, Democrats or Republicans, maintain that such predatory behavior to destroy competition in the public interest that you are sworn to uphold?

Second, we believe this entirely inappropriate for a supposed non-profit to take money and resources from its home base of western Pennsylvania to invest in profit-making medical facilities in Qatar, the Persian Gulf, Italy, Ireland, Great Britain and Cyprus, money derived from our immorally expensive health system that contributes to the non-competitiveness of our nation's industry and undermines American jobs. It's invested abroad while the crying needs of the local communities are being ignored. Such behavior is simply evil. Hidden profits from decades of overcharging the people and businesses of Western Pennsylvania are being used to build a global healthcare empire.

Third, the failure of the non-profits to pay a fair share of the maintenance of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County is hindering economic development and a prime contributor to the closings of public recreation senior centers, neighborhood libraries and the recent, this, and more throughout the future.

I'm adamantly opposed to taxing of students. We're not taxing income. We're taxing and adding to their debt. But in the city and County, we're unable to impose any wage tax on the Jeffrey Romoffs of the world, who pays the identical occupation tax as the janitors that clean his building. His \$4.5 million salary is a moral affront to people of Allegheny County whose government is asked to float huge bonds and to the people of Pittsburgh whose government UPMC arrogantly refuses to pay a fair share to maintain. Please don't sell out Braddock for 30 pieces of silver. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. McCollester. Mel Parker? Mel Parker, followed by Mike Stout. Mr. Parker, if you'd state your name and address for the record, please.

MR. PACKER: My name is Mel Packer. I live at 623 Kirtland Street, Pittsburgh, 15208. I come before you today as a healthcare employee and provider and taxpayer of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, a homeowner and registered member of the Green Party and a father who is attempting to raise two children to believe that all financial decisions made by us as individuals and those made by elected representatives as well must be judged not only on the basis of fiscal responsibility, but on the moral and ethical implications of those decisions.

Having said that, I have to ask you, our County Council members, to explain to me and the citizens of this County when it became okay to make deals with the devil. If your only finance --- if your only fiscal responsibility is to make investment decisions based on financial criteria, then we could make far more profit by investing surplus dollars in blood diamonds mined by slaves in African nations. We could issue a bond to support arms traffickers around the world, who deal in death on a daily basis but make bundles of money. We choose not to do so because such investments and loans are morally reprehensible to our community. To put it bluntly, we don't deal with the devil.

And if that is the case, then make no mistake, the corporation known as UPMC and its CEO, Jeffrey Romoff, are western Pennsylvania's devil. UPMC displays a chronic disdain for its employees, particularly its lowest paid employees in its consistently low wage scale and demand for increased productivity from them. UPMC is an arrogant bully that has and continues to demonstrate that its decisions to expand, close and alter its facilities cannot and should not be questioned by anyone.

While it claims to be non-profit, it proudly announces another year in which its profits, or actually, they call it surplus revenues, will likely again exceed \$600 million while it expands operations overseas. And in Braddock, it displays over and over again by public statement and policy that it has total disregard for the citizens and residents of one of our poorest communities, claiming that UPMC cannot afford small losses while it builds a new hospital costing \$250 million right down the road from an established, well-run, long-standing hospital that serves the Monroeville population but is a UPMC competitor. This is called predatory capitalism, most recently practiced to the disadvantage of this nation's citizens by Wall Street bankers, and now UPMC practices in the same way on the citizens of Braddock.

And I implore you, Council members, no matter what profit you might make by agreeing to this bond issue, no matter how threatened you may feel by the power and might of UPMC, no matter how much you may count on campaign contributions from UPMC executives, to stand with the citizens of western Pennsylvania, and in particular, Braddock and tell UPMC no. Stand up for human rights. Stand up for human dignity. Stand up for your own conscience. Take the moral high ground and tell UPMC no bond issue until it stops acting as our ruler and begins to be a responsible member of our community. Make no deals with the devil, not today, not tomorrow, not ever.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Packer. Mike Stout, followed by Barbara Erensberger.

MR. STOUT: My name is Mike Stout. I live at 4223 Willow Avenue, Castle Shannon, PA. If the shutdown of the parkway this past Sunday doesn't show you, brothers and sisters, why we need Braddock Hospital to stay open and shoot this bond down, nothing will. Twenty-five (25) years ago, four of you sitting up at that table, four of

you, were on the front lines this very month 25 years ago fighting to stop the shutdown of the Duquesne Works Dorothy Six. Twenty-five (25) years ago.

I'm asking you to stand up today and stop the new big bully, the new vulture, the new bad boy on the block, UPMC, from crushing its most vulnerable citizens, the sickest, the poorest and the oldest people in Allegheny County. That's what the vote today represents. Are you going to stand with UPMC or are you going to stand with your most vulnerable citizens?

And I'd like to close --- I want to say ditto to every single thing that's been said here today. And I want to say this to all of you up on Council here. December 2008, Charles McColleston and I were brought up here and you issued a proclamation. And you gave us a proclamation and all sorts of gratitude for his book and my song that was about the history of working people who fought and died and struggled for a better life in this County.

Well, I'd just like to close and quote Mother Jones and say, if you're going to, like, mourn for the dead, why don't you take a stand and stand up and fight for the living? Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Stout. Barbara Erensberger? I don't see Ms. Erensberger here. Sandra Fox? Sandra Fox, followed by Leslie Stem.

MS. FOX: Hello. My name is Sandra Fox. I'm a resident of Squirrel Hill, 6335 Morrow Field Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15217. As a psychiatric social worker and president and co-chair of the Western PA Coalition for Single-Payer Healthcare and a concerned citizen, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the UPMC bond issue. There is a great tragedy here, a modern-day Christmas Carol. UPMC has become our Scrooge, Braddock Hospital our Tiny Tim. A healthcare system that puts profit before people extinguishes the very lives we are meant to preserve.

And last Sunday in The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, a front page headline said, UPMC holds the cards in County bond refinancing, an opinion, the article states, Mr. Onorato, quote, begrudgingly acknowledges, end quote. While it certainly is UPMC's prerogative to go elsewhere to refinance if Allegheny County Council rejects its request, County Council and Mr. Onorato do have power.

You have a decision to make, a choice. Act in collusion with UPMC by bowing down to this bully and hoping for crumbs in return, or do the right thing by making refinancing contingent on keeping UPMC-Braddock Hospital open in accord with UPMC's non-profit tax-exempt status. Now is the time to stand up to UPMC and represent the will of the people you are elected to serve. We say to you, do the right thing. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Fox.  
Leslie Stem, followed by John Hempel.

MS. STEM: Hi. My name's Leslie Stem. I live at 1129 Braddock Avenue. I'm here as a resident of Braddock, Pennsylvania. I just want to remind everyone of the cruelty of UPMC closing the hospital in the coldest and sickest of times especially. I believe the loss is going to be great. And I'd like to cede the rest of my time to Mr. Martin O'Malley.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. O'Malley, go ahead.  
(Applause.)

MR. O'MALLEY: My name is Marty O'Malley, and I live at 113 Sharon Drive, Forest Hills. I am a four-year elected Councilperson and Mayor-elect of Forest Hills, PA. And our 6,800 residents use UPMC-Braddock as our closest hospital. On the subject of the bond issue for UPMC facilities, item number 5240-09, there is plenty of speculation about why UPMC wants to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a site that is amongst the most expensive commercial real estate in the eastern suburbs in nearby Monroeville. One fact we know for sure. UPMC never published its secret study containing its reasons why it picked Monroeville to spend all this money. So this rush to fund with taxpayer backing raises at least six serious questions that must be answered.

Number one, what does UPMC want to --- why do they want to duplicate facilities within a few yards of its competitor, Forbes Regional, that already services Monroeville? Number two, why is UPMC ignoring the needs of dozens of eastern suburbs lacking any medical facilities? Number three, who gets hurt and who benefits from UPMC spending hundreds of millions of dollars, duplicating already existing medical facilities located yards away, while neglecting dozens of other municipalities with zero medical facilities and abandoning Braddock? Number four, how much financial damage will be

done to Forbes Monroeville hospital by your actions of giving financial support to UPMC-Monroeville? Number five, how much tax-based money will be lost when the non-profit builds on some of the most expensive commercial real estate in the eastern suburbs? And finally, number six, is UPMC rushing you on this decision so they can avoid answering questions that might be included in the new federal care legislation about new hospital site selections and closing existing hospitals? If you don't have the answers to all of these and the other questions in good conscience and to promote Allegheny County taxpayers' best interests, you must delay giving tax-supported funding to UPMC.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: John Hempel? John Hempel, followed by Karen Warman. Mr. Hempel, if you would state your name and address for the record.

MR. HEMPEL: John Hempel, 1222 Brinton, Braddock Hills, 15221. Ladies and gentlemen, you're being asked to approve re-floating a bond for UPMC. These are the same guys that last year, when construction started on a 53-unit apartment building for senior citizens directly across the street from UPMC, these are the same guys that didn't have the integrity to go to the people putting that apartment building up and say, you know, this might not be the best thing to do, that the only people that are going to move in there --- their motivation is because it's right next door to that hospital. And you are involved in this, because that \$14 million apartment building is put up with a \$9 million support package from the State and the County. The remainder is from Dollar Bank. So when UPMC-Braddock goes down, that apartment --- you're going to be left holding the bag on that apartment building, the residents of the County and the State, along with Dollar Bank. So as far as this bond issue, let UPMC hold the bag on that.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Hempel. Karen Warman, followed by Pat Mennaji.

MS. WARMAN: I'm Karen Warman, 1111 Overland Avenue, Duquesne, PA, 15110. The reason why I'm here is because I happen to have had two sisters that used to live in Braddock, actually, on Price Avenue. One, when she was in the house after one sister had moved out, happened to have fallen clear --- practically down to the street and

had gone to Braddock Hospital. That was about in '97. Well, at that time, they told her to --- well, they did everything they could --- well, what they could. But they didn't do much. But anyway, they told her to walk it off, but she knew better. She knew it was something more, but that was it. But anyway, it got --- you know, they're okay now. But they've gotten better.

But anyway, I'm going to close something. We have many good doctors in the UPMC empire, which was a slip of a tongue by a doctor in the hospital in Oakland. Yes, some of the empires I've seen do not take over that much. But UPMC has taken over a lot. But if you let this hospital take --- sorry. If you let UPMC take this bond and use it for their usage, they will definitely kill us and kill the world. And with that, they will shut everything down. And with that, the whole world will die. And possibly, who knows? One of these days, if you need a hospital and if your kids are doctors or nurses and they work for Braddock and they close down, or a hospital that needs --- that's under UPMC, and you need that hospital and it's run under UPMC and UPMC is closing down every single hospital and you need that hospital, I guarantee you, everything --- that UPMC will not be --- they do not care.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Warman.  
Pat Mennaji?

