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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING

HELD:

Monday, January 1, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIM PERRY, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

1 MS. REED: Please stand for the
2 pledge of allegiance and remain standing for
3 the invocation by Father Sam Ferretti.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
5 invocation given by Father Sam Ferretti.)

6 MS. REED: In accordance with the
7 Home Rule Charter of the City of Scranton
8 designating the first Monday of January as
9 the day for city council to reorganize, I
10 hereby call this 2018 reorganization meeting
11 to order. Roll call, please?

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Here.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Here.

22 MS. REED: At this time, I ask that
23 as you are called to be sworn in would the
24 judges and elected officials please sign the
25 documents when you are finished. I have

1 before me the certificates of election for
2 William Gaughan, Pat Rogan and Kyle Donahue
3 as city council persons. Will the council
4 adopt a motion to the effect that the
5 certificates be received and ordered filed
6 and made a part of the minutes?

7 MR. EVANS: So moved.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

9 MS. REED: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have it
17 and so moved.

18 I will now ask the Honorable Judge
19 Thomas Munley to come forward and administer
20 the oath of office to Mr. Gaughan for the
21 elected office of city council.

22 JUDGE MUNLEY: I want to say, first
23 of all, that I'm very proud to swear
24 Councilman Gaughan. It's a great event for
25 all of us and I'm so glad that my

1 colleagues, Judge Terry Nealon and Paul Ware
2 are here, and I see you have Commissioner
3 O'Malley here, Jimmy Connors and your
4 wonderful family and all of the people. You
5 should be very proud.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.

7 (WILLIAM GAUGHAN was duly sworn in
8 by the Honorable Tom Munley to be a Scranton
9 City Councilman.)

10 MS. REED: I will now ask Attorney
11 Terrence Nealon to come forward and
12 administer the office of office to Mr. Rogan
13 for the elected office of city council.

14 JUDGE NEALON: I'd like to thank Pat
15 for asking me to swear him in again. I had
16 the pleasure of swearing him in in January
17 of 2010, January 2014 and now January 2018.
18 I don't know whether he's a traditionalist
19 or just plain superstitious, but either way
20 I'm proud to do it. So if you could just
21 place your left hand on the Bible, raise
22 your right hand and repeat after me.

23 (PATRICK ROGAN was first duly sworn
24 in by the Honorable Terrence Nealon to be a
25 city councilman.)

1 MS. REED: I will now ask the
2 Honorable Judge Terrence Nealon to
3 administer the office to Mr. Donahue to the
4 elected office of the city council.

5 JUDGE NEALON: Again, I'd like to
6 thank Kyle as well. I've known Kyle since he
7 was a young boy. I grew up with his mother
8 and father in South Scranton and Kyle when
9 he was in college interned in my chambers,
10 and I had the pleasure of swearing him in to
11 the Scranton School Board and again it's a
12 privilege for me to do it again this time.
13 So, again, if you could place your left hand
14 on the Bible and raise your right hand and
15 repeat after me.

16 (KYLE DONAHUE was duly sworn in by
17 the Honorable Terrence Nealon to be a
18 Scranton City Councilman.)

19 MS. REED: I will accept nominations
20 for the temporary chairperson, what is your
21 pleasure?

22 MR. PERRY: I move that Mr. Wayne
23 Evans be appointed as temporary chair.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. EVANS: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have it
8 and so moved. Mr. Evans, will you please
9 take over as temporary chairperson?

10 MR. EVANS: Yes, I will. Thank you.
11 I now call for the nomination of a permanent
12 president of council for the ensuing two
13 years.

14 MR. PERRY: I nominate Mr. Patrick
15 Rogan as president for city council.

16 MR. EVANS: Second. On the question?
17 Roll call.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: No.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. The motion is
3 adopted and I declare Mr. Rogan duly and
4 legally elected president of Scranton City
5 Council.

6 MR. EVANS: I now call for the
7 nomination of vice president of council for
8 the ensuing two years.

9 MR. ROGAN: I nominate Mr. Timothy
10 Perry as vice president of city council.

11 MR. EVANS: Second. On the question?
12 Roll call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Motion is adopted
23 and I declare Mr. Perry duly and legally the
24 elected vice president of Scranton City
25 Council?

