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01 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

02 PUBLIC HEARING

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05 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 111, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

05 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR

06 LICENSE IN THE NAME OF BARBARA MUNLEY T/A

06 THE HIGH AND DRY, BOROUGH OF ARCHBALD, LICENSE

07 NO. R-2867 CURRENTLY HELD IN ESCROW FORMERLY

07 USED AT 455 MAIN STREET, ARCHBALD TO BRT

08 HOLDING, LLC FOR USE AT 3 WEST OLIVE STREET,

08 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED BY

09 THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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14 Held:

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15 Thursday, March 3, 2005

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17 Time:

17 6:45 p.m.

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19 Location:

19 Council chambers

20 Scranton City Hall

20 340 North Washington Avenue

21 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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02 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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03 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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04 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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05 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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06 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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07 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: We have a brief

02 public hearing to hold prior to our regularly scheduled

03 meeting held at seven o'clock, and I'd like Kay to do a

04 roll call, please.

05 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

06 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

08 Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

14 The purpose of the public hearing is to hear testimony

15 and discuss the following:

16 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 111, 2005,

17 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT

18 LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF BARBARA

19 MUNLEY T/A THE HIGH AND DRY, BOROUGH OF

20 ARCHBALD, LICENSE NO. R-2867 CURRENTLY

21 HELD IN ESCROW FORMERLY USED AT 455 MAIN

22 STREET, ARCHBALD TO BRT HOLDING, LLC FOR

23 USE AT 3 WEST OLIVE STREET, SCRANTON,

24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE

25 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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01 And we have a sign-in sheet for

02 this public hearing, and there's one name on it, Andy

03 Sbaraglia.

04 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

05 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I don't

06 usually oppose liquor licenses, but the one for the

07 Ice Box, this is for the Ice Box --

08 MR. DIBILEO: I believe it's --

09 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't know if

10 it's a separate part of the Ice Box or part of the

11 Ice Box where the kids where they're ice skating or

12 roller skating. There's no differential in your bit of

13 legislation. Does anybody know where this bar is

14 supposed to go?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Is this for the

16 pizza restaurant down at the --

17 MR. SAUNDERS: No. We did that a

18 couple of months ago. But this is for a restaurant on

19 the second floor of the Ice Box, and it is separate

20 from where the kids are ice skating and roller skating.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's the only

22 thing I was worried about. Other than that, one more

23 liquor license ain't going to hurt nobody. Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

25 Mr. Sbaraglia. Would anyone else like to speak on this

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01 topic? If not, we're going to adjourn and then we'll

02 be back in ten minutes for our seven o'clock meeting.

03 Thank you.

04 (PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED.)

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01 C E R T I F I C A T E

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02 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
03 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
03 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and  
04 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to  
04 the best of my ability.

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
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08 Held:  
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09 Thursday, March 3, 2005  
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11 Time:  
12 7:00 p.m.  
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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

04

05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

06

07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

12

13 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR (Arrived where noted.)

14

15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the

02 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

03 short prayer. Kay, can we have a roll call, please?

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

14 Before we dispense with the reading of the minutes

15 this evening, we have an important event to announce,

16 and I have a proclamation here. We are celebrating the

17 Welsh Heritage Week this week, and there's three

18 individuals from the community of the Welsh Heritage

19 Group that are with us this evening, and I'd like to

20 ask them to come forward, and then I'll read a

21 proclamation involving that right now.

22 Margaret Peg Paris, Kitty Jenkins

23 Peroski and Beverly William Rudledik, if you'd come

24 forward, please.

25 Okay. The proclamation read,

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01 whereas, the Council of the City of Scranton is

02 desirous of honoring the Welsh Heritage on its 50th

03 Gymanfa Ganu Celebration; and whereas, March 1 to

04 March 6 is designated as Welsh Heritage Week; and

05 whereas, much of the Welsh culture that has such an

06 important part of our city's history was contributed by

07 its members who possess a natural love of music

08 inherited from their forefathers, many of who came to

09 America to seek new life and to mine coal; and whereas,

10 the Gymanfa Ganu is mainly a song festival of hymns of

11 worship and has been continuously observed in March for

12 50 years and has inspired the talents of many Welsh

13 composers to write the melodic and devotional Welsh

14 hymns which dominate the festival and lift the spirits

15 of the songsters; and whereas, Welsh singers are famous

16 worldwide from their natural ability to sing in four

17 part harmony, a skill that originated and was developed

18 in Wales; and whereas, the Welsh or Cymry have

19 contributed to this country, not only through their

20 musicianship and culture, but also in education,  
21 government and industry and the arts; and whereas, here  
22 in Scranton they brought the expertise of coal mining  
23 and their voices could be heard as they walked home  
24 from the mines singing the glorious Welsh music which  
25 is still the core of the annual Gymanfa Ganu; and  
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01 whereas, although the number of Welsh families that  
02 reside in Scranton have lessened, the indelible imprint  
03 made here by the Welsh will forever be evident as the  
04 city continues to move into the future.

05 Now, therefore, be it resolved  
06 that on Thursday, March 3, 2005, Scranton City Council  
07 wishes to congratulate the Welsh heritage on its 50th  
08 Gymanfa Ganu Celebration.

09 Be it further resolved, that this  
10 proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of  
11 this Council as lasting tribute to the Welsh Heritage  
12 and their love music. Congratulations. Thank you.

13 (WHEREUPON, Attorney Walsh entered the meeting.)

14 MR. DIBILEO: Congratulations.

15 MS. PARIS: Thank you ever so much,  
16 City Council, and Mr. Saunders and Kay for all of your  
17 work to help with the proclamation. We certainly  
18 appreciate it.

19 They say to be born Welsh is to be  
20 born with a silver spoon in your mouth, not because  
21 you're privileged, but because you have music in your  
22 blood and poetry in your soul.  
23 And if you've ever heard Welsh  
24 choirs sing, I'm sure that you would have to agree with  
25 me. We have a Welsh festival coming up Sunday over at  
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01 the church where we belong, and it's the 50th  
02 anniversary of the Gymanfa Ganu, which Gary did a  
03 pretty good job. It's not an easy word to say the way  
04 it's spelled.

05 MR. DIBILEO: I just learned it  
06 today.

07 MS. PARIS: But we certainly  
08 appreciate you doing this for us, and we were ever so  
09 grateful, and it will go into our archives so that  
10 other generations can appreciate it, as well. Thank  
11 you once again.

12 MR. DIBILEO: You're very welcome  
13 and congratulations, and it's our pleasure to honor  
14 Welsh Heritage.

15 Now if we can dispense with the

16 reading of the minutes, Mr. Walsh, please.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. Third order.  
18 3-A, MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING  
19 HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
21 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.  
22 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE  
23 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
24 DECEMBER 1, 2004 AND JANUARY 5, 2005.  
25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
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01 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.  
02 MR. WALSH: 3-C, CITY CONTROLLER'S  
03 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
05 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.  
06 MR. WALSH: 3-D, Clerk's notes.  
07 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, if you  
08 would, please.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: I have nothing  
10 tonight, Mr. President.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. That's a  
12 change. Not that you took it easy all week, I'm sure.  
13 MR. SAUNDERS: No, I certainly  
14 didn't.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks. One note we  
16 should mention is that our regularly scheduled meeting  
17 for next Thursday, March 10, is changed in observance  
18 of Saint Patrick's Day, and we're going to hold next  
19 week's meeting on Wednesday, March 9 at seven o'clock.  
20 MR. WALSH: Two weeks.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: The following week,  
22 two weeks from this evening.  
23 MR. SAUNDERS: Two weeks from this  
24 evening is March 17, and that would be  
25 St. Patrick's Day. Two weeks from this evening, that  
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01 meeting will be changed to Wednesday, March 16. And  
02 I'm sorry about that. Thank you very much.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Here come our Welsh  
04 cookies. Thank you. We have some beautiful Welsh  
05 cookies here. I'm sure they're delicious. And my  
06 mother's going to be very disappointed in my getting  
07 the day of St. Patrick's Day wrong. So, we got it for  
08 March 17.  
09 MS. EVANS: And my husband,  
10 Mr. Evans, a Welshman himself, is going to love these  
11 cookies.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

13 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen  
14 participation.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. We have a  
16 sign-in sheet, and the first person on the sign-in  
17 sheet is Andy Sbaraglia.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
19 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, Gary, as  
20 long as you don't get October 12th wrong.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Is that  
22 Columbus Day?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yes.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. I'll try to  
25 get that one right.

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01 MR. SBARAGLIA: If I can ask a few  
02 questions on your file of 107-2005, an ordinance  
03 establishes resolving fund with the historical  
04 preservation. Where is the money coming from? I know  
05 it's being administered by OECD, but where is the  
06 \$140,000 coming from?

07 MR. DIBILEO: Would anyone like to  
08 comment, Jay, on that?

09 MR. SAUNDERS: General fund money.

10 MR. POCIUS: I think it's from the  
11 OECD fund.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

13 MR. POCIUS: This is a result of a  
14 settlement of a federal court case, and it goes back a  
15 while. I think it was related to the 300 and 400  
16 blocks of Lackawanna Avenue back in the mall days,  
17 Andy, and I think this -- this was a federal court case  
18 that was resolved, and this was ordered in the court  
19 that this would be funded over a period of time.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Andy, what piece of  
21 legislation were you inquiring on?

22 MR. POCIUS: 7-B.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah.

24 MR. DIBILEO: 7-B? Okay.

25 MR. POCIUS: Yeah.

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01 MR. SBARAGLIA: Is that what it  
02 is?

03 MR. POCIUS: Yep, 7-B, Andy.

04 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yes. Okay. Some  
05 other questions about this. As you notice, it's only  
06 good for possibly three different loans. You got it  
07 there written in there where they can borrow up to

08 \$50,000.

09 So, we got this historical

10 society, we got a few broken down buildings that the

11 landlords have let get broken down. Somebody says and

12 looks at the facade and said, Well, this old building

13 looks like it could be preserved.

14 Gentlemen, we got a lot of homes

15 in this city that are as old as any building inside

16 this city. Most of the city buildings went up in 1895.

17 We got homes that are coming up on 100 years, just like

18 these building.

19 How many homes are on this list?

20 Does anybody ever see the list? They mentioned they

21 have a list. Have all of you saw these lists? Okay.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: They gave them to

23 us.

24 MR. POCIUS: Yeah, I've seen it.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: What is on the

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01 list?

02 MR. POCIUS: There's some homes.

03 There's some homes all through the Hill Section,

04 different places like that are on the -- there's a lot

05 of the buildings in the downtown. I think the whole

06 downtown between certain blocks is an historic

07 district. This list has to -- it's -- this has been

08 around a long time.

09 Like I said, Andy, it's in

10 settlement of a federal lawsuit filed back in 1987.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I saw the

12 lawsuit. I never read the lawsuit. Obviously -- who

13 filed the lawsuit, do you know offhand?

14 MR. POCIUS: The Architectural

15 Heritage Association.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Why else? Who

17 else? Because they get to control the money, don't

18 they? You don't even have any say so ability --

19 MR. POCIUS: Andy, I guess you're

20 not paying attention. The bottom line is, what I'm

21 trying to say is, this was ordered by the courts.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, it was

23 ordered by the courts, but I didn't read that thing. I

24 don't know if it was \$140. Maybe they only you have to

25 do something.

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01 If you didn't read that court

02 order, you would not know what is in it.

03 MR. POCIUS: Well, I'm not going

04 to go any farther with you. I tried to help you out,  
05 but I guess --  
06 MR. SBARAGLIA: You know what I  
07 mean? I mean, I don't think anybody on that Council  
08 has read that decision put out by the court, other than  
09 saying, You may be -- the only thing that was there  
10 maybe that you had to establish this. But you're going  
11 to fund them, and the funding that goes into them is  
12 just like every other funding.  
13 They get rights to do whatever  
14 they want with the money, and that's not quite right.  
15 I would like to see you cut it down, say, maybe \$15 or  
16 \$20,000 for each of these people to borrow, being that  
17 you pointed out there's a lot of homes that are on this  
18 list.  
19 The less amount of money that goes  
20 out to one individual, the more things that can be done  
21 with the money, and that's the whole idea. We want to  
22 preserve homes, not some 500 block of Lackawanna  
23 Avenue, that I'm pretty certain that's what this money  
24 is pushed for.  
25 Maybe you have fate. I don't have  
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01 fate in this administration at all, and I'll tell you  
02 why I don't fate in it, the Ice Box. 198 years for one  
03 dollar a year. That man has no credibility with me.  
04 Anything that comes out of that  
05 man, I look at with a grain of salt, and you should,  
06 too. Some things are good, some things are bad, but  
07 everything that goes out should be looked at in great  
08 detail to make sure it's what it's supposed to do and  
09 not another side pocket.  
10 I seen too much money go out. You  
11 pointed out last week that we couldn't buy police cars  
12 with our CommD money, but yet we took \$500,000 and put  
13 it into a garage.  
14 Now, you tell me why that money  
15 couldn't have went for a police station instead of that  
16 garage. No, nobody can answer, because that's where he  
17 wants it to go and he wants to do with that.  
18 You're a businessman, you're an  
19 architect, you work with a firm that does architectural  
20 work.  
21 MR. POCIUS: No.  
22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Exactly what do  
23 you do?  
24 MR. POCIUS: I'm a professional  
25 engineer. We do engineering work. There's a

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01 difference, Andy. There's a difference --

02 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. I can

03 understand the architect and engineering, I wasn't

04 quite sure whether it was all combined, but you do know

05 there's a profit margin with everything you do, that's

06 why you're there for, that's what this country runs on,

07 profit.