MR. WARMAN: They will not stop at nothing.  
They'll kill everybody.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Pat Mennaji? Thank you, Ms. Warman. Thank you. Pat Mennaji, if you'd state your name and address for the record. And I hope I pronounced that right.

MR. MENNAJI: You didn't. Pat Mennaji, 146  
Wallace, East Pittsburgh, PA.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm sorry.

MR. MENNAJI: I think the majority of the people in this room agree what UPMC is doing is wrong. I want to address the people that think UPMC is right. Here's what you're going to lose when you close Braddock Hospital. You're going to lose one of the most compassionate caregivers in the Mon Valley. Four months today, my mother left Braddock Hospital to go in hospice. She died

about an hour and a half later at home in peace, the way she chose to do.

Two days prior, we brought her back from dialysis. She had a bad reaction. We took her into the emergency room at Braddock. She was unresponsive. The nurse that was on her break outside rushed in from the outside --- seen her, brought her into the emergency room, by the way, which was full at that time. They expelled someone that was having chest pains out of the emergency room, and they got my mother back where she could make a decision to end her life the way she chose to do.

Two years prior to that, my mother was back and forth in that hospital, which is a ten-minute ambulance ride from the town that she lives in. It's a small town called Chalfont Borough, PA. All of the business in Chalfont use Braddock exclusively. So if you close that hospital, you're going to lose --- and you can see from the people here, you'll lose a very important service to the community. But more than that, you're going to be just disregarding all the caregivers there that worked so hard to take care of that community. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Mennaji. Is Bill Slabe here? Mr. Slabe, if you'd come forward, please. I note your address is Delmont, Pennsylvania, which --- we have a stipulation that you have to live in Allegheny County. But without objection, we do want to let you speak. I understand you were a long-term resident of Braddock. So without objection of Council members, we want to let Mr. Slabe speak even though he does live --- he's not a resident of Allegheny County.

(Applause.)

MR. SLABE: I thank you, President Fitzgerald and members of Council. My name is Bill Slabe. I'm a 76-year-old senior. I lived in Braddock for 68 years in Allegheny County. My parents both lived in Braddock all their lives. I do want to show you, there's notes on my sleeve. But it wouldn't make any difference, because it didn't help Big Ben or the Steelers, either. I do want to acknowledge also, that I have a real good friend on Council, Charlie Martoni.

Spending \$14 millions on a high rise in Braddock --- and the people who will be living there are people that are in their later years, but poor. They probably have little or no insurance. And what happens, the rug

gets pulled out from under their feet, the closing of the Braddock Hospital.

Braddock Hospital was a godsend to my parents and our family, because they had no transportation, little money for transportation. My dad was operated on in Braddock Hospital. My mom was operated on in Braddock Hospital. My mom died in the Braddock Hospital. And now, for them to pull the rug out from underneath people's feet is unbelievable. And with all the comments that were made about UPMC tonight, they're asking you to float a \$1.2 million bond, how could you people in good conscience vote for that? I think 25 cancer centers they're going to build in Europe. When they close, the House of Hope in Braddock, no money for that.

Just in closing, I would like to ask you a question, not particularly for the Council here, but politicians in general. When do people, poor people that pay taxes all their lives, have no hospitalization, when do they come first before profits?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Slabe. Okay. That concludes our speakers this evening. I appreciate all the speakers coming forward with your passion. Approval of minutes. 5295-09.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Mr. Fitzgerald, point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's a personal courtesy. I'm asking that you move consideration of this UPMC bond issue to the top of the agenda. I have to pick my daughter up. She's getting off of work. And I can't make other arrangements for somebody to get to her. If I don't get out here by about 7:30, she's going to be, basically, by herself out at a community center in Upper St. Clair. And I don't want her to have to wait, if at all possible.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Without objection --- I'll ask Council members if they have objection. I'm okay with that. I think I'd rather have the debate go forward.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: This is the only issue I really showed up for tonight. I'm going to have to recuse myself from one issue anyhow. Basically, do this. I'm out of here.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty, do you prefer to move forward?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All right. We're going to move to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 5240-09.

MR. BARKER: A resolution approving a project for the benefit of UPMC, doing business as the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, UPMC, to be financed by the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt refunding bonds, to be issued in one or more series in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,175,000,000 provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the bonds hereinafter defined, and determining that the purpose of the financing will be to benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee on Economic Development and Housing met December 8. The meeting was attended by myself, Councilman DeFazio, Councilman Drozd, Councilman Futules, Councilwoman Green, Councilman Macey, Councilwoman Rea. They are the Committee. Non-Committee members present were Councilman Fitzgerald, Councilman Martoni and Councilman Gastgeb. Both Councilman Gastgeb and Councilwoman Rea had to leave early. And Councilman Drozd left early also before the vote was taken. This was released from the Committee with a unanimous affirmative recommendation. I'd like to move this with a positive motion.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

MR. DROZD: Amendment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do we have a second?

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved and seconded.

Discussion?

MR. FINNERTY: Point of order.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Point of order, Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I'd just like to, first of all, speaking to this bill, since I am the Chairman, that I want to make it perfectly clear to everybody here that number one, the Authority approved the bond issue. We as Council do not approve the bond issue. It's already been done. Our purpose is to figure out if it is done to

benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County. If you look at the resolution and if you heard what our legislative writer, Jared Barker, said, that's what is being done here. The third point I want to make is that Council cannot place conditions on this bond issue. You can't do it. It's under the Municipal Authority Act. That can't be done. And I also want to point out, and I think a few people here were at the December 8th meeting where we invited Mr. Kennedy up to the table from UPMC, their government affairs person. And Mr. Kennedy had made some concessions in regard to how this is going to be accomplished. Excuse me.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to have quiet.

MR. FINNERTY: You cannot do that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty, please, I'm going to run this meeting. We're going to have --- we're going to let the Council member speak and we're going to have quiet. We heard everybody speak. And I know emotions are running high, but we're going to allow the Council members to speak. Chairman Finnerty is speaking to the point of the body. Mr. Finnerty, please continue.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate that. During that time, we talked about a payroll tax going to Braddock. We talked about maintaining the building for one year. We talked about a possible six-month extension. If the person that read that article from The Trib would have finished the article, you would have seen that what UPMC said was that they were going to start closing the hospital and close it down in series, not close it down like they did Children's in Oakland, which was that day it was done. Everybody was gone.

We talked about the equipment being left in place. And we also talked about how they might help the community. And I think those are important things that we talked about. That was after the bond issue was released from Committee. It was not prior to it. So these are things that we have done. And I believe that a number of people here know that, because they were there.

I also spent some time with you picketing UPMC because I would really love to see the hospital stay open. I think that would be important for Braddock. But you have to be realistic about things. And no matter what you say or do, you have to have some sort of concessions when

this stuff is happening. Some people can put themselves up against a brick wall and hit their head a number of times. Some people like to be like Don Quixote and fight windmills. But I've been through that. I did that all my life until I was about 35. Then I wised up. It didn't get you anywhere.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to have quiet or we're going to clear the room. This is not a debate from the audience. I'm sorry, Mr. Finnerty. Let me finish because I want the rules to be clear. We heard from the speakers. You had your chance to speak. It is now the Council members' prerogative to deliberate on this bill, maybe make changes, make comments or whatever, but they are going to speak without the audience inclusion. Mr. Finnerty, again, continue.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. So that's where we stand. And I talked to a number of people. I was down at the meeting two Mondays in a row. One Monday you let me speak. The next Monday you cut me off. But that's the way it is. But the thing of it is, we're looking to find out if we can get certain concessions from UPMC to help Braddock. As Allegheny County, we have contributed --- or not contributed, but through our Economic Development Department, we have put a tremendous amount of money down in Braddock, Rankin, North Braddock. We're out to help.

And the last thing I'd like to say is this bond issue, no matter what somebody tells you, has absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing to do with Braddock Hospital. It's refinancing some bonds. And I was the person that said UPMC is going to make millions and millions and millions. Why else would you refinance? It's like refinancing your house. You wouldn't refinance it to lose money. So that's where I stand on it. And I think you know that because I've talked to you all before. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yes. I have an amendment to offer, Mr. President, if you would, please.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you have it in writing?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir, I do.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, go ahead.

MR. DROZD: Thank you. I feel your pain. I'm from the Steel Valley, too, by the way, born and raised in Munhall, not far from where your borders are. And my

concerns are the same as yours are. I put an amendment in here, and I don't know if, in essence --- you know, I'm hoping that it is --- and when you say there's no contingencies on this bond issues, there are. On here it states, whereas neither bonds nor the approval granted hereby shall obligate the taxing power of the County of Allegheny. We're stating that as a contingency. So I feel you can put contingencies. My contingency says --- said declaration is contingent upon UPMC keeping Braddock Hospital open until a healthcare provider and/or plan provider is in place in Braddock and capable of delivering comparable services that are currently provided by UPMC Braddock Hospital. I think that's reasonable.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, do you have a motion for that?

MR. DROZD: There's a little bit more I'd like to talk about. My background is in delivering healthcare. And it is medical readiness. And we would have never closed facilities until we had a contingent plan. There's no contingent plan here. I've asked UPMC for that contingent plan. I haven't seen it. That concerns me when we're talking about lives. And this is a matter of public safety in your community. And we must see that plan. Nobody should be voting on a bond issue or whatever or any issue until that plan --- by the way, this does affect Braddock Hospital because inside this, what was handed out, part of the bonds that are being refinanced, some of the bonds are for Braddock Hospital. It's in there. So it does affect Braddock Hospital. So I'd like to make that motion that we put this forth and ask my Council members to join me in this. We said it before, you know, and we need to stand our ground and ask UPMC to stand up. This is not an unusual request. This is not something I think will put a strain on this facility, because from what I understand, they're going to gain about \$10 million by refinancing these bonds. This is a reasonable request. Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'll second the motion.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved and seconded. Mr. McCullough seconds it. Discussion on the amendment only, the amendment which says putting approval of bonds contingent upon keeping Braddock Hospital open. Mr. Burn and then Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I'm going to have some other things to say as we continue this debate before the vote. And a lot of it is to thank all of you that came here. It's very healthy discussion, very productive discussion. I think Matt's attempt to do something here was well-intentioned, but I wanted to let the people in the room and my colleagues know the reason you've seen some of us up here walking around and talking back and forth and coming down is because we're trying to find something here that we can do tonight so that when you walk out of here, I hope that you can walk out of here thinking you've accomplished something. We're trying to do that. I don't know, with all due respect my good friend, Matt, that what he's trying to do will do that, but we have something that's going to be getting introduced in a couple of minutes that my colleagues, I'm hoping, will sponsor unanimously. And we are hoping that this will make some significant objective and substantial progress in the efforts that you've come here to champion. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen and then Mr. DeFazio and then Mr. Macey.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President, you know, I sympathize with what Matt's doing and I sympathize with the people in the audience. But I don't want to vote on an amendment unless the Solicitor tells me that it's legal. Because it's my understanding that a bond like this cannot be amended. And if that's the case, I don't want to sit up here and waste everyone's time and vote on something that's not legal. So I'm asking for a ruling.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Cambest?

