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01

01 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

02 PUBLIC HEARING

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03

04 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 121, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

04 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

05 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

05 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

06 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL

06 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

07 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

07 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

08 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

08 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

09 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

09 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$55,000.00 FROM

10 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO

10 PROJECT NO. 05-96, NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL.

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14 Held:

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15 Thursday, April 28, 2005

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17 Time:

17 6:15 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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24 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

25 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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02

02 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

03

03 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

04

04 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

05

05 MR. JOHN POCIUS

06

06 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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07 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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08 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: We have two public

02 hearings. And, Kay, if you can do a roll call, please.

03 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

05 MS. EVANS: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

07 MR. POCIUS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

12 The purpose of said Public Hearing

13 is to hear testimony and discuss the following:

14

15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 121, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

16 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

17 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

18 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

19 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL

20 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE

21 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

22 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

23 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

24 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

25 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

0004

01 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$55,000.00 FROM

02 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO

03 PROJECT NO. 05-96, NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL.

04 We have a sign-in sheet for this

05 public hearing, and there's one name on it,

06 Larry McAndrew.

07 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,

08 Council, Larry McAndrew, and ladies and gentlemen.

09 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. McANDREW: This is very

11 important this -- this what we're trying to do this

12 evening. Our neighborhoods are deteriorating, our

13 police patrol is needed. I only wish that this was

14 five times the amount or in other words, \$250,000 that

15 we could use for our police to patrol our

16 neighborhoods.

17 When I pick up the newspaper and I

18 read the police reports stating about burglaries that

19 happened in the neighborhood, about crime that's

20 happening in the neighborhood, about drug addiction,

21 where a woman has to come into our neighborhoods to

22 sell drugs to support her two children because her

23 husband is in the jail, this is not right. We need

24 better protection, we need better patrols, we need

25 this. Thank you.

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01 THE COURT: Thank you,

02 Mr. McAndrew. Would anyone else like to speak on this

03 public hearing? If not, I'll call this meeting to a

04 close.

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06 (HEARING WAS 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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01 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL  
02 PUBLIC HEARING  
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04 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 120, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -  
04 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, (AS  
05 AMENDED), ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE  
05 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
06 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL  
06 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
07 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
07 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE  
08 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
08 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
09 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)  
09 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$5,000.00 FROM  
10 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO  
10 PROJECT NO. 05-05.13, SLOAN BASEBALL  
11 ASSOCIATION.  
11  
12  
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13 Held:

13

14 Thursday, April 28, 2005

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16 Time:

16 6:30 p.m.

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18 Location:

18 Council chambers

19 Scranton City Hall

19 340 North Washington Avenue

20 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Roll call, please.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

03 Mrs. Evans.

04 MS. EVANS: Here.

05 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

06 MR. POCIUS: Here.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

11 The purpose of said Public Hearing

12 is to hear testimony and discuss the following:

13

14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 120, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

15 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, (AS

16 AMENDED), ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

18 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL

19 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

20 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

21 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

23 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

24 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

25 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$5,000.00 FROM

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01 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO

02 PROJECT NO. 05-05.13, SLOAN BASEBALL

03 ASSOCIATION.

04 We have a sign-in sheet for this

05 public hearing, and there's one name on it, Larry

06 McAndrew.

07 MR. McANDREW: I'd like to comment

08 where baseball is America's pastime. I grew up with

09 baseball heroes. Ted Williams was my idol.  
10 Roger Marris and Mickey Mantle, to name a few. Our  
11 youth in this community needs this money. I wish it  
12 was more than \$5,000.  
13 We have a mayor that puts money  
14 into parks, but for our youth, we have to beg to get  
15 money for associations. This is not right. Again, I  
16 wish it was more. Thank you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
18 Mr. McAndrew. Would anyone else like to comment on  
19 this public hearing?

20 MR. BRODT: My name is Pete Brodt,  
21 President of Sloan Baseball Association. First off,  
22 I'd like to thank you, Council, for even considering us  
23 for the money, because it's been a long time since our  
24 baseball association has ever gotten anything off the  
25 city.

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01 What we do down there is through  
02 hard work and funding from our fundraisers and people  
03 that just donate stuff to us.  
04 Our field has come a long way in  
05 the last three years, and I know, Gary, you live by it,  
06 and I hoped you've passed by it lately, because it's in  
07 very good shape right now.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, it is.

09 MR. BRODT: We work hard at it,  
10 but that \$5,000 could be used to really, really fund  
11 the kids much better than what we can do. We do what  
12 we can do with the money we have, but we would really  
13 appreciate it if we could get that extra \$5,000. And,  
14 again, I want to thank you for considering us.

15 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Brodt. And you're welcome for that, and you guys  
18 do a great job at that field, like you say, with blood,  
19 sweat and tears, and we're happy to help out.

20 MR. BRODT: It's for the kids.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely. Would  
22 anyone else like to comment on this subject? If not,  
23 I'll call this to a close and we'll be back at seven  
24 o'clock for our regular meeting.

25 (HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

0006

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, April 28, 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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09 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

10

11 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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13 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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15 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for

02 the 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. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

13 For the record, Mr. Pocius was here earlier this

14 evening and was not feeling well and decided that he

15 could not stay for the meeting tonight. So, there's

16 four of us here, and we wish Mr. Pocius well, hope he's

17 feeling better soon.

18 And before we dispense with the

19 reading of the minutes, we have some special guests

20 here with us tonight. We have members of the

21 West Scranton Wrestling Team, high school wrestling

22 team, and they had just an outstanding season.  
23 They had outstanding team  
24 accomplishments and outstanding individual  
25 accomplishments, and we're thrilled that they were able  
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01 to join us this evening, and we have a proclamation for  
02 each and every one of them.  
03 So, I'm going to ask my fellow  
04 Council members to join me up front, and we're going to  
05 read the proclamation, and then we'll have each one of  
06 you come up individually as we call your names. Thanks  
07 for being here.  
08 Okay. The proclamation reads:  
09 Whereas, the Council of the City of Scranton is  
10 desirous of honoring the West Scranton High School  
11 Wrestling Team for their achievements during the 2005  
12 season; and whereas, the West Scranton Wrestling team  
13 was the Lackawanna League Division I Champions, as well  
14 as the District II Dual Meet Champions for the second  
15 time; and whereas, the members of the team are Javier  
16 Acosta, Charlie Blazonis, Dave Dozack, Corey Gazoo,  
17 Chris Jennings, Chris Kobrynich, Michael Massey, Joe  
18 Palmitessa, Matt Poveromo, Matt Sheerin, Bill Toms,  
19 Sean Baress, Rob Conrad, Jeff Dargatis, Matt English,  
20 Roy Gonzalez, Josh Hudson, Brian Lynott, Nate Marzani,  
21 Paul Ord, Mike Passero, Adam Bisignani, Matt Gavern,  
22 and John Smerecky; and whereas, the team qualified and  
23 wrestled to the Round of 8 at the State Team Dual Meet  
24 Tournament; and whereas, this year the team gave the  
25 school its third District 2 Tournament championship  
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01 with 1 champion - Matt Sheerin; four Runner-ups - Joe  
02 Palmitessa, Chris Kobrynich, Dave Dozack and Sean  
03 Barres; two fourth-placers - John Smerecky and Corey  
04 Gazoo; and one fifth placer - Adam Bisignani; and  
05 whereas, Dave Dozack became the fifth West Scranton  
06 Wrestler to qualify for the PIAA State Championships  
07 and first year wrestler Paul Ord was a Junior Varsity  
08 District Champion; and whereas, West was the first  
09 District II team to win both AA and AAA Championships  
10 in the Dual Meet Tournament since its inception, as  
11 well as the first Lackawanna League Team to capture  
12 both the dual and the Individual District Tournament in  
13 the same season; and whereas, the Junior High Wrestlers  
14 won the Lackawanna League in their division, as well;  
15 and whereas, the West Scranton Wrestling Team is  
16 coached by Varsity Coaches Rob Butka and Paul Fox; and  
17 Jr. High Coaches John Fox and Brad Turi.

18 Now, therefore, be it resolved  
19 that on Thursday, April 28, 2005, Scranton City Council  
20 wishes to congratulate the West Scranton High School  
21 Wrestling Team, their parents, coaches and school on  
22 their outstanding achievements and extend our best  
23 wishes for success in all their future endeavors.  
24 Be it further resolved that this  
25 proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of  
0006

01 this City Council as lasting tribute to the West  
02 Scranton High School Wrestling team. Congratulations.  
03 Coach, would you like to say a  
04 couple of words?  
05 MR. BUTKA: Not really, but I'd  
06 like to thank Council, Coach Fox and I and the team  
07 would like to thank Council for having us down here and  
08 honoring us in this capacity.  
09 Also, the Scranton School District  
10 Administration for allowing us to have such a great job  
11 where we touch the lives of so many kids and bring  
12 success to the district as we do, and the kids, because  
13 they put a lot of trust in us, and it seems to be going  
14 a long way. So, I would like to thank you guys.  
15 Thanks.

16 MR. DIBILEO: I'd like to thank  
17 the West Scranton Wrestling Team again for coming down  
18 here tonight. It was just an outstanding season and  
19 one that we'll remember for a long time.  
20 And with that said, if we can  
21 dispense with the reading of the minutes, please,  
22 Mr. Walsh.

23 MR. WALSH: Third order. 3-A,  
24 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
25 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 2005.  
0007

01 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
02 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

03 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE  
04 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH  
05 23, 2005.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
07 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

08 MR. DIBILEO: 3-C, AGENDA FOR THE  
09 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,  
10 APRIL 27, 2005.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
12 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.

13 MR. WALSH: 3-D, PETITION FOR A NO

14 PARKING ZONE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE JERMYN  
15 APARTMENTS, 326 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
16 18503.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
18 comments on 3-D? If not, received and filed.

19 MR. WALSH: 3-E, AGENDA FOR THE  
20 ZONING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 11,  
21 2005.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
23 comments on 3-E? If not, received and filed.

24 MR. WALSH: 3-F, MINUTES OF THE  
25 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY HELD  
0008

01 FEBRUARY 17, 2005.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any  
03 comments on 3-F? If not, received and filed.

04 MR. WALSH: 3-G, CLERK'S NOTES.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,  
06 please.

07 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President  
08 before I get into the one thing that I have tonight, I  
09 have to correct something that came to my attention  
10 after last week's meeting, I think Ann Marie Stulgis  
11 talked about the police cars being in, after many phone  
12 calls and a certain Councilman straightened me out on  
13 that one, the cars are not in.

14 They are in -- they are in the  
15 possession of somebody that is taking care of them,  
16 putting the sirens on them, but they are not in the  
17 City of Scranton.

18 I discussed that with Chief  
19 Elliot. I misunderstood where they were at, so I do  
20 apologize to you on that note.

21 The other thing that I have is, in  
22 the last couple of weeks I think that we've  
23 discussed -- Lee Morgan has discussed the after school  
24 programs and the summer programs with the Scranton  
25 School District, Mr. McTiernan asked or Councilwoman  
0009

01 Evans asked about getting the list from School Director  
02 Tom Gilbride, well, I talked to Mr. Gilbride about what  
03 they do have and some of the things they put together.  
04 Mike Sheridan sent it down to us, he's the  
05 superintendent, and he asked if we would read some of  
06 the things that are available for the kids after  
07 school.

08 In the elementary schools and the  
09 intermediate schools the Smart Program, the Pride

10 Program, also available are the homework help,  
11 computers, library, fitness classes, cooking at the  
12 intermediate only, shop at the intermediate only,  
13 tutoring math and reading, that's eight week sessions  
14 during the academic year, high school they have the  
15 PIAA sports, yearbook, academic clubs, intermural  
16 sports, orchestra, band, tutoring, ESL, Friendship  
17 House.

18 So, they have the most extensive  
19 after school program in the area, so they did want that  
20 corrected, and I think they appreciate us reading this  
21 out. That's all I have, Mr. President.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Saunders. Appreciate that.

24 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen  
25 participation.

0010

01 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the  
02 first speaker, I just would like to, you know, mention  
03 here that, you know, we are approaching an election and  
04 emotions can sometimes run high and at this time, and  
05 I'd like to remind speakers that while voicing your  
06 favorite political candidate is not acceptable,  
07 concerns regarding elections as it affects you as a  
08 taxpayer, however, are acceptable.

09 And because there's a fine line  
10 between those two, I'd like to ask our City Council  
11 Solicitor, Mark Walsh, if he would kindly assist me in  
12 determining when we might cross that line, and I'd  
13 appreciate that, Mr. Walsh.

14 MR. WALSH: No problem.

15 MR. DIBILEO: And with that said,  
16 the first speaker on the sign in sheet is Helen Cook.

17 MS. COOK: Good evening, City  
18 Council.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MS. COOK: A few weeks back  
21 Mrs. Evans spoke about the different boards and  
22 commissions that meet and she thought it would be very  
23 good if Channel 61 could follow these meetings. That's  
24 rather hard to do when all of them don't meet here in  
25 Council chambers.