1 MR. EVANS: I now ask for nominations
2 for City Clerk.

3 MR. ROGAN: I nominate Mrs. Lori
4 Reed, City Clerk.

5 MR. EVANS: Second. On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
7 I'm going to be voting for Mrs. Reed as I
8 did four years ago, and as Councilman
9 Wechsler said earlier in the Sine Die
10 meeting, Mrs. Reed is one of the most
11 professional people in city hall. She is a
12 person that does her job with integrity and
13 honesty and it has been such a pleasure to
14 work with her over the last four years, and
15 as my son says every time we drive by city
16 hall he calls this Lori's castle. So I just
17 appreciate all of the hard work that she has
18 done and it's really been a pleasure to work
19 with her and I look forward to four more
20 years of that. Thank you.

21 MR. EVANS: Roll call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MR. EVANS: The motion is adopted and
8 I declare Mrs. Reed legally and lawfully
9 elected as City Clerk.

10 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I would
11 like to make a motion that city council
12 reappoint Attorney Amil Minora to the
13 position of city council solicitor.

14 MR. EVANS: Second. There is a
15 motion on the floor and a second, on the
16 question? All those in favor signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Opposed? The ayes have
24 it and so moved.

25 I will now ask Councilman Rogan to

1 come forward and be sworn in as council
2 president by the Honorable Judge Terrence
3 Nealon.

4 (PATRICK ROGAN was first duly sworn
5 in by the Honorable Terrence Nealon to be
6 the President of Scranton City Council.)

7 MR. EVANS: I will now ask Councilman
8 Perry to come forward and be sworn in as
9 council vice president by the Honorable
10 Judge Terrence Nealon.

11 (TIMOTHY PERRY was first duly sworn
12 in by the Honorable Terrence Nealon to be
13 the vice president of Scranton City
14 Council.)

15 MR. EVANS: I now ask Mrs. Reed to
16 come forward and be sworn in as City Clerk
17 by the Honorable Paul Ware.)

18 (LORI REED was first duly sworn in
19 by the Honorable Paul Ware to be the City
20 Clerk of Scranton City Council.)

21 MR. EVANS: I will now ask that
22 Mr. Rogan take over as permanent chairman
23 and president of Scranton City Council.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Councilman
25 Evans. We are now ready to consider the

1 Rules of Procedure by which this council
2 will be governed over the next two years.
3 What is your pleasure?

4 MR. EVANS: I move that the Rules of
5 Council be adopted by Resolution No. 1,
6 2018, as required by the Home Rule Charter.

7 MR. PERRY: Second.

8 MS. REED: Mrs. Reed, would you
9 please read the resolution?

10 MS. REED: Resolution No. 1, 2018,
11 adopting the Rules and Order of Business of
12 the Scranton City Council, Scranton,
13 Pennsylvania.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
15 those in favor of introduction signify by
16 saying aye.

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22 have it and so moved. The following will be
23 the committee chairpersons for the next two
24 years: Committee on Rules myself.

25 Committee on Finance Mr. Evans. Committee

1 on Public Works Mr. Gaughan. Committee on
2 Public Safety Mr. Perry. Committee on
3 Community Development Mr. Donahue.

4 The chairperson for the
5 subcommittees will be as follows: Pension
6 review and administration will be myself.
7 Economic development will be Mr. Donahue.
8 Boards and commissions will be Mr. Perry.
9 Revenue and taxes will be Mr. Evans. And
10 intergovernmental relations will be
11 Mr. Gaughan.

12 I will now call on each council
13 member for the few brief remarks.
14 Mr. Perry, do you have any comments at this
15 time?

16 MR. PERRY: Just very briefly, I just
17 want to thank everyone for coming out and
18 supporting us and supporting our city,
19 that's very important and it's just always
20 great to see such community involvement
21 which the City of Scranton always has.

22 I just want to send a special thank
23 you out to my wife Lori. She is unable to
24 attend today but I know she would really
25 like to and my whole family for just the

1 support. Anybody who is active in the
2 community or in the public sector knows that
3 your family is your backbone and you're only
4 as strong as your family props you up to be
5 and I know my family goes 110 percent for
6 me.