MR. CAMBEST: I think as much as everyone in the audience today and on Council, taking into consideration what was said, would like to do something in the form of legislation that would guarantee certain objectives be made. However, strictly looking at the legal position in regard to what authority this Council has, we can put language into legislation. As we say, anybody can sue anybody. Anybody can put words into legislation. But I think strictly speaking, our ability and what jurisdiction we have here is severely limited, not like the Hospital Development Authority that has certain requirements under its act, its authorizing act, that would permit them to do certain things.

I think legally to attempt to put this type of a contingency in the bond resolution would seriously affect the ability to sell these bonds if we go forward. I don't think we have the authority to put this type of language into an amendment. The language that's in there, we have to determine whether or not this bond issue is desirable to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County of Allegheny, is as far as we can go as a legislative body sitting as Allegheny County Council.

As much as I think we would love to do that, I think Mr. Burn has indicated why we were having these discussions as what can we do as Allegheny County Council to acknowledge the request made by the residents that will be severely affected by the closure of Braddock Hospital. We put together a motion. Hopefully that will be put forth by one of the Council members this evening. That will take Allegheny County Council in that direction with UPMC to see if we can accomplish what this language is asking to do, but I think in a more, I don't want to use the term legal manner, but more institutional manner toward the individuals that are here tonight.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Go ahead, Mr. Ellenbogen and then Mr. DeFazio.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Outside of attorney language, Jack, is this ---?

MR. CAMBEST: I don't think you can do it.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Okay. That's what I want to hear. What I want to say is --- don't take what I'm going to say as how I'm going to vote on the final thing, but I will not vote on something that's not legal. So I'm going to abstain from this.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: I know, Matt, your heart is in the right place on this. This was explained to us. Legally, we can't do this. You've seen us walking back and forth, walking back and forth. We feel we have something legally we're going to try to do later. But before we get to that, I'd like to say a few words.

First of all, we're not sanctioning Braddock Hospital to leave. If all we had to do was vote no and they stayed, I guarantee you almost everybody up here would vote that way. But that is not the issue. That would be the greatest thing in the world. We vote no, they stay, fine. We'd definitely do that. We told them that. We know what we can do and can't do. We have to

use our head. Everybody talks about --- a lot of people here from the steel industry. Okay. Let me go back several years when we had 1.4 million people. Okay. We've lost all them plants. We're the world's experts in bankruptcy. We know more about bankruptcy than any other group in the world. Believe me. We went through so many.

Let me tell you something. That was a serious issue. We have a plant in Braddock. We have a U.S. Steel plant in Braddock. Do you think we want to see Braddock Hospital closed? If there's anything in our power that we could do, I'll speak for myself, and I think I'm speaking for a lot of people, we would keep that place open definitely. Just like, who was it --- one thing I want to say. You know, somebody made the statement that we're doing this out of our own greed. Look, let me tell you something. Myself and several other people, we really don't get any money for this thing. We get a couple dollars, take no expenses. And I'll speak for myself now. I do this --- I'm not looking for any money. I'm not looking for any position. I try to help people. Okay. So we're always trying, at least myself, I can speak for myself, always are trying to help people. Believe me. I mean, you've got to trust me on this. Believe me. We're trying to do the best we can do. I always do that.

When you talk about the steel industry, you have a serious problem there. I agree. We had people in all these plants that were closing. They lost their jobs, they lost their family, their wives, their husbands. They lost houses. They even committed suicide. You talk about a serious problem. I know we've got a serious problem, and we've been through it. And if there's anything in our power that we could do to turn this around like some people think, like we're worried about our own greed, that's not true. That's not really true at all.

In this situation, people are talking about their taxes will get raised and you have water bills and that. We're going to meet with these people and you're going to see the motion we come up with. We're not done with this issue. We didn't give up on the ship. We're going to force them to do certain things. At least we're going to try. You never know at the end of the day, but we're going to try. And you're going to see our motion. Believe me. Legally if there's other things we can do, we would do it. Like Matt tried to do something. He can't

do that tonight. But we will work and try our best.  
Believe me.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Macey,  
Councilman Drozd and then Councilman McCullough.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I echo  
exactly what Johnny has said. And my concern exactly was,  
was it legal? And I think I've learned that. And I want  
to thank him.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd and then Mr.  
McCullough.

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President. I know  
I'm talking to the audience. I was elected as a  
Republican, long-term Democrat, Independent when I first  
registered, and maybe I'll go back to being an Independent  
like you. I would hope to think that we'd look at this  
very seriously. I'd ask the Solicitor and I'd ask for his  
--- when he says his opinion, Mr. Solicitor. In essence.  
you put out the fact that, well --- we aren't asking you  
whether it was --- it would water down the bond issue.  
We're asking you what do you base --- I'm asking you what  
do you base --- what substance or whatever you refer, what  
do you point to as referral that this is not legal to do?

MR. CAMBEST: Well, I think we use the term  
legal pretty loosely. I think what I indicated was do we,  
as Allegheny County Council, have the authority under our  
Home Rule Charter, under our Administrative Code, to put  
conditions on the passage of the resolution. I don't  
think we have. If you want to put conditions on the  
resolution, then vote no. It's that simple. I don't  
think you can put the conditions on it that you want to  
put on because I don't think we have the authority to do  
that. If you believe that the passage of this resolution  
is not desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the  
people of the County of Allegheny --- I think we have to  
stress that.

When you look at this resolution and what we're  
talking about here, a refinancing of existing projects  
that have already been approved by this Council and by the  
Authority, we can't lose sight of that. And I know that  
the issue Braddock Hospital is looking at, that  
individually is very tough to overcome. But when you look  
at this resolution, that's not a resolution to approve  
something that affects directly, by the refinancing of  
this, Braddock Hospital. The closing of the hospital is a

separate issue, I think as John indicated, whether or not the bond issue is passed or not. So I think we need to qualify that, that I don't think as put forth before this Council that we have the authority to put this type of condition on it. You should vote no if you believe it's not desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County of Allegheny. And that's about as simple as I can make it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: First of all, Jack, with all due respect, I disagree, but I don't want this to get into a legal tit for tat. You know, I respect you being asked to give your own opinion. You really haven't had a chance to get back to it. I can't think of a case off the top of my head that addresses this particular issue one way or the other. I wouldn't want to ask you for one because I don't know that you could pull one out right now anyhow.

I think there's a more important issue here. And as we know and you know, an answer sometimes has been here on Council, if we're wrong, the courts will tell us. And I've departed company with, you know, my brethren on Council several times in the past where I felt something was legal or I should say not legal, and Council members did. And you know, there's another way to resolve that. But that's not important here tonight.

I think the fundamental question is this. You fight a fight because you know you're going to win or you fight a fight because you know you're right. That's a different issue. It doesn't matter to me whether we're somehow legally constrained in what we do tonight as long as we fight the fight to try to keep Braddock Hospital open. That is my underlying concern and my underlying ---.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Let me say something else. I commend Mr. Finnerty for the effort he put into this. I've taken a look at his materials. This is the most complete presentation I've ever seen on any issue from Council. And Mr. Finnerty and I disagree on an awful lot of things. He obviously put a lot into this. I, too, was out at Braddock. Mr. Finnerty came out. He probably came out more than I did, and he probably had to drive further than I did, so I know he believes what he's doing is right. I know everybody on Council here believes they're

doing what is right. I do not ascribe ulterior motives to their actions.

I just happen to think this is wrong. And there is a real easy way to break this, because I can tell not one of you liked this. I don't think --- not one of us like the idea of being asked to approve a bond issue --- or pass a resolution with full confidence, a bond issue in excess of a billion dollars while at the same time we're being told a hospital, which is very important to a very important constituency, is going to be scuttled. I don't think any of us like that. And I think each one of us, if we truly believe there was something we could do to stop it, we would do it. I just happen to believe there are more things we can do, and maybe some of you do.

I'd like to start off by asking the people from UPMC. You can break this deadlock right now if you'll stand up and tell us you'll defer this closing for six months.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're not going to do that. Let him make his statement.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Let me say this. If that's out of order, then it's out of order. But let me say this. Because obviously, they can. If they would come forward, that ends this for all of us. It makes it a lot easier for all of us. But let me say this. Mike produced a document tonight which I think is very important. It's the application to the Hospital Authority. And I'm going through this, and correct me if I'm wrong, but apparently, the obligation to repay outstanding bonds is secured by an interest by the Hospital Authority in the various hospitals, the various projects throughout the UPMC system. I'm looking, for example ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Before we move on to the bond issue, let's try to stay on --- the amendment deals strictly with Braddock. So I want to just stay on that. We will certainly have the discussion on this.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's real simple. What I'm going to say is real simple. Braddock is one of the places that's secure. And what I'm going to submit to you is I don't believe UPMC can unilaterally close that hospital, because if they do, they're impairing the credit of outstanding bonds unless this Hospital Authority does it. I think we can make it the same, and that's why I'm in favor of this amendment. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm going to pass the gavel to Mr. Gastgeb, because I do want to make a statement on this amendment or on the Braddock --- this amendment is strictly on Braddock.

MR. GASTGEB: Let me recognize Council President Rich Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. And Mr. DeFazio said it very well. There's an awful lot of work that is going on right now, and it's going on, I guess, behind the scenes. A lot of negotiations are going on. Dr. Charles Martoni is our lead on this, and he's been working tirelessly in negotiating with UPMC to try to get some of the things that we would like to see and some of the things that were stated tonight by some of the speakers dealing with tax revenues, dealing with studies, dealing with economic development, dealing with keeping the building open, working with our congressional delegation, Congressman Doyle, who's been present, our State Senator who represents that area, Senator Logan along with Representative Paul Costa, among others, and our Economic Development Department, Mr. Babin. These negotiations are going to be ongoing. They are going to continue to be ongoing.