0011

01 Since we have seating for 20 or  
02 more people here, which is what either Roberts Rule or  
03 the Sunshine Law asks for, I think every board,  
04 commission and authority should meet right here in City  
05 Hall.

06 People won't have to wait for  
07 newspapers to come out and find out whether they are  
08 meeting today, tonight, this afternoon or this  
09 morning.  
10 Perfect example is Scranton  
11 Redevelopment Authority, sometimes they meet at  
12 eight o'clock in the morning, sometimes they meet at  
13 12:15 in the afternoon. They never have seating for  
14 more than probably two people. The cameras are not  
15 useful in that room because it's so small. They  
16 wouldn't have that problem if they were here.  
17 Scranton Recreation Authority  
18 meets anywhere, sometimes at parks, sometimes in  
19 different buildings, and very rarely will you ever see  
20 them here.  
21 And, of course, some of the  
22 authorities and boards have a certain odd number, five  
23 or seven people, three on Civil Service. These people  
24 aren't always at these meetings.  
25 If they can't attend these  
0012  
01 meetings on a regular monthly basis, they should  
02 probably get someone that can.  
03 And the other thing I had to say  
04 was sometimes I'm unable to get to Thursday night  
05 meetings, so being you can't see it on 61 the same  
06 night that it's taking place, you wait for the morning  
07 paper to come out.  
08 Well, sometimes it isn't in the  
09 next day's morning paper, sometimes it takes five or  
10 six days for it to come in, and some days it doesn't  
11 make it at all, but it just so happens because there  
12 was a little upsetting going on here last Thursday  
13 night, evidently to the reporter that sits here every  
14 week, she thought it was very newsworthy to put that  
15 whole item in the paper for Thursday morning. I  
16 thought it was very un-newsworthy that that could take  
17 up a whole column, when Mr. McTiernan sat here and told  
18 us about a wonderful program that takes place at  
19 Scranton High School, am I right, Mr. McTiernan, and  
20 there were people sitting in the audience near me who  
21 knew nothing about this program, and they were very  
22 pleased to hear what you had to say, yet not one piece  
23 of anything Mr. McTiernan said was in that newspaper,  
24 but you had the whole article on what went on here last  
25 Thursday. To me, that's very unacceptable, and to me,  
0013  
01 it was not newsworthy. Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. And as  
03 you probably know, City Council chambers is open to any  
04 board or commission that would like to hold their  
05 meetings here, and the cameras are stationed here, so  
06 they're more than welcome to use this room, as is  
07 anyone; for example, there's a grade school class  
08 coming in for a tour, I think this coming week, and  
09 they'd like to see City Hall and the chambers here.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, we  
11 did speak to Channel 61 about that situation. They  
12 said that if they continue to tour, as some of the  
13 boards do, if somebody was interested in taping that,  
14 they would play that, if it was acceptable, the tape  
15 was all right, so on, but they will do that.  
16 They said the Recreation Authority  
17 is on Monday night, the same night as the Scranton  
18 School District's meetings and, they would rather tape  
19 the Scranton School District's meetings at this time.  
20 I don't think they have the  
21 capability of taping two at the same time, but they  
22 said they will let us know if anything changes on that.  
23 They said if anybody is interested and they want to  
24 take a -- and I think someone has done that in the  
25 past, they've taped some recreation authority meetings,  
0014

01 Charlie has taped them and they've played them on  
02 Channel 61. They said if that is the case, they will  
03 play that tape.

04 MS. EVANS: I think, though, also,  
05 if we might, I saw the letters that were sent out to  
06 the authorities regarding the taping of their meetings,  
07 if we might even place a call to them indicating that  
08 they're very welcome to return to City Council  
09 chambers, I know that the Sewer Authority, for example,  
10 met here for quite a while, and now they're meeting at  
11 the sewer plant. So, we certainly would welcome their  
12 return to Council chambers so that those meetings can  
13 be aired.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: I spoke to  
15 Joe O'Connor. After that letter went out, I spoke to  
16 Joe O'Connor about it. He said there were some  
17 conflicts, there were some other things, but they'll  
18 look into that. They also have them scheduled out far  
19 enough and in the paper far enough that they don't want  
20 to go back on that, but when the time comes when the  
21 ads run out and everything runs out, they'll reconsider  
22 that.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. I think  
25 they'd be doing the public a great service by allowing  
0015  
01 the public to be able to see their proceedings on the  
02 air live and then taped. Regina Yetkowskas.  
03 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina  
04 Yetkowskas. This evening I will present some of the  
05 contents and line items in Mayor Doherty's 2005  
06 operating budget. Mr. Doherty's own budget assumptions  
07 and projections are misleading, to put it mildly. It  
08 is a combination of smoke and mirrors, nothing more. I  
09 won't use many figures to bore you.  
10 Now to discuss Mr. Doherty's 2005  
11 operating budget. I believe virtually all  
12 Mr. Doherty's deficit spending begin with and are  
13 derived from his operating budgets. Examination of his  
14 budgets show they consist of over-inflated and  
15 unrealistic revenues which allow him to spend more than  
16 will be received and thereby create the red ink.  
17 The Home Rule Charter, Section  
18 609, Paragraph 13, imposes on Mr. Doherty the duty to  
19 draft and propose a budget. The Home Rule Charter does  
20 not require an exactly accurate budget, but one can  
21 easily understand that any budget Mr. Doherty drafts  
22 and proposes must be reasonably accurate, and that  
23 first thing is the projected revenues for the coming  
24 year must be realistic.  
25 This goal is accomplished when  
0016  
01 projected revenues are based on actual receipts, unless  
02 special circumstances put in budget footnotes require  
03 far different figures. I believe to do otherwise would  
04 be to mislead the taxpayers.  
05 The Charter Section 903,  
06 Paragraph 1, requires Mayor Doherty's budge to contain  
07 a general summary of its contents. The current 2005  
08 budget does not.  
09 In the past I appeared before  
10 Council and stated a primary reason for Mayor Doherty's  
11 deficit spending Scranton into a virtually unmanageable  
12 debt is the fact that he improperly inflated city  
13 revenues in his projected receipts. He then spent  
14 these improperly inflated revenue projections and  
15 more.  
16 Since the improperly inflated  
17 revenue projections were never actually received by  
18 Scranton, it automatically created a deficit, because  
19 when Mr. Doherty caused the city to spend money equal

20 to or more than his overestimated budget revenue  
21 figures, the end result can only be more unfunded  
22 debt.

23 This is a formula for disaster,  
24 and Scranton is now in that position. Unless the  
25 radical aspects of Mayor Doherty's fiscal conduct are  
0017

01 immediately purged and the quality of life is improved  
02 for Scranton's people, then his attempt to restore the  
03 pride for Scranton and its citizens will remain nothing  
04 but a pipe dream. It is as of now.

05 Now, let me present some facts and  
06 figures taken only from Mr. Doherty's 2005 operating  
07 budget, which I believe will support my statement and  
08 show his budget to be nothing but the same pipe dream  
09 as his claim to restore the pride for the residents of  
10 Scranton.

11 Rather than bore Council with the  
12 exact numbers in the 2005 budget, including the sense,  
13 I will use very close round numbers. They will give  
14 the same accurate picture.

15 Before examining the tax revenues,  
16 we must examine the accuracy of the administration's  
17 pie graph on Page 1 of the budget, as compared to the  
18 actual numbers in the budget.

19 The graph shows what percentage of  
20 the 2005 operating budget is expected to be produced  
21 from the different sources to generate the total  
22 projected cash receipts of \$65.8 million.

23 For example, on Page 1, the pie  
24 graph which shows revenues states, Real estate taxes  
25 will bring into the city 22 percent of the projected  
0018

01 \$65.8 million or \$14.4 million, but on the budget's  
02 Page 3, the budget states real state taxes, including  
03 delinquent tax collection will bring in \$12.7 million  
04 or \$1.7 million less than stated in the pie graph.

05 This is an important inconsistency  
06 which goes to the heart of the budget. There are other  
07 examples of actual figures which do not accurately  
08 calculate what is reflected in the pie graph, like the  
09 mercantile and business privilege tax, which is  
10 \$1 million over the inflated amounts in the budget.

11 The pie graph still on Page 1  
12 lists the mercantile and business privilege tax as  
13 generating 4 percent of projected revenue for 2005.  
14 This means 4 percent of \$65.8 million or \$2.6 million;  
15 however, using the line items on Page 3 of the budget,

16 when one adds the 2005 mercantile tax of \$1.0 million  
17 to the business privilege tax of \$0.7 million, it adds  
18 up to \$1.7 million, or only \$2.6 percent of 2005  
19 projected revenue, not 4 percent of projected revenue  
20 as falsely stated in the pie graph.  
21 The 4 percent of \$65.8 million  
22 calculates to \$2.6 million or \$900,000 more than the  
23 reality of \$1.7 million.  
24 Next week I'll discuss  
25 Mr. Doherty's false budget projections. Thank you.  
0019

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

02 Andy Sbaraglia.

03 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
04 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I can't ask  
05 Mr. Pocius about the letter of credit, because I see  
06 he's not there to answer it. I hope he did get the  
07 information on it.  
08 You have one item there up for  
09 passage tonight, it has to do with the parking meters  
10 on Adams Avenue, the 100 block of Adams. Does anybody  
11 know if them parking meters are incorporated in the  
12 ones that were mortgaged or not?  
13 As you know, a lot of our parking  
14 meters were mortgaged in Northeastern National Bank,  
15 and if there were so, how do we make up the difference?  
16 Where are we going to grab that extra money from that  
17 the meters are generating?  
18 It's important that we look at all  
19 of these things. Now, I realize somehow or another  
20 this has got to be a state road. I don't know if it's  
21 a state road, but according to your backup sheet, it's  
22 a state road.

23 But the important thing is, are  
24 these meters part of the ones that are mortgaged or  
25 not? If you remember way back when we decided that we  
0020

01 are going to build this great garage for this  
02 non-profit hotel across the street from it, we decided  
03 the only way we can really help them out is we mortgage  
04 all of our parking meters, so this is what we did, we  
05 mortgaged our parking meters.  
06 Now, we committed \$250,000 out of  
07 our budget to this parking garage. CommD gave a half a  
08 million, making three-quarters of a million dollars  
09 noticed. You can spend a half a million dollars to the  
10 parking garage out of CommD money, but you couldn't  
11 help put up a police station, you couldn't help put up

12 a DPW site, you couldn't help doing anything on the  
13 roads, but we can do it to a garage. So, tell me,  
14 something is wrong somewhere in that department.  
15 And you were the only people that  
16 have the authority to really do something about it.  
17 When a person like me tries to, I'm told, I don't have  
18 standing.  
19 Mr. Bolus was told the same thing  
20 a few times, I guess, or they're frivolous, but nothing  
21 that happens in this city that costs money is  
22 frivolous.  
23 I have a letter from Brazil on the  
24 money that was spent up there at Nay Aug where they  
25 used some obscure law out of Philadelphia to okay the  
0021  
01 payment for all that work that was done at Nay Aug.  
02 The worst part of it was they said they took \$700,000  
03 out of money for a park that we still own or that the  
04 SRA owns, but are supposed to take care of it. But  
05 they spent that money.  
06 Now, that money has to come back  
07 if that park is not sold. If we get a new mayor or a  
08 different Council and that thing is reversed and we  
09 take back our South Side Complex, somebody has to come  
10 up with \$700,000 to give back to the University of  
11 Scranton.  
12 Many people come before you and  
13 ask for you to look into establishing impact fees,  
14 many, many times it came before you, nothing was ever  
15 done, and all we do is turn our back on things, and  
16 that's not right.  
17 In a month and a half Nay Aug Park  
18 is going to open again, and what is the fee going to be  
19 up there for them kids to swim? We haven't done a darn  
20 thing except rhetoric.  
21 Well, gentlemen, rhetoric don't do  
22 a darn thing. You've got to have action, as much  
23 action as you can impose, and this is the best time to  
24 impose action, because people don't want to look bad,  
25 whether it's people running for office or people that  
0022  
01 are in office.  
02 They don't want to look bad, so  
03 this is the best time to really, really put the  
04 pressure to try to get that pool at least free for some  
05 of them kids that live in that neighborhood.  
06 I always used the falls, but in my  
07 days you could do it. Nowadays, well, with liability