7 I also want to congratulate
8 Councilman Donahue on the newest member to
9 council. I'm looking forward to working
10 with him and I know he is going to do a
11 great job, and also congratulations to Mr.
12 Gaughan and Mr. Rogan on their win as well.
13 I'm excited to work again for the city for
14 another two years to finish my term out and
15 to get back to work with my new set of
16 colleagues and let's get some stuff done.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Donahue,
19 do you have any comments at this time?

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just briefly.
21 First off, I would like to just very thank
22 my beautiful fiancée Mary Kate for
23 continuing to always be standing by my side
24 and for always supporting me 100 percent. I
25 would not be sitting here today without an

1 outstanding support system, so I must
2 absolutely thank my family, especially my
3 wonderful parents and all my friends that
4 have been so supportive. I really can't
5 thank you all enough.

6 A couple of weeks ago I received a
7 letter from the mayor. He congratulated me
8 on my win, talked about his cooperate with
9 council in his first term and that he looked
10 forward to working with me. And to be
11 completely honest with you, as I was reading
12 through the letter I started to get a little
13 angry. Not because I didn't appreciate the
14 sentiment, but because nothing that was said
15 in the letter couldn't have been done in a
16 two-minute phone call. From Washington on
17 down, government stopped working for the
18 people because -- people in general, but
19 especially politicians, talk at one another
20 instead of talking with one another.

21 Over the next four years as we exit
22 distressed status, the decisions we are
23 going to have to make are going to determine
24 the course of this city for a generation.
25 No one person will be able to do it alone.

1 This must be a group effort from the mayor
2 on down. We must be willing to talk to one
3 another about the issues we face. I'm
4 looking forward to working with the
5 administration and the rest of the council
6 to move this city in the right direction.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Evans, do you have
9 any comments?

10 MR. EVANS: Yes. First of all,
11 congratulations to Mr. Rogan and Mr. Perry
12 in your elections to president and
13 vice-president. I'm looking forward to
14 working with both of you on your new
15 positions on city council. We have had a
16 very good relationship in the past and I
17 continue to hope that we have the same
18 professional path under your leadership that
19 we enjoyed under Council President McGoff
20 and Council President Wechsler.

21 I would like to welcome Councilman
22 Gaughan and formally congratulate him on his
23 second term on city council. Mr. Gaughan
24 and I have a very good working relationship
25 and I have the utmost respect for him and

1 what he has tried to accomplish while he is
2 on city council. He is the very definition
3 of a prepared, conscientious and independent
4 councilman. So, Bill, good luck on act two.

5 And, finally, I would like to
6 welcome incoming city councilman Kyle
7 Donahue. To say I have known Kyle all of
8 his life would certainly be accurate. One
9 of my first and childhood friends and best
10 friends was Kyle's aunt Mary Ellen, and one
11 of my longest and dearest friends is Kyle's
12 uncle, retired marine colonel Charles Chuck
13 Rushworth, who is here today with his
14 beautiful wife Robin.

15 So, Kyle, I know your aunts and
16 uncles, friends and family, are very proud
17 of the person, the young man you have
18 become. Especially your parents, Danny and
19 Beth and, of course, Mary Kate. I wish you
20 only the best and I know you will effective,
21 caring and a visionary councilman. So,
22 again, all the best and thank you for
23 joining us on Scranton City Council. That's
24 all I have.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Gaughan, any

1 comments at this time?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
3 of all, I'd like to wish everybody a happy
4 new year and thank you for being here on
5 this frigid January 1. I'd like to start
6 off by thanking my very good friend, Judge
7 Tom Munley, for swearing me in and I want to
8 recognize some of the dignitaries and
9 officials in the audience today. Mayor
10 Connors is here with us today. Mayor
11 Peters, Commissioner Pat O'Malley and
12 Councilman John Pocius, so thank you very
13 much for coming today.

14 I would like to congratulate
15 Councilman Rogan on becoming our new
16 president and on his victory for city
17 council. I also want to congratulate Kyle
18 Donahue on his victory. I'm looking forward
19 to working with them over the next four
20 years along with Councilman Evans and
21 Councilman Perry and I want to congratulate
22 him on becoming vice-president.

23 I'd also like to congratulate our
24 solicitor, Amil Minora, and Lori Reed and I
25 look forward to working on them the next

1 four years.