And as Mr. DeFazio said, if it was simple enough to vote for an amendment to say keep the hospital open, you would have a 15 to nothing vote. Our problem is we don't have that power. We just don't. We'd like to. We'd like to have all kind of power. Believe me. We talk about that all the time. But we don't. Our power is going to be can we keep Braddock open and attach it to this bond issue. We really can't. So to say that we --- could we be to give false hope to people, and people that, you know, came here with their hearts in the right place to try to get something done, many people 25 or 30 years ago when the mills in the same area were closing, went to a lot of the same meetings. There wasn't a Council at the time, but there were local councils.

We will take a vote on this amendment, but I think you'll see from this Council there's going on this evening that you're going to see, but you need to know that our heart is with you. You may not agree with what we're going to do on the bond issue for this County, but our heart is with you. Mr. Gastgeb? Thank you.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, Mr. Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Let's call for a vote on the Drozd amendment.

MR. BARKER: On Mr. Drozd's amendment, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: No.

MR. DROZD: Point of order. Can you please read the amendment again so everybody knows what they're voting on, please, for clarification of our Council and the audience?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you have a copy, Mr. Barker? If not, let me --- I'll read it. Said declaration is contingent upon UPMC leaving Braddock Hospital open until a healthcare provider and/or plan provider is in place in Braddock and capable of delivering comparative services that are currently provided by UPMC Braddock Hospital. That's the amendment we are voting on, the Drozd amendment, which has been moved and seconded.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Abstain.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Nay.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 2, noes 10, 1 abstention. The amendment fails.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the bill itself.

MR. DROZD: No. One more amendment.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you have an amendment?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir, in writing.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, make your amendment.

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President. I liked what Councilwoman Tina --- and I've heard also from different Council people as well as the Council President what was being taken from Braddock. It's a jewel. It's a gem. It's not only revenues, but it's also employment. It's also caregivers that are immediately at their back doorstep. Braddock is in a plight right now, a plight that they need help. They need our help. And we are going to benefit from the revenues, but why should we benefit from all the revenues?

Councilwoman Tina, I hope I pronounced the word right, Doose, is she still here? I don't know. But she's pointed out --- she asked for a percentage, you know, of that, and I thought she was kind of generous. And this amendment reads that any revenue bond that we get, revenues from that bond, 25 percent of it will go directly to Braddock. That's talking \$43,000 rather than, she said, I think around \$20,000 or whatever it might have been. I think that's fair and I think that's even low. But I'm hoping to get at least that to Braddock to help them defray some of their costs within their borough and help their Council. And maybe they can use Economic Development funds directly. And if anything, I think it even should be higher. Because really, we're taking the economic vitality from that community. And in essence, we're ---.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Excuse me. Call the question. I'll second the motion. Let's call the question.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I second it.

MR. DROZD: Okay.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: It hasn't been moved yet.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I thought he moved.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I thought you needed a second.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I seconded it. I seconded it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Seconded. Okay.

MR. FINNERTY: Let's call the question.

MR. DROZD: We've got to move it first.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: They want to move and second to call the question. We've got to go.

MR. DEFAZIO: We have to make the motion first.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We close debate. All right. Please call the vote on --- well, we have to call the vote on calling the question first.

MR. BARKER: Closing debate. Correct.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Closing debate.

MR. DEFAZIO: Vote to close the debate with a two-thirds vote.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: To --- I'm sorry?

MR. BARKER: Close debate.

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: I'll vote yes. I just wanted to say one thing, but I'll let it go.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Nay.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeber?

MR. GASTGEB: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Nay.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 10, nos 3. The motion passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the amendment, on the Drozd amendment.

MR. DROZD: Read the amendment, please, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The amendment says, 25 percent of the one-time annual fees received by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for this bond issue shall be dispersed by the Redevelopment Authority of

Allegheny County to the Borough of Braddock. Monies shall be dispersed annually no later than December 31st of each year of this bond issuance. Please vote on that amendment. Call the roll on that amendment.

MR. BARKER: On Number Drozd Two, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Abstain.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Nay.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 2, nos 10, 1 abstention.

The amendment fails.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the bill itself ---.

MR. BURN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, Mr. Burn.

MR. BURN: I have a request to introduce a motion. I understand Mr. Drozd's two introductions were to amend the current legislation that's on the floor. I'd ask both parliamentarily and procedurally, can I introduce a motion or do I need to first make a motion to suspend the rules in order to introduce the motion?

MR. CAMBEST: That would be the proper motion.

MR. BURN: I would make a motion to suspend the rules in order to introduce a motion of the Council.

MR. DROZD: I'll second that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved and seconded. To suspend the rules --- I'm going to call for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries to suspend the rules. Mr. Burn, continue.

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a motion I'd like to introduce, which has been cosponsored by the colleagues that work with us up here. And once it's passed out, I'll have a few remarks with respect to its content and with respect to its intent.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Let me just say that 5240-09 is now placed aside. We are no longer considering 5240-09. That is now off to the side of the agenda for one second so that Mr. Burn's amendment --- Mr. Burn's motion, let me be clear, it's not an amendment, it is a motion, can be considered.

MR. BURN: And if I thought it could be an amendment, I would have done it, but it can't. This is a motion. This is not connected to the bill that has been set aside, which is still pending a vote.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Second. Can I ask a question?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No. We've got to let him make his motion.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I thought he made it. Sorry.

MR. BURN: Thank you all for being here. It was great. Great debate, great input, great concern of your community. And I'm talking for myself, for the former mayor over here, Dr. Martoni, and former mayor of a small town like yours and someone whose grandfather, John Burn, was born and raised in Braddock, Pennsylvania.

Now, we've heard a lot about how we can't do certain things under the law with respect to the bond issue and attaching certain conditions to it. But we also heard the words from some of the young students that were here about the proclamation about how they had to use logic to get past some of the things that they saw when they were in the Borough of Braddock, how they had to try to take the emotion out of what they were seeing and make a decision that they thought was going to be in the best interests for the project they were doing, which hopefully, in the long term, will benefit the good community residents of Braddock and the surrounding communities in Mon Valley.

As emotional as we are up here and as emotional as you are in this room, we are part of the same collective. And that collective is to do what's best for your borough. And we're going to try to do that to some extent tonight. As in any negotiation, this may not be what you're looking for, but if it's something you can walk out of here saying you can live with this as we continue this dialogue and this debate, then we've come out of here tonight with something more than we had when we walked in and we've come out of here with it together and we've come out of it here with it together because you were here and you stepped up.

And UPMC --- I don't know about you, but I'm a big fan of the Godfather movies. There was a scene in Godfather Part II where Michael Corleone was talking about something he had observed on the streets that day. He observed on the streets a rebel jump into a car and do something for the cause. And one of the people that Michael was talking to said, well, what does that tell you? And Michael said, it tells me that they can win.

These men and women can win. And the reason is, they're here for a cause. They're here for the cause of the community that they live in. They're here for the cause of the community that they grew up in. They're here for the cause of the community they're raising families in. And they have our ear and you know that they have our ear. And because they're here because of that, that makes them very strong. That makes them very powerful. We're going to continue to work with them to accomplish what's in the best interests of their community.

Some of you had some very direct questions for me at the Committee meeting about the dissolution that I felt as a former mayor of a small town and how I respectfully disagree with some of the decisions you've offered to us as to why you're moving the facility. Because in my opinion, guys, it sounds like profit over community. And that's not what you should be about.

Now, that being said, I understand how the law works on this bond issue. I agree with Jack Cambest's interpretation. And I also heard the word crisis tonight. This is a crisis. If you look at the Chinese symbol for crisis, it's actually two words: danger and opportunity. There is a danger in Braddock right now of the community suffering more than it already suffers. We're going to prevent that from happening because what you've done is

you've presented us with an opportunity, an opportunity to start to move this in the direction that's going to give economic dollars and hope, hope to this community and to the men and women that came here tonight.

You sent us a letter on December 15th, 2009. It is separate and apart and it is totally a separate universe from the bond issue. So we can do this motion that we're going to do tonight. And in that letter --- and one of the speakers tonight had no idea whether or not you had answered any of the questions that were raised by Council Member Robinson's e-mail and letter that he sent. Well, you did answer those questions. And in my opinion, I would respectfully suggest in the opinion of my colleagues, you've made some commitments when you've answered those questions. And I'd like to share those commitments with the men and women in this room. And copies of this motion will be provided to you after we vote on it.

Significantly, to number two, how long of a commitment do we have to maintain utilities and security for the building? I appreciate this response. The commitment that was made, ladies and gentlemen, is a commitment to continue the economic development groups and are willing to donate the facility, and this is it, for a purpose that would advance the community's economic future. That is the type of commitment that will allow us to make interpretations, negotiations and discussions with the men and women here, with your leadership, our leadership of Dr. Martoni and others to find the economic dollars to not make that a white-out, but to make that a viable and central resource in the Community of Braddock for its ongoing economic development, rebirth, growth and movement into the 21st century. So we're going to hold you to that commitment, ladies and gentlemen of UPMC, and thank you for putting it in writing.

You also put in here that you're going to work for us for alternative uses for the building. You're going to have the equipment that's not directly related to the delivery of the patient care of the facility in the building, and any and all further commitments negotiated by UPMC and Allegheny County. You've opened the door for us to continue to negotiate with you and to the serve the interests of the men and women that came here.

And some of the folks who called, and some of them I see here tonight, you were of the understanding

that the bond issue and the voting on it and this issue was the same universe as the closure. They're two separate universes. We can continue to work in the universe with respect to the closure and the effect that it has on your community by the commitments made in this letter. And ask any attorney in this room, Chuck, Amanda, myself, Jack and others that might be here, the type of language that is in this letter invites the opportunity for us to be limited only by our respective creative imaginations and ability to find solutions. And we're going to continue to do that.

If we can walk out of here tonight and affirmatively vote on this motion, we are holding UPMC to the commitment that they've made in writing to continue this dialogue. Is it going to be what you asked for if we vote yes on that issue? No. But is it going to be something more than you had when you came in here? The answer is yes. Will we continue the dialogue and the discussion with you and others in this room? Yes. And with that being said, Mr. President, I would make a motion to --- I would move to approve this motion.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. I need to have the clerk read the title.