08 and everything, it's not the best place to be swimming.  
09 But I go back a long way up Nay Aug. I go back when we  
10 had nickel rides or when we had the zoo and all them  
11 things he would like to do, but the only trouble is we  
12 no longer have 100,000 people, our population is  
13 falling.  
14 Maybe you could look at grants for  
15 some of these things. There's a lot of money in this  
16 town and there's a lot of people with old money. A lot  
17 of people had coal and there's still Scranton. There's  
18 always Scranton in them. You can't get that coal dust  
19 out of your veins. It's in us, and it's in us all.  
20 So, maybe Weinbergs somewhere  
21 along the line, you can look for these things, and I'm  
22 not going to run over. Thank you.  
23 MS. EVANS: Andy, I'm not sure if  
24 this is part of the information you requested, but we  
25 do have the figures on the proceeds from the sale lease  
0023  
01 back transaction, is that what you were concerned  
02 about, how that money was spent?  
03 MR. SBARAGLIA: When it was spent.  
04 MS. EVANS: When it was? The  
05 dates are 12/28/04, 12/30/04, and 12/30/04. If you'd  
06 like to see this, I'd be more than happy to share it  
07 with you.  
08 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Thank you.  
09 I'll get it later. Thank you.  
10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Sbaraglia and Mrs. Evans. Bob Bolus.  
13 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
14 Bob Bolus.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
16 MR. BOLUS: Just one thing when  
17 Jay was mentioning about various areas that can  
18 videotape, Throop is now doing that. They've hired --  
19 Council approved the hiring of an individual to come in  
20 and videotape their meetings, which are now starting to  
21 be aired on Channel 61, and I think it's important to  
22 see, especially the past meeting that they had, where  
23 Council came out and uncovered misuses of funds by  
24 certain members of a booster club, and it's all  
25 videotaped. And it's the truth that goes on how people  
0024  
01 are heckled back and forth.  
02 As a taxpayer, last week's meeting  
03 that I was away and I had the opportunity to review

04 watching it on 61, I would say, Mr. DiBileo, that you  
05 had the patience of a Saint last week.  
06 When Mrs. Williams came in here  
07 and chastised you and went back and forth over your  
08 business and everything else, I wonder if Mrs. Williams  
09 has contacted Chris Doherty to question him about his  
10 campaign finance reports, wherein he took money from a  
11 corporation and then paid it back, if she really wants  
12 to get into the truth of things.  
13 But more importantly, she praised  
14 past Council members here, Hazzouri, Murphy, Gilhooley,  
15 McCormick, Mr. Pocius.  
16 Well, I'd like to set her straight  
17 on something, they were the Council that tried to  
18 muzzle people, and if anyone forgot my arrest for  
19 speaking out at this meeting, should really pay strict  
20 attention to what's really going on in Scranton.  
21 If people can praise these people  
22 for what they did and what they cast on this city and  
23 what they tried to stop people from doing and muzzle  
24 people, it is just unrealistic.  
25 And you are to be commended, as  
0025  
01 well as Mrs. Menichetti in Throop, put up with hecklers  
02 and people without removing them from this chamber.  
03 These people come in here,  
04 Mr. Pocius, Mr. Hazzouri wants to come back. What do  
05 they want to come back here for? Four more years, to  
06 get a bigger pension from the people in the city?  
07 You people aren't asking for a  
08 pension, yet they're making sure that they're going to  
09 try and get it. And where are they taking it from?  
10 The taxpayers in the city.  
11 Mr. Catalano had made comments in  
12 the paper that he couldn't get a Republican candidate  
13 to run because of the decorum here at City Council.  
14 Well, if he paid attention, it  
15 wasn't a Republican last week that was going rampant  
16 and crazy here, it was a Democrat. Mrs. Williams gone  
17 nuts about everything in the city.  
18 So, to blame decorum here, and I  
19 speak here and so do many other people, and I think  
20 we're proud to say we do come here, because there is a  
21 decorum and there is an opportunity to address free  
22 speech, and you're all to be commended for it.  
23 I see Scartelli now wants to put a  
24 new building in Scranton, a KOZ deal, another freebie.  
25 Sure, it's more industry coming or another building,

0026

01 but where is the tax base being increased in this  
02 city?  
03 We have Mr. Doherty running  
04 rampant here, as they brought up earlier, he has  
05 campaign, not campaign, but he has a budget that's  
06 smoke and mirrors, as Regina said, but then again if we  
07 can't believe his budget and we can't believe his  
08 campaign finances as being correct and he won't stand  
09 up and address it, we as citizens have that right to  
10 ask that question.  
11 This is why I brought it before  
12 Council, to ask the question of the mayor in the debate  
13 coming up next week, Did he or did he not take money  
14 from a corporation. It's a simple question, and we  
15 should be entitled as citizens to have a simple  
16 straight forward answer. It's a yes or a no.  
17 And if you can't believe that, how  
18 can we believe his budget is accurate when we have a  
19 deficit spender saying we're moving forward, when  
20 everywhere you look we're going backwards?  
21 We're in debt, we can't get out of  
22 this. The morale in this city is terrible. Talk to  
23 the senior citizens, talk to the elderly people in this  
24 city who have to try and make a living here and  
25 survive.

0027

01 The taxes went up in the county.  
02 Where does this money come from? This is why it's so  
03 important. A fee has to be generated. We can't keep  
04 talking and blowing steam here. It has to be generated  
05 to the KOZs and non-profits so that there's a fair  
06 assessment to protect each and every individual in this  
07 city from being gouged as we are right now by this  
08 rampant administration who is not accountable.  
09 His boards are not accountable.  
10 No one comes here and speak to the people. We are the  
11 employers. We don't need a Mr. Pocius here again, we  
12 sure don't need Mr. Hazzouri here again. Why don't we  
13 need them? Because they're the reasons we went  
14 backwards. They're the reasons we can't speak here and  
15 we cannot have that again.  
16 We need cooperation between a  
17 mayor and a Council. Those are the executive people,  
18 we, the people, appoint to represent us. Don't ignore  
19 us because our vote is a lot stronger than their  
20 arrogance and the insult to us by not giving us the  
21 information as we requested.

22 Just like Nay Aug Park on the  
23 deeds, we need to know, in fact we demand to know, what  
24 is going on with Nay Aug. We demand to know what is  
25 going on with South Side. We demand to know if it's a  
0028

01 KOZ.

02 And I asked Jay this the last time  
03 I had spoke about the DPW complex, and I never got that  
04 answer.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, that's KOZ.

06 MR. BOLUS: The whole complex is

07 KOZ or is just the Ice Box KOZ?

08 MR. SAUNDERS: No. Where the DPW  
09 building stands now is KOZ.

10 MR. BOLUS: It was?

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

12 MR. BOLUS: Okay. That's in black

13 and white somewhere, Jay?

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

15 MR. BOLUS: Okay. Thank you. But  
16 that's a prime example, \$600,000. We lost that  
17 property, and it's tax free from here on out. What did  
18 we gain here, but punish the people in this city.

19 We need a clean sweep, but we need  
20 people who will respect the dollar and respect the  
21 people, not climb over the dollars to get at the  
22 pennies, because you need one penny or ninety-nine  
23 cents, you need the other penny to make a dollar.

24 And that's what we need here is  
25 some integrity, credibility and we need answers. And  
0029

01 we need decorum here.

02 And, Mr. DiBileo, I will suggest  
03 again that somebody comes up here and gives you the  
04 verbal abuse you had last week, rule them out of order  
05 and have them sit down, because they don't represent  
06 us, the citizens of this city. Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

08 Mr. Bolus. Thank you. Reverend Kathryn Simmons.

09 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MS. SIMMONS: Reverend Kathryn

12 Simmons, I'm a Scranton resident. I bring words of  
13 peace and unity from my Lord and Savior this evening.

14 I came here for several reasons

15 tonight. Councilman Courtright, you don't have to look  
16 that way, I'm not coming after you this evening.

17 I'm here tonight first to thank

18 you and Councilman DiBileo for attending the meeting  
19 last week on anti-violence and gang activity in the  
20 City of Scranton. It was wonderful to be able to  
21 introduce Council people and our County Commissioners  
22 to the 15 people who had come from Philadelphia to  
23 speak out on issues such as these.  
24 I prayed earnestly all week that I  
25 could come here tonight and say that the meeting was a  
0030  
01 success and that all of our problems in Scranton had  
02 disappeared, but of course that is not true. Instead  
03 our neighborhoods are preparing for a heated and  
04 overwhelming summer.  
05 I have been talking to  
06 neighborhoods all this past week, to all of our crime  
07 watches, and all are on the same level. No one thinks  
08 any different than anyone else. We know that there's  
09 trouble coming, we just don't know how to address it.  
10 So, all of you say, Well,  
11 Reverend, we know all of this, so why are you here this  
12 evening taking up five more minutes of time? Well, I  
13 am here because our streets need more trained  
14 officers.  
15 Drug traffic is moving rapidly and  
16 steadily uphill, assaults are filling our prison cells  
17 and domestic violence cases are keeping  
18 Women's Resource Center up and running.  
19 What do we have to do to get  
20 across to our present mayor, that blaming the unions  
21 for our streets being filled with crime is not the  
22 answer? Cutting officers to keep funds down is not the  
23 answer.  
24 Our district attorney's office  
25 needs to move quickly to get the gangs seminar up and  
0031  
01 moving. University of Scranton, Marywood University  
02 and Lackawanna College claims they do not have space  
03 for this seminar to take place.  
04 I wonder if they'll have space if  
05 one of their students are shot and killed some  
06 evening. One day of education for the community about  
07 gangs and gang activity.  
08 So, I'm asking you as Council  
09 people to get in touch with these universities and  
10 colleges and ask them to give us the space that we  
11 need, and I'm going to use a word that's probably going  
12 to get me in trouble and I'm going to have to go to the  
13 alter this Sunday and ask for forgiveness, but to hell

14 with insurance certificates.  
15 Open up the doors and let our  
16 people in so that they can learn about what is going on  
17 in our city.  
18 My neighbors in crime watch have  
19 carried the weight of the neighborhood anti-crime  
20 activity. We need help from all in government, Council  
21 members, mayor, directors, help us to vacate our  
22 streets of all violence. It can be done.  
23 I believe in this. If I didn't, I  
24 wouldn't come down here. I wouldn't be involved in  
25 crime watch. I'd stay inside my church and minister to  
0032  
01 those souls who need ministering to, but there is not  
02 one young person that is worth losing.  
03 The letters and phone calls that I  
04 have received these past weeks threatening and  
05 insulting will not stop my work, for I believe that  
06 My Lord gave me prison ministry and street ministry,  
07 and I will not allowed a voice or written word to stop  
08 that work.  
09 If a fireman can enter a burning  
10 building or loan officer approach 14 or 15 members of a  
11 gang, I can walk a street with my head held high and  
12 purpose branded across my heart.  
13 I'm asking you, you, the elected  
14 officials of this city, to support loudly and firmly  
15 the Scranton Police Department and the Scranton Fire  
16 Department, they need us, and My Father God knows we  
17 need them. Thank you.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
19 Reverend Simmons. Les Spindler.  
20 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
21 Council, Les Spindler.  
22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
24 MR. SPINDLER: Last week,  
25 Mr. DiBileo, Mrs. Williams said it would have been nice  
0033  
01 if you were there for the groundbreaking of the new  
02 school, well, that's in the past. Let's talk about the  
03 present.  
04 When the troops came home from  
05 Iraq, it would have been nice if Chris Doherty was  
06 there. He wasn't. When different parts of our city  
07 were flooded in September and just a few weeks ago, it  
08 would have been nice if Chris Doherty was there, he  
09 wasn't.

10 When the Green Ridge Neighborhood  
11 Association, they had a meeting about crime in  
12 Green Ridge a while back, it would have been nice if  
13 Chris Doherty was there, but he wasn't.  
14 Last week there was a meeting  
15 about gangs and guns in Bethel AME Church, it would  
16 have been nice if Chris Doherty was there, he wasn't.  
17 Last week the Scranton High School  
18 Baseball Team was honored here and Chris Doherty's son  
19 was there, and he wouldn't even show up here to honor  
20 his son.  
21 Chris Doherty is an invisible  
22 mayor. The only time he shows up is to get money to  
23 fix up the parks or to give away more KOZ areas.  
24 Moving on, Monday I was talking to  
25 a gentleman who bought a house was on a list -- whose  
0034  
01 house was on the list to be condemned, the gentleman is  
02 fixing up the house, he's living inside now, the inside  
03 is fixed up, he's presently fixing up the outside now.  
04 On Sunday a political sign went up  
05 in his front yard, Monday morning at 9:30, inspectors  
06 showed up at his house. This man bought a house that  
07 was going to be demolished, he bought it, he's fixing  
08 it up, keeping it on the tax rolls, here inspectors  
09 show up harassing him for no reason at all. He has  
10 permits. Everything is legal, he's doing. Again, he's  
11 keeping it on the tax rolls, that's the way this  
12 administration thinks.  
13 Instead of doing things to try to  
14 keep people living in this city, they're trying to  
15 chase them away, and that's wrong.  
16 Moving on again, did we hear  
17 anything from Attorney Farrell yet on the deed?  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Walsh.  
19 MR. SAUNDERS: No. We didn't hear  
20 a response from Attorney Farrell.  
21 MR. SPINDLER: How long does this  
22 take? I mean, it has been black and white and two  
23 separate deeds. The park is supposed to be free  
24 forever. Are we going to do something here or just sit  
25 on our hands? This is ridiculous.  
0035  
01 I have brought three separate  
02 things that Council can do. I don't know if someone is  
03 telling you not to do this or you can do a writ or  
04 mandamus, file an injunction, but something has to be  
05 done. This is ridiculous.