08 So, this man has control of the

09 money going to different projects to different

10 committees. You really don't know what the profit

11 margin is. You hope that they know what it is, but you

12 don't. You keep feeding him.

13 It's just an endless, endless pit.

14 It's like the money pit. We keep pouring money down

15 the drain. We got our lights, our street lights, we

16 don't have them yet. Now, that money was what, two

17 years or so ago, maybe even three years by now that we

18 borrowed the money to buy the street lights.

19 We don't own them, yet we've been

20 saying we've been saving all this money by owning these

21 street lights, but we haven't saved a penny, in fact,

22 we're paying probably twice as much now because we

23 don't own the lights and we still have to pay PP&L.

24 So, what are we getting? We're

25 paying on the loan and we're paying PP&L. We're paying

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01 twice, but that's the way this man works. Where else

02 can you get a DPW site that we payed twice for? Thank

03 you.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

05 Sbaraglia.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President --

07 MR. DIBILEO: Andy, Mr. Courtright

08 would like to --

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: If I may, Andy,

10 and for anybody else out there, this past week I had

11 been in a place over in Green Ridge called Hank's

12 Hoagies, and I ran into one of the gentleman that is

13 from MEM, and they're going to be coming in here in the

14 next couple of weeks, and I would ask you and anybody

15 else that's interested, I know you had a lot of

16 questions about MEM, if you were to put them down in

17 writing and bring them in the office to Kay, I will

18 certainly ask those questions for you when they get

19 here.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Just one answer. I know

21 my five minutes are up, could you ask Mr. Saunders to

22 give me a copy of that agreement again so I can find  
23 out, otherwise I would have to dig through miles of my  
24 own stuff.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure. You can do  
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01 that, can't you, Jay?

02 MR. SAUNDERS: Sure.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: And then if  
04 anybody, if yourself or anybody else has questions,  
05 I'll ask them for you and hopefully you will be able to  
06 get your answers, you'll be satisfied with that, all  
07 right?

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
09 Mr. Courtright, thank you, Mr. Saunders. And to answer  
10 your initial question, the \$140,000 is being funded  
11 through the office of economic and community  
12 development and administered by that same department,  
13 Andy. Thank you.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Right.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Les Spindler.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
17 Council. Les Spindler.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Last Saturday I was  
20 downtown to welcome the soldiers home, my family and I  
21 were there, we were standing on the corner of Spruce  
22 and Jefferson where they asked us to meet, and I'll  
23 tell you what, that was one of the most rewarding  
24 experiences I ever had.

25 When those soldiers -- when those  
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01 buses came into town with those guys, I saw Mrs. Evans  
02 there, Mr. Courtright, Mr. McTiernan, and I heard you  
03 were at the armory, Mr. DiBileo, and Gaynor Cawley was  
04 also there, and to see it, they were, like, in the  
05 front of the bus, it looked like they were ready to  
06 jump through the windows. They were so excited.

07 That was a great experience. I  
08 was a little disappointed with the turnout. I thought  
09 there was going to be a lot more people.

10 I mentioned all the  
11 representatives that were there, where was Mayor  
12 Doherty? I think he should have been at that armory  
13 with a key to this city. These men risked their lives  
14 over there every single day, and he didn't have the  
15 courtesy to show up.

16 You can say what you want. If  
17 that was Mayor Connors, he would have been there. He

18 was a mayor that worked for the people. This guy does  
19 not care what the people have to say.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Well, you don't

21 know. He could have been out of town, Les. We're not  
22 sure what the situation was.

23 MR. SPINDLER: If it had something

24 to do with Nay Aug Park, he probably would have been  
25 there.

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01 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. DiBileo, I had

02 an opportunity to speak with the mayor on that, and he

03 had a family situation, and he did ask if there was

04 anything going on that we would speak for him, but

05 there obviously wasn't. That was mostly centered

06 around the families, and it's probably worth noting

07 that all the approvals regarding the parade did go

08 through the administration, so I know that there was a

09 sentiment for that, but that's all I'll say.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Next thing.

12 I saw in the paper the other day where Mr. McTiernan

13 wants to talk to the mayor about a tiered system for

14 the pools, well, it's a nice gesture, but the facts

15 remains is, according to the two deeds, there aren't

16 supposed to be any charges at all.

17 Even with a tiered system, you're

18 still discriminating on people that want to go that

19 can't afford to go on the waterslide.

20 After that. Later on in the

21 article Attorney Kelly stated that he issued an opinion

22 that the deeds do not prevent the city from collecting

23 a fee.

24 Well, what part of free and public

25 forever doesn't he understand? I personally don't even

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01 think he read the deed, because if he did read it, he

02 would know that no fees should be charged.

03 That being said, I think tonight

04 is time for Council to take the bull by the horns, use

05 its power to resolve this issue and finally get it

06 taken care of. Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

08 Mr. Spindler. Reverend Cathryn Simmons.

09 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening. My

10 name is Reverend Cathryn Simmons, and I'm a Scranton

11 resident.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

13 MS. SIMMONS: I bring you the

14 following words, Peace on to you from our my Lord and  
15 Savior Jesus Christ.

16 I come here tonight wearing  
17 several hats, one as chairperson of the Florence  
18 Midtown Crime Watch Organization; number two, as  
19 Chaplain of Justice and Advocacy Ministry; three, as  
20 part of the ministerial staff of one of Scranton's most  
21 historic churches; four, as a Scranton resident; and as  
22 of March 1, a great-grandmother.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Congratulations.

24 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you. I'm not  
25 telling you my age. I say all of this to you because I  
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01 want you to understand how deeply I comprehend all of  
02 the issues I'm about to speak about.

03 Tomorrow this city will see the  
04 end of ten CommD officers working as part of the  
05 Scranton Police Department, one of them a young  
06 Afro American officer named Derek Green.

07 This means that the hope for  
08 neighborhood patrols has ended. The hope for young  
09 minority officers to work with our youth of minority  
10 cultures is over. All of this you're already aware of,  
11 but I come here tonight to say to you in a very loud  
12 and stern voice, This is not acceptable.

13 Our streets are screaming for  
14 attention. Our prison at 1371 North Washington Avenue  
15 is flooding with young people, some who could have been  
16 saved, if we had had the proper number of police  
17 patrols in our neighborhoods.

18 This administration is asking  
19 officers to police our streets, but no proper backup is  
20 offered. We are a city that always, and I repeat  
21 always, has to wait for a traumatic event to happen  
22 before we acknowledge that a problem even exists.

23 Which of you will come with me  
24 when an officer is seriously injured or maybe even  
25 deadly to face his family and say because this  
0021

01 administration could not take the time to apply for  
02 funding, they didn't have the backup they needed.

03 Why do we have persons coming from  
04 out of town? And I met these people myself, so I know  
05 I can use this word, astounded that we have one black  
06 Scranton police officer, no black firemen, and only one  
07 black attorney in a county-wide judicial system.

08 When, gentlemen, does it end?

09 When will you as Councilpersons join with us and demand

10 from this administration that our police department be  
11 used as it was meant, to befriend, to teach, to aid and  
12 to protect, and to use all of the persons in our most  
13 sacred and educated and diverse cultures?  
14 If you will not aid us, we are  
15 ready to approach our governor, and there has been two  
16 calls put in already. We are going to ask that all  
17 state funding coming into the city be stopped until we  
18 find out what is going on and why our streets are not  
19 safe to walk.  
20 We have a young man that now lies  
21 up at CMC. That should have never happened. We should  
22 have had a police neighborhood patrol.  
23 We have had two, two instances in  
24 our neighborhood that involve violence, gang related.  
25 This should never have happened. We should have police  
0022  
01 patrols in our neighborhoods. The problems are there.  
02 You can say whatever you want to,  
03 you can phrase them however you want to, you can use  
04 whatever data you want to, but I stand here to tell you  
05 that I go into the prison every week, I know who's in  
06 there, I go into the hospitals every week, I know who  
07 is laying there, and I go into the homes every week, I  
08 know where help is needed.  
09 I hope that you can help us,  
10 because it is certain that this administration is not  
11 going to help us. They don't care about the poor, they  
12 do not care about low income families, and they  
13 certainly do not care about the black and/or Hispanic  
14 families. Thank you.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Reverend  
16 Simmons. Bob Bolus.  
17 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
18 Bob Bolus.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
20 MR. BOLUS: I'd just like to echo?  
21 Les Spindler. You know, our troops did come home, they  
22 were here in the city, and I know all members of  
23 Council were there.  
24 It's disappointing the mayor  
25 wasn't there, family problem or not. He could have  
0023  
01 sent a representative to represent him there to welcome  
02 our troops home.  
03 I'm sure if we had a new monkey  
04 coming to Nay Aug Park, somebody would have been there.  
05 Maybe that's the problem, we should have had the troops

06 come to Nay Aug, rather than the Armory to get the  
07 respect that they're entitled to.  
08 You know, Mr. McTiernan, you made  
09 comments regarding Nay Aug Park, how you want to double  
10 tier or triple tier, well, I have five dollars, right,  
11 that allows me to use the slide under your program.  
12 Someone that doesn't have five  
13 dollars can go use the slide under a gift or last year,  
14 as we saw, for free. Why should I or other people that  
15 could put up the five dollars be discriminated against  
16 and allow those that can't put it up to be able to go  
17 there and swim, when we have a tax base in this city  
18 that's eroded that we should be focusing on that  
19 everybody is treated with and equality.  
20 You want to tier this because  
21 maybe it's something the mayor'd like to do, but not  
22 come out and say it because he's running for  
23 re-election. He knows it's a sensitive spot.  
24 What bothers me the most when it  
25 comes to the deeds regarding the City of Scranton and  
0024  
01 Nay Aug Park, you don't want to make a comment on it or  
02 support it. Why? Because we won't have to pay this  
03 five dollars to speak -- if the deeds speak for  
04 themselves, as Mrs. Evans and the others have been  
05 pushing.  
06 I think we need to let the deeds  
07 speak, and it should be free, based on the deeds, and  
08 cut the political nonsense out, because I don't want to  
09 spend \$5.00 and see somebody next to me, whether it's  
10 lower class or middle class or whatever have to pay.  
11 If we're going to have an  
12 equality, then we should have that equality. I'm going  
13 to leave my \$5 in my pocket, because I think I should  
14 swim free, too.  
15 So, I think you should definitely  
16 participate with this Council in getting the deeds  
17 definitely to where they need to be to really get the  
18 real truth.  
19 You know, a couple years ago when  
20 this came, you stood on the side here, you didn't vote  
21 with the majority or whatever we tried to have a  
22 majority to have equality up there. Maybe you should  
23 re-evaluate your position.  
24 But I'm not making that personal,  
25 but it's your comments, no more than I do with  
0025  
01 Mr. Pocius over the pension. Irrespective of whether

02 you get it or you don't, if you're contributing or you  
03 have it, it should go back to where it belongs and end  
04 this nonsense. Let's start putting fairness where it  
05 belong.

06 I brought up about impact fees.

07 Mr. DiBileo raised it last week that KOZs are tax

08 free. And that's right, but they're not fee free. A

09 fee could be passed along everyone that's an equality.

10 I would ask tonight that someone make a motion to at

11 least empower the solicitor to come up with a solution

12 to the impact fee in the City of Scranton against KOZs,

13 non-profits, and, yes, us citizens, too, if we have to

14 pay our fair share, but to see everyone pay is what

15 equality is about, no more than a fee at Nay Aug Park.

16 And that's what should be done

17 tonight, and I would ask that happen tonight so we

18 don't have to keep talking about it.