2 I also want to congratulate Mayor
3 Courtright on his reelection and I am
4 looking forward to working very closely with
5 him as well.

6 I am extremely honored to be able to
7 serve the people of the City of Scranton for
8 another four years. It's my strong belief,
9 and it always has been, that public service
10 is an obligation and a responsibility. It's
11 important that we as citizens give back to
12 our community, that we become involved in
13 government and in civic affairs. Many
14 people shy away from public service, even
15 speaking up on an important issues because
16 of the scrutiny and criticism that sometimes
17 comes along with it. I'm reminded of what
18 Aristotle once said, "To avoid criticism,
19 say nothing, do nothing, be nothing."

20 Now, more than ever, we need young
21 people to get involved in public service,
22 run for office and make a difference.
23 Everyone in these chambers today understands
24 the sacrifices that comes along with running
25 for public office and being involved. It's

1 impossible to do it alone. I am extremely
2 blessed and extremely grateful to my family
3 and friends who worked so hard on my
4 campaign for election and believe in me
5 every step of the way and I have so many
6 people to thank.

7 First of all, I'd like to thank my
8 wife Kelly, I don't think she is in room
9 now, she is chasing around a two-year-old
10 and a one-year-old. I would consider her at
11 this point after the last two years with two
12 children to be a saint really. She is the
13 wonderful mother of our two sons Jack and
14 Murphy. To say our life has been an
15 adventure since we met seven years ago would
16 be a major understatement and I think she
17 would agree with me if she was in the room.
18 Kelly has stuck by side through it all even
19 -- and I wanted to apologize in the
20 beginning, I wasn't here the last two
21 council meetings because I had my appendix
22 out and she would be sick if I told the
23 story again because everybody I run into I'm
24 telling them about getting my appendix out,
25 but I wanted to apologize for being absent

1 and thank her for being the best nurse in
2 the City of Scranton. So I can't thank her
3 enough and I love her dearly.

4 I want to thank my parents, Jack and
5 Marie, who are with us today, I am so proud
6 to have you as my parents. You are always
7 there when I need you, I can't thank you
8 enough.

9 I want to thank my brothers Eddie
10 and Jackie. My sisters Katie and Kelly. I
11 want to thank all of my aunts and uncles.
12 Working the polls, walking door to door. My
13 Uncle John walked I think every street in
14 South Side with me, and he complained about
15 walking up all the hills, by the way.
16 Making phone calls, making baskets for
17 parties, there is a lot that goes into being
18 and getting elected to office and they
19 really helped me out. I want to thank all
20 of my cousins, my sister-in-law, Keri
21 Cruser, for all her hard work on my campaigns
22 and I want to send a special thank you to my
23 father-in-law and mother-in-law Jim and Mari
24 Wright, who are here with us today, always
25 on baby duty during campaign events, I

1 appreciate that and I want to send a special
2 thank you to my wife's grandmother, Mary
3 McLane. She couldn't be here today, but she
4 was always heavily involved in politics and
5 Democratic politics and she worked hard for
6 me when I first go started and she really is
7 a class act, so I wanted to thank her for
8 that.

9 And I also wanted to thank all of of
10 the volunteers who stepped forward and
11 helped me get elected.

12 I also want to take a moment to
13 remember my grandparents who couldn't be
14 here with us today either, Elizabeth and
15 Bill Gaughan and Edward and Helen Trentley,
16 and I have to say something special about my
17 Grandma Trentley because she was here with
18 us four years ago when I first got elected.
19 She was also involved in Democratic politics
20 from the time she was a little girl until
21 she passed away really, and she was not
22 afraid to take a stand and that's one thing
23 that she always taught me, that those who
24 stand for nothing fall for anything and her
25 father Edward was involved in politics as

1 well. He ran for city council, he ran for
2 sheriff, he didn't get elected to any of
3 those things, but he took a stand for the
4 people of South Side and I think that's
5 where what I learned from going up her house
6 and talking with her often, so I wish she
7 could be here and I know she is here with us
8 today.

9 Finally, I want to thank the people
10 of Scranton for putting their faith in me.
11 I have met so many great families over the
12 last four years. Really hardworking, blue
13 collar, salt of the earth men and women who
14 want nothing more than a fair shake, nothing
15 more than to be able to put food on the
16 table for their families, and it really has
17 been one of the great honors of my life to
18 be able to try and help them the best I can
19 to speak from these chambers on their behalf
20 when often times they feel like they don't
21 have a voice. Their problems, their
22 neighborhood issues, their concerns and
23 their worries have become mine and that will
24 never change.