MR. BARKER: A motion of Council of Allegheny County accepting the communication from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center dated December 15th, 2009 regarding UPMC Braddock Hospital.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Mr. Drozd and then Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. DROZD: I did have conversations with some of the people from UPMC here. And what I stressed was that it would be a facility, not just for not-for-profit, but a profit, one for profit, and that's key. Because there are alternative sources of supplying medical care that can be and really maybe provide something less. Secondly, we need to look at the possibility of moving our healthcare department from Oakland ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to clear the room. Clear the room. Mr. Drozd, continue.

MR. DROZD: I think we have to explore the possibility even including moving our health department to that facility if UPMC, and they said they would donate it. They would maybe donate it to the Economic Development

Authority or an enterprise similar to that, not necessarily our Economic Development Authority. And we can provide some level of care there within that community, not only within the community, but also to enhance our care. Because a lot of the accesses to our --- people that access our health department come from those communities.

MR. DEFAZIO: Point of order. Rich, We got to talk about the issue of the motion.

MR. DEFAZIO: Talk about the motion.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Call the question.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Let Mr. Ellenbogen speak.

MR. DROZD: I'm kind of tired of discussing Robert's Rules.

MR. DEFAZIO: That's what it is.

MR. DROZD: Let's call the motion.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Wait. Let Mr. Ellenbogen speak. He wanted to speak. Let Mr. Ellenbogen speak.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: What I want to say is that, you know --- and I appreciate what Jim's doing here. I really do. I know his heart is in the right place. But it just seems that we're bending over backwards to do what UPMC wants us to do no matter what we got back. If they wanted to negotiate, in my opinion, we shouldn't even be this far. So I'm sorry, you know, I'm not going for this, because you know, there comes a time in your life where you got to stand up for what the people who elected you to do want.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You're out of order, Mike.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the Burn's --- we're going to stay on the amendment. We're going to stay on the amendment. Any more discussion on the Burn amendment? Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: I want to call the question.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We were going to get there in a minute. Let's just call the roll on the Burn --- and it's actually cosponsored by all members of Council on the Burn amendment. Not the Burn amendment. Burn motion.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. McCullough?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: No. Please remove my name  
as a sponsor.  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: The same with me.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Remove McCullough and  
Ellenbogen both.  
MR. BARKER: Definitely. Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 11, nos 2. The motion passes.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Let's reconsider  
5240-09. Would we need Mr. Finnerty now to reintroduce it  
and make his motion and then second?  
MR. CAMBEST: Yes.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Mr. Finnerty, if  
you'd just make a motion for 5240-09.  
MR. FINNERTY: I make a motion to approve 5240-  
09.  
MR. MACEY: Second.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.  
Discussion on the bond issue itself?  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Motion to lay on the table.  
MR. GASTGEB: I'll second that motion.  
MR. MCCULLOUGH: You don't discuss it, you don't  
debate it, and we vote on it.  
MR. DEFAZIO: Two-thirds vote.  
MR. FINNERTY: You have to call the question.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You'll have to explain  
what that means.

MR. CAMBEST: He's asking to table it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Oh, table. I'm sorry. I thought ---.

MR. CAMBEST: He's using the strict Robert's Rules of Order.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So the motion is to table it, requiring a two-thirds vote.

MR. DROZD: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. No discussion.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Burn?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Wait, wait, wait. Just so I understand, if we vote yes, you're voting to table; is that correct?

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Just so I understand.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: No.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Nay.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: No.

MR. BARKER: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: No.

MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Good night. Merry Christmas.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 3, nos 10. The motion fails.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: On the bill itself, 5240-09, discussion? The bill has been moved and properly seconded. Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Drozd and then Mr. Macey.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I've given this entire thing a lot of thought in the last few weeks. And the emotion of the people, not only in Braddock, but people in my district, my districts themselves, a lot of people in my district feel the same way about it because if it could happen to them, it could happen to any of us.

That being said, I spoke to a lot of doctors and doctors I'm close with that have quietly told me at what point do you tell these corporations no? This is coming from their own profession. Now, I've been told and I read in the media that, you know, UPMC has the upper hand with us. And that's true. But I can't believe at some point that they're not going to have to come back to this Council for something. So you know, where are we going to draw the line? A hundred and some thousand dollars in a budget which, if you add capital and special, is over a billion seven? That's a joke to me.

You know, I didn't run for this office for any future in politics. I ran for this office because I said that I was going to do the right thing. And the right thing to me is to stand up for the people who don't want this. We were elected to vote the way they want us to. And to me, that's what this is.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd? I'm sorry. I thought you were done.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: And you know what? Somebody said to me today that UPMC's name is on so many things in this County. What's going to be the next amendment? Why don't we just change the name of Allegheny County to UPMC? Who's running this County, the corporations or us? Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, Mr. Macey and then Mr. DeFazio.

MR. DROZD: If you'll allow me, permit me to ask some questions on this, two questions I have, from ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'll bring Mr. Davin up, the director of Economic Development.

MR. DROZD: We'll need legal input on this, too, and I don't think Mr. Davin's capable of giving it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Well, we'll find out if he is or not.

MR. DROZD: Well, he's not an attorney; is he? That would be a no. So I don't think you can --- and if you do, you're liable.

MS. HACKETT: Councilman Drozd, I'm an attorney.

MR. DROZD: Great. First is WPICC Braddock. Is that --- what is that? Is that a component of Braddock Hospital? What is that?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: What are you referring to?

MR. DROZD: In the bond issue, Exhibit B.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd, let me just say this. We've already done the Braddock thing. We are now on the ---.

MR. DROZD: No, no. I just want to know what it is.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: What I'm saying is we've already done the Braddock situation. That was voted down. We are now on the bond issue itself, which has nothing to do with Braddock.

MR. DROZD: Sure it does. It's Exhibit B of the bond issue.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Go ahead.

MR. DROZD: It's Exhibit B.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. We'll continue a little bit.

MR. DROZD: This is pertinent.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay.

MR. DROZD: What is WPICC?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: What are you referring to?

MR. DROZD: It's in this Exhibit B I've seen. It was handed to me by Councilman Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: I don't have that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: He doesn't have that. He hasn't moved that yet.

MR. DROZD: Does anyone know? I need to know that before I vote on this bond issue. Why does it say WPICC Braddock?

MR. DAVIN: Which one are you referring to?

MR. DROZD: I see it down there on the list.

MR. DAVIN: Oh, in terms of one of the bond issues, Series 2006A, ---

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir.

MR. DAVIN: --- in front of a number of different projects? That would have to be asked of UPMC. You'd

have to ask UPMC that. I have no idea. It's one of the portions of the bond issues that were being refunded.

MR. DROZD: Well, what are we about? Are we gathering the right information or are we not? It's a valid question.

MR. FINNERTY: I think this is out of order.

MR. DROZD: Wait a minute.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to move on. Mr. Drozd, do you have another question you'd like to ask?

MR. DROZD: I'm not going to vote on the bond issue unless I get clear answers.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Then don't vote on it. That's fine. Mr. Macey?

MR. DROZD: Wait a minute. I'm not done here.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay.

MR. DROZD: You know, I don't understand this. I have concerns about this. What are we doing here? In essence, you're railroading something through, or are you going to ask questions? Are you going to really hear questions or are we just here to just do whatever, the bidding of whoever? Why are we here?

MR. FINNERTY: Ask the question.

MR. DROZD: Okay. The liability of the people of Allegheny County and the County, what is it about? Are we or are we not liable for this bond and are we subject to suit and what's the probabilities? I heard about the Municipal Authority Act. You're not an attorney, Mr. Davin.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Davin, if you ---.

MR. DROZD: You can answer if you wish, but I just want to note that on the record.

MR. DAVIN: I'm not going to answer. I'm going to introduce who's going to answer this. The Solicitor for the Finance and Development Commission, this is Linda Hackett from Thorp Reed.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hackett. If you can answer Mr. Drozd's question to the best of your ability.

MS. HACKETT: Sure. Councilman Drozd, last year, you will recall that I was before you and answered similar questions that you and Councilman McCullough had about the liability of Allegheny County. Under the Municipality Authorities Act, pursuant to which the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority was created, there are specific prohibitions in the Act which

is that the Authority cannot issue bonds which bind Allegheny County. And in all of the bond documents and the offering statement that is issued to prospective investors, there is limitation of liability language as to both the authority that's issuing the bonds to Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority does not have taxing power such as Allegheny County does. There are no taxes of Allegheny County that are pledged to repay those bond issues. All of the repayment obligations for any of the bond issues for any 501(c)(3) organizations, including universities or hospitals, that come before you are borne solely by the borrower, the ultimate borrower, which in this case would be UPMC.

MR. DROZD: You are the Bond Counsel; correct?

MS. HACKETT: No, sir, I am not. I am the Solicitor to the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority.

MR. DROZD: And I would assume you know what WPICC stands for?

MS. HACKETT: I did not prepare that. No, sir, I don't. Bond Counsel is a separate firm that represents the bond issue.

MR. DROZD: That's a concern that we're issuing bonds that we don't know everything, every detail in it. That's a concern to me. Let me say this.

MS. HACKETT: Let me correct you, Councilman Drozd, if I can. You're not issuing bonds. The only thing that County Council has been asked to do is to determine whether or not this is for the health and welfare of the residents of Allegheny County, including Braddock, but not excluding everybody else.

MR. DROZD: Okay. May I now make a comment, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Make your comment.

MR. DROZD: As of today, I was going to vote no, prior to coming here, because again, as I told you, my background is the medical component. I'm concerned about --- and I will delve into this, about sustaining life, transporting the patient, the golden hour and then trauma care.

But one of the things that I see in this exhibit that I see is a lot of facilities that do affect Braddock. It's not just Braddock itself. And I think we have to

look at, when we say benefit --- and if I'm voting on what would benefit the people of Allegheny County, from what I was told by Council, this is one percent that will reduce their bond issue, which is approximately \$10 million a year, which can be dispersed to those other facilities that are now serving not only the people of Allegheny County, but Braddock.

I know Magee-Women's. Have you walked through Magee-Women's? What they do at Magee Hospital --- have you walked through the cancer clinic at Hillman? Have you walked through a lot of them, including McKeesport and Shadyside, the facilities that really serve you? I would be doing a disservice to all those people of Allegheny County, including you, if I at least didn't say I'm going to support this bond issue to reduce the cost. And I fought for you right down the line, every which way I can.