06 MS. EVANS: Les, I don't believe  
07 Attorney Farrell will ever respond to us.  
08 MR. SPINDLER: Neither do I.  
09 MS. EVANS: I think it's gone well  
10 past the deadline, and I've said this before, and I  
11 still feel this way, I would be very happy to propose  
12 and vote for a declaratory action with regard to those  
13 deeds, but I'm only one person, and, you know, that  
14 requires a majority of Council to pursue.  
15 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. I think  
16 there's no harm in trying it. I think you would have  
17 support, but that's just my opinion, but I think  
18 something has to be done, and this is the time to do it  
19 right now.  
20 Okay. Lastly, it was on the news  
21 tonight, Mr. Bolus spoke about it already,  
22 Chris Doherty was on the news again blowing his horn  
23 about giving more land away up on 9th Avenue, Kost Tire  
24 and an office building are going to be built, another  
25 KOZ area.

0036

01 When is Chris Doherty going to  
02 give the taxpayers of this city a break instead of all  
03 these other people? The taxpayers of this city are the  
04 ones who need a break, not these other companies.  
05 Thank you.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

07 Kathy Beck.

08 MS. BECK: Good evening, City  
09 Council. Kathy Beck, city resident.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MS. BECK: Three years ago when my  
12 husband began speaking here before Council in support  
13 of something he strongly believed in, I could not  
14 understand why he was getting so involved, questioned  
15 whether it was necessary, and I certainly never thought  
16 I would be speaking from this podium; however, I  
17 continued to follow the course of events taking place  
18 in this city, and the more frustrated I became, the  
19 more I realized that this is the only way to get the  
20 rest of the story told.

21 My comments this evening are not  
22 intended to be political in nature, they are merely my  
23 opinion supported by statements of fact.

24 My decision to come here this  
25 evening was driven by the presentation made last week

0037

01 by Joanne Williams. She is certainly entitled to her

02 opinion and freedom of speech, as am I, so let's look  
03 at the whole picture.  
04 Last week Mrs. Williams chastised  
05 Mr. DiBileo for not being present at the groundbreaking  
06 certify for the new high school. This alone exhibits  
07 how shortsighted Mrs. Williams is.  
08 She completely ignored the fact  
09 that Mr. DiBileo and others on the school board at that  
10 time worked long and hard for something they felt would  
11 improve the education system for our youth.  
12 They did their job well and were  
13 successful. This is what is important here, not  
14 whether or not Mr. DiBileo sought public recognition  
15 for his efforts.  
16 Mr. DiBileo should be respected  
17 for chosing to support his daughter in her activities  
18 over personal recognition.  
19 If Mrs. Williams places so much  
20 importance on public accessibility and notoriety, why  
21 doesn't she question the following: Where was the  
22 mayor when our troops returned from Iraq? Where was  
23 the mayor when he was asked to attend two neighborhood  
24 meetings regarding crime in the city after a young man  
25 was nearly beaten to damage a half a block away from  
0038  
01 his home? Where was the mayor when the Plot and the  
02 other sections of the city were flooded time and time  
03 again? Where was the mayor when neighborhood groups  
04 had concerns and when residents wanted questions  
05 answered?  
06 I am amazed that Mrs. Williams  
07 would look back five years to find such a trivial  
08 matter, when she has only to look back a mere two to  
09 three months to uncover these disappointments.  
10 Mrs. Williams has appeared before  
11 Council on numerous occasions and most of her  
12 presentations address the wonderful condition of Nay  
13 Aug Park. This is probably due to the fact that this  
14 is the only thing she can tout.  
15 Although the park is nice, I  
16 believe too much money was spent in too short a time,  
17 considering the fact that we are still a depressed city  
18 with bigger problems.  
19 The sad part of this is the fact  
20 that improving the park's facilities is really the only  
21 part of Mayor Doherty's platform that he lived up to.  
22 Using the Mayor's own words,  
23 perception and reality, which he used when commenting

24 on crime in the city, lets look at his performance.  
25 Perception, the mayor was going to  
0039  
01 be the sixth councilman and attend at least one council  
02 meeting per month.  
03 Reality, the mayor never attended  
04 one Council meeting and even refused to personally  
05 attend caucus meetings to address matters of  
06 importance.  
07 Perception, the mayor went on  
08 Council, was against the sale of city assets.  
09 Reality, the mayor quickly sold  
10 the Municipal Golf Course and is in the process of  
11 trying to sell the South Side Complex to the  
12 University of Scranton.  
13 Perception, the proceeds from the  
14 sale of the golf course were to be placed in a trust  
15 fund.  
16 Reality, the fund were placed in  
17 and remain in certificates of deposit.  
18 Perception, the city's financial  
19 condition had improved, therefore allowing for a much  
20 improved bond rating, something Mrs. Williams also  
21 touted last week.  
22 Reality, the improved bond rating  
23 was obtained by paying a \$1 million insurance premium.  
24 Perception, the mayor was going to  
25 reduce the 3.42 percent income tax.  
0040  
01 Reality, the mayor had the  
02 opportunity to do so with the passage of new state law,  
03 and he refused to act.  
04 Perception, the mayor was going to  
05 improve the efficiency of city government by paying  
06 higher salaries in order to attract more qualified  
07 competent staff; example, the human resource  
08 administrator had experience in interpreting contracts  
09 and would be in a position to avoid mistakes resulting  
10 in costly arbitration.  
11 Reality, the city continues to  
12 find itself in arbitration after arbitration and it  
13 continues to lose.  
14 There is much to be said, but time  
15 is limited. I will, however, be expressing my opinions  
16 when I exercise my right to vote on May 17th. Thank  
17 you for allowing me to speak this evening.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
19 Mrs. Beck. Erik Johnson.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City  
21 Council, and Lisa and the staff here.  
22 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
23 MR. JOHNSON: That was an  
24 excellent podium response by Revered Simmons. We must  
25 support our city police and firemen.

0041

01 It is well known by a good source  
02 that the Scranton Police Department is to be  
03 recommended for being the most non-bias and  
04 non-prejudiced police force in the whole  
05 United States. It's by a good source of civil -- it's  
06 a Civil Rights agency, and it's -- and they came back  
07 and told me this.  
08 Okay. Our hearts and prayers goes  
09 out in the passing away, but not the memory, of our  
10 lifetime resident Morris T. Jackson.  
11 His memory will live on as an  
12 achiever of good works of Scranton Tomorrow and  
13 Downtown Senior Citizen Center, and he was employed by  
14 the City of Scranton as a recreation specialist.  
15 He was a man who served his  
16 community very well without prejudice and numerous  
17 other civic and cultural organizations in Northeastern  
18 Pennsylvania.  
19 I have always observed him as a  
20 very intelligent and friendly gentleman, who was  
21 definitely a doer.  
22 He would always addressed me with  
23 a smile. Hello, Mr. Johnson. I'm praying there will  
24 be better days ahead for you. Hang in there. In  
25 return I thanked him for his consideration and  
0042

01 kindness. In regards, yes, Mr. Jackson, you will be  
02 missed, but not forgotten.  
03 Oh, there's a fundraising flea  
04 market to be conducted at the Downtown Senior Citizen  
05 Center tomorrow, Saturday, starting at nine o'clock to  
06 to 5 p.m.  
07 It's true houses are indeed harder  
08 to sell in Scranton than it was ten years ago. The  
09 Scranton City area, as I've said before, is a depressed  
10 area for our Social Security and fixed income residents  
11 to keep their homes.  
12 If they have to pay mortgages,  
13 along with high property taxes and utility bills, like  
14 myself and others. And if you don't find a job to go  
15 along with your Social Security to pay for your -- such

16 property tax increase and rise in utility bills and  
17 food, you can be in for a foreclosure of your home and  
18 property, like myself, who tried to apply for a job as  
19 a parking meter man without any luck.  
20 People with credibility told me  
21 you need to know certain politicians to get that job.  
22 Well, I know numerous of them, and I most even complain  
23 for the answer I get, we are considering you, they  
24 said, and also checking up on your last employer.  
25 Well, that's been way back seven

0043

01 months ago. Well, I can't even sell my house for a low  
02 \$28,000 located in a good neighborhood in North  
03 Scranton, a block away from Armstrong School and  
04 shopping area.  
05 When you can't sell a solid  
06 move-in-house with a large yard, we really got problems  
07 here in Scranton. And be careful of politicians,  
08 especially when you are a Swedish American minority.  
09 We have to move on to blue and  
10 yellow pastures, instead of greener pastures. Thank  
11 you for letting me speak.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik.

13 That's it for the sign-in sheet.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
15 Council.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

17 MR. NEWCOMB: Charlie Newcomb. I

18 had the majority of my comments and questions for  
19 Mr. Pocius, and I -- it's sad to see that he's ill, but  
20 I have a couple of questions for Council regarding some  
21 things that he said last week, also.  
22 Usually I'm pretty quick to pick  
23 up on answers that people give me, but for some reason  
24 last week I honestly was actually shocked that I got  
25 one, so that could be my reason.

0044

01 Mr. Pocius stated last week that  
02 regarding the pension, that City Council was sued,  
03 along with the City of Scranton.  
04 Well, I did some research this  
05 week and obtained a copy of the lawsuit, and  
06 City Council was never sued, but Mr. Hazzouri and  
07 Mr. Pocius were sued and the City of Scranton was sued  
08 for allowing them to collect their pension.  
09 Even the past Council that sat  
10 before you, some of you, a few of them were known by  
11 people, including myself, as the rubber stamp crew,

12 even they came forward and pulled out of the pension  
13 plan, but because Mr. Hazzouri and Mr. Pocius didn't,  
14 it took individuals, which I give credit to, go forward  
15 and file a lawsuit.

16 What I don't understand about

17 Mr. Pocius' comment last week was that Mr. Hazzouri is  
18 being represented by Mr. Hickey.

19 So, my question, I don't know if

20 anybody would have an answer to, or I want us to find  
21 out is, why is Mr. Hazzouri being represented by

22 Mr. Hickey, when he's an ordinary citizen as of right  
23 now, like myself? Why do we have to pay for that?

24 This is a lawsuit for two

25 individuals, not for City Council in general. So, can  
0045

01 we look into why we are paying for that?

02 In theory, my own opinion, not

03 only do we have to pay the salaries and the possible  
04 pension payments of 12 or plus years, but we also now  
05 have to pay for Mr. Hickey to represent these two

06 individuals on a matter that is very, very clear in the  
07 Home Rule Charter, and it's also obvious that all four  
08 of you up there, along with three others that sat

09 before you and many before that, understand how to  
10 read, and you realize that it's wrong, and it's not

11 only wrong that you have to possibly pay a pension, but  
12 it's very discouraging that we have to pay these legal  
13 fees.

14 So, can we find out why and can we

15 find out if it's ethical and legal, why we have to pay  
16 for Mr. Hazzouri to be represented, when he's an

17 ordinary citizen? If that's the case, I'd like some  
18 free legal advice from upstairs.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Newcomb, I'm not

20 totally certain that the city is paying for That

21 representation. Mr. Walsh, do you know for a fact what  
22 that situation is as far as Mr. Hickey representing

23 those two individuals?

24 MR. WALSH: I had looked at that

25 some time ago, but I don't recollect right now. I  
0046

01 would have to take a look at that to make that

02 determination. I don't know in what capacity or what  
03 the compensation structure is for that, so I can't

04 answer that question.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Hickey may be

06 doing it off of city time possibly and not being paid  
07 for that, I'm not really sure, but maybe if you could,

08 Mr. Walsh, just check it out and let us know what you  
09 can find out.

10 MS. EVANS: But, you know, even if  
11 he is doing that on city time, which I expect he would  
12 be, since according to Mr. Newcomb, the city was sued,  
13 as well --

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: -- isn't that using  
16 precious time that the citizens are paying for? While  
17 he's working on a lawsuit, there's much other work that  
18 he could be accomplishing that I think is far more  
19 important than the defense of individuals who are  
20 illegally taking a pension.

21 MR. DIBILEO: It is a little bit  
22 of a confusing situation regarding the entire matter,  
23 so maybe possibly if you could check it out,  
24 Mr. Walsh, thanks.

25 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: If it makes it  
0047

01 easier, Mr. DiBileo, I don't have it with me, it's at  
02 home, but I have a copy of the lawsuit, and it's to my  
03 understanding, and I'm going by what Mr. Pocius said  
04 and by what is in the lawsuit, that Mr. Hickey is  
05 representing them because he was Council solicitor at  
06 the time, so that is why he is representing them, if  
07 that helps when you're looking it up, I don't know.  
08 But I agree, if you're taking away from taxpayer's  
09 time.

10 Did we find out if anything was  
11 done on the dirt problem on Dixon Avenue yet, and if  
12 not, how would we go about asking if that two blocks of  
13 Dixon Avenue could get a ban on trucks, because then it  
14 would force that company to find another area of that  
15 field to put the trucks in, whether it be like a  
16 parking lot or something, how would we go about --  
17 would we have to get petitions to go about to ban  
18 trucks to go up that street? Do you know who I can  
19 contact about that?

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, stop by our  
21 office and we'll give you a petition, then we'll put it  
22 on the agenda and have whoever, probably George Parker,  
23 check it out to see if we're able to do that.

24 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay.

25 MS. EVANS. Couldn't we get  
0048

01 inspectors out there, though, as well, to check out  
02 that business and if they are in compliance with, for  
03 example, noise ordinances and maybe discuss with them

04 the alleviation of the dirt and dust problem for their  
05 neighbors in a two-block area?

06 MR. SAUNDERS: I had a call on  
07 that this week from a woman that -- I discussed that  
08 with her. I talked to Mike Wallace about it. He's  
09 going to report back to me what his findings are on it,  
10 and she has said that she's called numerous times on  
11 that situation and is not getting the result that she  
12 wants, so hopefully I'll get the report back from  
13 Mike Wallace, and then I'll take the ball from there  
14 and find out -- you know, go to the inspectors, move  
15 onto Bill Fiorini and George Parker and see where we  
16 can go from there.

17 MS. EVANS: I hope, because I  
18 know -- it may even be this same individual who  
19 reported it to me early last fall, and we sent letters  
20 about this previously.

21 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, we sent a  
22 couple letters on this.

23 MS. EVANS: Someone is ignoring  
24 it.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.  
0049

01 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: And one quick  
02 thing, I don't know if it's a personal thing, and I  
03 truly hope it's not, but for the first time in my life,  
04 my garbage is the only person on the block that hasn't  
05 been picked up, and maybe it's because of a political  
06 sign I have in my front yard, I hope not, but I'm just  
07 asking maybe you can help me.  
08 I've called down DPW four times  
09 this week, and I keep getting told somebody is going to  
10 come out and pick it up, and I refuse to take it in.  
11 And if you check, I paid my garbage fee on time last  
12 year, so I'll leave Kay with my address off camera.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. We'll check  
14 that out, Charlie. Okay. Thanks. Jay, if you can  
15 look into that, please.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

18 MR. STUCKER: Hi, Jay.

19 MS. EVANS: Hi.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Hi, Jim. Okay. The  
21 other day, last week, some guy got -- hit a train in  
22 South Side and his car was damaged and the guy died.  
23 Pat told me about it, it was in the paper.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I think you're  
25 talking about over on Luzerne Street in West Side, Jim.

0050

01 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we saw about

03 that. That's the railroad intersection that we've been

04 discussing, there was an accident there.

05 MR. STUCKER: All right. Right

06 off Luzerne Street, right going up by the junkyard on

07 top of the hill there, going across, there's a track

08 there, too. We need a bell there or we need something

09 there, Pat told me, because there's a lot of wrecks

10 there. There's no guy out there stopping the train for

11 cars to get across.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah.

13 MR. STUCKER: There's too many

14 wrecks there by the junkyard.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we're looking

16 into that, Jim, yeah, good point.

17 MR. STUCKER: I heard yesterday

18 you had a party.

19 MR. DIBILEO: What is that?

20 MR. STUCKER: Yesterday I heard

21 you had a party, yesterday.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, that's something

23 we can't talk about, Jim. That was political.

24 MR. STUCKER: I know I was

25 supposed to be there. I wanted to go, I didn't make

0051

01 it.

02 MR. DIBILEO: I'll let you know

03 about the next one.

04 MR. STUCKER: I was at the

05 therapist. I have a bad shoulder and I've been going

06 to the therapist a lot.

07 MR. DIBILEO: I'll talk to you

08 after the meeting about that.

09 MR. STUCKER: And they fixed our

10 holes, Jay, they patched them.

11 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

12 MS. EVANS: Congratulations.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Beautiful. It's

14 about time, right?

15 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, all summer.

16 And I'm getting another scooter.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Good, Jimmy. Good

18 luck with it.

19 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. All right.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Jim.

21 MR. DAVIS: My name is Jim Davis,

22 I'm a resident and native of Scranton. Scranton, we've  
23 lost another very fine young man, hard worker, diligent  
24 in this community, as well as in the city government,  
25 which is very seldom seen in Scranton.

0052

01 We can't afford to lose very many  
02 non-whites to the employment of the city, but things  
03 have happened since Reverend Simmons has called this  
04 meeting of the war against the gangs, and I want to say  
05 to you that vision without action is nothing more than  
06 a dream.

07 We have a lot of dreams that have  
08 been left to us by our forefathers, Reverend Martin  
09 Luther King gave us a dream, but now we're talking  
10 about action.

11 Now, action will make our visions  
12 come true. I have never had a drug dealer walk up to  
13 me and offer or try to sell me any drugs. I'm African  
14 American; therefore, what is the problem? The problem  
15 is our demand.

16 The insatiable demand of Scranton,  
17 Scrantonians of this area, Lackawanna County, of people  
18 who want drugs, this is the reason why drug dealers  
19 come here. Does that make sense to you? Of course.  
20 Without demand, there would be no drug dealers.

21 What are we doing about it? We  
22 have not done anything about a summer program for our  
23 kids in the last five years, any more than hire 50 kids  
24 to go around and pick up garbage off the street.  
25 That's the best we've done.

0053

01 What are we doing about educating  
02 our kids when they're not in school? What are we doing  
03 about giving them upward mobility? What are we  
04 thinking about when we say, No, we don't have any  
05 positions where you can learn.

06 There's nothing like OJT in city  
07 official -- in the City of Scranton for kids who want  
08 to learn, kids would need to learn, because with the  
09 learning comes self-esteem. With the self-esteem comes  
10 the not need for drugs. Come on, it just flows. It's  
11 common sense. But we keep turning our back on them.

12 I'm quite sure Mr. Tierney and  
13 Mrs. Evans knows from teaching with the kids and  
14 working with the kids, this is our major problem. If  
15 we don't give them something to hang onto, they're  
16 going to do something that's going to be detrimental to  
17 their health and their well-being, so it's our fault,

18 we, the senior citizens, we, the adults of this  
19 community.

20 I thank Ms. Simmons for what she  
21 did, because she's invigorated a group of men in our  
22 community to do something about the problem, but we  
23 need the City or the County to put forth an honest  
24 effort.

25 And that's something we don't  
0054

01 get. We get a lot of rhetoric around this time of the  
02 year about what we're going to do and what should be  
03 done, but when it comes down to it, very little is done  
04 for our young.

05 And let's face it, everybody wants  
06 to work. I don't care who you are, they just like that  
07 idea of going out and working and getting a dollar and  
08 being able to spend it on their own. They like that  
09 idea.

10 And if we don't give the kid that  
11 type of incentive for tomorrow, for today, I'm not  
12 talking about the past, I'm talking about today and  
13 tomorrow, if that's not a part of your program as far  
14 as your re-election and things like that, I think we're  
15 wasting our time. I think we're really wasting our  
16 time.

17 We're tired of promises in my  
18 community, and we'd like to see some promises become a  
19 reality, not just for all of Scranton, but for all the  
20 Scranton's kids, adults, families, etc.

21 Because that's what happens, when  
22 you please a child, you please the family. Does that  
23 make sense to you? Does what I'm saying, is it going  
24 in so that you can get out of that?

25 You're great leaders, I have no  
0055

01 qualms whatsoever about what you've done, but you just  
02 haven't put enough action with your vision. So, we're  
03 still at the dream stage.

04 After four more years, we're still  
05 at the dream -- I know in my community, we're still at  
06 the dream stage, because we don't have our kids  
07 working, we don't have our adults working.

08 It's 17 and a half percent still,  
09 you know, unemployment roll for the minorities in  
10 Scranton. I mean, that's ridiculous.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.

12 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. Oh,

13 Mr. Courtright, did you --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, yeah, Jim, I  
15 went out there and took a look at it. My best guess is  
16 they planted the trees after they put the sign up,  
17 which I can't imagine --  
18 MR. DAVIS: It's too big.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, yeah, I  
20 can't imagine them putting the sign up behind a tree.  
21 I will ask them to move it either down further or  
22 across the street, whatever would be the best, but I  
23 did go and look at it. I saw it.  
24 MR. DAVIS: So, are they going to  
25 move it or not?  
0056  
01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I haven't  
02 asked them yet, I have to ask them. I went and looked  
03 at it, I'm a little slow on this, but, yeah, you're  
04 correct, it's in a spot where it shouldn't be, and I'll  
05 see if I can get it moved.  
06 MR. DAVIS: All right. All right.  
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.  
08 MR. DAVIS: All we're trying to do  
09 is trying to keep the kids and the adults from getting  
10 hit by cars, that's all.  
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I understand.  
12 MR. DAVIS: It's just being safe.  
13 And that's a safety matter.  
14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll be on it,  
15 Buddy.  
16 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.  
18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
19 Council.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.  
21 MR. MORGAN: I would like to start  
22 with one question, does budget -- does Council have  
23 discretionary budget where they have money that's  
24 theirs that they can use for whatever purpose they deem  
25 necessary?  
0057  
01 MR. DIBILEO: We have a budget,  
02 but it's pretty much spoken for in different areas  
03 prior to the --  
04 MR. MORGAN: Well --  
05 MR. DIBILEO: -- budget season.  
06 MR. MORGAN: Well, you know, I  
07 think it might be a good idea possibly to go into the  
08 school and find five individuals who will work with one  
09 individual Council person during the course of the

10 summer to become your eyes and your ears, to give them  
11 a good idea of what's taking place in the city to get  
12 them involved, to give them some -- maybe some future  
13 vision for the city, to create a new generation of  
14 leaders.

15 I think that it would show a lot  
16 of vision on Council's part, and I think it would be a  
17 great thing for the community, and hopefully maybe some  
18 funds could be found to pay them a menial wage,  
19 whatever that might be and/or, like, maybe they could  
20 use that money to buy clothes for school or whatever,  
21 and that would probably help them in that way.

22 The other thing I have is, the  
23 Scranton School District is talking about after school  
24 programs that they have at this point, but, you know  
25 what, what we really need, and we do need those  
0058

01 programs, and they are important, and they should  
02 continue and possibly be expanded, even though they're  
03 quite broad at this point, but what we really need here  
04 is a summer program.

05 I mean, if we're going to be  
06 competing with elements that we don't appreciate in the  
07 city, whatever they might be, drugs or whatever,  
08 as Mrs. Simms has stated here, I think we need to offer  
09 people another path.

10 And the dividends will be way out  
11 in the future of the city. You know, you bend a tree  
12 while it's young, you don't wait until it's a mighty  
13 oak to try to decide that you don't really like the way  
14 it's bent.

15 The other thing I have is, you  
16 know, we keep coming here and discussing the issues in  
17 the city, and of course, you know, May 17 is an  
18 important day, but my question is, Does Council receive  
19 more information than it acknowledges that it  
20 receives?

21 Because I can't possibly see how  
22 the power of subpoena hasn't been used here. With all  
23 the questions that seem to continually show up here and  
24 with a total lack of any answers whatsoever, I mean,  
25 we're still trying to dish out Nay Aug Park's deed on  
0059

01 whether swimming should be free or not free. We have a  
02 Recreational Authority that's out of control.

03 There's just so many troubling  
04 things that have taken place here. You know,  
05 leadership doesn't have in a vacuum. And, you know,

06 Regina talked about the budget, well, myself, probably  
07 Andy, Mr. Bolus, we've looked at that budget, that  
08 budget was a joke.

09 And we're on this side of the  
10 podium. We don't have Council, we don't have Jay to  
11 work for us, but we know that the budget was a joke, we  
12 knew the recovery plan was a joke, but yet still  
13 Council accepted the budget. And for the life of me, I  
14 can't understand that.

15 MS. EVANS: Lee, we didn't accept  
16 the budget, we revised the budget. Council came up  
17 with its own budget for 2005, which Council majority  
18 passed, those specifically being Mr. Courtright,  
19 President DiBileo, and myself, that budget was vetoed  
20 by the mayor.

21 So, actually, Mr. Morgan, Council  
22 is doing its job with the information that it's able to  
23 obtain, but without an extraordinary majority,  
24 according to the Administrative Code and the Home Rule  
25 Charter, there is no more that this Council can do when  
0060

01 it is block by a mayor.

02 MR. MORGAN: You know, I just  
03 think that nothing can be blocked by subpoena, and I  
04 think that's where our problem lies.  
05 You know, like I asked you in the  
06 previous week, bring a motion up to use the power of  
07 subpoena and let's see where every single councilman  
08 stands on the issue.

09 I mean, either you're for it or  
10 you're against it. Either you're going to talk about  
11 it or you're going to do it.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Morgan,  
13 why don't you poll Council then? I know someone else  
14 did.

15 MR. MORGAN: Because you know  
16 what, it's not necessary to poll Council, because when  
17 you bring it up as a motion, that will be the poll.  
18 There's no need for me to ask what they'll do, because  
19 me asking them means nothing at all because it has no  
20 relevance, but when you bring it up to the floor for a  
21 vote, that has relevance, because either they're going  
22 to support it or they're not going to support it, and  
23 that will tell us where everybody stands.

24 Talk is cheap, and they can say,  
25 Well, I'd support it, but if it's never brought up as a  
0061

01 motion, then we'll never see anything.

02 MS. EVANS: Well, I actually have,  
03 as they say, been there done that, and I received no  
04 support, so I'm not --  
05 MR. MORGAN: Let's do it again.  
06 MS. EVANS: -- going to engage in  
07 an exercise in futility.  
08 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think  
09 it's futile to talk about something and never bring it  
10 up to a motion on the floor and let's see where  
11 everybody stands.  
12 You know something, when you don't  
13 think that you have the ability to bring something  
14 forward, then what's all the talking mean? Absolutely  
15 nothing, because you can say anything you want, but  
16 until you step up to the plate and bring that motion up  
17 and set it on the table and see where everybody else  
18 stands, then it's just talk. It's irrelevant.  
19 And like everybody here stated,  
20 we've put up with a lot of talk, a lot of irrelevant  
21 things, the budget was no good.  
22 All right? The Recovery Plan was  
23 non-existent. We got KOZs all over the place, we have  
24 mismatching in the city, whether it's the Sewer  
25 Authority, all the authorities.  
0062  
01 Ask Mr. Saunders for what was  
02 going on with all the authorities. No information  
03 back.  
04 The only real answer to this is to  
05 go to the courts and seek redress, as in the  
06 Constitution. And you know something, that's a  
07 terrible thing, because we're talking about putting  
08 people first, okay, and we're talking about open  
09 government.  
10 But have we actually done that?  
11 No, I don't think we have. I think we've talked about  
12 it, I think we've danced around all the issues. The  
13 kids are still going to be paying to swim at Nay Aug  
14 Park, even though the deed says one thing, okay? All  
15 the authorities ignore Council, and it's continuing.  
16 The mayor ignores Council.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Morgan.  
19 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate it.  
21 Well, I just want to take a second here and address the  
22 subpoena issue, because it comes up quite a bit, and I  
23 think the main reason why it's being brought up by

24 members of the audience is because you're assuming that  
25 we're not getting all the financial information, and  
0063

01 while we may not be getting it in a timely fashion, we  
02 are getting all the financial information.

03 And I know that some authorities

04 or boards aren't meeting in public the way that they

05 should, but that's really not a reason to subpoena

06 anyone. It would be mainly over financial matters. It

07 probably, you know, if you were -- we were going to

08 consider that, I think it would be at budget time.

09 We amended the budget, we had the

10 information that we needed to do that. That was vetoed

11 and we didn't have a super majority for it; however,

12 personally right now I don't think that a subpoena is

13 warranted, and personal it would look like a political

14 ploy at this point.

15 So, I think if it was going to

16 happen, it would have happened at budget time. But,

17 again, I think many people are assuming we're not

18 getting the financial information, and, again, we are

19 getting it, it may be slow, but we end up getting it.

20 That's another matter. That's

21 another matter. I'm sorry, Mr. Morgan. I can't allow

22 you to speak any further at this point.

23 MS. EVANS: I just, before

24 Mr. Gervasi begins, though, I just wanted to respond to

25 some of that.

0064

01 I don't believe, on the other

02 hand, that we do receive all of the information, and I

03 don't believe that some of the information we receive

04 is accurate. I can think of some occasions where in my

05 opinion Council has been duped by the administration.

06 In addition to that, I don't

07 believe the authorities are presenting us with all of

08 the information. Yes, they are autonomous, as

09 Mr. Pocius stated during another Council meeting, but

10 they are handling your money and my money, and we do

11 deserve to know how that money is being spent and what

12 assets they're holding and what monies we're

13 responsible for.

14 If they fail to make payment and

15 all of that information, their financial conduct is not

16 contained in an audit, and I think we've seen that, you

17 know, some budgets and some audits are questionable, to

18 say the least.

19 So, you know, I do agree, but I

20 think sometimes or perhaps you're preaching to the  
21 choir. I do agree with what you're saying, but I think  
22 it might be better served making a visit to the mayor's  
23 office.

24 MR. MORGAN: I've done that  
25 already.

0065

01 MS. EVANS: And -- I'm sorry. You  
02 aren't allowed to speak. My fault. I'm very sorry. I  
03 know how difficult that can be. That's all I had to  
04 say. I'm sorry, Mr. Gervasi.

05 MR. DIBILEO: And actually that is  
06 a good suggestion, visiting the mayor's office, and I  
07 know, Mr. Morgan, that you had said that you had done  
08 that, but that is a good suggestion.

09 And, now, when you mentioned  
10 subpoenas, you didn't say specifically the  
11 Recreation Authority, but that is what Mrs. Evans is  
12 now referring to, but we weren't exactly sure.

13 You know, the Recreation Authority  
14 didn't deal with any financial matters until just less  
15 than two years ago.

16 MR. MORGAN: Let's start there.

17 MR. DIBILEO: And, yeah, I'd like  
18 to see exactly what is happening there, but at this  
19 point, I'm not certain that a subpoena is appropriate  
20 right now. So, that's how I feel about it personally,  
21 but I'm very sorry, and, Mr. Gervasi, if you would go  
22 ahead.

23 MR. GERVASI: Sure. Hi, my name  
24 is Dave Gervasi I'm a firefighter with the City of  
25 Scranton. If I may jump in, if you happen to get to  
0066

01 talk to the mayor, let him know I've been trying to get  
02 in touch with him for six months myself.

03 You know, many people come here  
04 with numerous questions about various issues, and I try  
05 to give some answers that some of the information I  
06 know of from -- that I do know because of arbitrations  
07 and research that we've done and the other unions have  
08 done, and I try to give the best factual information to  
09 anyone who asks.

10 Let me try to explain, and I think  
11 this all ties in together with what you were just  
12 saying about the veil of secrecy and the authorities.  
13 I mean, any administration like this is constantly in  
14 the newspaper touting all their wonderful things that  
15 they're doing, why is there so much secrecy on where

16 the money is going, who it's being spent on?  
17 If they're not doing anything  
18 wrong, you know, why is there so much you have to wait  
19 so long or they won't answer questions? You know,  
20 think of that for yourself.  
21 Let me try to explain one thing  
22 that's been going on for the last three years and which  
23 frustrates us all the time, too.  
24 A lot of people have mentioned to  
25 me that you hear things at this podium and on  
0067

01 Channel 61, and it's completely different or a  
02 different side of the story from what you actually read  
03 in the newspaper, and this all ties together in the  
04 end.

05 You read, like, nice articles in  
06 the paper, and after some investigation, we always find  
07 out there's another side to the story. Like, when you  
08 read about all the progress at Nay Aug, I'm sure you're  
09 going to be hearing all about this in the next three  
10 weeks, but what you don't read in the paper is that,  
11 you know, in the first phase, I believe, and correct me  
12 if I'm wrong, the first phase is about \$550,000, and  
13 the mayor took the high bidder, that was \$96,000 more  
14 than the low bidder. And the sad part about it is the  
15 low bidder was a Scranton firm that pays taxes in  
16 Scranton, the high bidder was from Luzerne County.  
17 But if you move into it a little  
18 deeper, you look at under references from the  
19 landscaper that got the job, he said he did work at the  
20 mayor's house.

21 So, if you think Nay Aug is great,  
22 but you also think it's okay to spend \$96,000 more than  
23 you had to on your buddy, who landscapes your house,  
24 well, by all means vote for him again, you know. I  
25 don't think it's right.

0068

01 And I don't think it's right that  
02 this Council and Mrs. Novembrino, our city controller,  
03 who had oversight in a lot of these expenditures and  
04 what the mayor did after even Mr. Pocius, who is his  
05 biggest cheerleader up there, went to him and said, You  
06 should be bidding out all these contracts to get the  
07 biggest bang for the buck for the citizens, and he even  
08 went to him and he said he was going to do it.  
09 Well, instead of doing it, what  
10 did he do? He just diverted everything to the SRA and  
11 the OECD, which now doesn't have to be looked at by

12 this Council. He circumvented the entire checks and  
13 balances on those expenditures.  
14 Then the mayor preached in the  
15 paper that if he doesn't get his recovery plan, he was  
16 going to have to raise your taxes. And shortly after  
17 that, after the defeat of our side on the Recovery  
18 Plan, we find out that we had a surplus for the last  
19 three years that was backed up by financial analysis we  
20 did with the international.  
21 The same numbers were identical in  
22 the city's independent audit. And even when the mayor  
23 when he said, Because we have the Recovery Plan now, we  
24 have a better bond rating, but what he failed to tell  
25 you was that he paid a million dollars to purchase that  
0069  
01 better bond rating. That was the part you really  
02 didn't hear, but you hear it here.  
03 And even that research that was  
04 done by Standard and Poors before he got that bond  
05 rating, said that there was a \$2.9 million surplus in  
06 2001, when he took office, and it was higher the year  
07 after, but nobody believed us, we were broke. Nobody  
08 believed us.  
09 He said he was going to -- when he  
10 gets his Recovery Plan implemented on the various  
11 departments, that he will lower overtime budgets in all  
12 those departments.  
13 Well, he got control over DPW,  
14 they're \$300,000 overbudget on overtime. And he always  
15 complains about the firefighters making too much  
16 overtime. We were \$109,000 less last year than we were  
17 the year before. But, you know, you don't read that  
18 part in the newspaper either.  
19 The mayor always touted that you  
20 can never spend more than you can take in. If you look  
21 at all these documents, the ration between revenues and  
22 expenditures have been on the positive side up to more  
23 than 7 percent, right in his own paperwork. So, you  
24 didn't hear that side of the story either.  
25 The mayor always told you, Don't  
0070  
01 worry about fire houses during the campaign. Don't  
02 worry about fire houses closing or companies being  
03 closed or police reductions, when in fact I have here  
04 right in front of me a document that came right from  
05 the director of public safety calling for the closure  
06 of two engine companies, but you didn't read that in  
07 the paper either.

08 And now there's a rumor about  
09 Engine 15 in East Scranton, that came right from the  
10 Chief's office, also.  
11 You read the paper and the mayor  
12 is saying that the city did not spend money on a  
13 lobbying firm to change the law to enable the sale of  
14 the South Side Complex, when the documentation clearly  
15 shows it did, and the city also took the appraisal of  
16 the buyer. Never went out and appraised it for  
17 themselves. That's fiscal responsibility? I don't  
18 think so.  
19 You read in the paper that the  
20 mayor will sit down and talk to the unions at any time.  
21 I stop in all the time. I tell his secretary, Hey, the  
22 mayor wants to talk, have him give me a call. I'm  
23 ready at any time. They don't get back to me.  
24 All these things over and over and  
25 over. He said he was going to provide safer streets in  
0071  
01 neighborhoods. Has he? No.  
02 The mayor stated in the paper he  
03 would reduce your wage tax every year. Did he? It  
04 sounded good when he was looking for your vote last  
05 time.  
06 But all these things that you read  
07 in the paper and all these things that you hear at this  
08 podium which are completely different, there's a reason  
09 for that.  
10 And if I may have just maybe 20  
11 seconds extra, I'd like to read to you one of the first  
12 things the mayor did when he took office. He hired a  
13 PR firm. A PR firm is paid for by us taxpayers.  
14 And let me just give you the  
15 proposal they actually wrote. This is right from their  
16 own proposal to the mayor, and then he hired them. It  
17 says, This proposal outlines a broad array of services  
18 that the Gibbons Company will provide to help the  
19 City of Scranton create jobs and promote development.  
20 The first priority is the creation  
21 of a marketing plan, followed by development of  
22 materials the administration and Office of Economic and  
23 Community Development need to compete effectively with  
24 other municipalities.  
25 Finally, the Gibbons Company will  
0072  
01 provide Council and to the mayor, members of the  
02 cabinet and other city government officials on the  
03 marketing implications of issues, news media relations

04 and the response to breaking stories that impact on  
05 economic and community development.  
06 Here is the interesting part, the  
07 Gibbons Company will formulate a communications policy  
08 for OECD. It will spell out the broad communication  
09 goals, specify would may speak for city government on  
10 issues affecting economic and community development, it  
11 will establish guidelines for interaction with the news  
12 media and define news media access and create a  
13 gatekeeper function to govern media relations.  
14 It gets even better. An important  
15 element of the communications program for OECD is  
16 maintaining control of the public agenda.  
17 Driving the story. Let's talk  
18 about driving the story for a second. When you're  
19 driving your car and you're in charge of your car,  
20 which direction does your car go in? Wherever you're  
21 driving it, right? Interesting.  
22 Rather than reacting to events as  
23 they happen, we will create story opportunities for the  
24 news media that support and promote the Doherty  
25 Administration's vision for Scranton and we'll actually  
0073  
01 anticipate problems and develop creative ways to keep  
02 our agenda before the public. The news media play an  
03 undeniable role in determining public perceptions.  
04 In closing, I just want to say  
05 that if it wasn't for Channel 61 and it wasn't for this  
06 Council that's sitting here right now, you wouldn't  
07 hear me speak tonight, you wouldn't know any of the  
08 other side of the issues.  
09 And just in case you're wondering  
10 why the newspaper doesn't take these issues and dig  
11 into them and find out the real story and the whole  
12 story, well, if you go in his campaign contribution  
13 report, the owners of the newspaper donated \$3,400 to  
14 Mr. Doherty's campaign. To donate that much money,  
15 they must really like him. Thank you.  
16 MS. FIDATI-ADSIT: Annabelle  
17 Fidati-Adsit. I just want to make a statement tonight  
18 about something that did happen yesterday, yesterday,  
19 being August 27, I believe, on Wednesday.  
20 It just so happened I had a  
21 doctor's appointment across the street, and because I  
22 was so close to City Hall, I had to come in and do a  
23 little bit of business with a very close friend of  
24 mine, and after we finished our business, it was a very  
25 tense atmosphere in this building, you could feel a

0074

01 cloud over everything and everyone in here, it was just  
02 so hard, hard, it was not a pleasant place to be  
03 walking through these halls, something here is very  
04 wrong, and I often wonder why, why is it.

05 Now, the experience I had when I  
06 left the building, my friend and I were both out front,  
07 and all of a sudden our mayor came running up the  
08 steps, and we were both standing there, and my friend  
09 and I asked him this question, Mr. Doherty, you  
10 promised to be the sixth councilman when you were  
11 running for election in Scranton, but yet you haven't  
12 ever done that, and with this very silly laughing face  
13 on him, very arrogant smile, wasn't even a smile, it  
14 was just plain arrogance, Oh, yeah, right. Sorry about  
15 that.

16 Now, that's the answer he gave to  
17 citizens of this city, and I don't think that's a  
18 negative fact, I think it's a very informative fact.  
19 Let people of this city know how Chris Doherty speak to  
20 the citizens.

21 I personally have bought and sold  
22 many homes in this city. I pay a transfer fee of  
23 3.8 percent, almost 4 percent. That's double what it  
24 is in every other surrounding area in the  
25 City of Scranton, and I've probably paid his wages this  
0075

01 year, and for the man to give you a stupid answer like  
02 that, the people have to know.

03 He makes a promise and he doesn't  
04 keep it, and I think we have to do something and let  
05 the people know. The mayor doesn't keep his word.

06 And that's what happened to me  
07 yesterday. That's a fact. I had a friend with me, a  
08 witness. And when I say something, it's the truth.

09 You can always take that to the bank.

10 There is a witness in this case,  
11 too, and she's here present tonight. If anyone would  
12 like to question her on the answer that was given, it's  
13 pretty ironic that we have to hear a mayor answer the  
14 public, taxpayers, taxpayers, who are paying his  
15 salary. Sorry about that. That was a promise he  
16 didn't keep and we don't want to hear that kind of an  
17 answer in the City of Scranton. That needs to  
18 improve. Thank you.

19 MS. STULGIS: Ann Marie Stulgis,  
20 president of the city police union. And by the way, I  
21 knew the cars weren't down at DPW, because before I got

22 home from here last week, I got three voice mails from  
23 off-duty police officers who went down to check to let  
24 me know they were nowhere to be found.

25 Before I pick up where I left off

0076

01 last week, I do have two interesting things I'd like to  
02 mention. I don't know if you're aware of it, but I  
03 believe it was earlier this week there was a report of  
04 a structure fire. It wasn't clear whether the building  
05 was in Scranton or just past Scranton's borders, so  
06 instead of dispatching the fire companies to respond  
07 and worry about it later, a police car was dispatched  
08 to let Comm Center know whether or not the fire was in  
09 Scranton or if they had to notify a volunteer company.  
10 And we're very lucky that there were no injuries or no  
11 loss of life on that, but I think it's important for  
12 people to realize that maybe we're saving a couple of  
13 dollars on the fuel for the fire trucks, but at what  
14 price?

15 Secondly, I noticed that we're all  
16 over the news these last few weeks with all of the  
17 inspections and towing of vehicles. And, oh my  
18 goodness, it's so lovely that we're cleaning up our  
19 city. I just find it ironic that we decided to clean  
20 up our city less than a month prior to the election,  
21 when we didn't feel it important to clean up our city  
22 for the past three years.

23 It's also important to note that  
24 some of the things that are being done to clean up our  
25 city, while they make great headlines and great footage  
0077

01 on the evening news, they are in fact constitutional  
02 violations and are going to result in the taxpayers  
03 getting nailed with lawsuits.

04 You have a constitutional  
05 protection to your privacy and property in your home.  
06 That also includes the areas surrounding your home. An  
07 inspector doesn't have the right to enter onto your  
08 property to see your vehicle covered with a car cover  
09 to remove the car cover and then find damage on the  
10 vehicle and tow it.

11 That is a highly questionable act  
12 and that's just one of the many things that could end  
13 up costing the taxpayers a small fortune in lawsuits.  
14 All that just to make the evening news. I think it's  
15 rather sad.

16 Now I'll continue where I left off

17 last week with some of the accomplishments that we've

18 had of our present administration.  
19 December of 2003, glass was used  
20 instead of cinders on the city streets.  
21 December 2003, Kalinosky  
22 Landscaping gets another contract for \$60 an hour at  
23 Nay Aug Park.  
24 January 2004, Attorney Hickey gets  
25 a \$40,000 part-time job as a compromise for restoring  
0078  
01 jobs cut from the budget.  
02 February 2004, our public safety  
03 director during arbitration referred to city police  
04 officers as the waiters and waitresses of the city.  
05 May of 2004, a \$3 million deficit  
06 is estimated.  
07 May of 2004, hand scanners were  
08 damaged. Much to do was made, much headline. Culprit  
09 was never named, despite the fact that there were  
10 cameras filming those hand scanners. It's  
11 interesting.  
12 June 2004, a member of the zoning  
13 hearing board resigned. The reason? Illegal activity,  
14 no permits were ever pulled for work done.  
15 June 2004, according to front page  
16 news, our mayor saved a dog in his wingtips.  
17 July 2004, volunteers, city  
18 cabinet workers, did work at Nay Aug during work  
19 hours.  
20 July 2004, the Kerry camp refused  
21 to allow our present mayor on stage with him while  
22 Kerry was in Scranton because of the mayor's strong  
23 anti-labor stance.  
24 July 2004, the widow of a DPW  
25 worker came up and spoke about the unprofessional  
0079  
01 treatment and evil behavior she received from the  
02 mayor.  
03 August 2004, a Times cartoonist is  
04 no longer on the job shortly after a cartoon he  
05 published, less than flattering to our current mayor.  
06 September 2004, the city loses  
07 another police arbitration in the amount of \$500,000.  
08 October 2004, it's estimated that  
09 so far this year the city's accumulated \$730,000 in  
10 legal fees.  
11 November 2004, the mayor threatens  
12 payless paydays unless he gets \$12 million line of  
13 credit, but he won't appear before Council.

14 Still November '04, there's no  
15 website out there, despite the fact the Gibbons Company  
16 was paid for it back in 2002.

17 November 2004, raises are again  
18 given out to non-union employees. The mayor added  
19 another \$4 million that was not yet voted on by  
20 Council.

21 November of 2004, mayor's invited  
22 to Council to talk about his line of credit. Our sixth  
23 councilman declined.

24 November 2004, appealed the  
25 arbitrator's decision, more legal bills.

0080

01 All right. I'll continue again  
02 next week if I'm finished. I do also want to let you  
03 know that the pension company that this mayor put in,  
04 despite the unions protesting, managed to lose another  
05 \$3 million this quarter, so we're losing money at an  
06 enormous rate.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

08 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

09 My name is Nancy Krake.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MS. KRAKE: This is also a fact,  
12 the company John Pocius works for, Ceco, made  
13 \$471,646.27 from the City of Scranton from 2001 through  
14 2004. Much of it professional services, which is no  
15 bid required. Nice work, if you can get it.

16 One evening Mr. Pocius made it  
17 abundantly clear to me that he had 28 mouths to feed,  
18 and that referred to Ceco and its employees.

19 There are two groups appearing on  
20 the ballot in the May 17th primary, they aren't the  
21 normal Democrats and Republicans running against each  
22 other, in fact, there aren't any Republican candidates  
23 on the ballot for mayor or City Council.

24 The first group believes in good  
25 open government, putting people first, people before

0081

01 politics and contains persons with years of  
02 neighborhood association and government experience.

03 The second group wants to restore  
04 your pride, they want to restore their own pride, and  
05 especially their profits.

06 I will let the citizens decide

07 which group the mayor fits into and which group

08 John Pocius fits into.

09 The cost for this administration

10 and the elite groups they serve will continue to grow,  
11 along with their deficit spending; therefore, I believe  
12 the choice for mayor and City Council are very clear.  
13 They are the people who have already chosen us. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no  
16 further speakers.

17 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, any  
19 motions or comments?

20 MR. McTIERNAN: Thank you,  
21 Mr. President. Nothing at this time.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

23 Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Two weeks  
25 ago I announced at a Council meeting that any residents  
0082

01 of the area surrounding Green Ridge Teener Field could  
02 contact me about concerns regarding use as a  
03 substitute location for the South Side Complex.

04 I received several calls from  
05 concerned taxpayers. I also visited the Green Ridge  
06 Neighborhood Association meeting on Tuesday night,  
07 where even more residents expressed their desire for a  
08 meeting.

09 Consequently, Mr. Bill Cleveland  
10 currently the vice-president of the Green Ridge  
11 Neighborhood Association, and I are in the process of  
12 arranging such a meeting.

13 Mr. Scopelliti will be invited, as  
14 will all Council persons and the plaintiffs of the  
15 South Side Complex lawsuit.

16 As soon as a date is set, we will  
17 advertise in the newspaper and I will call residents  
18 who had originally called me so that they can inform  
19 the neighbors on each of their blocks.

20 Apparently an overwhelming  
21 majority of residents either never spoke with  
22 Mr. Scopelliti or a very few indicated that they had,  
23 but it was last year. Before any decision occurs in  
24 this matter, these residents must be heard and  
25 satisfied.

0083

01 I was very pleased that the  
02 crackdown on abandoned and junk vehicles on private  
03 property had kicked off this week. For over a year  
04 I've worked very hard on this problem, but just one car  
05 at a time.

06 Now, however, we will see a  
07 dramatic difference, since most city inspectors are  
08 addressing it in cooperation with the police  
09 department.  
10 I want to thank Mr. Fiorini for  
11 hearing my message about this problem and taking the  
12 lead to solve it. I also thank the city inspectors and  
13 police officers who were responsible for this blight  
14 cleanup of our neighborhoods.  
15 Earlier in the week I read about  
16 the creation of an artist community in Scranton.  
17 Arts Base is a non-profit which develops work and  
18 living spaces for artists. It's commendable to have  
19 additional occupants for the downtown, but only if they  
20 pay taxes like the rest of us.  
21 Finally, last week Mr. Courtright  
22 spoke about the Flexible Foam warehouse in Minooka and  
23 the removal of toxic materials and the citing of this  
24 company, and that is, as was mentioned earlier by an  
25 audience member, I'll just say in my opinion, that is  
0084  
01 what the news story should have been last Friday.  
02 On December 9, 2004, a letter was  
03 sent by the city inspectors office to the assistant  
04 chiefs and a copy was sent to the fire chief. Foam  
05 products were to be removed from this warehouse in  
06 December of 2004.  
07 Now, I have a copy of that letter  
08 and additional information attached, and it contains  
09 this warning, Do not expose polyurethane foam to  
10 welding, smoking materials, naked lights, open flames,  
11 space heaters, burning operations of any kind, other  
12 ignition sources or other sufficiently intense causes  
13 of heat or flames.  
14 Like other organic materials, once  
15 ignited, polyurethane foams will burn rapidly releasing  
16 great heat, toxic gases and consuming oxygen at a high  
17 rate.  
18 In an enclosed space, the  
19 resulting deficiency of oxygen will present a danger of  
20 suffocation to the occupants.  
21 Toxic gases and smoke released by  
22 the burning foam can be incapacitating or fatal to  
23 human beings if inhaled in sufficient quantities.  
24 As of December 21, Chief Davis has  
25 suspended any further action on this project, even  
0085  
01 though it remained a potential catastrophe.

02 The matter was not revisited until  
03 April 18, when the safety committee raised the  
04 seriousness of this issue again.  
05 Meanwhile, both Mr. Fiorini and  
06 Deputy Fire Chief Osborne, recognizing how crucial this  
07 was, were on top of this dangerous situation and  
08 intended to proceed, not only with removal, but  
09 citations, as well; however, as of April 19,  
10 Flexible Foam was granted an additional seven days to  
11 remove this toxic and potentially fatal material by  
12 someone other than Mr. Fiorini and Deputy Chief  
13 Osborne.  
14 Now, the good news is that finally  
15 this week this lethal material has been removed, but  
16 the bad news is that Minooka lived with the potential  
17 catastrophe in its midst, a possible evacuation from  
18 the river to Route 81 from K-Mart far into Minooka, and  
19 somebody let this go and covered it up.  
20 I would like some answers as to  
21 why this warehouse was more important than the people  
22 of Minooka.  
23 Therefore, I move that a letter is  
24 drafted by Solicitor Walsh and sent to Fire Chief Davis  
25 requesting responses to the following questions, One,  
0086  
01 why was this situation allowed to perpetrate for four  
02 and a half months, why was material not removed in  
03 December 2004; two, why was Flexible Foam not cited for  
04 this blatant disregard of code violations; and three,  
05 who exposed the fire department, the licensing and  
06 inspection office and the city to such a monumental  
07 liability?  
08 And I have, as I said, made that  
09 in the form of a motion.  
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on  
12 the floor and a second. On the question?  
13 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
14 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.  
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? By a  
18 4-0 vote, motion carries. Please get that out as soon  
19 as you can. Mr. Saunders.  
20 MS. EVANS: And I thank my fellow  
21 councilmen for that vote, because it's unconscionable  
22 that something like this would have occurred within our  
23 city limits.

24 Imagine the number of individuals  
25 who would have had to have been evacuated, as I said.  
0087  
01 Imagine the number of individuals who could have died.  
02 I also have a list of requests for  
03 Kay that includes all of the problems about which  
04 people have Emailed me, called or have spoken to me  
05 over the last week. And that's it. Thank you.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
07 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that. Mr. Courtright, any  
08 motions or comments?  
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,  
10 Mr. President. A couple questions maybe Jay would be  
11 able to help us out with, I know we made a motion, Jay,  
12 a few weeks back for the Weston Park Teener League,  
13 \$17,500 for their teener league, did we get anything  
14 back on that? Do we have any information on where we  
15 stand with that?  
16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. I talked to  
17 Sara Hailstone, the director down there, and she had  
18 mentioned to me that she's looking through paperwork.  
19 She did accept the letter that we had sent and received  
20 it, and she will get back to us as soon as she had  
21 something more concrete on Weston Field.  
22 Because of the -- there's a  
23 difference between Weston Field and Weston Park.  
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is Weston  
25 Park Teener League.  
0088  
01 MR. SAUNDERS: On the Weston Park  
02 and the teener league and the actual community center.  
03 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. It's the  
04 teener league.  
05 MR. SAUNDERS: Right. They're  
06 pulling their prior paperwork and sending it up to us.  
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. If you can  
08 ask her if she can step that up a little bit, I'd  
09 appreciate it.  
10 Another question, Jay, I know I  
11 asked a few weeks back, and possibly we didn't know the  
12 answer yet, but I'm wondering if we made any progress  
13 on it, did we have to forfeit that \$400 or \$450,000 of  
14 monies for the hole on Pittston Avenue or were we not  
15 held responsible for any of that?  
16 MR. SAUNDERS: I'm going to have  
17 to check that.  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, would you  
19 ask whoever we need to ask?

20 MR. SAUNDERS: What is the exact  
21 question on that?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, you know,  
23 we had set aside, the administration has set aside, I  
24 believe, \$400 or \$450,000 --

25 MR. SAUNDERS: CDBG money?  
0089

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. For the  
02 repair of Pittston Avenue hole over there, and there's  
03 a possibility that we might not have to spend any of  
04 that, and if in fact that's the case, that we don't  
05 have to spend any of it, I'm sure that there's a lot of  
06 worthy projects out there that we can use the money  
07 for, so I'd appreciate it if you can let me know if we  
08 have that money available or not.

09 And speaking of the hole over in  
10 South Side there, they, you know, the Army Corps did a  
11 great job and they got it all fixed up over there. I  
12 had a resident concerned, they put a guardrail up where  
13 the hole was there and they saw children standing near  
14 the guardrail throwing rocks down in there, and they  
15 were wondering if there's any plans to have a fence put  
16 around that on the Pittston Avenue side where the  
17 guardrail is so maybe children can't get in there.  
18 Maybe they have plans to, maybe they don't, but that  
19 question was asked of me.

20 I'm trying be as fast as I could  
21 here.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Take your time.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Someone brought  
24 up to me, now, obviously it's a political time and so  
25 you end up at some political parties and there's  
0090

01 residents at them, and somebody brought up to me about  
02 the East Mountain Road project, and they said that they  
03 were told that it's on hold and that the piping has to  
04 be torn up because the incorrect piping was put in  
05 there, are you aware of that?

06 MR. SAUNDERS: No. I could check  
07 that tomorrow, though.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. I  
09 certainly hope that's not the case.

10 MS. EVANS: I heard that, also.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Possible rumor,  
12 possible not, but if that is the case, I would like to  
13 know how and why we got the wrong piping in there. I  
14 would imagine somebody is watching that on our end from  
15 the city, yes or no?

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. And I

18 hesitate to do this, you know, Mr. Morgan brought up  
19 about subpoenas, and I don't know enough about the law  
20 to say whether we need to subpoena or not, but I think  
21 we've waited long enough for Mr. Farrell's answer.

22 We've been asking about the parks,

23 and Nay Aug specifically, for the children's swimming.

24 I know Mr. McTiernan was looking at a tiered system.

25 You know, we've asked for his opinion on whether they  
0091

01 could charge or cannot charge, and the summer is here

02 and we don't have an answer.

03 And I'm not going to make a motion

04 to subpoena anybody, but I would like to make a motion,

05 and I apologize for the other three members that are

06 sitting here, I did not bring this up to any of you

07 beforehand, but I think it's time we bring this to a

08 head, I would ask Mr. Walsh if he can give me whatever

09 avenues we can exploit to get this answer from

10 Mr. Farrell once and for all.

11 I mean, I really don't want to

12 subpoena him, but is there any -- somebody is saying

13 mandamus, I don't know these terms and I don't know,

14 you know, what they entail, but I would just like,

15 Mr. Walsh, I'm going to make a motion that

16 Mr. Walsh gives us his opinion on what we can do to

17 finally get an answer from Mr. Farrell on whether he

18 believes that we can charge or cannot charge

19 administration into Nay Aug Park's pool.

20 MR. WALSH: Yeah. I don't think

21 you need a motion. I think the opinion should come

22 from the legal department, but I can check on that and,

23 again --

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: But, I mean,

25 obviously we're asking him, he's not answering us, so I

0092

01 want to know what can we do to force him to answer us.

02 MR. WALSH: And I can look into

03 that and respond back in the caucus next week, if you'd

04 like me to do that.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd appreciate

06 that. And, again, I don't want to subpoena anybody,

07 but I think we need an answer. I think it's about

08 time. And that's all I have, Mr. President. Thank

09 you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

11 Mr. Courtright.

12 I agree with what you're saying  
13 regarding the information on the deed that we've been  
14 waiting for, and when subpoenas were brought up  
15 earlier, they were, I think, in the form of talking  
16 about financial matters.  
17 This is another issue that I  
18 probably would -- I'd have no problem with joining you  
19 if you made that motion, because it's been a long time.  
20 So, we'll have to ask Mr. Walsh to look into that for  
21 us, please.  
22 You mentioned East Mountain Road  
23 project, and I had heard the same information, rumors,  
24 if you want to call it, regarding, you know, maybe  
25 incorrect sized piping be used along East Mountain Road  
0093  
01 project, and I was going to ask Mr. Pocius this  
02 evening, because I think Ceco is involved in the work,  
03 so I was going to ask Mr. Pocius if he had an update on  
04 how that project is progressing, and we'll ask him next  
05 week, if we could.  
06 You also mentioned the fence  
07 around Pittston Avenue, and that's a great thing for us  
08 to look into, because I had heard the same thing.  
09 Thank heavens that the work is done over there at the  
10 Pittston Avenue hole and that the businesses and  
11 residents are no longer inconvenienced now, but, yeah,  
12 the guardrail is just a short guardrail and it's a long  
13 way down that hill, so if we can get a fence around  
14 that, I think that would be a good thing.  
15 Also, I'm happy to see that  
16 crosswalks are being painted at the intersection of  
17 Jackson and Cabrini Avenue near the West Side Senior  
18 Center.  
19 I spoke to someone who asked me to  
20 look into crosswalks possibly being taken care of at  
21 the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Luzerne Street,  
22 and the reason for that, Nancy Lightner from Luzerne  
23 Street asked me to look into that.  
24 Her sister, Marie Durdan, was  
25 struck by a vehicle at that intersection, and the  
0094  
01 five-year anniversary is coming up, and at this time of  
02 year she gets very emotional, and she asked me if I  
03 could look into whether or not the crosswalks at that  
04 intersection could be repainted in the memory of her  
05 five year anniversary of her being struck by a car.  
06 And if you can get an answer for us on that possibly,  
07 Mr. Saunders, I'd appreciate that.

08 Also, I should have brought this  
09 up earlier, I read to the third grade class at Willard  
10 School this week, and I told them at our meeting this  
11 week, some of them actually watch the meetings, I told  
12 them at seven o'clock I would mention the fact that I  
13 read to their class, and I believe the teacher's name  
14 is Mrs. Shoop, I could be destroying her name, but I  
15 just want to say hello to the third grade class at  
16 Willard School. I'm sorry for not mentioning it at  
17 seven o'clock, because I'm sure they're in bed by now,  
18 I hope. Sorry for keeping them up.  
19 And lastly, I spoke to Mary Ann  
20 Wardell today on the telephone, and it was great to  
21 hear her voice. Many people know who Mary Ann Wardell  
22 is. She was struck by a car about two months ago, a  
23 little over two months ago, and Mary Ann was really, as  
24 many of you know, was really, you know, near death, and  
25 she pulled through, and she said today that, you know,  
0095  
01 all of her medical people working with her and nurses  
02 and doctors are calling her a miracle woman that she  
03 actually survived this.  
04 She's back in Scranton, she's home  
05 from Danville, and she is in South Scranton at, is it  
06 Mount Laurel Nursing Home? Mountain View Nursing Home  
07 in South Scranton, and she's going to be there for a  
08 while, and she hopes to get home after that.  
09 And she sounded wonderful, and I  
10 just wanted to pass along that information, that she's  
11 coming along really well.  
12 She's still, you know, in bed  
13 unable to walk, but she hopes to be walking in the near  
14 future. So, we're very happy to hear that. And that  
15 is all I have this evening under motions.

16 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR  
17 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF  
18 A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF CATHERINE  
19 DELROSSO, BOROUGH OF DUNMORE, LICENSE NO. R-14777  
20 CURRENTLY HELD BY THE PLCB TO CHARLIE BROWN'S OF  
21 SCRANTON, LLC FOR USE AT 941 VIEWMONT DRIVE, SCRANTON,  
22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
23 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

24 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its  
0096

01 proper committee.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Second.

04 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
05 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying  
06 aye.  
07 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
08 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
10 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
11 ayes have it and so moved.  
12 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION  
13 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY ON  
14 LAFAYETTE STREET AND NEWTON RANSOM BOULEVARD, SCRANTON,  
15 PENNSYLVANIA, TO FORREST AND GAIL JANES, 309 NEWTON  
16 ROAD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE SUM OF  
17 \$1,500.00.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its  
20 proper committee.  
21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
22 MS. EVANS: Second.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
24 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
25 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
0097  
01 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
04 ayes have it and so moved.  
05 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION  
06 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
07 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
08 AMENDED AGREEMENT NO. 3 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
09 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
10 REGARDING THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT TO ALLOW FOR  
11 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE PLOT  
12 AND GREEN RIDGE SECTIONS OF THE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT  
13 OF \$5,600,000.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its  
16 proper committee.  
17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
18 MS. EVANS: Second.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
20 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
21 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.  
22 MS. EVANS: Aye.  
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.  
24 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
25 ayes have it and so moved.

0098

01 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,  
02 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 120, 2005 -AN  
03 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,  
04 (AS AMENDED), ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
05 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
06 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
07 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
08 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY  
09 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
10 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT  
11 (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$5,000.00 FROM  
12 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO  
13 PROJECT NO. 05-05.13, SLOAN BASEBALL  
14 ASSOCIATION.

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

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I  
18 move that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

19 MS. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
21 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
0099

01 ayes have it and so moved.

02 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE  
03 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 121, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -  
04 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, (AS AMENDED),  
05 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
06 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
07 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
08 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
09 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
10 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP  
11 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)  
12 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$55,000.00 FROM  
13 PROJECT NO. 05-31, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, TO  
14 PROJECT NO. 05-96, NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL.

15 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading  
16 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I  
18 move that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

19 MS. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

21 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The  
0100

01 ayes have it and so moved.

02 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President,

03 before we move to seventh order, 6-A and 6-B we did a

04 public hearing on this evening. By the OECD or the

05 CDBG rules, we have to wait 30 days from the time of

06 the public hearing to move this into seventh order for

07 passage. So, from tonight, 30 days out, we'll put it

08 back on the next agenda at that point.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. WALSH: Seventh order.

11 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC

12 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 128, 2005 -

13 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF PARKING SPACES AND PARKING

14 METERS ALONG A DESIGNATED SECTION OF THE 100 BLOCK OF

15 LACKAWANNA AVENUE FOR PURPOSES OF COMPLYING WITH

16 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT)

17 REQUIREMENTS FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR THE

18 INGRESS AND EGRESS OF THE NEW PARKING GARAGE ON ADAMS

19 AVENUE.

20 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

21 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

22 public safety?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: As chairperson

24 for the committee on public safety, I recommend final

25 passage of Item 7-A.

0101

01 MS. EVANS: Seconded.

02 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

03 Roll call, please.

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. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

13 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

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

15 entertain a motion we adjourn.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MS. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

19

20 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

21

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0102

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

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02

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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