19 But let's move forward, at least

20 explore it. Pittsburgh does it. I spent at my own

21 cost -- how much information I supplied this Council

22 regarding impact fees, maintenance fees, or any other

23 fee. Let's not ignore what someone is trying to do in

24 this city.

25 And it's not that I'm looking for

0026

01 any glory, I'm a taxpayer, I'm a resident here. And

02 the stronger we make our tax base in the city, the

03 stronger we make Scranton that people will want to come

04 here.

05 You know, the interest at the golf

06 course that Doherty gave away is sitting there. It

07 should be going toward the pools. And whatever that

08 pays, that's all it should be. That's what it was

09 meant for.

10 Had he left the golf course, maybe

11 we could have got Dunmore to buy our golf course for

12 \$2, and still got a fee out of it every year.

13 So, you know, we continue to give

14 away, as we did with the Ice Box downtown. Carl Greco

15 should have had deeds and everything prepared and the

16 transfer prepared a year ago, so when they moved to the

17 new complex, we got our money, instead of the question

18 is it going to be, as Andy said, 100 years before we

19 see any money, other than a dollar per year.

20 So, there are a lot of things that

21 we need to do. We need to fix the potholes, but more

22 importantly, we need to take care of the people in this

23 city. Those are the people who are supporting the KOZs

24 and the non-profits, and I would ask you do that  
25 tonight. Thank you.

0027

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

02 Mr. Bolus. Jimmy Stucker.

03 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing?

04 MR. DIBILEO: Hi, Jimmy. How are  
05 you?

06 Mr. STUCKER: I have little

07 problems over on Moosic Street with the holes again in  
08 the alleyway. They never fixed them. They don't plow  
09 the alleyways, they don't plow the alleys. We had to  
10 call the city to come over and plow them. Today they  
11 picked up our garbage, kind of backed up.

12 MR. DIBILEO: You still have them  
13 over there, Jim, the holes in the alley?

14 MR. STUCKER: There's, like,  
15 four -- there's three holes spread out. They're  
16 supposed to fix them, they never did.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, I know you've  
18 asked DPW to look into Jimmy's problem, would you try  
19 to do that again?

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I'll send a  
21 letter back down, second request.

22 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Danny Shealey  
23 just told me to bring up a thing. He parks his car in  
24 the garage across the street where it used to be the  
25 tire place, they bought that garage. What happens,  
0028

01 yesterday the car -- a cop car parked in front of the  
02 garage.

03 Can you see about that for Danny?

04 He can't get in the garage, he can't get out of the  
05 garage on account there was a cop car parked right in  
06 front of it, and everybody else is parked there.

07 MR. DIBILEO Mr. Courtright is  
08 shaking his head that he can try to help out there,  
09 Jim.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Give Kay the  
11 address.

12 MR. STUCKER: I don't know what  
13 the address is. Across the street. Okay. If there's  
14 a way --is there a way you can get a sign put on  
15 Moosic Street on the alleyway that says No Parking on  
16 corner, in the alley where I live?

17 MR. DIBILEO: Are there no parking  
18 in court signs there now, Jimmy?

19 MR. STUCKER: No, they took them

20 out.

21 MR. DIBILEO: They took them out?

22 MR. STUCKER: They took the out  
23 altogether.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are people parking  
25 in there?

0029

01 MR. STUCKER: They're parking  
02 right on the street, right in front of where the alley  
03 is.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Mr. Saunders,  
05 could you look into that?

06 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. That's a  
07 general law throughout the city. There's an ordinance  
08 written about parking in alleys and --

09 MR. STUCKER: Well, they shouldn't  
10 park on Moosic Street on account of the alleyway,  
11 people can't get down or they can't get up.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll send something  
13 down on that.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. All right,  
15 Jimmy, we'll check that out for you.

16 MR. STUCKER: Okay. What about --  
17 did you hear anything about my scooter?

18 MR. DIBILEO: I haven't heard.  
19 Has anybody heard anything about Jimmy's scooter?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, Jim, we  
21 haven't been able to find it yet, pal.

22 MR. POCIUS: I've been asking  
23 around, Jim, nope. Nobody seems to know where it is.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think it's  
25 gone.

0030

01 MR. STUCKER: I know it's blue.

02 MR. POCIUS: You said it was green  
03 and yellow last time, right?

04 MR. STUCKER: It was blue.

05 MR. POCIUS: Okay.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think -- I  
07 don't think you're going to be able to get it, Jim. I  
08 think it's gone forever, Buddy.

09 MR. POCIUS: It's a shame.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: We're sorry about  
11 that.

12 MR. DIBILEO: And not to mention,  
13 Jim, but I understand according to what Mr. Courtright  
14 told me, if you do get it back, he said it's illegal to  
15 ride it on the sidewalks, so you're not really going to

16 be able to use it.

17 MR. STUCKER: I used it all summer

18 and they didn't say nothing. I used it on the sidewalk

19 up Moosic Street, and they didn't --

20 MR. DIBILEO: Did you used to get

21 stopped, Jim?

22 MR. STUCKER: Once I got stopped

23 in South Side, that's all.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, that's how

25 this all started, remember? The police wouldn't allow

0031

01 you to drive that, right, that's why you were selling

02 it; do you remember that?

03 MR. STUCKER: Everybody is riding

04 them now.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. But

06 you're really not supposed to. Maybe they're doing

07 that, but they're not supposed to, that's why you were

08 selling it; do you remember that?

09 MR. STUCKER: But I never got my

10 money for it.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know. That

12 lady took off on you, I'm sorry about that?

13 MR. STUCKER: She took it, and

14 never got my money.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we will keep

16 looking for it, Jim, and then we will deal with the

17 problem that you can't use it if we do find it, okay?

18 MR. STUCKER: February 21 was my

19 birthday.

20 MR. DIBILEO: What is?

21 MR. STUCKER: February 21 was my

22 birthday.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Well, Happy

24 Birthday, Jim. Happy Birthday, Jimmy. I won't ask you

25 how old you are.

0032

01 MR. STUCKER: Sixty.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Really? No kidding.

03 MR. STUCKER: Sixty years old.

04 MR. DIBILEO: You're doing good,

05 Jimmy, for your age. You're doing something right.

06 Happy Birthday. Erik Johnson.

07 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

08 Council and staff and Lisa.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

10 MR. JOHNSON: I want to say that

11 that homecoming for our troops, that was a great thing

12 to happen here in Scranton.

13 And speaking of our troops that  
14 came home here, there are several that are going back  
15 to Iraq, and my daughter happens to be -- she did such  
16 a good job over there, that they want her to go back  
17 again.

18 And tonight Detective Fritz Golden  
19 came in with a special pin, it's a Marine pin with the  
20 America flag and the troop flag, and he knew her  
21 personally, you know, with like with the family here,  
22 and his daughter did, also, and he gave this pin in the  
23 honor of her that she'll be going back again, and also  
24 her prior duties over there in Iraq.  
25 And she won an award as being one  
0033

01 of the most disciplined female Marines in her unit.  
02 And also speaking of Detective Tobin saw me several  
03 days ago, and he was telling me what a great job my son  
04 was doing down in Wilkes-Barre as a policeman, and that  
05 he's won the award as being one of the best disciplined  
06 policeman down there.  
07 He never refuses an assignment and  
08 he works almost all weekends for everybody, you know,  
09 everybody else. So, with the two siblings that I've  
10 had, I'm very proud of them.

11 MR. DIBILEO: You should be, Erik.

12 MR. JOHNSON: And I can say this  
13 without reading it, because it's a great thing that  
14 it's -- I'm so proud of them. And, so, thank you for  
15 listening to that.

16 Bringing up to other businesses, I  
17 think our police are doing a great job here in  
18 Scranton. And it's hard to know that we may miss or we  
19 may lose some of our CommD police that are in the  
20 neighborhood, and I just really wish that we could have  
21 some funds there for them.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Erik, if I may, I  
23 know Mrs. Simmons mentioned ten, and the number that  
24 had been told to me a couple weeks back or so was  
25 seven, and my understanding is this, is that --  
0034

01 MR. JOHNSON: You're saying seven  
02 instead of ten?

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. And she  
04 could be right. I could be wrong.

05 MS. SIMMONS: I am right.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: She is right.

07 All right. There's ten, but my understanding is this,

08 is that unless something has changed since Dave Elliott  
09 had told me this that they're going to be replace those  
10 seven or ten with people off of another list.  
11 I could be wrong, but that's --  
12 they're not --  
13 MR. JOHNSON: Are they're going to  
14 place them somewhere else?  
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, she's  
16 saying no, but that's what I was told a week or so ago.  
17 MS. SIMMONS: One of the CommD  
18 officers got in touch with me two days ago and told me  
19 that. That's the reason I'm here tonight, because they  
20 got in touch with me and asked me if I would say  
21 something on their behalf.  
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Then  
23 I must have been misinformed. I will find out first  
24 thing in the morning. And if that's the case, I will  
25 be here first thing tomorrow morning nine o'clock. I  
0035  
01 will check it out.  
02 If they gave me wrong information,  
03 I will find that out first thing tomorrow morning and I  
04 will report back to everyone, all right?  
05 MR. JOHNSON: That's good. That's  
06 great. Allow me that extra time, okay? All right.  
07 I'm going to speak about the downtown senior citizens  
08 center. The downtown senior citizens will be able to  
09 get new sidewalks thanks to the action of City  
10 Council.  
11 I want to personally thank John  
12 Pocius, that he recommended a motion to give the center  
13 \$55,000 in repayment money from the urban development  
14 block grant program.  
15 Prior Council wanted to fund the  
16 project out of federal community development, which was  
17 stated by Bill Courtright, wasn't it --  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Evans. And  
19 everybody was interested.  
20 MR. JOHNSON: -- but there was no  
21 money available in the block grant because it would  
22 mean cutting into other needs programs.  
23 I also want to thank Janet Evans  
24 for always speaking out for the center prior to the  
25 approved last week motion and decisions action.  
0036  
01 I sincerely believe there isn't a  
02 councilman or woman of the five members that is not for  
03 senior citizens. I think you all are.

04 And I don't care who gets mad at  
05 me for saying this, my last presentation of Scranton  
06 Downtown Senior Center has been criticized loudly and  
07 angrily by a certain person, and it is becoming an  
08 everyday mad event to the point of harassment.  
09 Again, I say in fact that the  
10 majority of all Scranton citizens young and old are all  
11 for senior citizens of the center.  
12 And it's my personal business who  
13 I campaign for City Council. I'm not going to be  
14 badgered just to support only one.  
15 Bottom line, I don't get a lot of  
16 comments that were good -- I do get a lot of comments  
17 that are good in my last presentation of the senior  
18 citizens center.  
19 One person, except for one person,  
20 who created a mad scene against me. Again, I thank  
21 everybody who made it possible that the center will  
22 receive \$55,000 for the new sidewalk.  
23 Also, the federal block grant  
24 money is very vital for the City of Scranton, federal  
25 economic development block grant. I have mentioned how  
0037  
01 important these grants are for the City of Scranton  
02 several weeks before the last two-week session of  
03 City Council, where it was mentioned that we all, the  
04 citizens of Scranton, need to get in touch with our  
05 federal representatives, Congressman Kanjorski and  
06 Senator Santorum and Senator Specter.  
07 The Bush administration is  
08 pondering a reduction in the federal economic  
09 development block grants that could cost the city  
10 \$1.5 million a year here in Scranton.  
11 Overall Washington is planning to  
12 cut the program by one-third of the budget nationwide.  
13 And before you can even receive such federal block  
14 grants, you must submit the reason where it is going  
15 and how much of the money is going to be spent on the  
16 property and whatsoever.  
17 We citizens, taxpayers, city  
18 administrations and City Council are all responsible to  
19 see if Scranton receives these federal economic  
20 development block grants.  
21 It is also important that our  
22 federal representatives go to bat for us and not strike  
23 out swinging a bat for us as for the city. We need  
24 somebody to do the homework for these federal block  
25 grants, period, and there's no buts for excuses.

0038

01 \$1.5 million is a lot to lose here  
02 in Scranton, when we already are financially strapped.  
03 Thank you for listening to me.  
04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik.  
05 Appreciate that. Olga Lucas.  
06 MS. LUCAS: My name is Olga Lucas,  
07 I'm from Pine Brook. This is my first time here. Good  
08 evening, gentlemen and Lady Evans and my people. I  
09 have something here that's very interesting, and I have  
10 been saying it since autumn, and summertime and winter,  
11 but when it got too cold, I couldn't make it no more.  
12 It's down by Munchak Street going  
13 up this way. Munchak is going to the Scranton High  
14 School. When you're going up, well, I want to go down  
15 on the right side.  
16 I think your children play soccer  
17 ball there. Well, where all the trees are, I have a  
18 picture here to show you there's a -- I don't know if  
19 it's a hole or a cave-in. It's been there since the  
20 spring. It was like this. Now it's getting bigger,  
21 and the topsoil is sinking in.  
22 So, I have an umbrella there, put  
23 it halfway. It's a man's umbrella. But I hold onto  
24 it, because it looks like a mine. I'm not sure.  
25 But I did go to the police station

0039

01 yesterday, and the gentleman was very nice to me. And  
02 I told him, I went to five people, so I thought I'd  
03 come here and tell you about it.  
04 But I don't know if it's done or  
05 not, but it's been done -- it hasn't been done since I  
06 went there about a month ago.  
07 Here, I want to give you this so  
08 you can see it. And I also have these, too. The trees  
09 have been cut on Capouse Avenue just about two weeks  
10 ago. A man stopped me and says, He bust out laughing.  
11 And I looked. I laughed.  
12 How are they cutting the trees?  
13 They cut them all where the wires are. So, I asked  
14 some other lady, she said, Well, they're growing this  
15 way after.  
16 I said, I never heard such a  
17 thing. When I had rose bushes, I cut everything so  
18 they grow up beautiful. I have a garden, but I would  
19 never cut one side. I have pictures here to show you.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Olga, you can bring  
21 them up here or leave them with Kay.

22 MS. LUCAS: Oh, you can have them.

23 I don't want them.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Sure. We'll

25 take them up here.

0040

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Olga.

02 MS. LUCAS: I have more, too. I

03 don't have up to five minutes, sir, so when that bell

04 rings, I have the law to stop. I do have a lot more to

05 go, but further on I will talk about Nay Aug.

06 Nay Aug is a beautiful place.

07 I've known Nay Aug since this gentleman here, and

08 everyone did a good job. It's a different ideas of

09 life today.

10 Everybody's got different ways of

11 life, and it's always going bigger and bigger with

12 different ways of life. You don't criticize one

13 person. They all did a good job.

14 I remember that man. They had one

15 big pool, and every little corner one had a restaurant,

16 a little store or a little food. They even had

17 animals. You go in, you go right out, animals, and on

18 the other side they had little animals for little

19 children.

20 We had food and we had water out,

21 and now they have two little pools, and I know that we

22 never paid for it, but I will say this, if you want to

23 pay, pay a dollar, but five bucks, I haven't got.

24 I got five grandchildren. I can't

25 take them. That's \$25. And you know children love to

0041

01 eat or they're thirsty, so I can't take them. I have

02 to go somewhere else so they can enjoy the pool or a

03 sandwich.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Olga, speak into the

05 microphone just so everybody can hear you.

06 MS. LUCAS: Oh, I'm sorry. I told

07 you I can make a mistake. Now, could you hear me?

08 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

09 MS. LUCAS: I'm sorry. Now I

10 forgot what I was going to say. Well, that one is

11 done. This is Nay Aug how beautiful it was when all

12 these people did it. We had flowers. We went up

13 there, we did it for -- some of our people did it for

14 nothing.

15 So, I have to give them the credit

16 when they go up. And I don't know if you have this.

17 You may have it.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

19 MS. LUCAS: Nay Aug is always

20 getting bigger and better, so we are not going to

21 criticize nothing. When you get a mayor, they always

22 try their best. The kids have a nice clean pool and

23 they always make sure that it's clean.

24 Now I have another problem. Up by

25 Olive Street and part of Capouse Avenue, we have a

0042

01 problem there. We have cars going to school, and

02 there's bumper to bumper, and I would think it needs to

03 be done.

04 You may have these pictures. I

05 took them, and it's very bad. And I also have pictures

06 here with the snow. Why couldn't they have a shovel

07 and make room for the people to walk? My five minutes

08 is up. I can't tell you no more, but I'll try to come

09 next time. And you may have these pictures.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have another

11 minute.

12 MR. DIBILEO: You have another

13 minute if you want to take it, Olga.

14 MS. LUCAS: I have more. This one

15 here is a good one. This is from Olive Street, and

16 these are the people not shoveling their snow. As a

17 matter of fact, last week -- just yesterday I think

18 there was a man that was a crippled, and he's a

19 well-educated man, he said the sidewalks are not

20 cleaned right. He's right. There's the pictures. I

21 thought I'd take them and show you them. You may

22 have.

23 Now, this is my last one. I know

24 my five minutes is up. This here is very important.

25 This is on the 700 block, 800 block Greens Place and

0043

01 Ames Court, I don't know if you know it, but there's

02 people here have a cleaned yard, and now we're going

03 beyond it to make it clean.

04 We have people living back there,

05 slobs, men are drinking there, kids are passing for

06 cigarettes, they're getting money. So, I thought you

07 could have these, too, to show you proof of what I'm

08 saying, and it's the truth. That's all I could tell

09 you. And thank you for listening to me, and I hope I

10 didn't do nothing wrong.

11 MR. DIBILEO: No, you didn't,

12 Olga. You're a good photographer, Olga. Thank you.

13 Lee Morgan.

14 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
15 Council.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

17 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I  
18 have is MMI, they're going to come here in the next  
19 couple weeks?

20 MR. DIBILEO: MEM.

21 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Wouldn't it be  
22 possible for residents to ask them questions on their  
23 own and open this forum up to real dialogue, instead of  
24 just having something spinning from Council?

25 Because a lot of times people sit  
0044

01 here and they have questions, and they aren't  
02 necessarily asked by counsel, but they are legitimate  
03 questions.

04 MR. DIBILEO: We would prefer,  
05 Lee, if you could just put them writing whatever  
06 questions you have, and we'll ask those questions for  
07 you as best we can, and then afterwards, I'm sure that  
08 they'll spend a few extra minutes after the meeting, if  
09 they can, in the hallway so that you can ask anything  
10 else that you may want to.

11 MR. MORGAN: Well, you know,  
12 originally when this whole project was brought about, I  
13 had the opportunity to speak to these gentlemen, and I  
14 really don't have very much faith in that idea, for the  
15 simple reason that they stated that they stated they'd  
16 send me all the information they had.

17 Well, if I was still waiting for  
18 that information, it still didn't come yet, and I think  
19 the most relevant thing in a democracy is to allow  
20 people to ask questions, and when you take the public  
21 out of the discussion, then you narrow the discussion.

22 And I think we need to stop  
23 narrowing discussions. I think the residents should  
24 ask these people questions and get answers.

25 Because with all due respect to  
0045

01 Council, you know, you have a lot on your mind, and  
02 you're trying to ask questions that you feel are  
03 legitimate, but in any conversation as dialogue  
04 expands, other questions become relevant.

05 So, it's very important to allow  
06 people to intervene and, you know, reach their own  
07 conclusions by asking their own questions, and I would  
08 just hope that by the time this meeting takes place,  
09 that this Council will find it productive to allow

10 people to ask questions, because I think that too many  
11 times a lot of things are overlooked, as in this  
12 particular situation.

13 But Council will make its own mind  
14 up on that, I just hope that you will open the  
15 discussion up.

16 The other thing is, like I stated  
17 in Council chambers, I really think there's a problem  
18 here with certain animals in the city, because like I  
19 stayed, there was a dog attacked at 125 South Filmore.  
20 This dog sustained over \$1,000 worth of damage in an  
21 attack by three other dogs.

22 Now, the amount of damage this dog  
23 suffered is beyond belief, but the most troubling  
24 alleged thing is that the person who owned the dog  
25 stood there and watched it happen, and I think that if  
0046

01 you take a look at recent history in the city, there  
02 was a child who had a little puppy in his hand, two  
03 dogs ran up, ripped the dogs out of his hands and  
04 killed it, and I think it's the responsibility of this  
05 Council and this mayor.

06 So, this Council needs to enter  
07 into dialogue with this mayor and come up with a  
08 solution to the problem of dogs that are being trained  
09 to be vicious, because it's only a matter of time  
10 before some child may possibly be ripped to shreds, and  
11 it's not going to be, well, we didn't know it was  
12 coming, because these problems have been happening here  
13 for a long time.

14 And I think it's conducive to  
15 Council to come up with a solution to this problem in  
16 cooperation with their solicitor, I mean, because we  
17 all have a responsibility to protect people.

18 And, you know, like  
19 Mrs. Simmons said here about the community development  
20 officers or CommD officers, you know, we have to really  
21 take a good look at the city.

22 We aren't in the position to lose  
23 any police officers, we really aren't. I mean, you  
24 take a look at this mayor. When the mayors came from  
25 Reading and a couple other towns, they went to Nay Aug  
0047

01 Park, and I don't know if they went through the  
02 neighborhoods, but I'm sure you have.

03 It's time to really take a very  
04 good hard look at these neighborhoods, and removing  
05 police from neighborhoods is not an answer. You don't

06 balance your balance sheet by removing people's  
07 protection.  
08 I mean, up on Harrison Avenue, 10  
09 or 15 years ago, a poor elderly lady was murdered right  
10 in her house, all right? And I think that people  
11 should feel safe where they live.  
12 The same thing with these dogs I'm  
13 talking about, there's people that don't come out of  
14 their house anymore, they're afraid to come out of  
15 their house, and that's why solutions have to be found  
16 for problems, and I think that Council should try to  
17 find these solutions.  
18 And like you stated, well, the  
19 codes may not allow certain things, but in all reality,  
20 I think that you're responsible for your pets and they  
21 have to be under your control all times.  
22 Well, if these dogs were being  
23 watched by their owner as they ripped this other animal  
24 apart, there's a problem there, and somebody has to  
25 address that problem.

0048

01 Council has to call down to the  
02 chief of police and find out what was done and what  
03 wasn't done, and if things weren't done correctly, then  
04 somebody has to ask questions of why and make sure that  
05 changes are made to protect the citizens of this city.  
06 Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

08 Mr. Morgan. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are  
09 there any other speakers?

10 MR. DAVIS: My first question is  
11 about the general budget. Last week I understand I saw  
12 in the sixth order where money was being moved, and I  
13 assume they were contingency funds that were not being  
14 used by certain groups who had asked for it and got it,  
15 and I was wondering who keeps track of how much money  
16 is placed into this fund, No. 1; who has control over  
17 the spending out of this fund; and No. 3, is this like  
18 cash on hand for the administration or is it, like,  
19 cash on hand for the city?

20 Who does this -- we're floating  
21 money into it. I asked this question sometime ago,  
22 Where does this money go to? I never see it come out  
23 of this fund. I don't see anybody saying we're going  
24 to use this general fund for this.

25 But the money keeps flowing into

0049

01 it, but it doesn't come out. I just wanted to know if

02 we can find out. And please tell me later. I haven't  
03 had an answer so far, and I don't think I'll get one  
04 tonight, but it's okay.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders, there  
06 were a couple of accounts closed recently, I believe  
07 last week they were in seventh order, and we're not  
08 exactly certain what the mayor or the administration  
09 has planned for those funds, but possibly you can ask  
10 on behalf of Mr. Davis if there's any particular plans  
11 for that money.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay. I will do  
13 that.

14 MR. DIBILEO: We can certainly  
15 think of a few ideas that we could use the funds for,  
16 like extra police protection.

17 MR. SAUNDERS: That was last week?

18 MR. DIBILEO: I believe last week  
19 it was in seventh order, two or three pieces of  
20 legislation. So, if you can just try to get an answer  
21 for Mr. Davis, please. Thank you.

22 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. While I  
23 was recuperating, I had the great pleasure of watching  
24 television, and I watched the symposium for black  
25 America. Fantastic.

0050

01 I finally found out what happened  
02 to the Civil Rights Act, movement, etc. This was a  
03 group of people, and we call them the leaders of our  
04 race, really, but they had gotten together and they  
05 were going to make a covenant with all those who wanted  
06 to listen to them about what we were going to do for  
07 the future.

08 It was fantastic, it was  
09 beautiful, it was a lesson that everybody -- everybody  
10 in here, everybody in America could have learned from,  
11 because we're not a closed society.

12 Our societies flow together every  
13 day and we don't even realize it. But if we don't  
14 realize it, something is going to happen. So, that was  
15 very educational for me.

16 One of the things that came out of  
17 that was, I'm asking people to get ready to vote. Vote  
18 in this primary.

19 You young people, especially you  
20 young people, those of you that are 18 or are just  
21 turning 18 or have turned 18 and haven't registered to  
22 vote, please go down and register to vote. Do it for  
23 yourselves.

24 Get into the practice of voting.  
25 You may not have it always. There are people who have  
0051

01 desires to curtail the right to vote in the United  
02 States of America. We know it.  
03 For us we have fought for many  
04 years, 40 years. We celebrated Malcolm X during this  
05 period of time, we celebrated Martin Luther King,  
06 Marcus Garby.

07 There are many leaders that have  
08 come forth and died for this purpose, and I think it's  
09 always -- the civil rights is not just for black  
10 people, and that's something you have to understand,  
11 civil rights is for all people, for all Americans,  
12 anybody that becomes naturalized in the United States,  
13 it's for them also, but it's for the United States,  
14 it's for America, it's for us to live together  
15 harmoniously, but we're not doing it.

16 Okay. My last point is, we now  
17 want our children to strive, not just survive. So far  
18 what we're doing is we're putting our kids out there  
19 and you're teaching them how to survive.  
20 This is what you do to survive,  
21 you get menial jobs, you get this, you do this, you do  
22 that, but nobody is out there teaching them how to  
23 strive, how to strive for a better life, how to make  
24 their lives, how to improve their quality of life, as I  
25 heard someone say before.

0052

01 And over and over we lose kids  
02 across the board, white, black, green, any color you  
03 want, we're losing our kids, and the only way we can do  
04 anything about that is to get back into the educational  
05 system, get back into all of these playgrounds, these  
06 programs for summer programs, we've got to get busy  
07 with them, because if we don't, the kids are going to  
08 become criminals. It's just natural.  
09 They're street people, and they  
10 love the street, and they will control the street. So,  
11 the only way you're going to stop that is to be to  
12 become more meshed in the whole idea of making our kids  
13 strive for the betterment, instead of just exist and  
14 survive. Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

16 Mr. Davis.

17 MS. PILOSI: Good evening,

18 Council. Violet Pilosi, taxpayer and resident.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MS. PILOSI: I have but one  
21 question tonight, Whatever happened to the subject  
22 brought by Janet about putting a cap on political  
23 contributions? That subject came up a couple weeks  
24 ago and it seemed to have fallen by the waist side.  
25 Can you tell me the status?

0053

01 MS. EVANS: No, not at all. It's  
02 something that I know Mr. Walsh has been working on,  
03 and it's something that I've been working on in  
04 conjunction with some individuals from Harrisburg, and  
05 you're actually going to hear much more about it in the  
06 very near future.  
07 I was just not prepared for this  
08 evening, because I've had a number of extenuating  
09 circumstances, but believe me, it's not fallen by the  
10 waist side.

11 MS. PILOSI: I'm glad to hear  
12 that, inasmuch as a little bird just happened to tell  
13 me that very recently a rather substantial contribution  
14 has been made by someone sitting before me, and I feel  
15 that that would be a total violation, and I will be  
16 watching this potential candidate and this potential  
17 donor, and I certainly hope that something is done  
18 before the time comes. Thank you very much.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
20 Mrs. Piloni.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening.  
22 Charlie Newcomb. First I see 7-A, there's another  
23 piece of legislation on your agenda tonight for a  
24 veto.

25 I hope your hands aren't tied  
0054

01 again, and does this have to do with the  
02 interdepartmental transfers, is that what this veto  
03 is?  
04 As history has played itself over  
05 the last year or so, it doesn't look like you're going  
06 to win in this situation, but I just don't understand  
07 why people don't want to watch our money very closely,  
08 I just don't get it.  
09 I, myself, also attended the  
10 homecoming parade this Saturday and saw all Council  
11 members there, and I need to commend each and every one  
12 of you for attending that, because it really was  
13 something that was interesting to see.  
14 I personally didn't have any  
15 family or any close friends that came home, but I just

16 wanted to go there to see for myself and experience  
17 what everybody saw.  
18 And whether the mayor had an  
19 obligation previous to that or not, I, too, believe  
20 that he should have sent a representative there to  
21 represent these individuals and say thank you.  
22 I understand you did, but  
23 obviously two different forms of government. When  
24 there's OECD things downtown or anything with Nay Aug  
25 Park, he's right there to support it, and I think it's  
0055  
01 just a shame.  
02 And many, many people came up to  
03 me and other people and asked where this man was, and I  
04 said, I honestly don't know, I have nothing to do with  
05 that, but he's not a public figure, and it's a shame.  
06 I think when you take on the job,  
07 the majority of the job is supposed to be PR, and  
08 regardless what anybody said about Mayor Connors, I  
09 truly believe that this man would have been walking in  
10 front of those buses when they came up the street.  
11 Regarding the senior center, last  
12 week I was glad to see that the seniors did get the  
13 money for the downtown senior center, but I have to say  
14 and thank Mrs. Evans publicly for taking the ball  
15 basically in October and running with it.  
16 I know you were given a tour of  
17 this building, as well as they showed it to me, and  
18 they wanted the money earlier than they got it, but the  
19 bottom line is they got the money, so I just -- many  
20 people asked me to thank you, because, I mean, it was  
21 a -- they got their money, I guess we'll just leave it  
22 at that.  
23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.  
24 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Last year, I've  
25 talked about this before, I brought forth the sad story  
0056  
01 to this Council about a situation that happened to a  
02 neighbor of mine, and it was a bad outcome and it was a  
03 bad situation with the Mrs. Grant and Mr. Grant issue,  
04 but it opened up the door to have Council in this then  
05 administration look into a QRS system, and it also  
06 opened up the door to find out that our police cars had  
07 AEDs in them, but they were inoperable because there  
08 was no pads, which, Mr. Courtright, it was your efforts  
09 that got the pads in those police cars.  
10 And unfortunately Mrs. Grant had a  
11 horrible experience this past week again, and right on

12 the corner, her cousins live on the corner, and her  
13 cousin was out plowing the snow for a neighbor, when he  
14 suffered a major heart attack.

15 And when 911 was called within --  
16 she told me between three and five minutes, there was a  
17 police officer there with an AED, and they were able to  
18 start CPR and defibrillation very, very quickly, and  
19 she said there was cop cars all over the place and  
20 there was an ambulance there in a quick time.

21 The outcome was unfortunate, but  
22 the point that she asked me to express to this Council  
23 and to let people know is the unfortunate incident that  
24 happened, that family didn't have to go through what  
25 she did, and there was help there for these people, and  
0057

01 she wanted to ask me to ask you to thank those police  
02 officers that were there so fast, because she went  
03 through this situation before last year, and it was  
04 horrible because of the timing situation, but this year  
05 the timing response was much better and maybe some  
06 lives have been saved since then because of this  
07 response time.

08 I know I only have a minute or so,  
09 and I don't want to talk about this too much, but I'm  
10 not going to be here for a couple weeks, but I'll be  
11 listening, but as many of you all know, there is a,  
12 I'll use the quote/unquote website that is famous for  
13 bashing Council members, myself, and all others, and it  
14 amazes me how people that, in my personal opinion, have  
15 a very low IQ can actually type on a computer screen,  
16 but everybody is entitled to their opinion, as we all  
17 know when people come here to their opinion, but it's a  
18 shame, truly a shame, that people have to speak of  
19 others in the derogatory manner that they do.

20 I don't care what people say about  
21 me, because I know the truth, but I'd like to let  
22 everybody know that there has been litigation filed to  
23 try to put this website out of business or investigate  
24 the people that go on here with their practices,  
25 because it's truly disgusting, and I guess we'll have  
0058

01 to see what happens in the future.  
02 And hopefully when I come back  
03 here in a month, I can tell you about the people that  
04 don't know -- don't have high IQs, in my opinion, but  
05 they won't be able to type anymore if what happens what  
06 is going to happen. So, thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

08 Mr. Newcomb.

09 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,

10 Council. Larry McAndrew.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

12 MR. McANDREW: I'm just going to

13 make a couple brief comments. I want to thank the

14 Reverend for showing up tonight, and I encourage her to

15 come back again. She's welcome here anytime.

16 Her comments, I think we have to

17 take very -- take it very important and take into

18 consideration. I also want to thank this woman that

19 appeared tonight, the senior citizen woman, to bring

20 forward all these pictures, to bring forward the proof

21 that our neighborhoods have problems here that have to

22 be addressed.

23 Department heads under this

24 administration, you have the proof now, you have the

25 pictures, let's do something here. Let's make

0059

01 improvements here.

02 This is the year of 2005, it's not

03 1965, gentlemen, and Mrs. Evans. Our Civil Rights Act

04 was created back then. We have minorities living in

05 this city that should and, I believe, are capable to

06 handle these responsibilities and these positions.

07 It's about time that we started

08 seeing this. I also agree with the Reverend that we

09 need more police protection in our neighborhoods. It's

10 okay to have a beautiful park, but our neighborhoods

11 come first.

12 Our homes, our neighborhoods are

13 where we're at, not this Nay Aug Park. I disagree with

14 where the money is being spent and how it's being

15 spent.

16 I wish more people, like the

17 senior citizen that showed up tonight, she was

18 wonderful, I think she was great. They come forward

19 and voice their opinion of what should be done. Thank

20 you very much.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

22 Mr. McAndrew.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Olga, you made a big

24 impact tonight.

25 MS. LUCAS: I have a lot more, but

0060

01 I forgot that there is one more thing. There was a

02 lady, she's 84 years old in Greens Place, there's a lot

03 of holes there. She goes to church a lot. She fell

04 down, and she told me, Olga, do me a favor. I said,  
05 What? Go tell councilmen fix the holes. I fall all  
06 the time. There's holes, but there's snow and there's  
07 water, so I'll do my favor for you? That's up to you.  
08 MR. DIBILEO: Greens Place?  
09 MS. LUCAS: Yes.  
10 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Thank  
11 you, Olga.  
12 MS. KRAKE: Good evening,  
13 Council. My name is Nancy Krake.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
15 MS. KRAKE: I would just like to  
16 recommend to Council tonight on Item 7-A, motion to  
17 override or stay the mayor's veto that Council vote to  
18 override the mayor's veto and bring this legislation  
19 back to the way it was when Mayor Doherty sat on  
20 Council.  
21 The only explanation that the  
22 administration has for not having it this way is  
23 because it's faster for them. That should be a red  
24 flag for anyone. When it comes to money, faster means  
25 we don't look at the details, we don't discuss, people  
0061  
01 are not aware of what is going on. So, I hope that  
02 Council will override this, even though I'm not too  
03 sure they will.  
04 I also have a comment on the pool  
05 fees. I can't help but feel that it's making us --  
06 splitting somehow the people in this community. It  
07 also sounds to me as if they're regulating the poor,  
08 which was a very infamous book in the '70s, and it's  
09 very sad.  
10 And it's also sad that certain  
11 people are now finding interest in these groups, poor  
12 or lower middle class and the elderly at election time.  
13 It's also very sad commentary.  
14 And I have one more question, The  
15 monies that OECD was ready to spend on NDC, the  
16 consultants that Council wisely did not vote for, is my  
17 opinion, do we know where that money is going or can it  
18 go somewhere now?  
19 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, that's  
20 something I'm going to address under motions tonight.  
21 MS. KRAKE: I will be very pleased  
22 to see that go somewhere. Thank you very much.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
24 Mrs. Krake.  
25 MR. GERVASI: Good evening,

0062

01 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, city  
02 resident and a firefighter in the City of Scranton.  
03 I'm going to be very brief tonight.  
04 I just want to make a comment on  
05 what the Reverend Simmons was talk about, I believe  
06 Mr. Morgan and Mr. McAndrew talked about it, too, about  
07 police protection.  
08 I'm not the spokesman for the  
09 police union, this is just my opinion as a citizen.  
10 With all due respect to people, I've been hearing a lot  
11 more about crime in the city, certain areas of the  
12 city, some of the neighborhoods are falling apart, I  
13 just want to let everyone know that you shouldn't be  
14 surprised, because the recovery plan that was voted on  
15 prohibited these federal programs and grant writing to  
16 keep these programs going.  
17 So, I mean, I'm not surprised.  
18 I've been saying this for three years, that there's  
19 going to be a reduction in the police force. And it's  
20 happening, it's already happened. CommD was happening  
21 now. I'm not sure about that, if that's -- what the  
22 particulars are on that, but there's already been a  
23 reduction in police because of these programs ending.  
24 And just so everyone knows, that  
25 the recovery plan written by Mayor Doherty prohibits  
0063

01 any grant writing for additional police on the street.  
02 It's right there in black and white. So, I wouldn't be  
03 surprised of the reductions. It was coming and it was  
04 voted on by the public.  
05 Just one other thing I want to  
06 mention, I think right now, it's kind of sad to say,  
07 but I think right now that Scranton is now known as the  
08 municipality within the state of Pennsylvania that is  
09 now distressed the longest of any other municipality  
10 has been since the Act 47 was passed by the legislators  
11 in 1987.  
12 I was saying, I believe it was  
13 last week, that there's been numerous municipalities  
14 that have been under Act 47 jurisdiction, and each of  
15 these municipalities has worked through Act 47, has  
16 negotiated contracts with either the state or the city  
17 administrations, and many of them have taken hits, as  
18 we have, for our last three contracts, but they were  
19 negotiated.  
20 I mentioned last week that  
21 Pittsburgh has a double whammy, they have an oversight

22 board and an Act 47 team and coordinator, and  
23 Pittsburgh, like many other municipalities, is relative  
24 to Scranton's, much worse off financially than Scranton  
25 ever was at its worse time, but I just want everyone to  
0064

01 know that Pittsburgh just settled a contract with their  
02 mayor, and they're waiting for ratification from  
03 City Council.

04 And I don't have any reason to  
05 believe, because there's no information showing that  
06 the oversight board or Act 47 team is going to oppose  
07 the contract that they negotiated.

08 So, again, Scranton fighting over  
09 contracts and arbitration is not the norm, it's the  
10 exception, and I just wanted to remind everyone that  
11 we've distressed for almost 12 years.

12 This union has negotiated three  
13 contracts under the Distressed Municipalities Act with  
14 the prior administration, this union and the other  
15 three unions have abided by the last two recovery  
16 plans, and all of a sudden, we can't even negotiate.

17 So, where do you think the  
18 problems lies? Where do you suppose the problem lies,  
19 with the unions again? We took our hits. We've done  
20 what we were told for the last three contracts, and all  
21 of a sudden we have this major problem that we can't  
22 settle a contract, where other municipalities are  
23 settling contracts that are in a lot worse condition  
24 than we were ever in.

25 So, where do you think the problem  
0065

01 lies? With the unions? I don't think so. Thank you  
02 for the opportunity for letting me speak.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Any  
04 other speakers? Mr. Walsh.

05 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do  
07 you have any motions or comments at this time?

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Just two comments.

09 Thank you, Mr. President. Just a brief comment  
10 regarding the parade that was held for the return of  
11 the servicemen.

12 Initially I was somewhat  
13 disappointed with the turnout along the parade route,  
14 but I was pleased to see that when Mr. Pocius and I and  
15 the remain -- the other Councilmen, Ms. Evans,  
16 Mr. DiBileo and Mr. Courtright, to find that there was  
17 a relatively large crowd within the armory itself,

18 which was nice to see.  
19 There's been a lot of negative  
20 comments regarding participation, but the armory was  
21 relatively full.  
22 Secondly, this past week I had an  
23 opportunity to meet with the developers for the Connell  
24 Building Project to get a presentation regarding the  
25 tax increment finance package, along with members from  
0066  
01 the county, the Scranton school district and the SRA.  
02 The TIF program, the developers,  
03 Graystone Capital Partners will be giving us new  
04 information, because some of the data is old. We had a  
05 presentation in mid-July or late July this past year on  
06 this project.  
07 And just a few details that are  
08 forthcoming, it's a proposed projects of approximately  
09 \$22 million. The renovation of the Connell building is  
10 expected to use union labor at prevailing wage rates,  
11 and I'll hold back on the rest of the details on the  
12 project when the developers bring it, but I will be  
13 sharing those with Council and the public as they  
14 become evident. Thank you, Mr. President.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
16 Mr. McTiernan. We appreciate that update. Mrs. Evans,  
17 do you have any motions or comments?  
18 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I wish to  
19 thank Mr. DiBileo for his condolences, as well as all  
20 those individuals who sent cards and Emails.  
21 While I was attending my uncle's  
22 viewing last Thursday evening, a surprising, in fact, a  
23 miraculous announcement at City Council was made  
24 regarding the Downtown Senior Center and funding for  
25 their sidewalks, and I want to thank Mayor Doherty and  
0067  
01 the OECD office for finally agreeing to provide funding  
02 for the Downtown Senior Center.  
03 I know I've been working on this  
04 since October, and Mr. DiBileo and Mr. Courtright have  
05 been working with me, and I'm just thrilled it came to  
06 fruition. And also I wanted to thank  
07 Mr. Pocius for whatever role he played in this.  
08 Also, I understand the SRA has 61  
09 properties for sale. Jay, I want a list of the 61  
10 properties by address and parcel number, but particular  
11 emphasis on address.  
12 Please send a letter to  
13 Mr. Shane tomorrow certified return receipt and call

14 him, as well, please, tomorrow. I would like this  
15 list on or before Thursday, March 10.  
16 Attorney Greco has gone on record  
17 stating that the SRA is not subject to bidding. I hope  
18 these properties will be bid and put back on the tax  
19 rolls to alleviate the tax losses we have all suffered  
20 through countless KOZs in Scranton. I would be very  
21 disappointed and curious if the SRA has predetermined  
22 buyers already.  
23 Also, it appears the Workers'  
24 Compensation crisis is finally coming to light after  
25 two years of secrecy. But let's shine a spotlight on  
0068  
01 this crisis and expose the whole truth.  
02 The bulk of the crisis is a direct  
03 result of the massive retirements in 2002 forced by the  
04 mayor. Now, the mayor will say the employees were not  
05 forced out, they had a choice, but here's the choice,  
06 remain working and lose your health benefits, and we  
07 all know how costly they are, or retire and keep your  
08 benefits.  
09 I think both you and I and anyone  
10 with common sense would retire and save our benefits,  
11 no matter how much we love our jobs.  
12 The loss of 100 workers was an  
13 increase of approximately \$1.3 million in Workers'  
14 Comp. alone. then at the time of the \$72 million bond  
15 issue in 2003, the mayor could have begun buyouts of  
16 Workers' Comp. cases, but he chose to do nothing.  
17 Then in April of 2004, I suggested  
18 to the mayor and the business administrator that we  
19 petition the department of labor and industry and the  
20 Bureau of Workman's Compensation to use the trustfund  
21 for Workers' Comp. buyouts.  
22 In fact, I asked them this on  
23 April 1 and April 15, 2004. I also sent two letters.  
24 I have copies of both of those letters and the minutes  
25 of both of those Council meetings with me tonight that  
0069  
01 prove I made the suggestion very nearly a year ago, not  
02 once, but twice.  
03 Again, the mayor chose to do  
04 nothing. All the extra costs could have been avoided.  
05 Can you imagine how much money we could have saved?  
06 Possibly millions.  
07 You could have enjoyed a wage tax  
08 decrease or businesses might have enjoyed a nuisance is  
09 tax decrease, or I'm concern we would have been able to

10 take better care of our people, vis-a-vis our police  
11 force, but the mayor didn't care to save money, and he  
12 doesn't seem to care to lower taxes.  
13 However, I am very pleased to see  
14 that the mayor and Mr. Hickey have decided to use my  
15 idea. It's a shame it took a year to do it, however.  
16 And, Jay, I'd also like to send a  
17 letter to Mr. Kresefski requesting that the independent  
18 audit of 2004 be completed by May 2005. Last year  
19 Council waited nine months for an audit, which failed  
20 to appear until the fall.  
21 I feel as finance chair I need the  
22 audit completed in a timely manner to keep my eye on  
23 the city coffers. I believe it's important to plan  
24 continuously and consistently, not just in November and  
25 December.

0070

01 Also, I'd like to send an 'at a  
02 boy out to Sam Vitras, on Monday evening, or rather  
03 very early Tuesday morning, Mr. Vitras took care of an  
04 alley off North Main Avenue for a man who needed to be  
05 at the hospital by 5 a.m. for surgery.  
06 These people contacted me, I  
07 contacted Mr. Vitras, and the work was done during the  
08 storm thanks to Sam.  
09 The DPW did an excellent job of  
10 snow removal during our latest storm, in my opinion, so  
11 I'd like to send out 'at a boys to all of our DPW  
12 workers.

13 Recently when Council denied  
14 renewal of the NDC contract, I believe that freed up  
15 \$60,000 in CDBG funds that would have been set aside  
16 for the payment throughout the year 2005 for consulting  
17 services, and neighborhoods and police protection,  
18 public safety, have been my priorities for a very long  
19 time, and last week as I attended a meeting of all of  
20 our neighborhood heads, I learned much more than one  
21 can even follow in the newspaper or on television how  
22 serious the level of crime has become in all of our  
23 neighborhoods, in fact, this evening, because I'm here,  
24 I'm unable to attend the Green Ridge neighborhood  
25 meeting where I'm sure crime is going to be the primary  
0071

01 topic of discussion.

02 And so, tonight I would like to  
03 make a motion that Solicitor Walsh prepare legislation  
04 that awards \$60,000 in CDBG funds previously set aside  
05 for the NDC contract in the following manner: \$55,000

06 to neighborhoods police patrols and \$5,000 to the Sloan  
07 Little League. I so move.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

09 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

10 the floor and a second. On the question? This is the  
11 \$60,000 that National Development Corporation was  
12 receiving the last three years, and I think that that's  
13 a very worthy cost, \$55,000 towards police protection.

14 We know that police protection is  
15 dwindling and it's something that we can't see happen.

16 We can't really use any less police on the street, in  
17 my opinion. So, I'll vote in favor of that. Anyone

18 else on the question?

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, did

20 you ever learn how the CDBG funds from Pittston Avenue  
21 will be divided or to what particular project they will  
22 be designated?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. There was,  
24 what, maybe \$480,000. Jay, we sent a letter down.

25 MS. EVANS: I know you did.

0072

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: We haven't gotten

02 a response, right, have we?

03 MR. SAUNDERS: No response.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. No

05 response from the administration yet.

06 MS. EVANS: Well, I think perhaps

07 then we might want to be thinking about using some of

08 that, as well, toward -- I think police protection is

09 certainly a priority, and I think paving our streets,

10 too, is another one on the people's priorities.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Anyone else on the

12 question?

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. DiBileo, just

14 one comment. I have -- I'll vote in favor of examining

15 the legislation to put it out there, I have some

16 concerns regarding the Sloan Little League portion of  
17 it.

18 I know there was a project proposed by

19 the school district that would essentially cost the

20 city zero dollars, so I would certainly vote in favor

21 of it, but with the understanding that after reviewing

22 it, I do have some reservations regarding the

23 allocation for the Sloan Little League, I'd like to

24 talk with the school board members, the

25 intergovernmental committee before I would commit fully

0073

01 to voting for that, but I am in favor of the large bulk

02 of that dollar.

03 MS. EVANS: If I might just inject  
04 here, because I've attended the school board's work  
05 session earlier this week and a meeting between the  
06 school district and Sloan, certainly we all know it's  
07 the school district's intention to purchase that  
08 property in order to provide some athletic facilities  
09 for the West Scranton Invaders, and should in fact that  
10 become a reality, then the school district is going to  
11 upgrade the teener field and make it certainly, you  
12 know, a much better environment in which to play  
13 softball, baseball.

14 But it's also my understanding  
15 that Sloan will remain -- Sloan Little League will  
16 remain on their field, and they have not received  
17 funding for many, many, many years, and whether they  
18 will lease that property from Scranton, as they may be  
19 doing now or Taylor, if that's the case, or if they're  
20 going to be leasing it from the Scranton School  
21 District, whatever the future might hold, that doesn't  
22 position them to be denied CDBG funds.

23 They still need funding to upgrade  
24 those little league fields. And since, you know, we're  
25 talking about the elementary children here and perhaps,  
0074

01 you know, early middle school children or intermediate  
02 school children who then of course will go onto the  
03 high school and reap the benefits of the teener field,  
04 I would very much like to see this organization  
05 assisted, because they've basically been on their own  
06 now for many years and left to their own fund-raising  
07 devices, and much of that will be cut if the school  
08 district acquires that property.

09 So, this would be a way of making  
10 up for the loss they can incur through that agreement.

11 MR. DIBILEO: So, your motion is  
12 going to remain the way you stated?

13 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a  
15 motion on the floor and a second, if there's no  
16 further --

17 MR. POCIUS: I have a comment,  
18 Mr. DiBileo.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

20 MR. POCIUS: I have no problem  
21 with researching this right now, myself, I have no  
22 problem with that at all. Mr. Walsh, you have to look  
23 to see that these two funding increases don't do some

24 kind of imbalance to whatever percentages are set up at  
25 the OECD program, but they're both fine projects.  
0075

01 Also, people may not be aware, but  
02 the Pittston Avenue project is still ongoing, they're  
03 still down in the channel working, and I don't think  
04 there's been a final allocation of costs made yet, so  
05 that's probably still to come.  
06 Because the top was fixed, they're  
07 still down in Roaring Brook cleaning and reshaping the  
08 channel and working every day, I pass it as I go to  
09 work.

10 So, probably it may take a while  
11 until the books are balanced and we see exactly if and  
12 what the city will owe. That's just a comment, but  
13 I'll support your motion.

14 MS. EVANS: I think I'm very glad  
15 we finally got an answer, because, you know, I think  
16 John has explained quite well what the situation is, I  
17 only wish that Mr. Courtright could have received the  
18 courtesy of a reply to his letter that was sent how  
19 many weeks ago, early January?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, no, no, just  
21 a week or two.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

23 MS. EVANS: Maybe you had  
24 mentioned it.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I had mentioned  
0076

01 it. I hadn't sent a letter until about a week or two  
02 ago, I think it was. I mentioned it verbally, but I  
03 officially sent a letter -- was it a week?

04 MS. EVANS: Last week?

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Two weeks, I'm  
06 sorry. Two weeks.

07 MR. POCIUS: In project such as  
08 this, which are probably done on a force account type  
09 basis, it's going to take months to figure out where  
10 all the costs are allocated, what's state, PennDOT's  
11 portion, city portion, Army Corps., federal portion, so  
12 there will be some analysis, and then I'm sure there  
13 will be a final assessment at some point in time.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

15 Mr. Pocius. Anyone else on the question? If not, all  
16 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

17 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. EVANS: And I know,

24 Attorney Walsh, I know that during 2004, you had done

25 some work, and maybe even during 2005, I'm not sure,

0077

01 researching impact fees?

02 MR. WALSH: Yes, I have.

03 MS. EVANS: And I was wondering if

04 you could put all of that together for us and maybe

05 give us in caucus a presentation on that and what the

06 impact would be on businesses, non-profits, KOZs and

07 taxpayers.

08 MR. WALSH: Yes. The impact fees,

09 just briefly, what an impact fee would do is it would

10 be a fee for, you know, sort of overburdening a part of

11 maybe even the infrastructure.

12 For instance, if you're putting in

13 a new development, they had impact fees imposed for the

14 overuse of the transportation system.

15 If you're going to add 100 houses,

16 it's going to put a bigger burden on the transportation

17 system, and, therefore, they've had impact fees imposed

18 on developers, but the impact fees that would be

19 imposed probably would have to be imposed across the

20 board, you couldn't pick and chose.

21 But I'd be happy to do that in

22 caucus, though.

23 MS. EVANS: And, again, if they're

24 being imposed across the board, upon what is the amount

25 imposed based, because certainly there I would expect

0078

01 be a vast difference between a large institution, that

02 is, let's say, enjoying a profit of maybe \$100 million

03 per year, and a small business and a senior citizen

04 and, you know, a four member family.

05 MR. WALSH: I'll make sure I have

06 that information for the caucus.

07 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Is that all,

09 Mrs. Evans?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes, thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.

12 Mr. Pocius, do you have any motions or comments at this

13 time?

14 MR. POCIUS: A couple of brief

15 comments and one question for Mr. Walsh. Just to bring

16 everybody up to date, the role I had in the senior  
17 citizens center sidewalk project, I think was the same  
18 role as the other members of Council to see why the  
19 project was somewhat in a state of flux, and all I did  
20 was pick up the phone and make a couple phone calls,  
21 and I thought that was always the best way to solve  
22 problems, that's what we do in business, if  
23 correspondence somehow doesn't get to the right place,  
24 we pick up the phone and call.

25 But where we're at is, I received  
0079

01 a letter from Sara Hailstone today, which I shared with  
02 all my colleagues where copies were made and put in  
03 their slots that, not to rehash, but there's an  
04 ongoing -- this project is eligible under an existing  
05 UDAG program.

06 Also, OECD has contracted with a  
07 downtown engineering consulting firm to design and  
08 oversee the replacements of sidewalks in the downtown  
09 area, and OECD is scheduled to have a meeting with  
10 representatives from the firm and the downtown seniors  
11 next week, and the schedule for this project is to get  
12 it designed and bid and out for replacement this  
13 summer, so hopefully we'll see that done.

14 On another matter just briefly, I  
15 think it was Mr. Spindler last week said something  
16 about the Davis Trail not being significant or not  
17 so/so, and I am mentioning his name, because he  
18 mentioned my name, and like I said to Bob, I said, you  
19 were gone last week, Mr. Bolus, I said at least if you  
20 have some problem with me, you call me by name, and  
21 that's fine, I like that, it's kind of mono to mono or  
22 man to man or whatever, but he said something that the  
23 Davis Trail wasn't so great or whatever, and Lynn had  
24 done an article on this calendar, and I just realized  
25 it today that this is the first time it was ever put  
0080

01 out, it's the 2005 National Natural Landmarks Program  
02 First Annual Photo Contest Calendar, and on the back it  
03 says that there's nearly 600 sites have been designated  
04 by the National Park Service which administers this  
05 program as natural resource sites, and I guess you call  
06 it the calendar girl for June is the Nay Aug Gorge,  
07 which received honorable mention, which is attached.

08 There's and overlook at the Davis Trail.

09 So, I think that's a pretty

10 significant thing to say for the City of Scranton that  
11 people have an opportunity to view something which is

12 on a natural landmark in this country.  
13 And one brief memory of -- this is  
14 a story that was told to me by a very dear friend of my  
15 father's, he's a retired police detective, Bill Walsh,  
16 a great friend of my father's, it's to kind of bring  
17 something to the Welsh Heritage, he said when he was  
18 first appointed to the police department back in the  
19 1950s, he said it was amazing because there was a lot  
20 of Welsh police officers who were on the police force  
21 at that time, and he said at the Christmastime they  
22 would sing Christmas carols at roll call in the  
23 buildings in here, and they would meet downstairs, and  
24 this would echo up through the tower, and he said it  
25 was one of the most amazing and beautiful things he  
0081

01 saw, and I think that's what Mrs. Paris said in the  
02 proclamation that the four part harmony and everything,  
03 and it came into my head and I thought I should say it  
04 in honor of all the Welsh descendants who served for  
05 the City of Scranton, both in the police, fire and  
06 through any capacity in City Hall.

07 Now your question, Mr. Walsh,  
08 okay? You weren't here until the meeting started, I  
09 have a question, because I don't want to -- I want to  
10 ask a question, on 5-B, okay, which is an introduction  
11 of a parking ordinance, our firm is working for the  
12 Diocese of Scranton, not on this project, okay, and  
13 what happened was, and I didn't get a chance to run  
14 this by you in the meeting, it's actually to fix the  
15 sidewalks which are in front of the Guild Studio, and  
16 because portions of the walks are in the state right of  
17 way, a permit had to be obtained.

18 There are existing no parking  
19 signs down there to cover the area that have been  
20 posted by the city, PennDOT asked for the ordinance  
21 that backed it up, there is no ordinance, you know,  
22 just signs put up at will sometimes throughout the city  
23 without any ordinance to back it up, but my question  
24 is, this is just to ratify the existing signage, but  
25 with our involvement, should I abstain on this,  
0082

01 Mr. Walsh? I just want to be on the side of safety.

02 MR. WALSH: I would.

03 MR. POCIUS: Okay.

04 MR. WALSH: I would. If there's  
05 any --

06 MR. POCIUS: I wanted to ask you

07 before the meeting, but I didn't have a chance and I

08 didn't want to go sneaking around and talk to you. I'd  
09 rather do it in the open, because I think that's the  
10 best way to do it.

11 MR. WALSH: Not a problem. I  
12 would abstain if there's peripheral involvement.

13 MR. POCIUS: Is it definitely a  
14 conflict, I don't think so, there's no financial  
15 interest, but I think peripheral -- the appearance  
16 sometimes is worse than an actual conflict itself.

17 So, for Council and everyone, I  
18 will abstain on this matter, and I wanted to bring it  
19 to the forefront here in the open caucus. And that's  
20 all, a couple brief items. Thank you.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Pocius. Always better safe than sorry.

23 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

25 Mr. Courtright, do you have any comments or motions at  
0083

01 this time?

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: I have one motion  
03 and a couple of comments. I make a motion to change  
04 the 15-minute parking in front of the Coney Island on  
05 Cedar Avenue to 30 minutes, as this is causing a burden  
06 to that business.

07 MS. EVANS: Second.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the floor  
09 and a second. On the question? That's the Coney  
10 Island Restaurant on Cedar Avenue, okay. It's awful  
11 hard to have lunch in a 15-minute period.

12 MR. POCIUS: We just said it's the  
13 same thing, if it has to be enforced, with an ordinance  
14 to back it up, it's a lot more stringent and solid, so  
15 I support Mr. Courtright's motion.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Courtright, in  
17 your motion, do you want to put that we're going to  
18 draw an ordinance on that?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. I'm sorry.

20 MR. WALSH: So, the motion then  
21 would be to draft an ordinance?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Draft an  
23 ordinance, yes. I apologize.

24 MR. POCIUS: I think Mr. Parker  
25 got back to us and said he just wanted to know exactly  
0084

01 what we were trying to do, and maybe, Bill, maybe  
02 within the existing limits of the 15 minute parking  
03 now, that's where I think we need some help from the

04 engineering section or traffic or whatever.  
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Whatever way he  
06 thinks will be the quickest and easiest way, that will  
07 be acceptable.  
08 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll talk to  
09 Mr. Parker about that.  
10 MR. POCIUS: Thanks. Thanks,  
11 Bill.  
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. If  
14 there's no further questions, all those in favor,  
15 signify by saying aye.  
16 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
17 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
18 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
21 have it and so moved.  
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: And something  
23 that came up tonight, I usually don't get an  
24 opportunity to read a newspaper, but Mrs. Evans brought  
25 up it was in the paper, I believe you said, about the  
0085  
01 61 properties, Jay, whenever they do get that list  
02 together, it's a coincidence that this came up, because  
03 I was discussing this with the police department, many  
04 times people call and have a vehicle towed, and when  
05 the police get there, they don't know if it's private  
06 property or if it's city property.  
07 If it's city property, they can  
08 immediately tow the vehicle, and that's a big help, and  
09 right now what they have to do is, I've done it  
10 sometimes to try to help out, is go through the  
11 treasurer's office to see if that's our property, ours,  
12 I mean the city, so when they get that list developed,  
13 I would hope that they would forward a copy to the  
14 police department, especially the traffic division,  
15 also if they go out on a call on a certain parcel of  
16 land, if it's the city's, they can immediately tow that  
17 vehicle.  
18 MR. SAUNDERS: Sure.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sure it's  
20 going to take a while for them to develop that list,  
21 but just when they do it, it would be a big help, I  
22 think.  
23 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. Wednesday of  
24 last week, I believe, or Thursday of this week, excuse  
25 me, Bill Shane stopped by the office to drop off the

0086

01 minutes and an audit of the SRA and explained to me,  
02 this is what they're doing.  
03 For the first time in a long time,  
04 they're compiling that list and searching deeds and  
05 checking exactly what the SRA owns.  
06 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just didn't  
07 think that they would think to send it over to the  
08 police department, and I believe it would be a big help  
09 to them, and I know the people in the neighborhoods  
10 that want those vehicles removed from those vacant lots  
11 if they are city lots.  
12 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll pass that on.  
13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Jay,  
14 if I can have, I'd like to get -- I don't know if this  
15 is a difficult thing to have happened, I don't think it  
16 was maybe faxed over to us or whatever, but I'd just  
17 like to have what we have in the accounts UDAG and  
18 re-re (phonetic) money, just to see what is in there,  
19 because I have no idea.  
20 I don't know a whole lot about it,  
21 but if there's money in the UDAG accounts or re-re that  
22 we can use for some of these projects that weren't  
23 funded, I'd like to see if that's not possible.  
24 So, if you can find out for me  
25 tomorrow if that's possible, the balance of those

0087

01 accounts, I'd appreciate it.  
02 And one last thing, the parade on  
03 Saturday for the military, you know, we were all there  
04 and thrilled to see everybody home, but, you know, we  
05 didn't have an opportunity to personally thank those  
06 people, and they certainly want to get to their  
07 families, not us five, but I'd just like to thank them  
08 for everything they do for us.  
09 My hat is off to them, and  
10 obviously we sit here because they go to places like  
11 that, and I'd just like to personally thank them. And  
12 that's all I have, Mr. President.  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Courtright. And I just have a couple of brief  
15 comments under 5-A.  
16 First a bit of good news on  
17 Mary Ann Wardell, Andrea Mulrine from Scranton Tomorrow  
18 sends her Emails out, and this week there was a bit of  
19 good news, she got word that Mary Ann Wardell is  
20 improving.  
21 And she is not able to speak yet,

22 but she's writing notes and doing much better than she  
23 was, and it appears as though things are looking  
24 positive, so I just thought I'd pass that along, the  
25 information on Mary Ann.

0088

01 Another comment, never too early  
02 to start talking about our civic duty, and on May 17 is  
03 a primary election.

04 I'd like to just ask everyone who  
05 is not registered to vote, to please consider doing so  
06 by April the 18th, April the 18th. This is actually an  
07 application to register to vote. You can pick these  
08 up, I think, in various locations throughout the city.  
09 Obviously one is the office of voter registration.

10 Their phone number -- they'd be  
11 happy to mail you one of these. It's 963-6737,  
12 963-6737. So, anyone interested in registering to  
13 vote, you have until April the 18th, and it will be  
14 greatly appreciated.

15 Also there is -- this Friday  
16 night, tomorrow evening, March the 4, I believe it is,  
17 is the third of three Winter In The City parties that  
18 Scranton Tomorrow is sponsoring, and Annette Palutis,  
19 who is the chairman of the Winter In The City parties  
20 who is doing a great job, by the way, with them,  
21 tomorrow evening Scranton Tomorrow is having their  
22 third of three Winter In The City parties, and all it  
23 is is a little gathering of friends at a cocktail  
24 party, soft refreshments, food and music and friends,  
25 and it's going to be at the Trolley Museum, which is  
0089

01 behind the Steamtown mall Friday evening, March 4,  
02 between 5:30 and eight o'clock.

03 And if you get a chance, get out.

04 It benefits Scranton Tomorrow, and they do many  
05 positive things for the community, like getting very  
06 involved in the relighting of the Scranton Electric  
07 City Sign, for example, and many other things.

08 So, if you get a chance, get out there tomorrow night.

09 You know, it was mentioned a few  
10 times tonight about the homecoming of our troops and  
11 the parade that took place on Saturday, and I actually  
12 attended, as did all the Council members, with my wife  
13 and my children, and they didn't -- weren't sure if  
14 they were going to come, and afterwards -- it was a  
15 beautiful ceremony, and I know these ceremonies are  
16 happening often now, thank Heavens, so any time you see  
17 that there's any kind of fanfare about troops returning

18 from duty, I would highly recommend that you try to do  
19 everything you can to get out there and show your  
20 support for those troops.

21 My wife said afterwards, she said,  
22 Boy, you know, I almost didn't come over here, but she  
23 said, it was just a very moving ceremony for her, and  
24 she thought it was just fantastic, and I think it's  
25 something that our children are going to remember for a  
0090

01 long, long time, probably the rest of their lives.

02 They weren't aware of what

03 actually occurs when troops come home like that. So, I  
04 would recommend that you try to take in some of the  
05 festivities when you see those happening, and I also  
06 want to thank our troops for doing everything they did  
07 for us now and, you know, throughout history.

08 I've been asked on numerous

09 occasion about Adelphia Cable Television and the fact

10 that there's currently no senior citizen discount, and

11 I thought I would take it upon myself to look into this

12 matter, and this week I called Mark DeStefano, who is

13 the, I forget what his title is of Adelphia Cable TV,

14 but we had a conversation, and I asked him about the

15 possibility of them implementing a senior citizen

16 discount for their subscribers, and he said to me the

17 reason why they haven't done so, is because if they

18 were to lower the rates for senior citizens, they would

19 then in turn need to increase the rate for everyone

20 else.

21 He said, So we really aren't in

22 favor of increasing rates on our subscribers, although

23 it would be nice to see seniors get a break.

24 So, there's no plans on doing that

25 right now, although I certainly think that there's

0091

01 time, and he agreed, that that's something that

02 certainly can be looked into in the future.

03 So, just to pass along that bit of

04 information on senior rates for Adelphia Cable

05 subscribers.

06 Lastly, Lee Morgan attended our

07 caucus meeting that was in Mr. Saunders' office, and he

08 brought up what I thought was a reasonable request.

09 There was a dog attack this week, possibly even today

10 or yesterday, and personally I feel as though when dogs

11 are vicious, it's because of their human owners, as

12 compared to the dog itself.

13 I'm a dog owner, and I think dogs

14 act the way they are brought up, just like children act  
15 the way they're brought up, but he asked if we could  
16 just take a look at and review our vicious dog  
17 ordinance that's currently on the books, and I thought  
18 that that would be appropriate, and I'd like to  
19 actually make a motion that we ask Mr. Walsh to review  
20 the current ordinance and take a look at it. I don't  
21 think it's been looked at in a little bit, and possibly  
22 we can see if there's anything that needs to be  
23 adjusted in that ordinance. So, I'll make that motion.

24 MS. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on  
0092

01 the floor and a second. On the question? All those in  
02 favor, signify by saying aye.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

04 MS. EVANS: Aye.

05 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
08 ayes have it and so moved. And we appreciate that,

09 Mr. Walsh. And that's all I have under 5-A.

10 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR

11 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING

12 ZONE ALONG STATE ROUTE 3025 (WYOMING AVENUE) AS

13 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF

14 TRANSPORTATION FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT ADJACENT

15 TO THE GUILD STUDIO.

16 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

17 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its  
18 proper committee.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

22 the floor and a second. On the question? All

23 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

03 MR. POCIUS: Abstain.

04 MR. DIBILEO: With a vote of four

05 ayes and one abstention, motion carries.

06 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

07 - A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS J. STONE,

08 824 WHEELER AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510, TO

09 THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR. STONE WILL BE

10 FILLING THE TERM OF JAMES T. MULLIGAN, JR., WHO  
11 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2005. MR. STONE'S TERM  
12 WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2006.

13 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its  
15 proper committee.

16 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All  
19 those in favor of introduction, signify by saying aye.

20 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
25 have it and so moved.

0094

01 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,  
02 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 111, 2005 -  
03 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT  
04 LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF BARBARA MUNLEY T/A THE  
05 HIGH AND DRY, BOROUGH OF ARCHBALD, LICENSE NO. R-2867  
06 CURRENTLY HELD IN ESCROW FORMERLY USED AT 455 MAIN  
07 STREET, ARCHBALD TO BRT HOLDING, LLC FOR USE AT 3 WEST  
08 OLIVE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED  
09 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

10 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading  
11 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

12 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move

13 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

15 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

16 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

17 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

18 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MR. WALSH: Seventh order. 7-A,

24 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF  
25 COUNCIL NO. 103, 2005 - - AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE

0095

01 CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AS CODIFIED SECTION 6-13  
02 - APPROPRIATION, OTHERWISE REFERRED TO AS ARTICLE VI,  
03 SECTION 602-APPROPRIATION, WITHIN FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
04 NO. 66, 1984, AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AND WITHIN FILE  
05 OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 1994, AN ORDINANCE, THEREBY AMENDING

06 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 195, 2003 TO THE EXTENT IT IS  
07 INCONSISTENT HEREWITH. MOTION TO OVERRIDE OR SUSTAIN  
08 MAYOR'S VETO.

09 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for  
10 the committee on rules, I recommend that we override  
11 the mayor's veto of Item 7-A.

12 MS. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. The mayor has  
15 vetoed this legislation that provides for greater  
16 financial accountability, this very same accountability  
17 that he was using when he sat in my seat as finance  
18 chair.

19 He's obstructing the people's  
20 right to know about their own money. He calls this  
21 fiscal folly. I'm not sure who he's referring to,  
22 Council or himself. This mayor has borrowed more money  
23 than any mayor in the history of Scranton.

24 This mayor has led us from a  
25 surplus plus in 2001, to a deficit in 2004. This mayor  
0096

01 has caused a huge increase in Workers' Comp. pension  
02 and health care by forcing approximately 100  
03 retirements, probably most sadly, this mayor has  
04 refused to raise revenue, he's never pursued  
05 non-profits, he's given away a tax base to KOZs, he's  
06 refused to raise the EMS tax, he's refused to implement  
07 an entertainment tax, and I'd say that indeed is fiscal  
08 folly.

09 And some people might say, well,  
10 you just have to pick up the phone, but I don't think  
11 it's any secret in this city that if you want to pick  
12 up the phone, you've got to be the right camp.  
13 If you're in the mayor's camp, you  
14 can pick up the phone; if you're not, and you're in the  
15 people's camp, you can ask in person for something,  
16 which I've done, and it might come back to you a month  
17 later incomplete or it might not come at all, or you  
18 can make a suggestion, a viable money-saving  
19 cost-effective suggestion, and see it implemented a  
20 year later. I think it's sad that politics divides in  
21 that way.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Anyone else on the  
23 yes? I'll make a comment here, if I can. This is for  
24 the public's information, this is one of the few pieces  
25 of legislation that this Council has drafted, and, you  
0097

01 know, I just think that this veto is yet another

02 setback for accountability.  
03 You know, this exact system which  
04 we are -- which we have voted on, which three of us  
05 voted in favor of, two of us against, is the exact  
06 system and checks and balances that was okay for  
07 Chris Doherty the Councilman in dealing with the  
08 Mayor Connors administration, but it's not okay for  
09 this Council in dealing with the Mayor Chris Doherty  
10 administration. That is a little troubling.  
11 You know, these vetoes are  
12 becoming a Hallmark of Mayor Doherty. Not only does he  
13 have no communication with three members of this city  
14 oh Council, and, you know, I say that because he hasn't  
15 returned the last two phone calls I've made to him.  
16 So, some people say, Well, pick up  
17 the phone, and you know what, I have picked up the  
18 phone and I've made the call, I've dialed the number,  
19 and I get no return phone call back.  
20 But not only does he have no  
21 communication with three members, he doesn't even  
22 acknowledge that three members exist.  
23 And to be honest with you, the  
24 people don't deserve that from a mayor. I just think  
25 that this has to stop. That has to stop.

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01 Five people were elected here by  
02 the people of the City of Scranton, and just because he  
03 doesn't favor three, he should still do his duty, as he  
04 was elected, and communicate and acknowledge all five.  
05 If there's no further questions,  
06 roll call, please Kay.  
07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.  
08 MR. McTIERNAN: No.  
09 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.  
10 MS. EVANS: Yes.  
11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.  
12 MR. POCIUS: No.  
13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.  
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.  
16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.  
17 I unfortunately declare the mayor's veto of Item 6-A  
18 File of Council No. 103 legally and lawfully overridden.  
19 MR. WALSH: I'm sorry, it wasn't  
20 overridden, the veto wasn't overridden.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.  
22 MR. WALSH: In other words, you  
23 just want to clear that the veto was upheld and not

24 overridden because it was three yeases to override the  
25 veto, two nos, an extraordinary majority require four,  
0099

01 so just, you know, for the record you should probably  
02 simply note that the mayor's veto was upheld and the  
03 mayor's veto was not overridden by extraordinary  
04 majority.

05 MR. DIBILEO: In that case, I  
06 hereby declare the mayor's veto of Item 7-A, File of  
07 Council No. 103, 2005, legally and lawfully upheld.

08 MR. WALSH: Yes.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

10 MR. WALSH: And not overridden.

11 MR. DIBILEO: And not overridden.

12 Thank you, Mr. Walsh.

13 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
15 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 109, 2005 -  
16 ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM THROUGH THE  
17 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE  
18 HISTORIC PRESERVATION LOANS WITH A TOTAL FUNDING OF  
19 \$140,000.

20 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
21 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
22 community development?

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Mr. President, as  
24 chairperson for the committee on community development,  
25 I recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

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01 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

03 Roll call, please, Kay.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Yes.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby  
14 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION  
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF  
17 COUNCIL NO. 110, 2005 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
18 NO. 45 OF 1996 REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR  
19 HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY

20 UPDATING THE LIST OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES.

21 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for  
22 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of  
23 Item 7-C.

24 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

25 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

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01 Roll call, please.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

04 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

05 MS. EVANS: Yes.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

07 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

12 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION

14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

15 NO. 103, 2005 - APPOINTING OF REVEREND ANDREW NEWBERRY,

16 BETHEL AME CHURCH, 714 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,

17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, TO SERVE ON THE HUMAN RELATIONS

18 COMMISSION. REVEREND NEWBERRY WILL BE FULFILLING THE

19 TERM OF REVEREND EDNA PARKER, WHO TOOK ANOTHER

20 ASSIGNMENT OUTSIDE THE SCRANTON AREA. REVEREND

21 NEWBERRY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2008.

22 MR. DIBILEO: As chairman for the

23 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

24 7-D.

25 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

0102

01 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

02 Roll call, please, Kay.

03 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

04 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

05 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

06 MS. EVANS: Yes.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

08 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

13 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

14 Seeing no further business on our agenda, I'll

15 entertain a motion we adjourn.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
17 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.  
19 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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01 C E R T I F I C A T E

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02 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
03 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
03 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and  
04 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to  
04 the best of my ability.

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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