But I'm also going to fight for you in order to say that if we don't start looking for ways to get a handle on healthcare costs and reduce our costs throughout Allegheny County, we're going to be in trouble. And so are you as a community. I'll stand and I'll fight and I'll continue to fight for you, but at the same time, I'd be shirking my duties as a Council member when I see all these facilities, Passavant included, in my backyard that serves a lot of people, and those good people that I see every day that --- if you've ever seen Patch Adams, pick up that dirt and everything else. I see it.

So I'm going to support it based upon that, because it's going to benefit the overall people of Allegheny County, including Braddock, but I'll continue to fight for you to see what I can do for the facility in Braddock. And I'm not going to let UPMC off the hook yet. I was the one who went over there when they had \$250 million in profit and asked them where the money went. And by the way, it goes to Children's Hospital. And a lot of your people in that community, those kids go to that hospital and they need that care. And if we can't look for ways to give them that care at a cost-effective and affordable rate to the taxpayers, we're going to be in big trouble. So that's the only reason why I'm supporting it, not just because of all of those other people in Allegheny County, but because of Braddock I'll do it this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Macey and then Mr. DeFazio.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of Council and people in the audience. This is a very emotionally-charged issue, not very unlike the charged issue when the mills were shutting down in the Mon Valley. And I stood right alongside and you heard Mr. Stout say that he stood with all four of us up here, and I stood with them and we fought. And we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to salvage the steel industry as well as other industrial components in the Mon Valley.

And I can tell you this. I'm not going to turn my back on you now. And I think that the closing of UPMC-Braddock is not a good thing. It's something that harms a community. It harms economic development in the community. And it doesn't make the area attractive for new employees --- I mean, new businesses or residents.

However, what I don't want to do is harm economic development. And keep in mind, we are not --- this Council is not spending any of the tax dollars --- taxpayers' money on this bond issue. Surely it is through fees to help Economic Development. We'll be finding use, hopefully, with this money to help Economic Development. And that Department of Economic Development will be doing that for you.

But if Braddock is the poorest community in the Mon Valley, surely then some of the communities I represent are not that far behind. And I will not, will not stop the Economic Development or the fees associated with this bond to help communities in my neck of the woods as well as Braddock.

There's two issues here. There's the closing of UPMC-Braddock, which I'm against. But there's also another issue, funding the Department of Economic Development. And I am not willing to risk funding of this Department of Economic Development that affects the Mon Valley or Braddock. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. DeFazio and then Mr. Futules.

MR. DEFAZIO: I know a lot of people left, but I wish they were all still here. I mean, they walked out like, you know, we're selling out. That's not true. I've been representing people for four years. It's easy for me. The easiest thing in the world for me to do is say I vote with you and you're right, but I know it's not the truth. I mean, you've got to be honest with yourself. Maybe some people don't understand. We can't do what some

of the people think. If we vote no, we lose everything and no one gains anything. We have to be a little bit smarter than that. Believe me when I tell you if there's any way we could have saved the mills by waving a magic wand or saved this hospital by waving a magic wand, we would do it. The only thing, I say we do have a little more pressure. Someone made the statement, well, UPMC will just continue to do what they want to do. In the future, UPMC, they're sitting over there, they have a letter. If they don't live up to some of the things they said in there, then they're never --- I'll speak for myself. We'll never vote in your favor. Okay. So there's going to be more pressure on them to do the right thing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Futules and Mr. Finnerty.

MR. FUTULES: I've heard a lot of discussion this evening and I've heard UPMC be called the devil, bullies. Even our own Council members said they have the upper hand. But this bond issue has absolutely nothing to do with that. This is strictly a business transaction. Is the timing bad? Absolutely. But that's all this was ever --- that's all it ever was, just a business transaction to bring an extra \$175,000 into this County. We're not in the position to give away money. No, we're not happy with UPMC, but we're going to continue to negotiate with them in the future. We want to try and keep a good rapport with them. And I understand the people, how you feel, but this is strictly a business transaction. That's all it's ever been. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Gastgeb, Mr. Burn.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to say that, of course, we would like to see Braddock remain open. I was at your meetings two Mondays. I have not changed what I've been saying, even when I went down there. Something you have to fix. I was on the road with the Reverend walking in the cold in front of UPMC because I'd like to see it stay open. It's something I would really like to see happen. And I still hope it does, because it hasn't closed yet. And human beings are probably the only people --- the only creature on the planet that actually are able to hope. And I think that's important that there's still hope. And I think by your demonstration, and I told Tony this and I said something

to the Reverend about it and I said something to Mr. Hughes about it, that your protesting and your picketing makes it possible to get some things done. You're not going to stop. That's the way I see it. And I think it's important that we face it. And I said it before. I'm not the kind of person any more that likes to go out and play Don Quixote and fight windmills, because you get hurt. And we're trying to make the best we can with this closing, and I think UPMC is also trying to do the best they can.

Mr. Kennedy, I applaud you for coming to the table during the Committee meeting and talking it over with the Committee. And there was a number of people from Braddock there. I think the Reverend was there and Tony was there. I think the dialogue has to keep up. We have to keep talking about what's best for the people of Braddock. What can we do? And like I said before, if you read the article in The Trib, it stated that UPMC is not going to walk away from that hospital January 31st. It said they're going to close it gradually. It's been my hope --- excuse me. It's been my hope that at least, the very least, we could get to the summer months and have the first floor open, the emergency room. And I'm just saying that's my hope that we can do something. Or we can supply some money to Braddock so that they don't have to raise taxes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: One second.

(Brief interruption.)

MR. GASTGEB: This is what it's all about. No matter what it takes, how long we have to stay, we want to hear and we want to help. And to that point, we knew we had to separate Braddock Hospital from the bond issue. Some of you don't want to look at that as critically as we do. Whether we're from whatever part of town, whatever background we're from, whatever party we're from, we try to do what we could tonight to speak solely to the hospital. That was the resolution --- or the motion that we passed that Mr. Burn brought forth. That is the best we can do. That is the best we can do. The bond vote is a disassociation from the whole issue. It is. You heard it like every member up here. So to say anything else would be disingenuous and also misleading. We always do the best we can from the County perspective to help that area.

Let me tell you some of the things we've done in the past. Again, diverse backgrounds, different towns. We have a Community Development Block Grant program, which is federal money that comes into Allegheny County that we distribute. Every member up here makes sure that the Mon Valley, including Braddock and Rankin, are very well-represented. The Rankin Bridge, a huge capital project, we all voted for it. We continue to put millions and millions of dollars into that area. We're not perfect, and maybe we should do more, and that's fine. I'll stand up and be counted. But to say we're not understanding the situation, it tears us apart, all of us. Our families have all come from that area. And mine happen to be steelworkers. And you know, it just tears me apart. It also makes me kind of sad in the sense we're doing the best we can. We're not the Congress or the State Legislature, we're County Council. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Burn and then Mr. Drozd.

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I was disappointed to see some people get up and walk out. I understand their passion. I understand their commitments. And I believe that some of them truly left because they were frustrated with the answers they were getting and with the motion. They wanted one thing and ---.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A bus.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We are not going to ---.

MR. BURN: You're waiting for a bus?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Wait, wait, wait. We're not going to discuss --- we're not going to have a discussion, please.

MR. BURN: All right. That's fine. If you were walking out to catch a bus, that's cool. If you're walking out because you're mad with what we're saying ---.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's why everyone left.

MR. BURN: Okay. All right. I'm glad you cleared that up for me. And my point is this, the emotion is going to stay high and it should stay high and it deserves to stay high, but we're going to continue to have this conversation and try to get this in resolution. That's all. I saw people leave. I thought it was because they were mad with the direction we were going, but thank you so much.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They were.

MR. BURN: Okay. That, too. Thank you very much. That's all I have to say.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President. You know, I'm a rebel when it comes to Council. I really stand on the side of those out in the trenches like yourself and whatever. But I've also seen what caregivers do in those hospitals and those facilities and how much they work with so little. And they don't have a lot. UPMC is not --- I'll tell you this as far as what I can see, is, you know, they don't pay real high, a lot of those caregivers there. A lot of the nurses in those facilities, not only can they only handle a certain size of patient load, when they're trained and they're taught, they can only be taught in smaller numbers. It's very expensive to train nurses.

My point being in all of this, and I see this letter in this letter, and I don't know if you all saw this, but it's \$27 million in operating losses over the six years and \$60 million in efforts to try to keep it open. And I hope to think that's the case. When we vote on this, we put it in the equation why I'm really going to support it. But at the same time, I'm going to ask questions. I'm going to look that these monies, whatever they save, don't go into those high salaries. They go to support those people out in the trenches and those hospices and all those facilities on the front line who are smelling it and changing it and picking it up every day. And that's for you, too.

In essence, what I'm saying is you're liable. If those facilities that are neighboring to you --- this hospital is going to close. So the best thing we can do is to make it best for you and the tertiary care and whatever care that may be given to you. And that's what I want to see. And I'm going to keep on asking the question of UPMC so that when your loved one goes to that facility and they have to be transported, that their life is going to be sustained, it's going to be safe and it's going to be given the best of care. That's what we need to do from here on. And that's what we can do.

This is not --- I'm not voting on this for money for Allegheny County for Economic Development. It's a public safety issue. I'm voting on it based upon a public safety decision. And what I can see here from the costs from the facilities and supporting those facilities, this

is a public safety decision, in essence, to support this bond issue, not necessarily the closing of Braddock Hospital, a separate issue. And I'll fight for that and see what we can do to make it work. I'll come to your community. I'll be available 7/24. Call me at home.

I've got to vote for what's best for the overall whole of Allegheny County, including your people, your families, your loved ones in that community. Because if I vote otherwise, I'm going to put them in danger. I know that. That's my business. I do medical readiness. If I vote against this, that's what I'm going to do. And that's fact. You come with me and walk with me and you'll see that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Martoni and then Mr. DeFazio.

MR. MARTONI: Thank you. I've been sitting here very patient because this particular hospital is in my district. It's a hospital I'm very familiar with. The fact is I can't count the times that I've been in there, okay, and they always did a good job. And I understand the people being upset about this. I think we're all mad as hell if any hospital closes. Okay. It's very understandable.

But I think the worst thing we can do, the worst thing we can do is to penalize ourselves and to penalize UPMC, which is a major player in western Pennsylvania. Okay. I think that would be the worst thing we could all do. They have nothing to lose, UPMC. In fact, it's their allegiance to this area that speaks for itself by them being here. They could go to a number of places and get this done and I'm sure they wouldn't have this kind of reception. So let's keep that in mind.

Let's look at them as a partner. Sometimes we don't agree with our partners and sometimes we have debate with our partners, but we can't get by without them. Okay. And you would understand that if you were sewed up as many times as I was there. There are ten other authorities in Pennsylvania that they can easily go to and probably be far enough away they wouldn't get this kind of debate and punishment. Okay. Let's keep that in mind.

The unfortunate reality is this. Okay. We're stuck in a situation. John did mention this and some of our speakers tonight mentioned this. We were stuck in that situation 20-some years ago with the steel mills, when we raised holy hell to keep the steel mills here,

and many of them left. And in fact, the more hell we raised, the quicker they left. We've got to handle these things with some ability to get things done. We cannot just say, tell UPMC to go straight to hell. We need UPMC. We need every hospital. We need every hospital we can get. And we are making money on this. Allegheny County is making money on this. We're making a profit. That's not immoral. Particularly after the hell we took tonight, I think we earned the money. Okay. And I think it's understandable the way people feel.

But I'll tell you one thing. I'm not going to take this crap. Okay. If they want to talk to me about it, I'll be right outside in the hall. You can talk to me about it. But I don't think we should --- this is America. This is a land where we have public debate. And don't shake your head at me. Okay. This is America and I'll speak my --- I'll give you my opinions anytime I want and I'll meet you outside and you can get my further opinions. Okay. So the unfortunate reality is we're in a particular situation where we got to start getting some cooperation. I'm sick and tired of taking adverse positions against everybody. We could do that, and you know what, we could all be heroes up here. We can call everybody names and make you clap for us. Okay. In the meantime, nothing is going to get done. Nothing is going to get done. Okay.

We're fortunate. We are in a very fortunate area. We have representatives on all levels of government. We take these things extremely serious --- I got the floor now, guys, okay, and I'll release it in a moment. Okay. We have this County Council. Every member of this County Council --- and I'm speaking complimentary to you, are very sincere about these issues. And I recognize that. We have state senators. We have representatives, United States senators. I heard them take some bad raps tonight. That's not true. You don't even have an idea what they do in the background to get things done here. No one has an idea. Okay. So we're focused on the Braddock situation. Thanks to Mr. Burn and others, we have some ways of helping Braddock.

Braddock is a great community. I'm sick and tired of hearing in this room the poorest community. In many ways Braddock is a very rich community. Okay. Just talk to the people there. That's how you measure wealth, by people, not by dollars sometimes. Okay. It's a very

rich community. Go out to these council meetings. You'll see one of the best councils probably in the state, if not the country. Okay.

So we have to make this work for Braddock in the long run. Okay. We have to deal with UPMC in a positive, constructive way. We have to do that. Okay. If we keep this kind of confrontation, we'll all end up absolutely nowhere, the same place we ended up 25 years ago when some of the steel mills left. I want to emphasize that. Some of us have worked on that to get it back here. At least three of us sitting up here have worked on that together. We have to make this work to Braddock's benefit in the long run. That's not going to be easy, but it can be done.

Because those who decide what aid to give, and we're part of that, okay, we are now very aware of the situation that UPMC has created in Braddock and they made us very aware. We can't say they haven't. And we've got to do what we can do to help and we've got to stop this bickering among ourselves. We got to deal positive with the people there, too. I am sick and tired of this confrontational relationship between the people that come to our meetings and ourselves. We've got to correct that and I think we ought to start right now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Real quick. Chuck said mostly a lot of the things I was going to say ,so I'm not going to go on. I just want to remind the people whether you believe it or not, I know you're emotional and you want it to go your way, if we could do it, we would. Believe me. There's a lot of dedicated people sitting up here, from Chuck Martoni on down. If they could do it, they would. If you don't want to believe that, that's fine. But like Chuck says, if you want to debate this later, believe me, if we could do it, we would. We're trying to do the best thing we can do to help you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please call the roll on Resolution 5240-09.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5240-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 11, noes 1. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to go back to the agenda where we skipped off for Mr. McCullough. We're back to approval of minutes, 5295-09.

MR. BARKER: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council held on November 15th, 2009.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Presentation of appointments, 5294-09.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Diane Kostka to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for Harrison Hills Park for a term to expire on December 15, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Burn?

MR. BURN: Move for approval.

MR. DROZD: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Unfinished business, Committee on Appointment Review, second reading. 5236-09.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Stephen A. Broadus to serve as a member of the Human Relations Commission of the County of Allegheny for a term to expire on December 31st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Everyone present at the meeting voted in favor, so I would like to make a motion for approval.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Committee on Budget and Finance, second reading, 5239-09.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny authorizing the issuance of tax revenue anticipation notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$50 million providing for the dates, interest rate, maturity date and place of payment in respect of the notes, accepting approval for the purchase of the notes, providing for the security of the notes, authorizing the proper officers to execute and deliver the notes, authorizing and directing the preparation, certificate and filing of the proceedings with the Department of Community and Economic Development, appointing a paying agent and registrar, approving a form of note and repealing inconsistent resolutions.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Robinson was unable to be here this evening. I believe he asked Mr. Macey to introduce this and speak to this. Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. At the December 10th Budget and Finance Committee meeting, we moved and approved to full Council with an affirmative recommendation that this bill be passed. And I now make that motion.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, seconded.  
Discussion? Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: I have an amendment, please.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We have an amendment.

MR. MACEY: Ms. Liptak is ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: While Ms. Liptak hands it out --- Mr. Macey, go ahead.

MR. MACEY: Sure. You will notice on page two where it's underlined Goldman Sachs Group, Incorporated. At the time of the meeting, we did --- the RFP went out, but we didn't have a purchaser of the TRAN or the tax anticipation note. Also, you'll notice on Exhibit A, that's page A-1, the interest rate. And what's interesting about this is that the interest rate could have been as high as three percent. We not only got the interest rate down to one percent, but we also was able to receive a marketing fee of \$84,500. So I move that this amendment be approved.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The amendment is moved and properly seconded. Discussion on the amendment? I'm just going to call for a voice vote on the amendment. On the amendment, all in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Macey, continue on the bill as amended. Do you make a motion to approve?

MR. MACEY: Yes. I make a motion we pass the bill as amended. Thank you.

MR. DROZD: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Any discussion on the bill itself? Please call the roll.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5239, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 11, noes 0. The bill passes.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5241-09.  
MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009, Submission Number 21 of 09.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. This is a bill that's done every two years. And what we do is we try to maintain continuity and also the projects by moving the fees --- pardon me? Special account? I apologize.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5241-09. This is the resolution, Grants and Special Accounts.  
MR. MACEY: Oh, okay. At the meeting it was moved and approved to full Council with an affirmative recommendation. I make a motion to approve.  
MR. MARTONI: Second.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.  
Discussion? Please call the roll.  
MR. BARKER: On Bill 5241-09, Mr. Burn?  
MR. BURN: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Committee on Parks,  
second reading, 5238-09.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance Number 07-06, the current schedule of facility and recreational rates and fees for the use of County recreational and park facilities.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Futules?

MR. FUTULES: We had a meeting on December the 8th for Parks and Recreation. This was approved with positive recommendation to the full Council.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.  
Discussion?

MR. DROZD: There's no fee in --- engrossed in this; correct?

MR. FUTULES: This is not an increase, Matt. What happened was a private company used to rent the skis at Boyce Park. The County has taken over the skis ---.

MR. DROZD: Oh, I know now. That's the one we talked about?

MR. FUTULES: Yes, that's what this is all about.

MR. DROZD: Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: We're just taking over the ski slopes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Ellenbogen? Let's call the roll.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5238-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5264-09.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance Number 07-06, the existing schedule of facility and recreational rates and fees for the use of County recreational and park facilities.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Futules?

MR. FUTULES: This has also been recommended by the Parks Committee on December the 8th. And this is regarding the volunteers of Allegheny County, firefighters, EMTs. If you recall, we give them free passes to the parks. What we're doing is there's an amendment here on page two that says, as well as the free ski lift ticket at Boyce Park ski slopes. And that's basically it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Make a motion to approve?

MR. FUTULES: I make a motion.

MR. DROZD: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? Please call the roll.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5264-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?

MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Committee on Economic Development and Housing, second reading, 5272-09.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny authorizing the distribution of certain assets of the Allegheny County Economic Development, Community Infrastructure and Tourism Board to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County as agent for the County of Allegheny, ratifying and adopting all actions of the Allegheny County Economic Development, Community Infrastructure and Tourism Board as actions of Allegheny County, appointing the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County as agent for Allegheny County for the purpose of administering the fiscal year 2007-08 funds provided for use in the County under the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act and previously accepted by the County, and approving an Agency Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County regarding the fiscal year 2007-08 funds.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was released from Committee with an affirmative recommendation and I'd like to positively move this bill.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Let me just discuss this real quickly as the prime sponsor of this. And I know that has had --- many discussions we've had before. This is basically dissolving the ED&T Board. I think they had a lot of concern for a lot of members of Council. And bringing this money, this \$6.6 million a year for the next 12 years, into our RAAC board, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, which is the proper vehicle to finish our Economic Development Initiative, which has been doing a great job for years and years. So that's really what this bill's about. It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?

MR. GASTGEB: Mr. Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: I have an amendment that was prepared. I have an amendment to place at this time to full Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you want to hand out the amendment?

MR. GASTGEB: I'll make a motion to receive this amendment.

MS. REA: I'll second it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Moved and properly seconded.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you. And what the genesis of this is, I hope, is to follow what I think Council has done this year, and that's take the appropriation authority that's rightfully given to us under the Home Rule Charter and really being a Council, so to speak, with regard to appropriations. I put out a communication on Monday and I took the liberty of doing a question and answer. And the long and short of it is that nothing in this act --- the original bill, I should say is going to change. Then process it the same. The application is the same. The granting of the proposals are the same. The administration is the same. The RAAC Board is the same. Everything is the same. All due diligence is the same. It stays under Economic Development, the framework.

The only thing that would potentially change, and it's very limited here in Section Seven, you can see it's underlined, it creates a new Section Seven, and Section Two is added because it's in the current sense. The County Council would look at strictly an appropriation once all the due diligence is done. And maybe even moreso tonight when we're struggling, you know, what could we do as a Council and how to make motions up --- we have appropriation. This is something we should be striving for as Council people. I think the time has come that some of the authority, when it comes to allocating gaming money, rests within this body. Gaming money started after this Council was developed, and RAAC started before. We've got to start making some consistencies to recognize this body through appropriation, rightfully so because of Home Rule Charter. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah. First of all, I'd really like to thank Councilman Gastgeb for the way he sent out

this amendment and did a question and answer, what his purpose was, et cetera. I wish he would have did it the day before the Committee meeting, would have been nice, but at least it was out there and everybody saw it and read it and knew what its purpose was in doing it. That's the way I think amendments ought to be done, if they're done at the last minute. You should have them before you get to this meeting. They shouldn't be coming off the floor. And I really do appreciate that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. I also appreciate it. The other thing I would ask Mr. Gastgeb, and I think it is something we need to discuss, the only thing I would ask, and the intent is good, is that at this late hour, possibly to refer --- or withdraw the amendment so we could refer it to committee. Not the bill itself. I do want to vote on the bill itself, but the amendment can be considered --- you know, you can maybe look at it at a future time.

MR. GASTGEB: Okay. If I could respond to that?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes, Mr. Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: With your commitment and also with Chair Finnerty's, I will withdraw the amendment and start anew in January when our session begins. And I hope we can really work in earnest to get, you know, I think what Dr. Martoni said a couple meetings ago, having some authority vested in this County Council. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: You certainly got my commitment that we will work with the RAAC Board and our delegation to make sure --- in our Economic Development Department to do what we need to do. Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Councilman Gastgeb, you have my commitment also.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you. Then I'll officially withdraw Bill 5272-09.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: The amendment being withdrawn, any more discussion on 5272-09? Seeing none, please call the roll.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5272-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.  
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Committee on Public Works, second reading, 5237-09.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the extensions of the term of Ordinance Number 57-07 passed December 18, 2007, allowing the Department of Public Works to take certain actions on behalf of County Council with respect to the issuance of highway occupancy permits, the grant of certain licenses, rights of entry and easements, and the amicable acquisition of certain real estate affecting County Public Works projects and other matters for calendar year 2008 and 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. Those that were here in the year 2007 may remember that we passed it. We do this every two years. And the reason why is so we have uninterrupted work and also continuity of work being performed in the communities through permits and fees and also rights of entry and licenses and things of that nature. At our meeting it was moved and approved with an affirmative recommendation to the full Council. And I therefore make that motion to approve.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? Please call the roll.

MR. BARKER: On Bill 5237-09, Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Gastgeb?  
MR. GASTGEB: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Green-Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN-HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?  
MR. MARTONI: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. BARKER: President Fitzgerald?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Liaison reports. Any this evening? Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Finnerty.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I believe some thank-yous are in order. First, I'd like to thank my colleagues on Council. Our libraries in my district were in danger of closing. This Council stepped up, and I appreciate it. I'd like to thank State Senator Jay Costa and his delegation for the money and the help also of State Representative Chelsa Wagner and the Democratic House Delegation along with the \$600,000 from Pittsburgh City Council. I think it was a great example of everyone coming together to keep the libraries open. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty and then Mr. Futules.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I have three different reports here. I was at the Greater Pittsburgh Non-profit Partnership at the Weston Convention Center Hotel on the 3rd, and there was a tremendously large non-profit showing. And it went to help children, mothers, drug addictions, different agencies that supply food to the hungry, and a lot of other things. I mean, it was

quite impressive. There's a lot of help out there. I think that we --- I think we do have already a book from our Human Services Department that lists all these agencies and non-profits that help people out. I think it's important that people --- you can contact me if you want to or contact any of us up here and we'll get you the books that you need to know where the help is.

Secondly, Allegheny Farmland Preservation Board, I was there, and they're talking about the farms which are going green. And there was four this year. And what that means is these farms are being paid so much per acre. And once they're in this program, that means there can be no development on that land. They can continue farming it, but it can't be sold to a house builder that's going to come in and make a plan.

And the last thing, I was at the Airport Authority's meeting, which was the 11th. And they're doing a great number of improvements out at Greater Pitt. And also looking into selling the parking lots. One thing you have to think about when you talk about selling the parking lots is they make \$22 million a year off that parking lot, so it's not, you know, a little change.

The Airport Authority has been doing a great job. U.S. Airways had 500 flights coming into Greater Pitt. They now have 64 flights. It's very tough. It's a difficult situation. But they're making do. They got Southwest coming in and everything else. And I want to extremely express one thing, because it was in The Trib today. It talks about your taxpayer money being used at the airport. That's totally wrong. They have no taxpayer money going out there. They get their operating money from flights and fees. They don't get it from Allegheny County, just like Economic Development doesn't get any tax dollars from Allegheny County. They get theirs from fees. And I think that's all for me. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I have a couple things. You talked about going green. Tonight is the first night I'm using a computer versus this much paper. I would welcome our fellow Council members to take advantage of the Internet system we have here and begin to look at our agendas online. I've been watching all night. It's been a really good --- also, I'd like to thank our staff members. This is our last meeting of the year. I'd like to thank you for all the work that you've done this year.

Without you --- you make us look good and everybody up here. We all pretty much know that. And I want to recognize everyone. Hopefully they'll read the minutes and see that I thanked everyone, including Mr. Flynn and Derek Uber and Amy Griser and all the people that run this County. And also, seriously, I want to recognize Mr. John Mascio, one of our Council staff members. He was the clerk that has died. And I'd like to remember him this evening as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Futules. New business, motions, 5297-09.

MR. BARKER: A Motion of Council of Allegheny County reestablishing the Budget Transfer Committee in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: It's sponsored by Mr. Robinson. I believe he asked Mr. Burn to speak to this. Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council, and thanks to Chairman Robinson asking me to do this. I would be honored to do that. 5297-09 is offered in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code. The Budget Transfer Committee, pursuant to that section, would consist of our County Controller, our director of the Department of Budget and Finance and the budget director for the County Council, Jennifer Liptak, to annually reestablish in order to make all operating budget appropriations, transfers, including appropriations requiring post-closing entries, between any of the departments, offices or agencies. What the Committee does is perform these functions annually, commencing with the last Council meeting in December and continuing until the last day the books from the County for fiscal year remain open. The County Controller determines that latter date. Transfer of money will be presented to Council for ratification and for release at the appropriate meeting after the closing date. Mr. President, that, in sum and substance, is the intent of 5297-09 as is required by statute. Move for approval.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second. Any discussion? I'm just going to call for a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. 5298-09.

MR. BARKER: A Motion of the Council of Allegheny County to continue the services of Attorney John F. Cambest to provide legal advice, representation and consultation to County Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: I'd like to put a motion on the floor to have John Cambest ---.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yes. The last time I didn't vote ---.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd like to be added as a sponsor.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Motion carries. Welcome back again, Mr. Cambest. Before we move on to Public comment on general items, the President is going to take a little personal privilege here as we end our fifth County Council session. And Mr. Futules stole a little bit of my time, but I want to thank the staff and also remember Mr. Mascio, who during the session --- is no longer with us and he was such a great contributor with everything he's been able to do.

I also want to congratulate all the members who were reelected this year. You see all the turmoil that goes on in the federal, state and even municipal level? Every single person that ran for reelection this year was elected. I think that shows the confidence that the public has in the government of Allegheny County, in particular, how we do the work that we do. And I think it was on exhibit again tonight. I think this Council always --- democracy can be messy, but we move forward.

For the eighth and ninth consecutive years, we've kept the County tax millage at 4.69. I think that's an incredible accomplishment working with the County Manager and the Budget Department and the Administration. To do that is great. We were also able to keep the County's Homestead Exemption Program and senior citizen tax programs, all as the new construction programs moving forward.

And with the national economic problems that we have seen over the last two years. we have averted many of

those problems. Our housing market has been stable and actually increased, and our economic unemployment rate has remained at two to two and a half percent below the national average. During this term, we reduced the drink tax from ten percent to seven percent, which I think is very helpful. The new redevelopment, we continue to hold the line on property taxes. We started some new initiatives with naming rights, Marcellus Shale. And this last year, we passed a Human Relations Commission, which I think was a major step forward for this region.

During our session, a statewide smoking ban occurred. That would not have occurred without the work of Allegheny County Council. The Parks Foundation has gone forward. We did the Fire VEST Program. And last but not least, we cannot overlook the fact that we hosted the G-20 Summit, which was an affirmation by the President of the United States about the success that we have had in this county.

I could go on and on. Mr. Ellenbogen talked about the libraries and a lot of the Economic Development initiatives that we have done. But I think this Council should be extremely proud of the work that we have done. We have a lot more work to do, but it was a very, very productive fifth session as we move on to our sixth session.

With that, we have public comment. We have one speaker. Mr. Ludwig, you're the last --- I guess the last man standing, as they say. Les Ludwig, if you'd give your name and address for the record, please.

MR. LUDWIG: My name is Les Ludwig. I live at 6589 Rosemoor Street in Squirrel Hill. And I want to thank this body for allowing me to present to the Budget and Finance Committee. And my biggest hope is that the letter that I sent that covered many of the points that were serious issues will be read and taken to heart, because I think I answered them in a way in which --- in a friendly way in which I can differ with the members of the committee by way of reason, not by way of emotion and getting into an argument. So I actually withheld throughout the meeting and didn't answer because I was waiting to see what was coming forth from the meeting. And I hope that you will take the situation seriously and the we can move forward to make money for Allegheny County.

Number two, quite some time ago, about two or three months ago, I brought up a subject. And a number of you came over to me and said that you thought I was right in raising the following question. One, are we weaker when we break one stick or are we really much stronger when you have 100 sticks? And the stick that I proposed to you was the fact that so many of our communities in the State of Pennsylvania are in Act 47. Well, if you're in Act 47 and you got the problem that we have --- that was here tonight, UPMC and people who don't pay taxes, and it's a problem of those many cities who therefore have a potential for a conquering vote that puts them in their place so that you don't have to feel that they're rolling over you.

Number three, in talking to Mr. Scartino (phonetic) and talking to Mr. Martoni --- Mr. Martoni first, the subject I brought up to you was E-Z Pass. And you're shaking your head again. And interestingly enough, when I raised this to Mr. Scartino in the past couple of days, he says that he has written a great deal about it for the State of Pennsylvania and that it might be interesting to review. So there's two areas of review here. One is to get the legislative background and see how many votes we can command and can we say if you go against us, we're going to do the midnight pay raise review? And number two is E-Z Pass. And I thank you for your attention.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Ludwig. We appreciate it. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

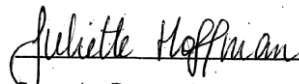
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 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