25 I can promise you this morning that

1 I will continue to fight for you, stand up
2 for you, ask the tough questions of those in
3 positions of power and demand decisions that
4 this administration makes over the next four
5 years are done out in the open and not
6 behind closed doors.

7 Scranton, like many other cities
8 throughout the country, faces many
9 challenges and it would be very easy for our
10 leaders to shy away from them, to blame
11 somebody else for them and to pretend that
12 they do not exist. Washington Irving once
13 said, "Little minds are tamed and subdued by
14 misfortune, but great minds rise above it."

15 We must not shy away from these
16 challenges. We must meet them head on and
17 recognize the opportunities that they
18 present. I am very hopeful that Mayor
19 Courtright and his administration will work
20 closely with this council over the next four
21 years to meet these challenges and to make
22 Scranton a progressive, proactive city with
23 is transparent and works for all of the
24 people. Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, everybody.

1 I'd like to first start off by thanking by
2 colleagues for selecting me as council
3 president. This has been a long road. I
4 have been on council a number of years now.
5 My journey started about 10 years ago, my
6 first election. Unfortunately, I came up a
7 little bit short but the two people that I
8 lost to one was Bob McGoff, who was one of
9 the best council people the city has ever
10 had, and the other is our mayor, Bill
11 Courtright. So coming in third to those two
12 individuals isn't the worst thing in the
13 world.

14 I would like to congratulate
15 Councilman Gaughan on his reelection.
16 Congratulate Council Donahue on his
17 election. Congratulate Councilman Perry on
18 becoming vice-president, and not to leave
19 out Mr. Evans, but we are thrilled you are
20 here with us as well for another two years.

21 Running for office and being in
22 office is something a lot more difficult
23 than what you say see on TV during one or or
24 weekly meetings. There is much more that
25 goes into it. It's a 24/7 job and it's not

1 something that I take lightly.

2 I do want to thank a few people. I
3 have to thank my beautiful wife Amanda who
4 stood by me during the entire campaign,
5 hasn't seen me much during the campaign
6 because it's so stressful and lot of work.
7 Also, I'd like to thank my mom, who has been
8 by side the entire time. Even though
9 neither my mom or my wife care for politics
10 too much they help me and they do it because
11 it's something I truly care about and care
12 about for the city so I want to thank them
13 for their support.

14 I would like to thank the residents
15 of the Scranton for giving me the privilege
16 to serve them for a third time. Third terms
17 in politics are extremely rare so it's
18 something that I'm very humbled to have that
19 honor of. Over the next four years there are
20 a lot of challenges that the city faces, but
21 I want to take a minute to thank outgoing
22 Council President Joe Wechsler for his
23 leadership through the years, and Council
24 President Bob McGoff, who is no longer with
25 us, and if it wasn't for those two

1 individuals we wouldn't have the opportunity
2 that we have today to do a lot of the
3 proactive things we are going to do in these
4 next couple of years to help benefit the
5 City of Scranton.

6 Over the next two years as I serve
7 as council president my focus is going to be
8 on continuing the legacy that city council
9 has had over the last four years and now
10 that we have finally got ourself in a
11 financially position where we are not
12 constantly trying to correct the mistakes of
13 the past to lead some proactive endeavors to
14 help the business community and help grow
15 our city, create family sustaining jobs,
16 help our neighborhoods. Basic services are
17 what people come to city government for and
18 that's our responsibility to deliver those
19 services to the residents of Scranton.

20 So I just once again would like to
21 thank my colleagues for selecting me as
22 president and especially to the voters for
23 giving me the honor of a third term of being
24 your city councilman so thank you.

25 I now ask Father Ferreti to come

1 forward again and to offer the benediction.

2 (Father Sam Ferretti gives the

3 benediction.)

4 MR. ROGAN: If there is no further

5 business, I'll entertain a motion to

6 adjourn.

7 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

8 MR. ROGAN: Our next regularly

9 scheduled meeting will held on Monday,

10 January 8, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting is

11 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER