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01 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

02 PUBLIC HEARING

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04 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 130, 2005 - APPROVING THE
04 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE
05 NAME OF CATHERINE DELROSSO, BOROUGH OF DUNMORE,
05 LICENSE NO. R-14777 CURRENTLY HELD BY THE PLCB
06 TO CHARLIE BROWN'S OF SCRANTON, LLC FOR USE AT
06 941 VIEWMONT DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
07 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR
07 CONTROL BOARD.

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12 Held:

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13 Thursday, May 12, 2005

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15 Time:

15 6:45 p.m.

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17 Location:

17 Council chambers

18 Scranton City Hall

18 340 North Washington Avenue

19 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

23 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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02 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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03 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

04

04 MR. JOHN POCIUS

05

05 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

06

06 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

07

07 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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08 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Roll call, please.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

05 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 Mrs. Evans, I think, will be joining us shortly. The

12 The first public hearing we have is:

13 Notice is hereby given that

14 Scranton City Council will hold a public hearing on

15 Thursday, May 12, 2005, at 6:45, in Council Chambers.

16 The purpose of said Public Hearing

17 is to hear testimony and discuss the following:

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19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 130, 2005 - AN

20 ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A

21 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE IN THE NAME OF

22 CATHERINE DELROSSO, BOROUGH OF DUNMORE,

23 LICENSE NO. R-14777 CURRENTLY HELD BY THE

24 PLCB TO CHARLIE BROWN'S OF SCRANTON, LLC

25 FOR USE AT 941 VIEWMONT DRIVE, SCRANTON,

0004

01 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS REQUIRED BY THE

02 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

03

04 And we have a sign-in sheet for

05 anyone interested in talking on this topic, and there's

06 nobody signed in. Is there anyone here that would like

07 to speak on this topic?

08 Okay. If not, we will call the

09 meeting to a close and be back for our seven o'clock

10 meeting.

11 (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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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, May 12, 2005

09

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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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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:
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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
04
05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT
06
07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT
08
09 MR. JOHN POCIUS
10
11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN
12
13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
14
15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK
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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the
02 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a
03 short prayer. Kay, can we have a roll call, please?
04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.
05 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.
06 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.
07 MS. EVANS: Here.
08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.
09 MR. POCIUS: Here.
10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.
12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Here.
14 Before we dispense with the reading of the minutes,
15 I'd like to recognize an individual that is here this
16 evening to receive a proclamation from City Council,
17 and she is a woman that has done so much for children
18 and so much for parent/teacher associations, and that's
19 Christine Munchak right here from Scranton.
20 Mrs. Evans brought up the fact
21 that she would like to recognize Christine a couple of
22 weeks back, and at this time Mrs. Evans will

23 acknowledge the proclamation, and I'd like to invite
24 all members of Council to come forward for the
25 presentation, if they would.

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01 MS. EVANS: Christine, Whereas,
02 the Council of the City of Scranton is desirous of
03 honoring Christine Munchak for being named the 38th
04 president of the Pennsylvania PTA, a statewide child
05 advocacy organization comprised of over 100,000
06 members; and whereas, Christine has been involved with
07 the PTA members for many years, not only at the local
08 level, but on the state and national level, as well;
09 and whereas, at the local level Christine was the
10 president of the PFA at each of the following city
11 schools, Audobon, East Scranton Intermediate, Scranton
12 High School, and was the co-founder of Northeast
13 Intermediate's PTA, as well as holding positions of
14 secretary, vice-president and president of the Scranton
15 Council PTA; and whereas, Christine has held many board
16 positions, such as local convention coordinator,
17 District 13 PTA director, which covers a seven county
18 area, and region six PTA vice-president, which covers
19 over 100 PTAs, just to name a few; and whereas, at the
20 statewide level Christine served on several coalitions
21 such as Good Schools Pennsylvania, Governor's Institute
22 For Parental Involvement, Pennsylvania Department of
23 Health Youth Leadership Summit, Action For Healthy Kids
24 And Education Funding Advocacy Group; and whereas, at
25 the national level Christine was involved with the

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01 National Task Force On Childhood Obesity and attended
02 several conventions in Washington, D.C., Chicago,
03 Baltimore, Charlotte and Anaheim; and whereas,
04 Christine has been involved in numerous community
05 related activities, such as NEIU 19 Health Education
06 Alliance, Scranton Tomorrow, First Night Scranton and
07 City Pride, as well as her involvement with her
08 children's school activities and their parents clubs;
09 and whereas, Christine has been a resident of the
10 Hill Section for 22 years.
11 She and her husband Neil are the
12 parents of two children, Darius, who attends
13 Tulane University and who is a student at Scranton High
14 School. And I'll just add in there that I had the
15 great privilege and pleasure of teaching Darius at
16 Scranton High School. Truly an outstanding student, a
17 bit of wanderlust, but an outstanding student, and he
18 also served for many years as a lifeguard at Nay Aug

19 Park, where he saved the lives of children in this
20 city, and he is a wonderful young man I am very proud
21 of, and I know his mother and father are, as well.

22 Now, therefore, be it resolved
23 that on Thursday, May 12, 2005, Scranton City Council
24 wishes to congratulate Christine Munchak on her
25 outstanding achievements and her commitment to our
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01 community and extend our best wishes for success in all
02 her future endeavors.

03 Be it further resolved that this
04 proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of
05 this Council as lasting tribute to Christine Munchak.

06 MS. MUNCHAK: Thank you. Thank
07 you so much. It's both an honor and a tremendous
08 challenge to lead an organization of over 100,000
09 members, but moments like this make me really happy to
10 be able to tell people that I'm from Scranton, so thank
11 you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
13 Christine, for being here tonight. It's a tremendous
14 honor and so well deserved. Thanks for all your work
15 with children in our area and all throughout the
16 state.

17 Now if we can dispense with the
18 reading of the minutes, please.

19 MR. WALSH: Third order. 3-A,
20 AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION FUND TO BE HELD
21 WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005.

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

24 MR. WALSH: 3-B, CONTROLLER'S
25 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2005.
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01 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any
02 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

03 MR. WALSH: 3-C, Clerk's notes.

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

06 MR. SAUNDERS: I have nothing
07 tonight, Council President DiBileo.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Jay, last
09 week I mentioned a few streets that we'd like to have
10 some attention paid to regarding paving, and I'd like
11 to add another name there this week.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Bengar Place, is it?
14 Bengar Place.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll just add that
16 to that last list we sent down.

17 MR. DIBILEO: And Briggs,
18 Briggs Street, also, please.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: I will have them
20 sent down tomorrow.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, very
22 much.

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

25 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the
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01 first speaker, I'd like to just announce that we're
02 approaching very near an upcoming primary election,
03 which is next Tuesday, May 17, and at this time of year
04 emotions can often reach a fever pitch, and I'd like to
05 remind speakers to please refrain from showing
06 political favoritism in any way.

07 And what would be acceptable,
08 however, is any discussion of issues that might affect
09 individuals as taxpayers. I'd like to ask Mr. Walsh,
10 if I may, to assist me this evening in recognizing when
11 someone may cross the line between talking from a
12 taxpayer point of view to that of politics.

13 MR. WALSH: No problem.

14 MR. DIBILEO: If you would,
15 Mr. Walsh.

16 MR. WALSH: Certainly.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, very
18 much. And with that said, our first speaker is
19 Andy Sbaraglia.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
21 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, the first
22 remark is, I wish to congratulate publicly Kevin Murphy
23 for capturing that purse snatcher. I think he did a
24 very brave thing, that I do believe. I criticized him
25 enough, so I have to give him credit where credit is
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01 due.

02 Now, I did ask, Mr. Pocius is
03 here, I did ask about that letter of credit, and you
04 informed me last week that you would check to see if
05 the full amount of that letter of credit was taken out,
06 \$3.7, I think it was honoring \$3,700,000, I believe.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, we did, Andy,
08 and I asked Mr. Saunders if he would assist me with
09 that information.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: I sent a letter out

11 and I haven't gotten anything back on it yet.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Does anyone else
13 have any information on that? Okay. We don't have it
14 yet, Andy.

15 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, there
16 was a letter that came down, and it was, I think, three
17 weeks ago.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: I read that last
19 week at the council meeting and it was just telling us
20 where the money went to.

21 MR. POCIUS: All right.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: There was
23 different amounts given, but way over \$3,700,000. I'm
24 just wondering, because they were only authorized to
25 use \$3,700,000, even though that note did say a lot
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01 more. I think it was \$5 mill, I believe it was
02 \$5 mill anyway.

03 Okay. Does anybody know if we
04 finally own the light fixtures? Now, we had a very
05 good talk on it, it was brought before everybody,
06 everybody sounded real good, do we own them?

07 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't believe
08 anything has been finalized yet. Yeah, it's very close
09 to being finished. I talked to Bob Kearns at that
10 caucus. He said he will let us know exactly when the
11 day is that they're finished.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I would like to
13 know. This is going on for quite a few years. Of
14 course it was a complex deal to begin with. I didn't
15 approve to it to begin with. I think it was idiotic,
16 but that's beside the point. It went through.

17 A lot of these things went
18 through, and the City of Scranton and the citizens of
19 Scranton aren't going to see a lot of these things for
20 a ten years out. I don't know if I'll even live to see
21 them.

22 But the thing is, will they
23 actually do what they set out to do? We see all kinds
24 of loans, grants, so forth coming into the city, we see
25 a place like down there at the, I guess it's the silk
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01 mill, I guess it was, that it's going to be torn down.

02 And that's a huge building to

03 be -- something with a -- we could probably get a grant
04 with this Lackawanna College, I believe, they want to
05 tear that one down.

06 And that's a nice building, but we

07 also have a man who developed a patent for, I think,
08 twisting yarn with silver, which actually is very good
09 in the medical field, but nobody ever asked this man,
10 he's down there at Sequoit, if you'd like to expand in
11 some of these old factories and put some of our people
12 to work, instead of subletting out like he did to God
13 knows where, but he did sublet it.
14 There's a lot of people in
15 Scranton that has good ideas and should be brought in.
16 All we're doing is really building bars and
17 restaurants, and I don't know how you expect to really,
18 really get by on bars and restaurants.
19 I mean, even this BKT, they want
20 \$250,000 to buy a building at 130 North Washington
21 Avenue, I think for a restaurant or a bar. How many
22 bars are we going to put in our city?
23 We're going to have one on the
24 corner. It's going to be like it was during the 1900s
25 pretty soon where you had a bar on every corner, but
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01 we don't have the miners and we don't have the jobs,
02 and you can't get by on spending all kinds of borrowing
03 for ten or fifteen people working.
04 Somewhere along the line you've
05 got to get your -- really what you want to do with
06 these projects and get the money together to really put
07 a lot of people to work, and people that would work at
08 a pay that they can afford to buy things with.
09 It's a sad state of affairs when
10 we're spending thousands and thousands of dollars to
11 fix up fronts. Now, you're going to put a few people
12 to work to fix the fronts, but once them fronts are
13 fixed, we still have 100 year old buildings with new
14 fronts.
15 Now, architectural, maybe they
16 look nice, but we also all have an architectural block
17 down there where we have, I think it was the linen down
18 there by the JR building, I believe that whole block is
19 architectural, but we don't need more of them. We need
20 more progress.
21 Scranton has to go forward, it's
22 true, but we have to go forward in the right direction,
23 and the direction we're heading in now isn't exactly
24 the right direction, because we're not going to have
25 the money.
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01 When you -- anybody that comes
02 into this city later on is going to be hit with a heck

03 of a burden and a real tough burden.
04 You may lose \$6 million to that
05 sewer deal. You may lose God knows what to some of
06 these union deals. And the worse part about it, now
07 the city -- citizens in the city has to sue the city.
08 We have come to the point where
09 the citizens are so disgusted, they're suing the city.
10 You have two lawsuits brought by citizens against the
11 city, one at the South Side Complex, and now one at Nay
12 Aug.
13 What have we done to put us in
14 this state of affairs where the citizens have to
15 actually went out and filed lawsuits against -- we're
16 actually fighting ourselves, and it should never be.
17 Because when you sue the city, you
18 don't really sue the city, you sue us, the taxpayers in
19 the city. All these projects you seen that the people
20 take credit for, the taxpayers are paying them, you,
21 you, you, you.
22 You all should be named, in fact,
23 everybody in the city should be named that pays taxes,
24 because we're the ones that actually pay. I thank
25 you.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
02 Mr. Sbaraglia. Thank you. Reverend Kathryn Simmons.
03 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening,
04 Council members. My name is Reverend Kathryn Simmons,
05 and I am a Scranton resident. Peace on to each of you
06 says my Lord Jesus Christ.
07 In the Old Testament in the Book
08 of Isaiah, 65, 21 through 23, it is written, And they
09 shall build houses and inhabit them and they shall
10 plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.
11 They shall not build in another
12 inhabit, they shall not plant in another eat; whereas,
13 the days of a tree are the days of my people and my
14 elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
15 They shall not labor in vein nor
16 bring forth for trouble, for they are the seed of the
17 blessed of the Lord and their offspring with them.
18 I bring this word tonight to this
19 place because I want you, who are seated upon the seats
20 of Scranton's City Council, to know that even thousands
21 of years ago housing and homeless were an issue among
22 the diverse populations of the earth.
23 It is sad to say that thousands of
24 years later, and we still have not heard Isaiah's word

25 to its fullest. The last three rounds of CDBG funding
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01 in four years has not seen its way to any housing
02 project or program. Why?

03 I can think of several reasons,
04 but I will not touch on each of them this evening, for
05 it would take all of Council's session, and I'm sure
06 you don't want to give me that, but I will say that it
07 is known throughout the low to lower middle income
08 economic level that elected officials are not alert nor
09 even caring of the problems faced daily by this
10 population.

11 Often it is because elected
12 officials believe that the poor or near poor have
13 neither the intelligence nor spirit to go to the poles
14 and elect officials to office, but our president has
15 made it known that faith based groups are the most
16 growing and important of voters rising quickly and
17 steadily, much proven in our last election.

18 And in doing so, it will be the
19 supporters and upholders of all programs and projects
20 involving low economic citizenry.

21 We have watched a mayor who has
22 never attended a City Council meeting or taken time to
23 welcome our troops home from their tour of war duty.
24 We have watched City Council
25 members who do not vote of their own accord, but
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01 instead what their party tells them.

02 Overall we have watched a total
03 administration who watches our police and our fire
04 department struggle over and over again to keep fellow
05 Scrantonians safe and secure.

06 We will watch, and when in doubt,
07 we'll good to our Bible to seek out the word My Father
08 God himself sends to guide us.

09 I say to you tonight here in this
10 place from this lector, if the next round of CDBG
11 applications for housing and housing issues is not
12 given careful consideration, the Bible readers and
13 studiers will see to it that those you perceive as
14 illiterate and the hungry will make it to the poles,
15 and a new and more faith based group will take the
16 seats made available.

17 I will tell you in a more defined
18 way, not one police person's blood will touch these
19 streets, not one fireman's skin will burn because of
20 lack of training or equipment, not one more child will

21 be removed from a family because of lack of housing,
22 not one more Black, Hispanic or Asian person will be
23 denied fair employment, not one more union will be made
24 to blame for all of the city's financial problems, not
25 one more gang will take residence on our streets, not
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01 one more crime watch or neighborhood association will
02 be insulted, no, not one of these will occur because of
03 a lack of voter participation.

04 Destroy me if you chose, but there
05 will always be more to follow and lead. Do your task,
06 and there will not be any election you need to fear.

07 Thank you.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
09 Reverend Simmons. Les Spindler.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
11 Council. Les Spindler. I want to comment on something
12 I wanted to talk about last week, but I couldn't make
13 it.

14 Two weeks ago on a Friday I put
15 the morning news on and they had a story about the
16 Wilkes-Barre Council meeting, the citizens were
17 concerned that there's a fire station closed and they
18 wouldn't get a quick response from where the fire
19 trucks were coming from.

20 It turned out Mayor Leighton was
21 at that council meeting. He was concerned about his
22 citizens in his city. He can show up at his, but where
23 is Mayor Doherty? Where is our sixth councilman? He
24 never shows up here, like he promised four years ago.
25 Moving on, comments about the

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01 garbage at Euclid Avenue, I guess again since Mayor
02 Doherty doesn't care about the neighborhoods, I took it
03 upon myself to clean up some of that, so at the corner
04 of Bullworth and Euclid, if we can get maybe a DPW
05 truck there. There's three old tires that I pulled out
06 there near the edge of the street. It's right near the
07 fire hydrant there.

08 Since nobody else will do
09 anything, it's all getting grown in. You can't see it
10 now, so I took it upon myself to do it. Gary, can we
11 get somebody to go up there?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, can you please
13 look into that situation?

14 MR. SPINDLER: It's right near the
15 road. I pulled all the tires out near the road.

16 MS. EVANS: Jay, just make that a

17 second request. I already put that in, and evidently
18 nothing happens. Let's just -- in fact, just call,
19 them, please, tomorrow and tell them, you know, we
20 don't want to waste any more time on the letters, just
21 get out there and pick up the tires, please.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Jay.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

24 Tomorrow Governor Rendell is coming with money for
25 North Scranton Junior High School, but that money was
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01 being held since Mayor Connors was in office.

02 I have it on good authority that

03 the city has \$600,000 to put in with that, also, and I
04 hear Chris Doherty is going to be there presenting a
05 check for of \$600,000. Again, that was held from the
06 Connors administration. So, I hope he's not going to
07 take credit for that, like he's taking credit for the
08 Hilton, which he had nothing to do with either.

09 Moving on, last Friday's Times,

10 there was a quote, Mayor Doherty says we have
11 unprecedented growth. I agree with Mayor Doherty, we
12 do have unprecedented grown. We have unprecedented
13 growth in the amount of potholes in this city, we have
14 unprecedented growth with all the cops being layed off,
15 we have unprecedent growth in the amount of debt the
16 city is in, we have unprecedented growth in the amount
17 of ten-year free rides with KOZ, while the average
18 taxpayer continues to struggle without getting a tax
19 break.

20 Last but not least, we have

21 unprecedented growth of people leaving the city because
22 of the increased crime and the high taxes. Yeah, I'll
23 agree with the mayor, we have unprecedented growth.

24 Last week, Mr. Courtright, you

25 mentioned something in the Sunday paper, I don't know
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01 if the words exactly was on the order of someone saying
02 that the older people don't have to worry about the
03 crime in the city, did I get that right?

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. It was

05 said that the people that are most concerned are the
06 elderly and they would probably be the least ones
07 affected.

08 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Well, let

09 them tell that to the 75-year-old lady that had her
10 purse snatched last week where Mr. Murphy caught the
11 guy, the elderly woman that had her purse snatched in
12 South Side the other day. Maybe that was perception,

13 it really didn't happen.

14 Finally, as Mr. DiBileo said,

15 Tuesday's Election Day. I hope everybody gets out to

16 vote, especially the people affected by this illegal

17 pool fee, and I hope they remember when they pull that

18 lever who is making them pay the five-dollar fee.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Lee

21 Morgan.

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,

23 Council.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

25 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I

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01 have to say here is that I think it's important at

02 Council that we don't stifle political discussion here

03 that is protected by the Supreme Court.

04 As your solicitor probably already

05 knows, that law was written in the 1850s, and I'm not

06 disagreeing that decorum should be followed at this

07 Council meeting, but I think the most -- what really

08 should be said here is the truth, irregardless of

09 political persuasions.

10 And I think that the first thing

11 I'd like to say is that we really have to pay a lot of

12 attention in this election. There's no time to go back

13 to the failed things of the past, no time.

14 We can't return to the Council we

15 had before, we can't stifle ideas. Council can't run

16 rough shot over the citizens.

17 I hope that everybody will vote on

18 Tuesday, I hope everybody will pay a lot of attention

19 to what they're doing. I sincerely hope that all the

20 residents will pay no attention to the editorials that

21 the Scranton Times has written on who we should endorse

22 our -- in giving our vote to which candidates, because

23 really I don't think anybody should decide for somebody

24 else who the best candidate is, I think that the people

25 should decide who the best candidate is by their

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01 actions, more than their words.

02 I think that in all honestly, we

03 have to question why a lot of things haven't been done,

04 and we have to question why we have so much debt.

05 I think that there's a lot of

06 problems here, and I don't see any open dialogue, not

07 from the mayor, not from this mayor, and hopefully if

08 he's re-elected some, dialogue will take place,

09 hopefully the next -- if he's not the next mayor and
10 someone else the two other candidates, hopefully there
11 will be some dialogue.

12 We've tried to borrow ourself into
13 success, we've allowed this administration, and we
14 should make this administration stand on its record,
15 the South Side Sports Complex, the golf course,
16 \$72.3 million bond, paying twice to build a DPW
17 complex, just massive amounts of borrowing, millions
18 and millions of dollars in the pension fund lost.

19 I mean, there's nothing really
20 positive to be said in any of that. We need some real
21 solutions here. We haven't had any, okay?

22 Now, I'm not going to berate
23 somebody for not being the sixth councilman, but I
24 really can't understand why the mayor wasn't more
25 open.

0023

01 And I'm not telling anybody not to
02 vote for the mayor, I'm telling you to do whatever your
03 conscience tells you, but I'm telling you before you
04 vote to think.

05 And I'd also like to ask when this
06 election is done, that all absentee ballots be counted
07 and that we find out that all these absentees are
08 legitimate votes, okay?

09 I mean, and I'm not saying people
10 from cemeteries are voting, but I think it's important
11 that we really look at these votes.

12 I think that too many times we've
13 had people go into convalescent homes and collecting
14 votes and telling people just, here, check this.

15 I mean, we don't need that here.

16 We need to take this city in a new direction, and I'm
17 not saying that any one of you councilmen that are
18 sitting there now is not qualified, that's not what I'm
19 saying, but I will say this, we need to use the power
20 of subpoena, we need to investigate, we need to find
21 out why we're in the trouble we're in, we need to find
22 out why we've been here for 40 years, and why there
23 haven't been any answers, and why we bring a budget to
24 the table and know that the figures aren't right and
25 not discuss them openly and tear the budget apart line

0024

01 by line, piece by piece, even if it takes five hours
02 of this Council to let all the voters know what's
03 smoke, what's mirror and what's reality. Thank you.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

05 Mr. Morgan. Bob Bolus.

06 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,

07 Bob Bolus, resident of Scranton. I've been coming here

08 quite a while, and I've been reading the newspapers

09 quite a bit lately.

10 Well, we have one here about

11 Mr. Hazzouri, former councilman. Of course, we know

12 when he was here and of course we spoke before about

13 him.

14 He's running for Council again.

15 He's touting experience, dedicated and knowledgeable

16 and he wants our support. For continued economic

17 growth, increasing property values, additional family

18 sustaining jobs, reliable, efficient public service,

19 secure public safety, a positive community involvement.

20 MR. WALSH: The only thing I would

21 say, Mr. Bolus, since I was given the unenviable task

22 of talking about the political part of it is, if you

23 want to talk about somebody's record or something, but

24 saying what way to vote or what the campaign things

25 are, that's the only thing we should stay away from.

0025

01 MR. BOLUS: I'm not telling you

02 how to vote, I'm taking what he put here and then I'm

03 going to talk about his record. This is what he started

04 publicly, and he's talking about a positive direction

05 for Council.

06 Mr. Pocius, says, Chose experience

07 independent leadership again. Well, I'm going to say

08 this regarding records of people in the City of

09 Scranton, a vote on the 17th for either Mr. Doherty,

10 Mr. Hazzouri, Mr. Pocius, is a vote for Scranton's

11 demise.

12 And I'm going to say why, if they

13 tell --

14 MR. WALSH: Let me just say this,

15 Mr. Bolus, and I apologizing for interrupting you, sir.

16 MR. BOLUS: Well, stop the clock,

17 please.

18 MR. WALSH: Let me tell you, we're

19 definitely stopping the clock. But all I'm saying is

20 that you can get your point across without talking

21 about voting, also, and that's perfectly acceptable.

22 If you just want to talk about

23 records or what you believe, that's fine, but the

24 voting stuff, I think, crosses the line a little bit,

25 if that's okay.

0026

01 Because I think you communicate
02 well, you can get your point across without that.

03 MR. BOLUS: I think we'll take
04 care of that in the following statements I have.

05 MR. WALSH: Thank you. You got
06 it. No problem.

07 MR. BOLUS: Just make sure you
08 turn the clock back, Jay.

09 MR. BOLUS: We just gave you
10 credit for 30 seconds, how is that?

11 MR. BOLUS: It should be the whole
12 minute I've been tied up here.

13 MR. WALSH: But let me tell you, I
14 know the keeper of time here, and I'll ask him to give
15 you a minute, how's that?

16 MR. BOLUS: Okay. Thank you,
17 Father Time. Well, my issue is with past records, I
18 disagree with continued -- that we're a continued
19 economic distressed status. We're decreasing the
20 value of city assets and property values here.

21 They have contributed to
22 non-family sustaining jobs, inefficient public services
23 by reducing police and fire, citizens afraid to walk
24 the street or sit on porches, a negative community
25 environment through negative leadership, no fees for
0027

01 KOZs and non-profits, the little guy pays the way for
02 Mr. Doherty, Hazzouri and Pocius' buddies.

03 The University of Scranton given a
04 free ride. Every citizen pays the tax burden. Four
05 more years is a bigger illegal pension for Mr. Hazzouri
06 and Mr. Pocius in total violation of Scranton's Home
07 Rule Charter.

08 Whole sale liquidation of city
09 assets, the golf course, South Side Complex, DPW
10 giveaway at taxpayers' expense. They will have a cop
11 at City Council meetings to arrest citizens instead of
12 in our neighborhoods.

13 Hazzouri and Pocius want citizens
14 to be seen and not heard. Mr. Hazzouri and Pocius are
15 rubber stamp councilmen, simply do nothing, as far as
16 I'm concerned. Doherty Cronies.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Bolus, please
18 refrain from your --

19 MR. BOLUS: I understand. I'll
20 try to do that, Mr. DiBileo. They represent the white
21 collars. They do not represent the seniors and blue
22 collar citizens of this city.

23 KOZs, non-profits and other
24 connected friends lead, they follow, just have to look
25 around at what we've lost.

0028

01 They have been a negative
02 direction for the City of Scranton. \$6 million
03 American Water suit is looming on the horizon.
04 Mr. Hazzouri, Mr. Pocius and everybody sponsored
05 American Water getting thrown out of there.
06 We're going to pay, we'll be
07 bankrupt because there is no more money. New police
08 cars, well, they'll probably get here for the election.
09 In North Scranton they're getting
10 the money. Well, Mr. Langan stated, What are you
11 complaining about, when the school was there they it
12 didn't pay taxes, well, maybe he forget the citizens
13 paid the taxes to have schools, that's why we have
14 schools.
15 The KOZs are tax exempt, so
16 they're coming there, it's going to be free now. They
17 should be made to pay.
18 When has Mr. Hazzouri, as a
19 private citizen, ever come to a council meeting since
20 he left office to help bring his positive direction for
21 the citizens of this city? I've never seen him here.
22 He wants four more years to rubber
23 stamp the Doherty smoke and mirror plan, I don't think
24 we should have it. The silent majority, I think, will
25 let their vote be known on the 17th.

0029

01 I see negative campaigns about
02 Mr. DiBileo going on around here, well, guess what,
03 I've seen Mr. DiBileo at meetings at neighborhoods and
04 everywhere else when there's floods, the troops came
05 home and all. I never saw Mr. Doherty.
06 There's no bids. He takes for
07 professional services, the sky is the limit. He closes
08 the office to the public. Took the motorcycle off
09 East Mountain.
10 It's Mr. Doherty who has missed
11 the financial boat, not the majority members of this
12 Council, and I think that should be important for
13 people to understand.
14 He never kept his word to come
15 here as the sixth councilman, and to me, as I was
16 raised up, a man's word is a man's bond, and you have
17 to judge for yourself.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

19 Mr. Bolus.

20 MR. BOLUS: And are we better off

21 now, as Mr. Doherty claims, absolutely not.

22 And one thing, Mr. Pocius, off the

23 subject, if anybody saw the Throop Council meeting, you

24 can see why when Mrs. Menichetti came here and said

25 that people should follow the lead of the Scranton City

0030

01 Council, if anybody saw what some of the councilmen up

02 there did on Channel 61 the other day, you'll see why

03 you are the leading example of what is right for the

04 city. Thank you.

05 And one thing, if anybody has a

06 problem with the sticker campaign, ask for help on the

07 17th.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Just for

09 any other speakers, I think Mr. Bolus may have crossed

10 the line showing a little favoritism there, so we will

11 try to have that not be the case with future speakers,

12 please. Avonne Xanthis.

13 MS. XANTHIS: I live on Dickson

14 Avenue in Green Ridge. My name is Yvonne Xanthis.

15 In December of 2001, the Scranton

16 City Council in a late night session quickly and

17 quietly approved the sale of a property on Dickson and

18 Electric Street in Scranton consisting of 16 acres of

19 land to Casey Realty.

20 There was no consideration

21 whatsoever as to any negative impact this might have on

22 the community or any objections residents in the area

23 might have to the sale.

24 While it's true this property was

25 on the selling block for some time, it was valued at

0031

01 well in excess of a million dollars, and there are many

02 other ways this property might have been used to

03 benefit the community.

04 After approval of the City

05 Council, the SRA sold it to Casey Realty for \$126,000.

06 Also in that sale, the city forgave \$760,000 in back

07 taxes, over the objections of the Scranton School

08 Board.

09 At the time, school board member

10 Todd O'Malley said the SRA gave this property away, and

11 to me it's kind of a disaster.

12 They didn't notify us about the

13 sale. The owners of Casey Realty, Daniel Chermack,

14 James Keissling and Craig Daron, also own Daron

15 Northeast Architectural Masonry Products.
16 Casey Realty rents the property
17 and building at 530 Electric Street to Daron Northeast
18 Architectural, and in fact renting the property to
19 themselves. While it may be not an unusual business
20 practice, an interesting one.
21 In addition to all that, they were
22 also granted forgiveness of city and state taxes for
23 the next ten years as part of the KOZ program, a
24 program designed to attract businesses by offering tax
25 incentives like this to companies promising to create
0032
01 30 jobs within 3 years.
02 I'm sure they've had many success
03 stories. Actually this makes a lot of sense, as long
04 as it serves a mutual benefit both for the business and
05 to the community. If it doesn't, then it's worthless.
06 Maybe this is naive and idealistic
07 or something, but it seems if it doesn't benefit the
08 community at all, it amounts to nothing more than
09 corporate welfare at the expense of the community.
10 Don't get me wrong, forgiveness is
11 a great thing as long as it's merited, and so is
12 charity, as long as its recipient is truly in need of
13 help.
14 Many of us have seen tough times
15 at one time or another. It sure would be nice to see
16 City Council say, You don't have to pay your property
17 taxes, but it doesn't work that way.
18 Often it seems that forgiveness,
19 charity and kindness is primarily reserved for
20 non-residents who don't pay taxes and don't really need
21 the money either.
22 For example, if you happen to live
23 in a \$500,000 home in Clarks Summit and drive a
24 Mercedes, your odds might improve considerably.
25 No one likes taxes, but most of us
0033
01 don't mind paying our fair share, as long as everyone
02 else is paying theirs.
03 The tax revenue is used to run
04 the government, which in turn provides necessary
05 services for police and fire.
06 When government officials dole out
07 massive forgiveness in the form of very questionable
08 business deals with no thought given to the wishes of
09 the taxpayers and voters, that tax money has to come
10 from someplace else, and that someplace else is us, the

11 homeowners, the renters, the ones who live here, the
12 taxpayers and the voters. The tab is on us.
13 What have we gotten in return for
14 this rather considerable investment? It certainly has
15 not been a job boom. The few jobs created aren't very
16 good ones. And when and if the company makes the bear
17 minimum of 30 jobs it promised, don't expect them to be
18 better either.

19 It's not the jobs. Okay, how
20 about the operation of the company? Is that a
21 contribution to the community? This is supposed to be
22 a light industry zone.

23 Until the sale, it was a quite
24 neighborhood. Now there are trucks, machinery,
25 forklifts from 6 a.m. up until 11 p.m. and beyond.

0034

01 Besides the noise, you can well
02 imagine the toll that huge trucks carrying cement
03 blocks takes on the city roads.
04 It operates as a truck depot all
05 day and half the night. Besides that, is a company
06 producing masonry products, they have huge uncovered
07 mounds of sand, which generate dust through the area,
08 which is certainly not good for those with breathing
09 problems or for keeping anything clean.

10 We've heard a number of complaints
11 of residents with broken air conditioners due to being
12 blocked by the dust, and that is not a good sign, and
13 who knows what other environmental hazards will surface
14 in the future.

15 Furthermore, it depreciates the
16 values of the homes. Homeowners had no warning that
17 this sale will be dumped on them. Take a walk by it
18 some night and you might agree that with its elegant
19 combination of chain link fences and harsh flood
20 lights, if they ever make a movie called Moonlight Over
21 Alcatraz, they'll be shooting it on this location.

22 I want to thank Mrs. Evans for
23 helping me and for Mr. Saunders. This is terrible over
24 there.

25 MS. EVANS: I know. Mrs. Xanthis,
0035

01 I --

02 MS. XANTHIS: I read the letter
03 you got from Mr. Wallace, that's like -- that's
04 useless. There is so much dust, dirt and filth, it's
05 unbelievable.

06 And the lights, it's like you're

07 in a prison. I have two children that go to Scranton
08 High, we can't sleep at night. And they start at
09 5:15 in the morning with tractor-trailers as long as
10 Dickson Avenue, the 1700 block. Somebody has to do
11 something.

12 MS. EVANS: Did you receive a copy
13 of that letter?

14 MS. XANTHIS: Yes, I did, from
15 Mr. Saunders. When Mr. Wallace was on Dickson Avenue,
16 he didn't have the courtesy of coming by my house.

17 MS. EVANS: He didn't?

18 MS. XANTHIS: And I'm the only
19 house directly across the street. How could he miss
20 me? I'm the only house there.

21 He just did not have the courtesy.

22 I've never seen that man yet. I've been talking about
23 him for one year. I've come to City Hall, Mr. Doherty
24 told me it's not his problem. Well, whose problem is
25 it?

0036

01 MS. EVANS: No, it is a problem, I
02 realize that. I couldn't --

03 MS. XANTHIS: He said he went
04 there and it's not his.

05 MS. EVANS: Well, if he wants to
06 ignore it, then that's his prerogative, but --

07 MS. XANTHIS: Because we're all
08 developing asthma in my house, and we don't smoke.

09 MS. EVANS: We're not ignoring it,
10 believe me. I know I talked with you in the fall and I
11 contacted people in the inspections department. At
12 that time, nothing was done about it. I had brought it
13 up again over and over in the last several weeks, and
14 as a result we did have Mr. Fiorini and Mr. Wallace out
15 at that site who spoke with Daron U.S.A.

16 And according to the letter within
17 two to three weeks, a \$70,000 paving program will be
18 started to alleviate the dust and the dirt caused by
19 Daron U.S.A., and they also stated that Daron has
20 agreed to place calcium chloride on all unpaved areas
21 to prevent the dust from continuing to be a problem.

22 Now, that addresses one of your
23 problems. But I do hear what you're saying. I believe
24 I hear you talking about the lighting and the noise
25 level.

0037

01 Now, according to Mr. Wallace, he
02 has conducted noise level testing during the day and

03 evening hours, and he claims to have found that the
04 decibel levels are acceptable.
05 MS. XANTHIS: Well, I think
06 Mr. Wallace should come by my house about 9:30, ten
07 o'clock at night when they're dropping pig huge mounds
08 of cement. And unless you're trying to sleep at 11:15
09 and hear this, the whole house is shaking.
10 MS. EVANS: Well, what I'm going
11 to do, because I'm not disputing anything that you're
12 saying, I agree with you, I'll contact Mr. Fiorini
13 again, I've already spoken to him about this, but I
14 will contact him again and tell him about the hours of
15 which the greatest noise occurs disturbing the
16 neighborhood, and I will also address the issue of the
17 lighting, as well, and ask him if he could please speak
18 with Daron U.S.A. again about those issues.
19 I'm very glad that the dust and
20 the dirt is going to be controlled, because I think
21 that's probably the most significant problem here,
22 because it's caused you health problems, but
23 certainly --
24 MS. XANTHIS: If you've ever seen
25 the tractor-trailers.
0038
01 MS. EVANS: But certainly for the
02 taxes you pay, you don't deserve to be awake all night
03 by noise or lighting, so I will, as I said, I will
04 speak with him again and we'll -- hopefully we're going
05 to get everything taken care of for you.
06 MS. XANTHIS: Thank you so much.
07 I appreciate it.
08 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Yvonne.
10 And, Yvonne, I know that you spoke to my wife about the
11 problems you're having, and I called you back the one
12 time, but you don't have an answering machine, I don't
13 think, and I apologize about not calling you back
14 again, but thank you, Mrs. Evans, for looking into the
15 problem and hopefully we can get some kind of
16 resolution for you. Regina Yetkowskas.
17 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina
18 Yetkowskas. This evening I will discuss the taxes
19 imposed on the people with no relief from the Doherty
20 administration.
21 As I went through the revenue
22 sources of the 2005 operating budget, I thought it was
23 time the people of Scranton were clearly told all the
24 taxes they must pay and why critics of the Doherty

25 administration see no relief from the people's
0039

01 oppressing tax burden, while millions are spent on Nay
02 Aug Park to be used by some Scrantonians and many
03 people who live outside the city but are not taxed for
04 the parks capital expenditures, its upkeep and
05 maintenance.
06 Here is a list of most of the
07 taxes which must be paid by Scranton residents and not
08 paid by people who do not live here: Number one,
09 there's a real estate transfer tax of \$3.7 percent of
10 the amount paid on the selling price of a house
11 building or land. The seller and buyer each pay
12 50 percent of the tax; number two, Scrantonians must
13 have deducted from their paycheck each week 3.4 percent
14 of the total wages they earn. 1 percent is the school
15 tax, and 2.4 goes to the city; for example, if you earn
16 \$400 a week, there is deducted from your pay \$13.60 per
17 week or \$707.20 for the year; number three, then
18 Scranton has a mercantile tax of 1 mill on those who
19 are in business in Scranton.

20 Could City Council please inform
21 me if the businesses who purchased land in KOZs and
22 don't pay any real estate taxes, are they also excused
23 from paying the mercantile tax?
24 Also, can anyone inform me if you
25 are employed by a business who bought land in a KOZ,
0040

01 are you free from paying the wage tax?
02 Number four, anyone would lives
03 and works in Scranton must also pay an occupation
04 privilege tax of \$15, which may be increased to \$52,
05 but the people who live outside Scranton and work here
06 pay only \$10 for the occupational privilege tax; number
07 five, Scranton also has a business privilege tax of
08 1 mill to catch all Scrantonians who are not required
09 to pay the mercantile tax, number six, all people in
10 Scranton who own a house or building must pay the real
11 estate taxes on that property. This is on top of the
12 48 percent increase in county real estate taxes for
13 2005; number seven, last but not least, Scranton
14 residents must pay a garbage fee of \$178 a year. This
15 is much more than our surrounding communities, some of
16 who pay only \$50 a year.
17 With Scranton residents subject to
18 five or six different high taxes, is it any wonder that
19 people leave Scranton for the suburbs to live and
20 conduct business where they can save money on their

21 taxes?
22 When Mr. Connors was mayor, his
23 budget showed the city received an average of \$150,000
24 each year from the golf course operation. The money
25 was put into the city's general funds. It was listed
0041
01 as a line item in Mr. Connors' budget.
02 I previously stated, I do not have
03 detailed knowledge of the line items in the 2005
04 budget. We do know, however, that when Mr. Doherty
05 sold the golf course, he had the net amount received
06 invested in certificates of deposit to generate
07 interest of about \$50 to \$60,000 a year.
08 I cannot find any line item in the
09 2005 operating budget which shows this interest to be
10 received by the city. Could anyone please point out to
11 me a page and line item number in the budget which
12 shows receipt of the interest from the CDs bought from
13 the golf course sale?
14 Speaking of interest,
15 Mr. Doherty's interest earnings on Page 5 shows
16 \$90,000 as the amount of revenue for the 2004 revised
17 operating budget.
18 It also shows that the city
19 actually received \$54,270 dollars to the end of August
20 2004. One can expect that the city will receive
21 interest earnings at the same rate to the end of 2004.
22 This means for one-third of the
23 remaining year, 2004, the city should have received a
24 total of \$81,405 in interest earnings; however, for the
25 year 2005, Mr. Doherty's budget projects the city will
0042
01 receive \$150,000 or \$68,595 more than will be actually
02 received based on the interest received in 2004 to
03 August 31, 2004. May I continue?
04 MR. DIBILEO: We're beyond,
05 Regina.
06 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Okay. All right.
07 Thank you.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Erik
09 Johnson.
10 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson,
11 taxpayer, Scranton. Good evening, City Council, and
12 Lisa and the staff here.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
14 MR. JOHNSON: My son made another
15 visitation to me, and he just wanted to let me -- let
16 everybody know that he's very impressed with what has

17 happened to that project over there on Providence Road.
18 He says it's -- he said it used to be an eyesore, but
19 he says, I just can't get over the impressed work that
20 was done there.

21 I mean, you know, he lives in
22 Wilkes-Barre, see, and he said -- but he's also
23 concerned of his fellow police officers and the fire
24 department, but he says, Dad, I have to say this, he
25 says, Scranton does have a 100 percent uplift in
0043

01 improvements of the facelift in Scranton, Pennsylvania,
02 and I'm just saying that without reading it, because I
03 remember him telling me word for word, so I don't need
04 to read that, you know.

05 Also, the Scranton Times Tribune
06 didn't mention there was a meeting supposedly being
07 held tonight, and usually they do print that in the
08 paper. No indication of it at all.

09 And so getting down to other
10 businesses, it says, I mean, it's election time again,
11 this coming Tuesday, May the 17th. Get your vote out
12 and he elect a candidate you feel and observe that
13 would serve you with efficiency, beneficiary and with
14 fairness, wiseful, considerate, progressable for growth
15 and will keep our city safe and tough against drugs,
16 gangs and numerous other crimes. Remember to chose
17 carefully with your vote.

18 There's candidates for County
19 Judge, I mean for the one county Judge seat, for
20 City Council, and for the Mayor of Scranton, which
21 includes three candidates running for that job.
22 The three political job
23 descriptions are very, very important to us all now and
24 years head. Again, I say chose carefully.

25 I went to a political campaign
0044

01 rally, and it was quoted that voters will not be
02 influenced by poll workers, and with indication of
03 little importance, so that leads me out for doing any
04 more campaigning.

05 My son Tuesday night who visited
06 me and said, Dad, did you get the message? You should
07 have gotten it years and years ago when you were
08 busting yourself and wasting energy, and after it was
09 all over, hardly got recognized for being one of the
10 best poll workers ever. Only one politician gave you
11 credit as being the best.

12 For now I need to take care of

13 matters that concern my daughter who was a Marine and
14 make a big important change in my life.
15 I never did accomplish anything as
16 for a job or any kind of award. I didn't expect it
17 either, so a new page is turning in my life before the
18 book closes.

19 Anyway, there's more concern about
20 this election, who is going to get the Irish vote, the
21 Italian vote, but remember, and not to be forgotten,
22 there are Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, German, Welsh,
23 African Americans, Latinos and a few American Swedes,
24 like myself, who are minorities. All have to be
25 counted.

0045

01 The bottom line, we all are
02 Americans first. National origin is a secondary
03 concern of yourself and after being first American.
04 Political campaigning or just
05 plain politics can be revengeful and dirty and
06 prejudice, and in some cases dishonest, untrue and
07 inconsiderate.

08 There once was a political
09 fund-raising list of who contributed for an important
10 candidate years ago. This was for people who
11 contributed \$1,000 or more.
12 I looked in the \$1,000 list, I
13 told my wife then, Where are our names? We contributed
14 \$1,100. She replied back, I'm also finished, all
15 right? I got the last line, all right? All right.
16 She replied back with a Brenda Lee
17 song, Fool number one, referring to herself and told me
18 to sing a fool never learns.
19 My small daughter at that time
20 said, Daddy, I'll sing it for you, I know the words,
21 and sure enough she sang the whole song for me. Thank
22 you for allowing me to speak.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you Erik.
24 I thought you were going to start singing there for a
25 minute. Peter Munley.

0046

01 MR. MUNLEY: Peter Munley,
02 1506 Frowd Avenue, Scranton. Mr. Pocius knows
03 something about what I'm going to speak about,
04 because --
05 MR. DIBILEO: Peter, you might
06 want to lift the microphone up a little higher so we
07 can hear you.
08 MR. MUNLEY: Okay. About, I'd say

09 roughly about a little more than a year and a half ago,
10 my wife and I moved up to Frowd Avenue. My wife got
11 cancer, she had a 20-pound tumor. She said, you know,
12 I'd like to have a little bit bigger kitchen before I
13 die.
14 Now, we had previously lived on
15 Meadow Avenue, the 600 block of Meadow Avenue, and even
16 before we had a positive diagnosis of cancer, I knew my
17 wife had cancer, because every woman who is
18 post-menopausal lived in the 600 block of Meadow Avenue
19 either died of cancer or got cancer.
20 So, in any event, we moved up to
21 Frowd. My wife was operated on and got chemotherapy,
22 and the house just worked out wonderful with the
23 numerous bathrooms, as anyone that had keep
24 chemotherapy knows how important they are.
25 During the winter, we live on the
0047

01 end of Frowd, they plowed the streets, so all the snow
02 ends up at the end of Frowd where we live, plus the
03 water runoff was pretty tremendous, so when I went out
04 the one day, I looked in my yard and I noticed there
05 was erosion coming out of the city's drainage pipe that
06 runs under my driveway to take some of the water away.
07 It was only a small amount of
08 erosion, so I called the city, but nobody showed up.
09 And then after that, I -- I want to make sure I get
10 this in the order in which it was done, I contacted
11 Mr. Saunders, and I don't know if he remembers, he sent
12 a letter out along -- he suggested my name be put on
13 with a number of others that had problems that was
14 going down to DPW, yes.

15 Then after that, my wife, she was
16 pretty concerned about it, because we were getting more
17 and more rain, and she was talking -- I was telling my
18 daughter about it, and she knows as well as anybody
19 else who has had a member in the family of cancer, that
20 if you're not upset when you're in the healing process,
21 it seems to, with the help of God, make things go
22 better.

23 So, she was pretty upset. And she
24 lives just right around the corner from Mr. Pocius,
25 which she had called him, and to his credit, he was up
0048

01 there within a flash, along with his wife, in fact, I
02 felt so sorry, you know. I think she must have called
03 you around super time.
04 So, anyway Mr. Pocius had looked

05 at the problem and he said he would contact these
06 people downstairs in the DPW.
07 Well, after a few weeks went by,
08 we had Mr. Luciani and Mr. Matthews had come up, but
09 prior to that, there was some excess flooding in the
10 city and they were pretty well jammed up, so they said,
11 you know, we'll put you on the list.
12 And I said, Well, I didn't believe
13 there was a list, and he assured me that there was a
14 list, and that if I cared to come downtown, that
15 they've initiated a list, that all these projects will
16 be put on the list and be taken care of right in
17 order.
18 And I said, boy, this is the first
19 time I've ever heard of the city ever doing this, but
20 he said, I assure you it is. You come down and take a
21 look at it. May I finish?
22 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.
23 MR. MUNLEY: Then at Thanksgiving
24 the city showed up with their trucks or just before
25 Thanksgiving and they said, Well, you're next on the
0049
01 list, we're going to do you. It's coming up in the
02 next couple of days. I said, Beautiful, beautiful.
03 Then the guys comes back a couple
04 days later and said, Well, you know, it's Thanksgiving
05 holiday, how about we just let you go? I said, Well,
06 what can I do, right?
07 Christmas came. Before Christmas
08 they showed up with the trucks there and I said, Oh,
09 boy, here it goes. Yeah, you're on the list, we're
10 going to guy.
11 A big guy comes back up again and
12 says, Well, you know, with Christmas coming, we don't
13 want to really dig you up now and wreck Christmas for
14 you, let's put it off. Easter, the same thing again.
15 In the interim, there were numbers
16 of contractors up there from the Sewer Authority.
17 They're going to put in a pumping station underground
18 right in front of my house, so they have to dig up that
19 street to do that.
20 Now they have to dig up my
21 driveway to get at this pipe. And I called
22 Mr. Luciani a few weeks ago to ask him to call me back
23 to see when it was, because I'd like to have a yard
24 sale to get rid of some of the stuff that we had from
25 the other house, please, sir, just let me finish this,
0050

01 all right, and the guy never got back to me.
02 Today they come up and they milled
03 the street, Mr. Pocius, they milled the street to lay
04 down blacktop, but the Sewer Authority is going to dig
05 a hole right in the middle of the street where our
06 place is.
07 Even if they paved the street to
08 fix that pipe, they're going to have to dig the street
09 up again. You know, I know you told me it would be in
10 good hands, but it seems like the right hand doesn't
11 know what the left hand is doing or there's an octopus
12 there, because the Sewer Authority sure as heck isn't
13 telling the city. The city doesn't know that one DPW
14 crew is supposed to dig up the street, while the other
15 one is supposed to pave it.

16 It's just like -- I'm just going
17 crazy, and it just seems like, you know, everything is
18 just -- it's just all messed up.
19 And to top it all, to really top
20 it all, the last lady at Meadow Avenue, who is very
21 close to me, she ends up with breast cancer.
22 Now, that street or my pipe is
23 going to eventually be done, it really is, and I've
24 listened to you people up here talking about taxes and
25 what have you, but I know next Council, please, my
0051

01 street, something will happen to it, but at least start
02 looking into the health of this community for the next
03 time around, because there's something radically wrong
04 here.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

06 MR. MUNLEY: Can you find out what
07 they're going to do, because if they pave it and then
08 they dig it, it's nuts.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Peter, can I suggest
10 that you speak with Jay directly and have him look into
11 this and help him look into that situation?

12 MR. MUNLEY: Mr. DiBileo, you
13 know, I'm sorry to see you go as the Council President
14 and, you know, I wish you well on whatever -- who knows
15 what is going to happen, but the honest to God truth
16 is, like, they don't listen to you downstairs. And,
17 you know, Mr. Pocius made that comment, so what does it
18 mean when we're here?

19 So, you know, I mean, just don't
20 pave the street then dig it up and then not pave it.
21 You know what I'm afraid of now, every neighbor on
22 Frowd Avenue, if they stop paving, is going to blame

23 this on me, because they've already milled it, they're
24 getting ready to go.
25 Now you've got to intercede with
0052
01 the Sewer Authority, you've got to intercede with those
02 people, and I just want to see it get done.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Pete, just leave
04 your phone number right there with Before you go, okay,
05 and --
06 MR. MUNLEY: I'm sorry for taking
07 up your time, you know I don't come down here very
08 often, because generally, you know, with diabetes and
09 all the other stuff that I have, I don't get a chance
10 to, but I do watch you people religiously, and I think
11 for next Council you better establish some kind of a
12 health committee, because just remember, if you were
13 watching television that AIDS is on the rise in the
14 northeast, and the biggest portion of it was in the age
15 13 age group. You know what it's from, tattoos. You
16 people can legislate on using autoclave or anything
17 else.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
19 Mr. Munley. We'll try to help you out with that.
20 Sorry for your troubles.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Charlie Newcomb,
22 Senior.
23 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening,
24 Council.
25 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
0053
01 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Just a few
02 topics this evening, and I will take your advice about
03 election comments.
04 One of the speakers tonight
05 mentioned about people coming here as citizens, you
06 know, speaking on items. Well, I do know that
07 Mr. DiBileo, Mrs. Evans, you were here before you were
08 a councilperson, and Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Gatelli were
09 here, so those people did care enough to come here and
10 speak on items that they had of -- that were legitimate
11 to them.
12 Again, I'd just like to speak
13 on -- there was an article in the newspaper, we are
14 better off, just my opinion on this as a taxpayer, the
15 property taxes, I'm sorry, the property values, some of
16 them did increase, but if anybody is into real estate,
17 the average home does increase by, like, 6 percent
18 anyway with real estate prices, so I think your homes

19 are going to go up anyway, regardless of what city that
20 they're in.

21 And are we better off financially?

22 well, what we have to remember is in the beginning of
23 this year with the budget, I believe the administration
24 wanted -- it was over \$12 million to make ends meet,
25 and we were threatened with payless paydays.

0054

01 Well, thank you to Mrs. Evans and

02 Mr. DiBileo and Mr. Courtright, the employees were
03 paid, and I feel that this money was asked for because
04 of no-bid deficit spending. Something to think about.

05 And just to touch on the lady who

06 spoke over there on Dickson Avenue, I was also -- lived
07 over in that area for many years, and I bought a home
08 over in West Side which I reside in since 1999, but my
09 mother-in-law still lives in the 1600 block of Dickson
10 Avenue. She just celebrated her 80th birthday this
11 week.

12 Her home is loaded with dust every

13 day. She has breathing problems, which she goes to the
14 doctor on a daily basis for, which she didn't have
15 these problems two years ago, like she has now.

16 I believe it was Mr. Hazzouri,

17 when he sat on the end here, wanted to pass a no-ban
18 truck ban up there by Marywood College where the kids
19 were going to school because they were saying it was
20 bothering people with the trucks and they were trying
21 to job and everything else, so I believe maybe what we
22 are going to have to do a no-ban truck on
23 Dickson Avenue would help this out, because of it was
24 passed from Council, because there is a no trucks on
25 that street up there, from what I understand, when
0055

01 Council did pass that.

02 And I read in the paper all the

03 time about our public safety, and it was brought up
04 that crime is supposed to be down 30 percent, well,
05 just some of statistics that I have, I'm not going to

06 give you the street, but I'm going to give you the

07 area, I'm going to give you Tripps Park, in the
08 three-mile vicinity from Tripps Park, which spans well
09 over into my neighborhood over in Keyser Valley area,

10 does anybody know that sitting up there, Mr. Courtright

11 might know, because I know you're the liaison with the

12 police department, you do follow-up, does anybody know

13 how many Megan's Law offenders are registered in a

14 three-mile area in those three miles; do you have any

15 idea, Mr. Courtright?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I didn't until
17 recently. Somebody brought it to my attention
18 recently.

19 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Just, now a
20 city with 26 miles --

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Three-mile area,
22 I know.

23 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: In those
24 three-mile areas, we have 84 registered sex offenders
25 with the Megan's Law. So, why are these people here?
0056

01 Is our crime that low?

02 And another thing I'd like to
03 remind you of is that in the last 17 years in the
04 City of Scranton, 11 murders that were committed in the
05 City of Scranton were from people that were brought
06 here from Mississippi, Tennessee.

07 And I'm not going to say this
08 person's name, but I'm sure you've heard this before
09 and there's pictures of it to prove it, we seem to be
10 the "We'll Give You Everything" City.

11 In Port Authority in New York and
12 in Port Authority in Mexico there was a sign and it
13 said, If you are down on your luck and need some help,
14 come to Scranton, Pennsylvania and see, I'm not going
15 to mention the name, but a certain do-gooder that the
16 city always talks about, and we will give you \$50 cash
17 assistance and help you out with housing.

18 Well, three of those people that
19 came here, one in general was brought here, moved into
20 the Hill Section, lived here for about maybe two years,
21 and in that two-year period, ended up murdering and
22 stabbing a seven-year-old girl in the Hill Section.

23 So, those statistics are here, and
24 if we do have a city with 26 miles, and there's 84
25 registered sex offenders in a three-mile area, this
0057

01 town is not safe.

02 So, anybody who thinks that crime
03 isn't as bad as they say it is, just remember, 84 in a
04 three-mile area.

05 And, Mr. DiBileo, as a taxpayer, I
06 just have to ask you a question, as a councilman,
07 whether this Council or the previous one, and I came to
08 a lot of the meetings, I just don't remember, did you
09 as a councilman voting reducing public safety for
10 police cars and fire trucks? Did you ever vote on

11 anything like that?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Charlie, if you

13 don't mind, I'd like to address that in 5th order.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Oh, okay.

15 MR. DIBILEO: I'll answer that

16 question.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Then

18 I'll wait for then. But just on closing, like

19 everybody mentioned here tonight, I'm not going to

20 stand here and tell anybody who to vote for, but it is

21 your own prerogative, but just look at everything and

22 listen to what's in the newspaper, listen to what

23 people say up here at the podium.

24 The crime statistics are there, if

25 anybody wants to go look at them. So, just remember,

0058

01 when you do go, the election will be decided next

02 Tuesday, it's not going to be decided in November.

03 So, whoever does, whoever you vote

04 for, please make sure when you push those levers, that

05 it's definitely going to be for a vote to move the city

06 forward and to make things a lot better than they are

07 now. Thank you.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

09 Mr. Newcomb. John Litwinski.

10 MR. LITWINSKI: Good evening, City

11 Council, members of the community. My name is

12 John Litwinsky, 530 Gordon Avenue.

13 One thing I'm really wondering

14 about is, I'm not a college graduate, but every time I

15 see this restoring pride in the city, I just don't

16 comprehend it.

17 I mean, I don't believe restoring

18 pride means to cut our police force, restoring pride

19 means to close two fire stations. Like, our police are

20 doing a tremendous job with what they have to work

21 with, our fire department, also.

22 Our roads, restoring pride, look

23 at Olive and Capouse, a Main route to the high school

24 coming from the east side.

25 Another thing is the continuous

0059

01 flooding that takes place in Sandy Banks and the Plot

02 Sections. Okay, for us, this is our sixth time since

03 '95.

04 I don't know if anybody here has

05 ever been flooded before, but it's really sickening,

06 absolutely sickening that you live in fear of the

07 rain.
08 Flood insurance is a complete
09 joke, they pay for nothing. They don't pay for hardly
10 any contents, holes in your foundation. You know,
11 September of '04, I was running a job in Florida for
12 the Army Corps and FEMA, I get home, my front porch is
13 gone, my front steps are gone.
14 My insurance tells me, Oh, we're
15 going to pay. All they pay you for is a set of steps
16 and a 4 foot by 4 foot area. So, you've got to replace
17 the rest of your porch yourself, on top of all your
18 belongings that you lose.
19 The Office of Surface Mining was
20 at my house Tuesday of this week. Why? Because
21 another hole opened up in my front yard. September of
22 '04, a different hole opened up in my backyard. Office
23 of Surface Mining was there.
24 Okay. The tunnel that goes
25 through my yard is weekend from the previous floods and
0060
01 my yard is depressed. All right, I can handle that.
02 I just -- it's unacceptable, you
03 know, you have tough storm water and sewage entering
04 homes, you know, homes with electricity in them. Like.
05 It doesn't mix.
06 You know, plenty of the homes have
07 children and plenty of the homes have elderly people in
08 them. And our mayor, like, it's just unacceptable to
09 me. Like, he knows this is a very serious problem, and
10 to do nothing about it, is completely ridiculous,
11 completely ridiculous, and I can't comprehend that.
12 It's like you have blinders on and you can only look a
13 certain way, you don't want to help the people out.
14 My neighbor has asked me, they
15 say, John, what are you going to do about this? Well,
16 I told them, if I don't get any help from our mayor,
17 which I haven't so far, that this summer I'm going to
18 get my own excavator and I'll dredge the river myself.
19 So, okay, it's illegal, you're
20 going to go to jail, so I continue to live with this
21 problem allowing it to happen. You know, either dredge
22 the river -- I'll protect my families, I'll do what I
23 have to do.
24 They even ask me, they say, John,
25 why do you even go to the City Council meetings? The
0061
01 mayor isn't going to help you out.
02 And I said, you know what, I found

03 that out, that the mayor isn't helping us out. But
04 surprisingly enough, it was a few weeks ago that
05 someone here came to my house, spent about a half an
06 hour with me looking at photos, how I get flooded and
07 took his time out of his busy day, and it wasn't his
08 job to do this, but I'd like to thank Mr. DiBileo for
09 doing that, for coming to my house and sitting down and
10 taking the time.

11 And that, you know, it's really
12 nice that actually somebody shows an interest in you.
13 And it was just me that he met with, it wasn't a whole
14 group of people, a neighborhood, it was just me, and
15 that really meant something.

16 And following our meeting, the
17 sewer lids that were missing for the past six months
18 have been replaced. Okay. That's just a band-aid,
19 it's a cover-up, I mean, it's not a cure to our
20 flooding situation, but at least it's a start.

21 And you know, I have friends that
22 work at the DPW and the Sewer Authority, and I'm not
23 blaming any of these people, I mean, there's a lot of
24 great people there, but I do want to thank you again,
25 Mr. DiBileo, for at least stepping forward and coming
0062

01 to my house and doing such.

02 MR. DIBILEO: My pleasure, John.

03 MR. LITWINSKI: And, you know, the
04 DPW and the Sewer Authority is not to blame. The man
05 to blame is our mayor, the man at the helm. And, you
06 know, he's the guy that calls all the shots, but he's
07 not even looking at the target. Thank you.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, John.

09 We're going to try to get Mr. Lennox from the Sewer
10 Authority down to your area as soon as we can so that
11 he can address the situation.

12 I spoke to him on the phone and
13 don't understand fully what he's trying to explain to
14 me, but we'll try to get it answered. Thank you. I
15 appreciate your help. Cathy Beck.

16 MS. BECK: Good evening, Council.

17 Cathy Beck, city resident.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

19 MS. BECK: Once again, it is the
20 frustration brought on by the claims of this
21 administration and the unwaivering blind support of
22 this administration exhibited by our local newspaper
23 that brings me here this evening.

24 The Scranton Times, according to a

25 recently editorial, has endorsed Chris Doherty partly
0063
01 due to his success in obtaining a AAA bond rating.
02 Let's not forget that the city
03 actually received a BBB rating from Standard and Poor.
04 A BBB bond rating by definition means that the city
05 has adequate capacity to meet its financial
06 commitments; however, adverse economic conditions or
07 changing financial circumstances are more likely to
08 lead to a weakened capacity of the obligator to meet
09 its financial commitments.
10 I must admit that the Paper did
11 finally went on to say that the city spent \$1.2 million
12 on an insurance policy to get the better rating, but
13 saved \$1.5 million in interest. That to me sounds like
14 a net savings of possibly \$300,000.
15 On June 10, 2003, the Scranton
16 Times reported that Councilman Thomas Gilhooley praised
17 city officials for obtaining a BBB rating that was
18 going to save the city about \$500,000.
19 I realize a \$300,000 savings
20 should not be taken lightly, and the mayor should
21 certainly realize the value of \$300,000. After all,
22 that's approximately the amount of money he spent on
23 the water slid at Nay Aug, the initial amount spent on
24 the Christmas lights for Nay Aug, not including the
25 subsequent purchases and maintenance, one-third the
0064
01 amount of a contract awarded to Kalinosky landscaping
02 for Nay Aug, and approximately one half of the \$700,000
03 deposit received from the University of Scranton for
04 the sale of the South Side Complex that was used to
05 purchase the reflecting pond at Nay Aug Park.
06 There is much more to be said,
07 however, with limited time, I would like to address the
08 matter of crime in the city.
09 First let me say that I don't
10 think anyone was trying to get the panic train running
11 here, as indicated by the administration and the
12 newspaper, but it is very important to realize that a
13 problem does exist.
14 I have visited the FBI's uniform
15 crime report website and there has been an increase in
16 crime. This is magnified by the fact that with a drop
17 in population, the chances of one being affected
18 directly or indirectly by crime will increase.
19 Although the city received a
20 ranking of the sixth safest city, this is out of 100

21 cities ranked, not out of the entire country. Don't be
22 confused.
23 This is an admirable rating,
24 however, it does not indicate that the crime rate is
25 dropping in the city. After all, we could slip to
0065
01 10th, 15th, 20th, or worst, if the potential is not
02 taken seriously.
03 I am extremely disappointed in the
04 comment by Director of Safety Hayes when he stated that
05 elderly is the group most fearful of crime, even though
06 they are the least likely to be victims.
07 If you actually believe this, why
08 didn't you speak with the 70-plus-year-old woman who
09 had her purse snatched earlier this week in the 400
10 block of Willow Street in South Side or the
11 70-plus-year-old woman who had her purse snatched last
12 week in the Green Ridge Shopping Center, the
13 70-plus-year-old man that had his car carjacked last
14 month in the South Side Shopping Center, or more
15 importantly the elderly woman who tried to protect her
16 purse from being snatched a year or so ago outside
17 Smith's Restaurant on Cedar Avenue in South Side and
18 who later died from the incident.
19 There are those running from
20 offices this election that sincerely and genuinely
21 care. Please don't forget the importance of the safety
22 of the young, the old, and the safety of our
23 neighborhoods in general when you exercise your right
24 to vote next Tuesday. Thank you.
25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Cathy.
0066

01 Fred Budzinski.
02 MR. BUDZINKSI: Fred Budzinski,
03 Jermyn Apartments. Since I moved to Scranton a couple
04 of years ago, three weeks ago I registered, I got this
05 from the registration. It says, Keep this card. Under
06 the law you can present this for identification to an
07 election official on election day. The first time you
08 vote in a new election district, present this card as
09 an acceptable form of identification. Well, I'll keep
10 this one when they question me.
11 I was surprised and many of my
12 friends were surprised to read yesterday's paper about
13 North Scranton High School is going to be into a tech
14 center.
15 Every time I pass that high school
16 on a bus, Colts Bus, I made it a point, I said, Folks,

17 look at that high school, ain't that a shame?
18 And I'm not going to tell you some
19 of the comments I got from people. And from what I
20 read in the paper, a lot of people was complaining.
21 Well, now that I see it's not
22 going to be a housing project, it's going to be a tech
23 center, probably bring in 400 jobs.
24 Well, like I said before, ten
25 years ago they could have marketed it that and maybe
0067
01 have a big industry in there to hire a couple
02 thousand.
03 Oh, yeah, I'm driving down from
04 North Scranton, you turn right on Albright Avenue, you
05 go left, and right by the Santana Plastic Corporation
06 across the street is the Scranton Lace Company,
07 Mr. Walsh, what is the status on the Scranton Lace
08 Company? Do you have anything on that?
09 MR. WALSH: I don't have anything
10 on that at this time, sir, no.
11 MR. BUDZINKSI: Well, someone said
12 that the University is interested in that.
13 MR. WALSH: Mr. Saunders may have
14 some information on that.
15 MR. SAUNDERS: I believe
16 Lackawanna Junior College has --
17 MR. BUDZINSKI: Is that a done
18 deal?
19 MR. SAUNDERS: If they have not
20 purchased the land, they are intending on or are
21 interested in purchasing the land.
22 MR. BUDZINKSI: Well, I believe
23 looking at that building, that could be divided into
24 three to four buildings, corporations. And if they get
25 a realtor, an outside realtor that advertises
0068
01 industrial buildings, I think it's possible they could
02 move that for the two buildings for, you know,
03 corporations. I have been looking at that one.
04 Now, as far as downtown, I don't
05 see no way downtown, especially Wyoming Avenue, to
06 grow. As I said before, until they get that
07 supermarket grocery store, that would be the spark to
08 bring that downtown up. Thank you.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Fred.
10 And, Fred, I think Lackawanna Junior or
11 Lackawanna College does have specific plans for the
12 Scranton Lace Company.

13 MR. BUDZINSKI: I'd think about
14 that and get an outside realtor that advertises in the
15 whole state, I think you're going to get results on
16 that one.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Fred.
18 Mike Dudek.

19 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. My name
20 is Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I do
21 want to preface my comments by saying what I have to
22 say, I don't want to be taken as a reflection upon
23 Ms. Shedlock.
24 I've known her for at least
25 fifteen years or more. She is a wonderful reporter and
0069

01 does a first rate job, but I do have some issues here
02 with something called the news censorship alliance, and
03 I want to highlight it by asking each and every member
04 of Council this question, and I'd appreciate it if you
05 would answer it for me.
06 We'll start with you, Mr. DiBileo,
07 as a candidate for City Council in your history as a
08 political person in this city, have you ever had the
09 right to be interviewed by the Times Tribune editorial
10 board?

11 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

12 MR. DUDEK: Okay. Mr. Courtright?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

14 MR. DUDEK: Mr. Pocius?

15 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

16 MR. DUDEK: Mr. McTiernan?

17 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

18 MR. DUDEK: Ms. Evans, I'd like
19 you to take a couple minutes and explain your
20 experience with this board.

21 MS. EVANS: With regard to this
22 election?

23 MS. DUDEK: Or any election.

24 MS. EVANS: When I first entered
25 the political arena for the office of Scranton School
0070

01 Director, I was interviewed by the Scranton Times, and
02 if memory serves me well, I was endorsed; however, two
03 years ago when I was running for the office of Scranton
04 City Council, I was never contacted by the editorialist
05 to be interviewed.
06 As for the current election, I
07 have not ever been contacted by the editorialists or
08 the editorial board to be interviewed for an

09 endorsement by the Scranton Times.
10 MS. DUDEK: I hope you all
11 understand, I think this should be made public
12 knowledge, and this is the only means that I have to
13 get this information out.
14 There is a list of organizations
15 that do belong to this news censorship alliance created
16 by Times Shamrock. Besides the Times and the Tribune,
17 the Citizens Voice belongs, Channel 22 and 28 belong to
18 it, as well as the Tunkhannock Examiner.
19 And whenever the Shamrock
20 organization acquired a property, they always made it
21 plain that each entity would have its own editorial
22 board and make their own editorial decisions.
23 Well, the bloom fell off that rose
24 this past week, okay? Whenever a congressman is the
25 subject of a police report, a police report only deals
0071
01 with one of two things, either a possible felony or a
02 possible misdemeanor, and the Constitution of the
03 United States sets aside specific reasons to remove a
04 congressman depending on the nature of the felony or a
05 misdemeanor.
06 Within the area covered by
07 Times Shamrock, one of its congressman was the subject
08 of a police report, I'm referring to congressman
09 Sherwood. You never read about it in the Times or the
10 Tribune, but you did in the New York Times, the
11 Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News,
12 Channel 16 picked up on it, because Channel 16 is an
13 independent news source.
14 The news sources locally that are
15 independent and that will go after the news are
16 Channel 16, Channel 61, Channels 38 and 56, the
17 Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, the Polish National and the
18 Union News out of Dunmore, and that's it.
19 So, I want to make the point here
20 that we are under a situation in which one very
21 powerful news organization, the news censorship
22 alliance, headed by Shamrock Communication is doing
23 everything it can to shake the outcome of this
24 election, both for city council and for mayor. That's
25 the only point I want to make tonight. Thank you.
0072
01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
02 Mr. Dudek. That's all I have on the sign-in sheet.
03 Are there any other speakers?
04 MR. PILCHESKI: Good evening

05 City Council. My name is Joe Pilcheski, city resident
06 for over 50 years.
07 I'd like to start by saying that I
08 truly admire and respect all these nice people who come
09 here and speak their minds on whatever they have to
10 say. It takes some guts, and for some, a lot of
11 preparation.
12 What most people don't know is
13 there are many others who would like to come and do the
14 same, but those who appear here can verify appearing
15 could have intended consequences relating to various
16 forms of retaliation by this administration.
17 That alone has scared many
18 speakers away who were once regulars here, and stories
19 about retaliation have kept silent people with
20 important information to share with taxpayers and
21 voters.
22 It's a shame in these days of
23 freedom of expression, nice people have to worry about
24 retaliation just for speaking the simple truth, but
25 it's real.

0073

01 The presence of retaliation is
02 more prevalent in this administration that I've seen in
03 30 years. As I've stated, I admire all these nice
04 people who speak, but I am not like them.
05 By that I mean, I am not nice like
06 them and I don't care about this administration's
07 aggressive retaliation tactics.
08 It's been over 30 years since I
09 stood at this very podium. The mayor back then was
10 Jim McNulty, and there was no five-minute time limit on
11 freedom of speech, there was no Channel 61, and WILK
12 carried the Council meetings live on the radio.
13 Back then I was a city employee
14 fired by the mayor for running my big mouth, is what he
15 told me. I didn't like that older workers were given
16 the hard jobs, while younger workers went to Dunmore to
17 plant gardens and paint porches, among other things.
18 Some things haven't changed.
19 I planned one appearance before
20 Council to give the mayor a little shot back a few
21 months before his election, but something happened,
22 when I got home I had over 30 messages from people who
23 also wanted to take a shot at the mayor, but feared
24 speaking up due to retaliation, so I ended up appearing
25 at Council for weeks upon weeks with inside information

0074

01 about dirty politics, squandered money deals and
02 retaliation.
03 The more I appeared, the more
04 information I received from people within the
05 administration who were not happy with they mayor. Jim
06 McNulty lost that election.
07 But just like this very podium,
08 some things haven't changed, and one of them is that
09 the Scranton Times still believes it can manipulate the
10 minds and hearts of the voters and taxpayers through
11 articles written to betray the truth and raise their
12 candidates to stolen victory.
13 They say the same things now about
14 Chris Doherty that they said about Jim back then. He's
15 the favorite, he's loved by all the people, he has
16 Scranton going in the right direction, we need four
17 more years of his leadership.
18 To all the people who work at the
19 Scranton Times I say, A lot of voters were born at
20 night, but not last night.
21 The problems you have with a
22 one-newspaper town is that the newspaper tries to
23 manipulate elections through oppression and selective
24 untrue articles, which is the case in this election.
25 Listen to me, this town was

0075

01 founded on the blue collar blood and sweat of men and
02 women who will still work very hard every day to keep
03 this town afloat with their tax dollars.
04 It also has a very extensive
05 military presence, which is being ignored by this
06 administration, that I personally detest.
07 These people have made their dream
08 of owning a home come true in Scranton, and they
09 deserve completely open and honest competent government
10 at all times. They are aren't getting it.
11 Instead they're being disrespected
12 and politically manipulated with lies and deceit.
13 There's much to say about this administration that you
14 will not read in the local newspaper, but as I
15 experienced once before, once you let people know that
16 you want to speak, as I have, several months ago, they
17 will come forward with information.
18 I now have a great deal of
19 information, but I have no newspaper, have no TV, and I
20 have no radio show, but what I do have is the skill to
21 write and the backbone to write the truth without
22 concern about retaliation from this administration. I

23 also have a computer and a wonderfully skilled wife who
24 knows how to use it.

25 I have the desire to get the truth

0076

01 to the taxpayers about this administration before they
02 vote. On Monday morning they only need to turn to
03 www.Dohertydeceit.com to get that truth. Thank you
04 very much.

05 MR. WALSH: Again, Mr. DiBileo, I

06 believe that the speakers can convey their points
07 without actually talking about elections, they can
08 convey what their opinions are with respect to the
09 performance of city officials without actually
10 mentioning elections.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

12 Mr. Walsh. And if speakers would abide by what

13 Mr. Walsh is saying, we'd greatly appreciate that.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,

15 Council. Charlie Newcomb, Jr. There's been a lot of
16 talk up here about the Scranton Times and the
17 editorials, and I don't buy the newspaper, but I also
18 have a computer, and that's where I do my reading of
19 the opposite, I guess we'll say, from what happens
20 here.

21 An editorial that I read this past

22 week that people have spoke about before blew my mind.

23 I read -- I assume it was from an editor that was from

24 outside the city, who doesn't even live in the city,

25 telling us who the right candidates are to vote for.

0077

01 One part that was left out that is

02 a pet peeve of mine and a pet peeve of many and

03 hopefully will be a major factor in this upcoming

04 election is that two of the candidates that the

05 Scranton Times approved, if that's the word you want to

06 use, collect an illegal pension from the taxpayers.

07 Four of you on Council don't

08 collect a pension, but you, Mr. Pocius, do, and I won't

09 be political, but there's another candidate that is

10 running who sat here for 12 years before that collects

11 a pension.

12 I asked the question a couple of

13 weeks ago, and we're going to have Mr. Walsh look into

14 it, and are we paying for Mr. Hazzouri to be

15 represented by Mr. Hickey in the pension lawsuit?

16 MR. WALSH: That's an issue I

17 think that you would have to ask Mr. Hazzouri or the

18 lawyer who has entered his appearance. I don't know

19 that he would have the ability to communicate that
20 answer with me, so I don't have a specific answer to
21 that question.

22 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. I'm just
23 going by what you, Mr. Pocius, said a couple of weeks
24 ago that Mr. Hickey was representing Mr. Pocius and
25 Mr. Hazzouri, but I'm obviously not going to get the
0078

01 answer either, so I'm just going by what I was told.

02 I still can't get a hold of the

03 mayor regarding the quick response system, so I guess
04 that's dead in the water, hopefully not for long.

05 My father had said before while he

06 was up here and Ms. Xanthis was up here before and

07 spoke about the Dickson Avenue problem, and I brought

08 it up a couple of weeks ago, and just to make everybody

09 aware, I did come down to the office and Kay gave me

10 petitions to get signed to ban trucks on that street,

11 so hopefully that will come out positive and not

12 political and we can stop the trucks from going on that

13 street.

14 Tuesday is a very, very, very

15 important day, as like many people had said here

16 before. Well, even before I get to that, I have

17 something else I have to, I guess, ask a question.

18 Is it possible for this Council to

19 file an injunction to seize the fees for Nay Aug Park

20 since there has been a lawsuit filed? What I guess

21 what I'm trying to say is, Can we put a hold on the

22 five-dollar fee?

23 Because if a judge or whomever

24 rules in favor of the plaintiffs, we're going to have

25 to pay all that money back, so we're at jeopardy to
0079

01 possibly losing all that money, so I think the most

02 logical thing to do is to step in and say, let's put a

03 cease on these fees until we get a decision, and if the

04 judge says the deed is wrong, start the five-dollar

05 fee, put if the judge says the deed is right, we're

06 going to be in jeopardy. We're going to cost more

07 money than we're going to have to before, so I don't

08 know if that's possible to do.

09 MR. DIBILEO: That's a legal

10 question in my mind, Charlie, and I don't know if

11 possibly Mr. Walsh would like to address it.

12 MR. WALSH: Charlie, you're

13 testing me tonight. That's a good thing. An

14 injunction is a legal remedy that's used to prevent

15 people from doing things, generally speaking, and it's
16 a remedy that's generally given where money damages are
17 not sufficient.

18 So, if money won't compensate you
19 for the damage that's going to happen, perhaps you can
20 receive an injunction if you're going to be irreparably
21 injured.

22 I don't know that it would be in
23 the best interest of the city to have the Council
24 trying to enjoin the Rec. Authority from collecting a
25 fee, particularly because if there was to be an
0080

01 injunction filed, it would probably be the province of
02 the executive branch and the mayor through the legal
03 department to do that, rather than the Council.

04 So, to answer your question, I
05 don't believe that that's something that Council should
06 participate in at this time.

07 And, again, for anybody who's
08 wondering what an injunction is, it's simply a remedy
09 preventing somebody from doing something, and you're
10 looking for an injunction to prevent the collection of
11 the fee or looking for a remedy, which once the fee was
12 collected, would require the city to hold onto the
13 money; is that correct?

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yes.

15 MR. WALSH: And that again would
16 be something that the city through the legal department
17 would do if they felt it was proper; however, as you
18 know, the city has issued a legal opinion indicating
19 that the fee can be collected, and also the
20 Recreational Authority attorney has also done the same.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, can
22 citizens file an injunction then? Would they be able
23 to do that against the city just until a decision comes
24 about?

25 MR. WALSH: Are you asking
0081

01 successfully?

02 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, no, I'm
03 just asking if it can be done. We know what we're
04 going against. I don't know if it can be --

05 MR. WALSH: You know, I really
06 don't want to be the person to tell somebody what they
07 have to do to sue the city, since in part I'm sitting
08 here representing the city. You know, I'd be
09 representing both sides of the fence there.

10 But to answer your question,

11 there's a lot of good lawyers out there that you can
12 consult on that particular issue.
13 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay. If I
14 have a minute left, if anybody doesn't know, I have
15 lived in this city my entire life, my family has lived
16 in this city its entire life, I started coming to these
17 meetings when I had to come for a communications class
18 in college, and at that time Channel 61 was not in
19 these chambers, and there was only a handful of people,
20 and I've told this story before, and something happened
21 at that meeting that just blew me away, and I made it a
22 mission of mine to see what our elected officials
23 really do behind closed doors.
24 And I am in the process of
25 purchasing a home, and that was a very big decision on
0082
01 my part to decide whether I want to stay in this city
02 or not.
03 And honestly, I don't know if I
04 should have the closing before or after May 17th,
05 because we could have some problems, I guess, down the
06 road.
07 My point is, if the people of
08 Scranton listen to what happens at these meetings, I
09 firmly believe you learn a lot more than what you read
10 in the newspaper.
11 And I don't want to see firehouses
12 close, I don't want to see any more cops be taken off
13 the street, I can't afford the wage tax to go up any
14 more, I can't stand seeing in the newspaper how people
15 are getting mugged, robbed, beaten, and I don't believe
16 that any City Councilperson should be paid a pension
17 out of my paycheck.
18 So, what I say to everybody is,
19 I'm not going to tell you what I'm going to do on
20 Tuesday, but if you listen here, hopefully you'll make
21 the same decision. Thank you.
22 MR. DAVIS: My name is
23 Jim Davis, I'm a resident of Scranton. The reason why
24 I'm here is because last week I was listening to
25 someone I had met before from Williamsport and he was
0083
01 talking about the death of his son, a 16-year-old shot
02 out in front of his house.
03 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry, Jim,
04 where did you hear that?
05 MR. DAVIS: Williamsport. It was
06 on Channel 16, it was on the news. I don't want that to

07 happen here, nobody does. It's a very strange thing.
08 I was at a conference with his
09 father, the kid that got shot, his father, many months
10 ago, and he was saying how protective he was with his
11 family and how he wanted to protect his family even
12 more, and at that time people were saying that there's
13 no reason to be afraid of what could happen.
14 And I saw him on television and I
15 was surprised, and I said, Wow, that's serious. And I
16 don't know what we're going to do about it. I don't
17 know what we're doing in our school system to make sure
18 that this does not occur.

19 And I know that we're not doing
20 anything politically. And I'm not going to say
21 anything about the politics, because the kids came to
22 me last week and he said, What happens when only
23 Democrats run? Doesn't that destroy the whole concept
24 of democracy?

25 If the only people you can vote
0084

01 for are Democrats, is that one sided, is that unfair,
02 is that unjust? And I said to them, I said, well, I'll
03 have to ask the City Council.
04 And I hope that in your closing
05 remarks, somebody says something about that, because
06 the kids are listening to you, I know that for a fact.
07 And no matter how much we try to
08 train them and try to educate them about being educated
09 in the ways of politics and knowing what your rights
10 are and knowing how to defend your rights, you come
11 down to the very same thing over and over again, Is
12 this Democracy or is this capitalism.

13 Now, if it's capitalism, then
14 let's call it what it is, because I can't lie to my
15 kids any more, I really can't.
16 When I want to teach them how to
17 run for an office or how to be politically minded and
18 how to be honorable and how to be ethical and how all
19 of these things make you into a good leader, I keep
20 losing it, because the people that are being put before
21 us, they jeopardize these positions.
22 They don't follow through for some
23 reason or another, they don't go right to the end, they
24 don't make the basket, they don't dunk the ball, as far
25 as being ethically correct.

0085

01 As far as the kids are concerned,
02 they have their own desires, as I'm quite sure the

03 principal knows. They have their own ideas, they have
04 their own concepts, they have their own definitions of
05 what honorable means.

06 And someone said before, your word
07 is your bond. When you say you're going to do
08 something, maybe we don't -- I'm old, I'm not going to
09 remember it, but the kids will.

10 So, I'm asking you as we go forth,
11 I'm still very much in love with Scranton, I'm a little
12 more afraid for it this week than I was last week,
13 because the same thing can happen to us here in
14 Scranton as happened in Williamsport and other cities
15 across the United States.

16 And this gang thing is -- it's
17 permeating all the way through the United States. I
18 saw a map where you can see blotches of it from Texas
19 all the way from California to New York.

20 It's going to happen, so we have
21 to come up with an answer for our kids. What are your
22 kids going to do if they are confronted with someone
23 who says I'm going to take your life? How are they
24 going to respond to that? How are we going to respond
25 to things that happen like that?

0086

01 It's important. It's important to
02 us now, and it should be even more important to us in
03 the future. Thank you for your time. I wish everybody
04 that's running for office the best of luck.

05 Just do a good job. Get us out of
06 this quagmire. And I saw that Throop City Council, and
07 I have one thing to say to them, if they take their
08 City Council and they put them up on a podium, put a
09 platform under them so that they're higher than the
10 rest of the crowd, they won't have that problem,
11 because then they'll have control of their crowd.

12 But that sounded worse than what
13 we ever saw in here. Even in the bad days when the
14 policeman was in the back and all that, we never saw
15 that.

16 But it's a start for them, and I'm
17 glad to see them going at it that way. From that,
18 they'll look at themselves and they'll see what they
19 did, what mistakes they made and they'll correct it,
20 because that's the way we are in this valley. We tend
21 to correct ourselves, and that's excellent. That's
22 nothing but good. Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

24 Mr. Davis.

25 MR. McANDREW: Good evening, Larry
0087

01 McAndrew.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

03 MR. McANDREW: I want to thank the
04 people that came out here before me this evening, the
05 topics that they addressed, and I also want to make a
06 comment about the Scranton Tribune and the Scranton
07 Times, their editorial section.

08 Without a doubt, this city needs
09 another newspaper. To influence or try to influence
10 with their editorials on making a decision on who our
11 mayor should be and who should represent us on City
12 Council is not right.

13 I attended the county
14 commissioners meeting yesterday and I seen our new
15 minority commissioner in action, Mr. Washko.
16 Mr. Washko had to defend his actions of why he put out
17 cooperation, why hard work was done to get
18 Steamtown Mall here.

19 This was a catalyst, as he defend
20 his answer, a catalyst in starting our downtown our
21 revitalization, our community effort here.
22 Mayor Doherty has taken credit for
23 all of this, but it is not all his doings. As these
24 other people have spoken here, there's a problem in
25 this city with crime. We cannot reduce police.

0088

01 As I have stated here previously,
02 we have kingpins that are waiting to see what the
03 outcome of this election is, to see where they could
04 set up to sell their drugs into this area. This must
05 not happen. We have to make the right decisions.
06 As Mr. Washko said, that was a
07 catalyst that started. We also have a catalyst on this
08 city government, in this City Council, three members,
09 Mrs. Evans, Mr. DiBileo, and Mr. Courtright, you
10 started this catalyst, you started a foundation, which
11 we have to build on. Let us continue. Thank you very
12 much.

13 May I say one more thing?

14 May 17, freedom is not easy to have, we have our and
15 daughters dying in foreign countries for that freedom,
16 when we get up May 17, let all of us take a moment to
17 remember their sacrifices. Get out and vote. Every
18 vote does count. Thank you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

20 Mr. McAndrew.

21 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I have
22 a question for the Council, I was wondering, is it
23 illegal for, I'll say, a politician to buy votes?
24 MR. DIBILEO: I would think so,
25 Ray. Yeah, that would be bad.
0089
01 MR. LYMAN: Is it illegal for
02 someone to buy votes, I mean, to give someone a job and
03 then pay them for that, for their vote, more than one
04 person?
05 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not going near
06 that one.
07 MR. LYMAN: I know two people that
08 were promised jobs, and I seen it in writing signed
09 by -- if I say his name --
10 MR. DIBILEO: No, don't.
11 MR. LYMAN: I should say his name.
12 MR. DIBILEO: No, you better not,
13 don't.
14 MR. LYMAN: I seen it on the
15 document.
16 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks for the
17 warning, but don't say it.
18 MR. LYMAN: But I'm wondering, is
19 it illegal, I mean, from you, is it illegal?
20 MR. WALSH: I'd like to take the
21 same position as the council president and defer on
22 that, but I guess I'm not allowed to.
23 Ray, yeah, I think it's illegal to
24 go out and buy people's votes. I don't think you can
25 do that, but, again, we don't want to really talk about
0090
01 the election. If there's things you want to say about
02 public officials or if you have questions about city
03 business --
04 MR. LYMAN: Well, then, our buddy
05 down there bought two guys' votes --
06 MR. WALSH: Yeah, that's not what
07 I mean by that. Ray, if you have a question --
08 MR. LYMAN: I mean, I'm an honest
09 person, and if it was running for mayor, he should be
10 impeached for doing that.
11 MR. WALSH: Yeah, but --
12 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, but you can't
13 say that that's something that's happening, Ray. I
14 mean, you can't -- don't say that.
15 MR. LYMAN: Well, the person I know
16 showed me the document, and my other friend, he showed

17 me the paper, too, signed by -- I'm not saying your
18 competitor --

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we better get
20 off this topic.

21 MR. WALSH: Yeah, that's a good
22 idea.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we got to --

24 MR. LYMAN: And you know who I'm
25 talking about, and he is the -- and it ain't Ms.
0091

01 McGuigan.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Is that it,
03 Ray? I appreciate it. Thanks, Ray. Do you have
04 anything else?

05 MR. LYMAN: Now let's talk about
06 crime. Mayor Chris Doherty says that we only have a
07 3 percent crime. Kevin Murphy stopped the purse
08 robber, a woman up last Friday at 9:30 was raped,
09 19 years old, a guy in Green Ridge was beaten up,
10 senior citizens are afraid, and he said on television,
11 Oh, there is no crime.

12 He's cutting police again now to,
13 what is it, 50, 50 police officers Chris Doherty said.

14 MR. DIBILEO: No, it's less than
15 that.

16 MR. LYMAN: Now we have gangs.
17 And he's going to cut fire and police and the fire
18 stations, and now we have child molesters in one
19 neighborhood. What was it, 84 child molesters,
20 Charlie Newcomb, Sr. said, 84 of them.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Ray.

22 MR. LYMAN: Now, my question is,
23 do you want this guy for four more years or do you want
24 safety again to have more police?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate it, Ray.
0092

01 Thank you. Thank you.

02 MR. LYMAN: I'm not supporting
03 anybody. That's all I'm saying.

04 MR. DIBILEO: I know, I know.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

06 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

07 My name is Nancy Krake.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

09 MS. KRAKE: I have one question
10 about the agenda, it's 5-B, and I'm just not familiar
11 with this process that the city transfers property, is
12 it, to the best of your knowledge, is it something that

13 we've done before or is this something new?

14 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Walsh, are you

15 familiar with the process?

16 MR. WALSH: Nancy, I'll take a

17 look at the legislation while you're speaking and try

18 to give you an answer.

19 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Nancy, I believe, if

21 I'm not mistaken, we did this with two pieces of land

22 recently. We just had --

23 MS. KRAKE: Has this gone through

24 a city tax sale? Does this city have quiet title?

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Well, you're

0093

01 getting over my head there?

02 MS. KRAKE: Because I see

03 something there. Maybe that's something you can look

04 at, Mr. Walsh, because it says record book, it doesn't

05 say, you know, whatever that means. It doesn't say

06 deed or -- but anyway, I appreciate that.

07 MR. DIBILEO: We'll look into

08 that, and before next week we'll address it.

09 MR. WALSH: I believe it's the

10 highest bidder, as well.

11 MR. POCIUS: Just record book is

12 the new way Mrs. McNulty keeps the -- they don't call

13 them deed books anymore, they're regular books. She

14 has changed the filing system in the courthouse.

15 MS. KRAKE: Is this the deed

16 number then or what is that number?

17 MR. POCIUS: That's where the deed

18 is filed. They're called record books now, Mrs. Krake.

19 MS. KRAKE: What is that? Is

20 that --

21 MR. WALSH: In the recorder of

22 deeds' office --

23 MS. KRAKE: No, I know what that

24 is, but that number then, is that the deed number?

25 MR. WALSH: The volume.

0094

01 MS. KRAKE: We're saying that's

02 the volume?

03 MR. WALSH: Volume and a page.

04 MS. KRAKE: Okay. That is just

05 fine. The year and all that needs to be there, though,

06 too, if you can just --

07 MR. WALSH: I believe that the year

08 would be on the back -- it's in the legislation. I

09 will be happy to share that with you after the meeting.
10 MS. KRAKE: Okay. Thank you.
11 I've seen the mayor's commercials and I have read the
12 ads mailed to me. I think that people can perceive the
13 reality of someone treating them as if they exist only
14 as a means to an end, in this case, to retain this
15 administration for another term.
16 We are not this mayor's priority,
17 or at least we haven't been for the past three and a
18 half years. Now he needs the average person's vote.
19 Now he's spending lots and lots and lots of money on
20 advertising to prove to us he's cared all along.
21 We know what his priorities are.
22 We know what and who he cares most about. Just look at
23 his first, second, third budgets which rewarded his
24 administration with large salary increases and
25 high-paying new jobs or his creation of work for
0095
01 campaign contributors. There's many other facts that
02 we've brought out over the past three years.
03 These folks were the big winners
04 over the past three and a half years. The taxpayers
05 are the losers, with the newly created loan deficit
06 courtesy of Mayor Doherty.
07 He doesn't brag about these facts
08 in his handbills, he does point out the improvement of
09 Nay Aug, however, and if he's allowed to continue, we
10 really will need green space. We'll all be looking for
11 someplace to grow vegetables when we've lost our homes
12 and jobs.
13 This can happen, if the mayor's
14 vision is realized. The University, for example, other
15 non-profits and KOZs would like to expand with the help
16 of our mayor at the expense of all other Scrantonians.
17 There aren't many ways to change
18 and grow as a community. We can do it with mutual
19 respect for the concerns of businesses and residents.
20 We can share the growing pains, or we can do it the
21 Doherty way, what he wants, when he wants it.
22 Let's take away the power from
23 this paper tiger. Let's give power back to the
24 people. May 17 is the day for taking our city back.
25 The Scranton Times, whose editors
0096
01 and writing staff seated here this evening do not live
02 in Scranton, but feed off of us. They have endorsed a
03 group of candidates.
04 I hope the people of Scranton

05 chose a different group of candidates. On May 17, we
06 can chose the candidates that have chosen the people
07 and the neighborhoods they live in. Thank you.

08 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies
09 and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi. I'm a city
10 resident and a member of the Scranton Fire Department.

11 As I try to do most weeks is just
12 did a little cleanup, because it's towards the end, and
13 just a couple things I want to clarify.

14 I think it was mentioned at this
15 podium that Mr. Pocius and Mr. Hazzouri are collecting
16 a pension, that is not exactly true, they're not
17 collecting a pension at this time. I'm happy to say
18 they're not old enough to collect a pension yet, but
19 apparently they want to keep their pension and collect
20 it when, you know, age-wise they become eligible for
21 it.

22 There was another thing mentioned
23 about the QRS system, and I've mentioned this before,
24 why such a good system that many municipalities do,
25 doesn't really cost a heck of a lot to run it,

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01 firefighters are willing to do it, vote overwhelmingly
02 to start it, and no one can seem to figure out why the
03 mayor doesn't want to do it, when I believe the public
04 safety director was for it and the fire chief was for
05 it. It seems like the mayor is the only one that's not
06 for it.

07 And, again, if I may offer my
08 opinion, when firefighters good out and save lives
09 every day, that's kind of going to go against the grain
10 of the agenda of ridicule against city employees.
11 It doesn't work real good when you
12 save somebody's life and then the mayor tells you that
13 we're like devils. People will tend not to believe it
14 anymore. That's the only reason why.

15 He keeps touting his recovery
16 plan, that it's going to save everything, you know,
17 we're going to finally get out of distressed status.
18 I would like to ask members of
19 Council up there, has the mayor ever, ever once or any
20 kind of details ever said to you what he's actually
21 going to do when he implements the recovery plan on the
22 police and fire department? Any idea what his
23 intention and what he's actually going to do when he
24 gains sole discretion to make all these decisions?
25 He's never said it, has he?

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01 MS. EVANS: No.

02 MR. GERVASI: Never said it to us

03 either. As a matter of fact, even the newspaper, who
04 carries his water, as far as I'm concerned, when the
05 mayor during the last referendum campaign says, And
06 don't be afraid, with police and fire vehicles behind
07 him, there will be no cuts in any city services and
08 public safety will improve. That's what he said, if he
09 gets his recovery plan.

10 And the Times is quite honest. At

11 the end they said, Mr. Doherty does not explain any
12 specifics about the plan in the commercial, and it just
13 ends with the request that they vote yes for the
14 referendum.

15 We've been saying for years, we

16 came here and nobody ever believed us because, you
17 know, frankly if you read the newspaper every day or
18 listen to what the Mayor Doherty P.R. machine that they
19 hired, the information that they release to the public
20 is that you would think that, you know, we were called
21 the blood-sucking paracytic unions in the City of
22 Scranton that are causing all the problems.

23 And we came here and we explained

24 to you what was in the recovery plan. Frankly, barely
25 anyone read it, including cabinet members themselves,
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01 because they were unaware.

02 I was called a liar during the

03 referendum after I actually read at a neighborhood
04 meeting right from the recovery plan, I was called a
05 liar.

06 And I said, Apparently you didn't

07 read the recovery plan, because everything I read, I
08 read right from the recovery plan.

09 Well, anyway, a long story short,

10 nobody really believed us on anything we said. We
11 predicted that crime would rise, that he was not going
12 to have any more grants for the police officers, and as
13 soon as he implements, you're going to start seeing
14 some bad things happen in the fire department.

15 Well, I think the problem is

16 financially -- getting back just a step, financially we
17 were told that he was going to raise of taxes if he did
18 not -- if people didn't vote for his recovery plan
19 because the city was broke, and I even noticed
20 Mr. Pocius, and I think it was the interview you did on
21 Channel 61, the candidate interview where you said that
22 the city is truly not going to go anywhere, I'm just

23 paraphrasing, truly not going to go anywhere because
24 our revenues are still less than our expenditures; is
25 that correct, what you said?

0100

01 MR. POCIUS: Not exactly. I don't
02 remember exactly what I said.

03 MR. GERVASI: It was kind of like
04 we spend more than we take in.

05 MR. POCIUS: What I said was, I
06 think I can quote this accurately in generalities,
07 saying that until our revenues match our expenses, it
08 won't be a true balanced budget without one-time
09 revenues. I think that was something along that line.

10 MR. GERVASI: Are you aware of the
11 2001, the year Mayor Doherty took office, independent
12 audit that clearly showed that there was a \$2.9 million
13 surplus, that revenues in fact were over expenditures
14 by, I believe, 3.9 percent and it continued to grow in
15 2002, where revenues outbased expenditures by almost
16 7 percent, and that there was a surplus for three
17 years.

18 And, please, you know, I don't
19 want anyone to believe me, because they just think I'm
20 just a union guy and, you know, I'm probably making
21 some of this stuff up, but I have a piece of paper
22 here, this is actual minutes from Councilman Doherty
23 October 1, 2001, the minutes from this meeting, where
24 he said himself and yourself and Mr. Hazzouri put the
25 pension deal together that, by the way, lost tens of
0101

01 millions of dollars and was outperformed by 95 percent
02 of all other managers in the country, and quote from
03 the mayor, and may I add had this is the second year in
04 a row that the city will finish in the black; meaning,
05 2000, 2001, and though it's through the efforts of
06 people of this body, and I will tell you again that
07 next year the city will also finish in the black, a
08 quote from Councilman Doherty.

09 A year later he told you he had to
10 raise your taxes because we were broke. We told you it
11 was a lie, and nobody believed us. But -- I'm sorry,
12 I'm a little off track here tonight, because, I mean,
13 I'm reading all of these -- the mayor's promises again.
14 He promised all these things last time and he didn't
15 actually produce them.

16 The ridicule that our unions took
17 for the last three years, when frankly the unions are
18 the reason why your taxes weren't raised in over

19 12 years because the cuts we took to save the city and
20 get it out of the black, and now the mayor is trying to
21 tell us that he needs the recovery plan, and there's a
22 \$6 million turnaround, when the facts state there's a
23 \$6 million turnaround, when in fact we have a
24 \$3 million deficit.

25 I think he better get his
0102

01 accountants out. I think he better get his calculators
02 out a little more, because I don't think we can afford
03 this for three more or four more years.
04 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

05 MS. McNICHOLS: Hi,
06 Colleen McNicholls.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Hi.

08 MS. McNICHOLS: This question was
09 publicly posed by our mayor, are we better off now than
10 we were four years ago. Tonight I would like to
11 attempt to answer that.

12 Since our population is down and
13 the crime rate is up, I would say no. Since the crime
14 is up and the mayor also chose to get rid of some
15 23 cops, I would say no.

16 Since our bills are so high we
17 have to continue to borrow money to pay them with no
18 new revenue sources, I would say no.

19 The 48 percent property tax hike
20 that went into effect as our mayor stood idly by and
21 watched young families attempt to buy houses and live
22 here, again, I would say no, we are not better off.

23 If we wanted to stay here, live
24 and raise a family, we could not afford it. Along with
25 not being able to afford to stay here, there's no one
0103

01 incentive to stay here. The only incentive to stay
02 lies in the KOZs.

03 After ten years tax free, the
04 incentive is over and the bills are too high. Are we
05 better off now than four years ago? I think not, with
06 less cops, a skeletal crew working in city hall and
07 borrowing out of control.

08 When it comes time for me to have
09 a family here, I will not be able to afford it. This
10 mayor has financed our future away, and I do not want
11 to have to pay for his past mistakes for many years to
12 come. Thank you.

13 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
14 Council. I'm Nelson Ancherani, a resident and a

15 taxpayer. Last week Councilman Pocius was absent from
16 the council meeting, and I asked Councilman Pocius in
17 absentia to either sponsor city legislation or make a
18 motion to give each city employee \$200 for every month
19 that they spent on active duty in Iraq.

20 This would be a good way for the
21 city to show its appreciate for the good work that
22 these brave soldiers performed in preserving America's
23 freedom.

24 I ask again, that
25 Councilman Pocius do this, as he knows personally how
0104

01 good it feels to have a soldier return home safely from
02 Iraq.

03 This would not cost the city much
04 money at all. It would surely be a nice gesture, in
05 light of the State House okaying a package of breaks
06 for soldiers returning from Iraq, and also the Scranton
07 School District honoring 22 returning soldiers who are
08 graduates of Scranton schools.

09 I read with amusement in the
10 Sunday Times where Mayor Doherty said the deficit is a
11 systematic problem that has plagued Scranton for years
12 and could be eliminated through contract changes with
13 police and fire unions outlined in the recovery plan.

14 Again, the mayor insinuating that
15 the deficit is the unions' fault. The unions have not,
16 and I repeat, have not gotten a raise in the last three
17 years. They're in the third year of a six-year wage
18 freeze proposed by the mayor.

19 The \$3 million plus that was left
20 over by the previous administration at the end of 2001
21 has now turned into a \$3 to \$4 million deficit. This
22 is a \$6 to \$7 million spread.

23 We went from a surplus to a
24 deficit. And according to the mayor in the Times
25 Tribune, it is the union's fault.

0105

01 I ask, Where did that money go?

02 It sure did not go to the unions. It must have gone to
03 the phantom police cars that can't be found.

04 The unions haven't gotten anything
05 from the mayor. One place the money may have gone is
06 the annual debt service. It has risen from \$10 million
07 annually in 2002, to \$14 million annually in 2005.

08 Could that be because the city has incurred record
09 borrowing of approximately \$100 million?

10 We paid \$1.2 million to get a

11 favorable bond rating. I must say that we will get
12 \$1.5 million in interest in return. That is a savings
13 of \$300,000, but has anyone figured how much in
14 interest we as the taxpayers will pay back for the life
15 of the loan?

16 I am willing to bet that the
17 interest that we as taxpayers pay back is much higher
18 than we've saved.

19 Forgive me, I did forget for a
20 second, I forgot about the raises, some as high as
21 \$20,000, given to selected employees of the city. When
22 others were laid off and others got nothing. This is
23 selective favoritism. That's nice.

24 That is just the tip of the
25 iceberg in the city's spending. Don't forget the
0106

01 consultants and public relation firms hired by the
02 city. Consultants were hired to help people do jobs
03 that these people were supposed to be qualified to do
04 on their own.

05 As for needless money being spent,
06 approximately \$750,000, and counting, was spent on
07 attorneys by the city because of the city's
08 vindictiveness and attempts to break the unions.

09 We could have saved all that money
10 just by sitting and talking with each other. There are
11 countless others that I don't have time to mention. I
12 am a taxpayer, and that is my money, also.

13 This administration is anti-labor.
14 I have not seen this in the 30 years that I've been
15 working for the city. This mayor wants and is
16 attempting to break the unions.

17 Morale is at an all time low, much
18 lower than a snake's belly. I have never seen it like
19 this. The new police building is being built, but not
20 the way it was intended. \$3.2 million, and the police
21 department will still be scattered throughout the city.
22 This is poor planning.

23 This administration should
24 remember one important thing, a happy employee is a
25 productive employee. One thing for sure, even the way
0107

01 the employees are being treated and with the low
02 morale, city employees are very proud people and they
03 will do their jobs serving the citizen of Scranton to
04 the best of their abilities. They will always give
05 100 percent, in spite of the conditions and treatment
06 they receive.

07 I see where the mayor said that
08 crime has dropped 30 percent in the last 8 months.
09 Show me, and show all the citizens of the city where.
10 In the 400 block of Willow Street
11 in South Side on 5/10/05, a 55-year-old woman walking
12 with a 77-year-old woman was the victim of a robbery.
13 She had her purse grabbed and she was pulled down the
14 street.
15 Recent a citizen in Green Ridge
16 chased and caught a purse snatcher because there have
17 been so many police cuts. The newspaper got their
18 before the police. Can I have just a few seconds?
19 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought,
20 Nelson.
21 MR. ANCHERANI: The newspaper got
22 there before the police and showed the citizen holding
23 the suspect for the police. Gang activity has
24 increased and has gotten worse.
25 Just last night U.S. House of
0108
01 Representatives approved tough gang legislation that
02 increases jail time and making it a federal offense.
03 These are just a few examples of the crime.
04 Before I can be convinced that
05 crime is decreased, the mayor will have to show me the
06 figures or statistics to back that up.
07 Why, just last week in the
08 newspaper, the increase was listed at 3 to 5 percent,
09 so, again, show me. Thank you.
10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Any more
11 speakers?
12 MS. HARRISON: Hi. My name is
13 Ann Marie Harrison, I'm a city taxpayer and also a city
14 employee.
15 I'm here tonight to bring up a
16 situation that happened under the Doherty
17 administration. It was the police chief, not the
18 police department, the police chief who -- the
19 negligence in the police chief's office, one of the
20 Doherty's hiring, Tom Bell, illegal pulled a report
21 about me, and it was an incident report, who has
22 absolutely no access to the police department's
23 computer system, who persuade a girl who just started
24 in the police chief's office to print this report about
25 me, which was distributed out in the public.
0109
01 I wasn't going to come up here to
02 say anything or bring this out in the open, and

03 Lynn Shedlock, my story is open to you now, because,
04 Ms. Evans, obviously when someone else did it, it was
05 this big ordeal and it was the time third page news, so
06 I'd like to see what kind of write-up you can put about
07 this, because I lost time from work, I had to see a
08 psychiatrist, it was embarrassing what he had done to
09 me, he went up to information technology room to pull
10 reports about me.

11 This was going on since last June.

12 I believe. I still to this day have not received any
13 investigation their so-called internal investigation
14 that they proceeded -- I believe it started in January.

15 Right when it happened, I had to bring it up.

16 So, it's basically negligence on
17 the department of public safety, the information
18 technology room and also the police chief, who, to this
19 day, still has not come up with any answer or a copy of
20 this internal investigation on my part.

21 This Tom Bell embarrassed me. He

22 gave it to my ex-husband, by all means, I don't know
23 why he would do this, I mean, this is just ridiculous,
24 my privacy, my privacy was robbed out of the Scranton
25 Police Department.

0110

01 And when he was supposed to get
02 disciplined, he got written up and put in his file and
03 came out of the office with the director and everybody
04 laughing.

05 Well, under this administration,

06 Mrs. Moran wrote me up for wearing a pair of jeans.
07 So, I got written up, put in my file for wearing a pair
08 of jeans, but yet someone can go into my personal life,
09 my personal file, illegally pull a police report about
10 me and distribute it out, who this man, Tom Bell, has
11 no access to a police report.

12 And nothing happened to this girl
13 in the office, which I believe she was innocent, but
14 yet, I don't know by all means with her teaching degree
15 was dumb enough to do it, and still they're sitting in
16 that police chief's office smiling like nothing ever
17 happened, like, who, me, I'm suffering.

18 I do believe I have a lawsuit
19 against them. I'm debating on if I should do it. This
20 is the kind of -- it's the heartache I have with this
21 administration.

22 I was hired under Connors, and
23 when Doherty came in I gave him respect, I give
24 everybody who comes in my office with problems or

25 anything 100 percent my full cooperation and knowledge
0111
01 to help the taxpayers for the City of Scranton.
02 Just because he's mayor, I don't
03 neglect the city taxpayers. I work for him like I
04 would work for any mayor that comes into this city.
05 And I just want the public and the
06 people know what kind of department heads he has,
07 including Ms. Moran. They're very unprofessional and
08 negligent on the Doherty administration. Thank you.
09 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Harrison, just
10 one question, and please excuse me if I didn't get this
11 straight as you were explaining, who gave the order to
12 run a background check on you?
13 MS. HARRISON: It wasn't a
14 background check, it was an incident report.
15 MS. EVANS: An incident report,
16 okay.
17 MS. HARRISON: But this Tom Bell
18 who was hired, he's a grants writing. He has no access
19 to the police system or the computer system.
20 He persuaded a girl in the police
21 chief's office who has access in the computer. You
22 need a password to get into this computer.
23 When I worked for the police
24 department, I needed a -- I believe you get it from the
25 state police. You need a code where they can know who
0112
01 is in the report, edits the report and prints the
02 report.
03 So, when I brought it up to their
04 attention and they started an internal investigation,
05 which I have yet not seen, they -- this guy supposedly
06 persuade this girl telling her that this officer used
07 to do it for him all the time, and we found out who the
08 officer was, we find out why the girl did it, because
09 she said this officer did it all the time, then it went
10 all the way up to -- this investigation went up to the
11 information technology room, which this guy said that
12 the police chief asked him for a copy of this report.
13 So, it gets bigger and bigger, but
14 yet these are the stories I'm hearing, but I don't have
15 it written down on paper. So, obviously I have to hire
16 an attorney to get a copy of this investigation.
17 I mean, this guy gets written up?
18 This is ridiculous. I mean, other people -- past
19 practice, everything else, people got fired over this.
20 I mean, Mrs. Evans, it was a big

21 deal when you asked Neil Coolican to get you
22 information, well, he was almost fired.
23 MS. EVANS: Actually just let me
24 clarify that, I hadn't asked Neil to get any
25 information, I was just simply transferring information
0113
01 that I received from residents of Scranton to city
02 inspectors, and, you know, then they made the request
03 to the police department.
04 So, actually I had absolutely
05 nothing to do with it, other than taking a complaint
06 and passing it along to the proper department.
07 And I'm speechless.
08 MS. HARRISON: Me, too.
09 MS. HARRISON: You got those
10 reports for the good of the city. I mean, what you did
11 was helping the city. What they did was really --
12 embarrassed me, and with my two children, really gave
13 me -- I was embarrassed to come to work because of what
14 they spread around in this city over one incident
15 report, over one evil, evil deprived low man that sits
16 in the police chief's office as a grants writer,
17 so-called grants writer.
18 MR. WALSH: Sorry to interrupt.
19 Because it's a personnel matter and because there may
20 be some threat in litigation, perhaps we shouldn't
21 speak too much further on the issue.
22 MS. EVANS: I just want you to
23 know how very sorry I am that this would have happened
24 to you. I'm outraged and appalled. I'm very sorry.
25 MS. HARRISON: Thank you. And by
0114
01 the way, good luck in the new election May 17.
02 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
03 MS. STULGIS: I'm Ann Marie
04 Stulgis, I'm a city resident and president of the
05 city's police union.
06 I will start tonight with some
07 good news for a change. Although I could say I told
08 you so, but the police cars have been found. They'll
09 be arriving in the city tomorrow just in time for a
10 photo-op.
11 I think that's wonderful, however,
12 somebody ought to tell our mayor that in his recent
13 television propaganda, there's a picture of a police
14 car in the ad with him, only it's a blue police car,
15 and I guess he didn't know that the city doesn't have
16 blue police cars. All Scranton's police cars are

17 white.

18 Also, there was a question earlier
19 from the gentleman on Frowd Avenue about the paving,
20 and we have a pave cut inspector, and I know he has
21 been very busy going door to door in Tripps Park
22 recently, but his job would be to make sure that we
23 don't have the kind of conflict that that gentleman was
24 speaking of.

25 Also, Mr. Gervasi asked if the
0115

01 administration had notified any of you what the intent
02 of the recovery plan was as far as public safety, and
03 Mr. Hayes did tell us vaguely, but he did tell us what
04 the intent of the city is during our arbitration when
05 he was asked if in fact was the city's intent to cut
06 police officers, he said, yes, it was.

07 When he was asked how far did he
08 intend to cut police officers, he said he didn't care
09 to give a definitive number.

10 He was asked, Would you cut to
11 100? He said, Yes. He was asked, Would you cut to 50
12 without endangering the life of police officers or
13 citizens? His answer was, Yes. And that is what he
14 said. And I will be happy to provide copies of the
15 transcripts to anyone.

16 Now, something came to my
17 attention this -- within the last eight, ten days, and
18 I did investigate it, and I'm surprised that when the
19 initial steps were taken on this, none of us picked up
20 on it.

21 We all know that the mayor
22 transferred ownership of the DPW complex to the Sewer
23 Authority, and while many of us looked at it as
24 somewhat fiscally irresponsible, that was as far as we
25 looked; however, it didn't dawn on anyone, until I

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01 spoke with some people who appointed it out, that the
02 authority's autonomous, so now City Council doesn't
03 have control over the DPW complex, the Sewer Authority
04 does.

05 So, should the Sewer Authority
06 decided to enter into a contract at the end of this
07 year for, say, a dollar a year for 99 years, as we all
08 know that has been tried before, do you realize no one
09 could stop them?

10 So now the Scranton taxpayers are
11 paying the mortgage that the city has on the DPW
12 complex, the Scranton taxpayers, as Scranton Sewer

13 Authority customers, are paying the mortgage that the
14 Sewer Authority has on the DPW complex, and there's
15 nothing we can do to stop them from leasing out the DPW
16 complex.

17 Also, maybe it's a coincidence, my
18 friends tell me it's not a coincidence, that suddenly
19 the overtime at DPW has not been questioned. As a
20 matter of fact, it's been encouraged.
21 DPW is going to be a half million
22 dollars over their overtime budget by the end of this
23 year. They're over \$300,000 over the overtime budget
24 right now.

25 They're going to go to
0117

01 approximately a half million over. Perhaps we can all
02 believe in coincidences and we all believe in
03 Santa Claus, and it's just a coincidence that we've
04 turned ownership of the DPW complex over to an
05 authority, and now we've allowed DPW to no longer be
06 affordable to the citizens of Scranton.

07 The intent is, DPW will be leased
08 out at a nominal fee ever a long-term, and there's
09 nothing anyone can do about it, and DPW in and of
10 itself will be privatized, because at \$500,000 over
11 budget, we'll be told we can no longer forward them.
12 That will happen shortly after the beginning of the
13 year if this present administration remains in power.
14 I sincerely hope everyone
15 understand the consequences of having a privatized
16 garbage collection. It is ungodly expense. Thank you
17 and good luck.

18 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no
19 further speakers, Mr. Walsh.

20 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do
22 you have any motions or comments this evening?

23 MR. McTIERNAN: One comment.

24 Mr. McGuire asked last week after the meeting about the
25 Mulberry corridor project, and I apologize that I don't
0118

01 have any information for you, but I will continue to
02 ask about that. Hopefully I will have that for you
03 soon. I didn't have an opportunity to talk with
04 anybody this week. That's all, Mr. President.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

06 Mr. McTiernan. Mrs. Evans, any motions or comments?

07 MS. EVANS: Thank you. First

08 I'll ask for your prayers for James Legg and his family

09 and Janet Grasso and her family.
10 I'm first and foremost very
11 concerned about the financial bleeding in our city,
12 not only as the finance chairperson of City Council,
13 but also as a taxpayer in Scranton.
14 Under Mr. Doherty, annual debt
15 service payments have increased from \$10 million in
16 2002, to \$14.7 million in 2005.
17 This sizeable increase in debt
18 payment will continue for the next 29 years. What is
19 more significant is that Mr. Doherty has stated that if
20 re-elected, he intends to do the following two
21 things, No. 1, borrow more money to pay his yearly
22 bills, as he did in 2004, and secondly, to obtain
23 another bond issue for more park improvements and other
24 capital projects.
25 One series of bond issues is
0119
01 expiring. Rather than saving money while we're buried
02 in debt and paying down our debt service, he wants to
03 use the money we're now paying for that debt to fund a
04 new bond issue.
05 Now, I believe I'm the most
06 fiscally conservative member of City Council, not just
07 this Council, but any Council in quite a while, so I
08 warn you now about Mr. Doherty's ultra-liberal spending
09 and borrowing policy. You should consider all of this
10 now, not at year-end, but now.
11 Also, I had been concerned, as all
12 of you are, about the rising cost of gasoline, and so I
13 was hoping to obtain a report on those costs, which I
14 did receive in my mail tonight, and according to the
15 category of the garages bureau for gas, oil and
16 lubricants, we have a beginning balance of \$151,431,
17 and as of the end of April, we're at \$136,932.
18 I don't think we should wait until
19 year-end to consider how this financial matter is going
20 to be solved. I don't want to be hit with an emergency
21 transfer to pay this bill.
22 So, Jay, I'd like a letter sent to
23 Mr. Kresefski asking how he plans to address this
24 issue, because I'm certain within the, you know, the
25 gas prices are not decreasing, and within the next
0120
01 month or two, we very obviously could be over what was
02 originally allocated.
03 Also, the inspectors office has
04 been busy conducting abandoned vehicle sweeps

05 throughout the city. On Wednesday, April 27, they
06 tagged over 80 vehicles that were identified as
07 abandoned or junk vehicles, and they towed away over 20
08 of those for safety reasons, specifically cars on
09 blocks or jacks, broken windows, flat tires, etc.
10 They're continuing with that sweep
11 the week of May 2, South Scranton was addressed, and I
12 did talk about that a bit last week, the fact that it
13 was not as well-manned as the West Scranton sweep, so
14 of course, not as many vehicles had been tagged, but
15 nevertheless, this is a very fine endeavor.
16 The week of May 9, the Hill
17 Section was taken care of, and forthcoming the week of
18 May 16, North Scranton, and finally the week of May 23,
19 the Plot Section.
20 Now, a very troublesome problem
21 was brought to my attention last week in South Side.
22 According to landlords, there are tenants who rent and
23 remain for X-amount of time and then they destroy an
24 apartment and move on to the next location. As a
25 result, landlords no longer wish to rent, and their
0121
01 property values have severely declined.
02 They can't borrow to pay off the
03 mortgage or sell the house, because they are -- the
04 properties, that is, are now worth far less than what
05 is still owed on them.
06 Now, Mr. Doherty claims to have
07 increased property values since he took office,
08 particularly because of park improvements, but
09 apparently this isn't the case for all of the areas of
10 Scranton.
11 Jay, did I receive a response yet
12 about the four-month delay and cover-up of the toxic
13 materials in the Minooka warehouse?
14 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not as of yet.
15 We did --
16 MS. EVANS: Oh, I know we got an
17 answer saying they're going to try to figure out an
18 answer. Okay.
19 I visited also the East Scranton
20 Little League Field yesterday. Fortunately, they did
21 receive a garbage dumpster as soon as I was notified,
22 but they also need aluminum bleachers, limited paving
23 and necessary repairs to the concession stand.
24 And while I was there reviewing
25 the property, I was told by one of the league members
0122

01 that at one time the county commissioners had borrowed
02 a set of their aluminum bleachers for some event that
03 was occurring downtown, and those bleachers had not
04 been returned.

05 So, Jay, I'd like you to look into
06 that and find out, you know, if that indeed is what
07 occurred, and if so, could the county please return
08 that one set of aluminum bleachers back to East
09 Scranton from where they originally came?

10 And it was also brought to my
11 attention by many of the East Scranton residents that
12 the city's website states that the East Scranton Little
13 League has received \$80,000 in grants, but in actuality
14 they've received zero dollars in grants; in fact, they
15 haven't received any funding in years, although they
16 serve children of low to moderate income areas.

17 So, I would hope that the
18 administration would allocate some of that \$80,000 that
19 they're using for the brook area across the street, not
20 the East Scranton Little League or Teener League, and
21 do something there in terms of providing either the
22 bleachers, because it really is a disgrace when parents
23 come to a game and they have to sit on the hood of
24 their car to watch the game or the paving that's
25 needed.

0123

01 I also visited Fawnwood this week,
02 and the following day, and I wonder -- we have people,
03 I know, on Council who are Fawnwood residents, I was
04 told that there was an incident of vandalism that
05 night, and as I was in Fawnwood, I was also told about
06 gangs that have been spotted throughout the city, and
07 some of these residents, not many, mind you, but they
08 were very upset and told me that as much as they love
09 the area, and as much as they love their home, they're
10 seriously considering moving out.

11 And I also have requests for this
12 week, as well as, and I'm up to 27 previous requests
13 that nothing has been done about yet, so I'd like to
14 see some action on those, but I think what's most
15 important in terms of the new requests tonight would be
16 359 North Sumner, which I also visited.

17 In the backyard of this property
18 there is a cinder block structure without a roof and
19 there are rusted scaffolds in the back of this
20 structure which border the alley, and these rickety
21 scaffolds are holding cinder blocks, so I'd like the
22 inspectors called in to check the permits and the

23 unsafe conditions there.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jay, we went to

25 this place well over a year ago. They were supposed to
0124

01 take care of it. These people are suffering that live

02 next door to this place.

03 I think the city needs to do

04 something and do something now. Over a year ago we

05 went there.

06 MS. EVANS: Well, it's still

07 there. I was there two days ago.

08 MR. SAUNDERS: Don McKeon stopped

09 in our office, he did the inspection on the house, he

10 said that they have cited those people for that

11 problem. They've taken them to the magistrate.

12 I don't know what the outcome at

13 the magistrate was, but the city at that point, you

14 know, has to take legal action.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, then let

16 them take legal action, because how much longer can

17 these people wait? This is -- it's just not right.

18 It's simply not right. If they have to take legal

19 action, ask them if they could.

20 I mean, this is over a year. If

21 you haven't seen it, you can't understand it.

22 MS. EVANS: It's dangerous.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's just a

24 terrible situation.

25 MS. EVANS: Something could fall.

0125

01 Cinder blocks can fall, not only on passing cars, but

02 on children who are playing in that area.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm just talking

04 about, who wants to look at this day in and day out?

05 MS. EVANS: Oh, it's unsightly.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's disgusting,

07 is what it is.

08 MS. EVANS: There's also something

09 being dug into in the ground.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sorry for

11 interrupting.

12 MS. EVANS: No, no, no, no. I'm

13 very glad to hear. Also, I'd like to know about the

14 progress on the request for permit parking on the

15 westerly side of the 500 block of Jefferson Avenue.

16 Residents of Amos Towers are

17 paying parking meter charges to park near their

18 residences, and most of the residences, I believe the

19 minimum requirement in order to reside in Amos Towers
20 is that an individual be 55 years of age or older, so
21 we do have a number of senior citizens there on fixed
22 incomes who are now putting money in a parking meter
23 each day for their cars. So, if we can get on that,
24 please, as soon as possible. That's it. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
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01 Mrs. Evans. Appreciate that. Mr. Pocius, any motions
02 or comments?

03 MR. POCIUS: Yes, Mr. President.

04 And I'll be brief. As a follow-up today at one o'clock
05 at the crossing of the Reading Blue Mountain Railroad
06 and Northern Railroad on Luzerne Street, I attended a
07 field investigation and conference that was chaired by
08 Mr. Ronald J. Hul, P.E., from The Rail Safety Division,
09 Bureau of Transportation and Safety for the Public
10 Utility Commission. Also in attendance were
11 City Solicitor Rob Farrell, City Engineer George
12 Parker, various members of PennDOT, their legal staff
13 from Harrisburg, representatives from the local
14 district office, and also a representative of the
15 railroad company themselves.

16 The gist of the meeting was is
17 that Ronald Hul recommended that this go to a formal
18 hearing for the PUC. He will prepare the report. He's
19 on the road, that's what he does, he's a railroad
20 crossing investigator.

21 He will prepare the report next
22 week, like he said, get it off my desk and get it into
23 the proper officials, and hopefully within, he said
24 expedite, but this is not a fast process, within about
25 two months have a formal hearing hopefully up here in
0127

01 Scranton at the state office building on the situation.

02 And, Mark, I would ask you just to
03 cooperate with Attorney Farrell, because they were
04 saying you better update yourselves on Publication 66
05 or something, which deals specifically with the PUC.
06 You can get that from Rob.

07 They may consolidate these
08 complaints into one for the hearing, but it was funny
09 as we sat there, not sat there, stood there, the train
10 actually crossed twice, so everyone was able to witness
11 the crossing of the train. They blow their horn rather
12 loudly, but they do not stop.

13 Nothing at this hearing is kind of
14 binding, because you are really not represented by an

15 attorney, but it's a fact-finding thing.
16 Mr. Hul now said that he can
17 act -- hearsay is not acceptable at a PUC hearing, but
18 we all actually witnessed this.
19 The railroad said they never
20 flagged and have no intentions of ever flagging there,
21 so this is why we're going to stay on top of this and
22 try to push it to some kind of completion. That's
23 that.
24 On Mr. Dudek's question, the
25 question was, Were you ever interviewed? Yeah, the
0128
01 only one time, 1989, that was the only time I was ever
02 interviewed, and I don't know if that's policy or not,
03 but that was the only time I was ever interviewed was
04 the first time I ran.
05 It might have sounded like we were
06 interviewed this last week. Well, we weren't. I was
07 not called.
08 Mr. Ancherani poses a very
09 interesting question. It's funny how it was asked of
10 me, but that's fine, because as I sat here, I thought
11 about it for a second and I said, you know, it's a fine
12 idea, however, I guess it's on top of whatever.
13 And the only reason I'm looking at
14 it is, he only mentioned the police officers, and how
15 does this affect the other union members, if there was
16 fire department people, clerical union, non-union, DPW?
17 I don't know about the legality of
18 it, but I think I'd like to explore it, but I think the
19 best we can do right now is I would make a motion that
20 we ask Attorney Walsh to at least look into it with
21 the -- because we have current contracts and so on and
22 so forth, that this doesn't cause a problem, but just
23 bring a quick report back to see if it could be or
24 should be pursued. I put that in the form of a motion.
25 MR. WALSH: That would be the type
0129
01 of legislation that would probably come down from
02 upstairs, so what I would have to do is speak with
03 them, and also Mrs. Moran's office would also have some
04 dealing with that, because it's an issue of funding, as
05 well.
06 MR. POCIUS: What I'm trying to
07 say is, Mark, I've only heard it tonight, okay? I
08 heard this was brought up last week. I didn't get any
09 more facts.
10 I'm willing to explore it, but all

11 I'm saying is we don't know if we can even proceed with
12 it based on legalities. So, I'm just making a motion
13 that at least you look at it from us and just say, Can
14 we even do this legally? Can we even ask it legally,
15 that's my question. So, if somebody would second the
16 motion, we can move on.

17 MS. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. POCIUS: Do you see what I'm
19 trying to get at, Mrs. Evans?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. POCIUS: And I'm not trying
22 to -- you know, I have nothing against anybody --

23 MS. EVANS: I agree with you.

24 MR. POCIUS: Where is the effects?

25 Does it go lateral? Does it affect -- who -- we don't
0130

01 know. I mean, I have nothing -- and believe me, I have
02 the highest respect, on the question, for anyone that
03 served not only in Iraq or anywhere else --

04 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me. I heard
05 something.

06 MR. POCIUS: Yeah, I heard
07 something, too. I mean, I have the greatest respect
08 for the police officers of this city and all the city
09 workers. I've never taken anything back, gone against
10 anyone there.

11 My father was a police officer,
12 served for 25 years. I've never, you know, paid any
13 disrespect to the police or fire or any of the union
14 people.

15 But I'm just saying on the
16 question is I think if this was possible, how much
17 money is involved and what would it do to the existing
18 contracts or whatever?

19 So, I think it should be explored,
20 Mark, if it's not possible, to even ask it, why should
21 we embarrass ourselves on a motion that can't go
22 anywhere.

23 MR. WALSH: I will communicate
24 that request.

25 MR. POCIUS: That's all I'm
0131

01 asking.

02 MR. WALSH: I'll communicate to
03 the legal department, see what the response is.

04 MR. POCIUS: Thank you. I guess
05 we have to vote, I think.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say this, I

07 didn't follow your motion, so I will ask you if you
08 could just rephrase the motion one more time.
09 MR. POCIUS: Sure. What I'm
10 asking is Mr. Walsh to look into the question to see
11 if -- to see whether under the current, I guess you
12 would say labor contracts with all the unions, and even
13 the non-clerical people, we ask Mr. Walsh to look at it
14 preliminarily and bring the recommendation to us to see
15 if this is something we could pursue.
16 MR. DIBILEO: We're talking about
17 \$200 a month?
18 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
19 MR. DIBILEO: For the city workers
20 that served in Iraq. Okay. Any further questions?
21 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
22 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
23 MS. EVANS: Aye.
24 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
0132
01 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
02 ayes have it and so moved.
03 For those of you that thought I
04 may have left from the meetings two weeks ago, I was at
05 both public hearings, but I had the flu, and as I sat
06 out here, I actually got much weaker, so I
07 did leave and went home that night.
08 Last week was a scheduled thing I
09 had scheduled since last year. It was a personal thing
10 I had. It was two weeks in a row and there may have
11 seemed like there was something amiss about it, but I
12 just wanted to tell you where I was to clear that up.
13 That's it, Mr. President.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
15 Mr. Pocius. And two week ago I think I may have said
16 you weren't feeling good.
17 MR. POCIUS: Yes. Thank you,
18 Mr. President. That's it.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you,
20 Mr. Pocius. Mr. Courtright, any motions or comments?
21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes,
22 Mr. President. Jay, I hope you got an answer for me,
23 did they come back with the money for Weston Park
24 Teener League yet?
25 MR. SAUNDERS: No.
0133
01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Nothing at all?
02 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet. The last

03 I heard on it, they were checking into it, you know,
04 the eligibility of Weston Park.
05 MR. COURTRIGHT: They assured me
06 they didn't get any money. They assured me they
07 haven't gotten any money, this teener league.
08 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Can you send
10 another letter asking them to step it up a bit there?
11 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: How about the
13 money from the hole in South Side, any word on that?
14 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet.
15 MR. COURTRIGHT: See if they could
16 just bring me up to date. You know, I go once in a
17 while to see my good friend Rob Davis and have a coffee
18 if the morning, and on the way home from there, I go by
19 a railroad crossing on the way.
20 Jay, I don't know who would take
21 care of this, I guess the railroad possibly, at
22 Walnut Street off Capouse Avenue, there's a railroad
23 crossing there that I'm surprised maybe somebody hasn't
24 gotten seriously hurt there, and it is so bad that I
25 think somebody needs to take a welcome at it. So, I
0134
01 don't know who you can contact.
02 MR. SAUNDERS: Is Walnut near
03 Mesko Glass there?
04 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's before
05 there. It's way before there.
06 MR. DIBILEO: Doherty's
07 Restaurant.
08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Down the street a
09 little down and up about a block away from
10 Mr. Doherty's restaurant.
11 MR. POCIUS: Excuse me. Is that
12 one of the ones that we've seen that are going to be
13 fixed at no cost to the city?
14 MR. SAUNDERS: There's three of
15 them. I'll check it out.
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just check it
17 out, because it's bad.
18 MR. POCIUS: It's going to be
19 upgraded, but I don't know if it's one of them.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: If it isn't, can
21 we see if it could be? It's bad. I haven't seen one
22 that bad.
23 And one last item, I went to a
24 memorial service for the police department the other

25 day down at Weston Field, and some individuals asked me
0135

01 if I could look into this, and, Jay, I've got to pass
02 it on to you like most things, evidently when Weston
03 Field's facilities are locked up or the building is
04 closed, we have people doing things out in the open
05 that we don't want having done.

06 So, they're looking for a
07 porta-potty down there that they have had in the past,
08 and it was removed, and they're looking for it to come
09 back. So, again, I don't know who to ask about a
10 porta-potty.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll talk to
12 Bob Scopelliti.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Down in the
14 Weston Field area. Two individuals asked me about that
15 when I was down there, so maybe we can help them out.
16 We don't want that going on out in the public. And
17 that's all I have.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
19 Mr. Courtright. Thanks for sharing that with us. Even
20 though I am a candidate, I think it's appropriate to
21 mention the fact that this coming Tuesday is election
22 day, and I'd like to remind and mention to the public
23 to do your civic duty, and as mentioned tonight at the
24 podium, we have troops that are giving their lives in
25 Iraq right now for probably that one right that we all
0136

01 should treasure most, and that is you can chose who is
02 gong to be your leaders.

03 And so Tuesday at 7 a.m. until
04 8 p.m. is the 13-hour period for voting. And there
05 have been a lot of changes to the voting locations, and
06 I ask people to really check to be sure that they know
07 where they're headed, because many voting locations
08 have been changed.

09 And one way to really check before
10 you go and find out is to check with the voter
11 registration office, and I'm going to give you that
12 number, if that's okay, it's 963-6737, 963-6737. Give
13 them your number and address, they should be able to
14 tell you where to go, because there's many changes this
15 year.

16 It was also mentioned this evening
17 at the podium something about the fact that there's no
18 candidate for one particular party this year and they
19 wondered why, and I just wanted to mention that that's
20 really, you know, up to the political party to field

21 the candidates.

22 And, you know, one political party

23 doesn't have certain candidates, but other than that,

24 there's probably no reason why, other than they weren't

25 able to find candidates apparently.

0137

01 I want to congratulate

02 nine-year-old George Conrad from Minooka, Pennsylvania

03 to name the official cookie of the State of

04 Pennsylvania.

05 You know, you don't may not think

06 too much of that, but I think there's a great example

07 of our youth getting involved in government, and I

08 think that all nine year olds like George should really

09 pay attention to that. I think that was a great

10 attempt on his part to do something that he felt in his

11 heart was important.

12 And he's working with

13 State Representative Gaynor Cawley. I think that's

14 also a good move on State Representative Cawley's part

15 to take that letter that he received from nine-year-old

16 George Conrad and do something about it rather than

17 just ignore it. So, yeah, it would be great if all

18 young people paid attention to that.

19 MS. EVANS: Do you think George

20 should make us some of those cookies so that we could

21 maybe judge whether they should be the state cookie?

22 MR. DIBILEO: He's welcome to

23 bring them in next week or any week he wants. That

24 would be great.

25 Speaking of youth and government,

0138

01 this week, this Wednesday, yeah, Wednesday, yesterday,

02 seems like a year, three third grade classes of

03 John Marshall School came to city hall on a field trip

04 and they took a bus from John Marshall on Oram Street

05 and they came down here to City Hall and they got a

06 great tour of the firehouse from several firefighters

07 and they looked at the trucks and they looked at the

08 pole that the firefighters come down and took a look at

09 somebody coming down that pole.

10 I don't think they tried it

11 themselves, but then they came over to here and they

12 came in Council chambers. We had them downstairs in

13 the police headquarters, which we'll be moving soon,

14 and they saw the lockup, which one was used as a matter

15 of fact, we couldn't go into one area because there

16 were people locked up, and we went into another area,

17 the female area, and there was no people being held
18 there, but I think they got a real eye opener from
19 seeing those lockups, and I want to thank the third
20 grade classes for coming over and letting us show them
21 around. I wanted to thank Jay Saunders, too, because
22 he was really the host that day. I kind of just hung
23 around, and Jay did a good job explaining what happens
24 with City Council's office and what happens in here,
25 and I think they enjoyed it. And that happened to be
0139

01 during the memorial service that you talked about,
02 Mr. Courtright, and that's why I wasn't able to attend
03 that.

04 But I just want to address
05 something that, you know, I've been accused recently of
06 something by a political opponent of mine, but this
07 evening a taxpayer asked me a question about these
08 accusations that I'm being accused of, and I think that
09 since I was asked a question by the taxpayer, that it
10 would be appropriate to address, if I might, because he
11 would be affected by these accusations, but it's really
12 three accusations that have come up, and one of them is
13 myself not attending meetings, not these meetings, but
14 meetings of -- for another reason, I guess the recovery
15 plan we'll just come out and say, but I wanted to say
16 that, you know, most of those meetings were held in a
17 hotel room in Moosic, and I was there.

18 Those meetings could not be
19 attended by more than two City Council members, because
20 anytime you get three City Council members or more
21 together, you have to advertise the fact that you're
22 going to do so, and those meetings were not advertised,
23 so only two could attend.

24 So, the two Council members were
25 on a rotating basis. We were invited on a rotating
0140

01 basis to attend those meetings, and I'd like to say
02 that I attended almost every one of my allotted
03 meetings in rotation.

04 I don't think I attended every
05 single one, but I can tell you this, that I know I
06 attended more meetings than other City Council members,
07 because I think some City Council members attended no
08 recovery plan meetings, so I did, and almost every one.

09 Another accusation was that I
10 voted against police cars and fire apparatus, and I
11 just want to say that in the '05 budget, there was a --
12 it included a \$4 million of new borrowing, and that was

13 on top of \$4 million that was just approved by this
14 Council I think less than one month prior to us being
15 presented the '05 budget.
16 Now, I believe it was the feeling
17 by most of the members of Council that it was a
18 priority for the city not to go into deeper debt.
19 Because when you think about it, \$8 million of
20 borrowing is almost 15 percent of our entire city
21 budget. \$65 million budget, that's approaching
22 15 percent.
23 So, what happened was three
24 members of Council amended the 2005 budget, and it
25 included revenue items and it included a decrease in
0141
01 expenditures.
02 Now, one of the many amendments
03 that were made was a decrease in capital expenditures,
04 and it was not decreasing it to any less than the
05 previous year.
06 So, we took what was in the '05
07 budget and we took it back to the '04 levels, that's
08 not too bad, and we allowed for -- we left an amount of
09 money that could have bought police cars, could have
10 bought police cars, okay?
11 But I'll tell you one thing that
12 we did include in that amended budget, and that was the
13 new emergency and municipal services tax, that was in
14 the amended budget, and that tax would have brought in
15 \$1 million from residents that live outside of the city
16 that work in Scranton, that tax by Governor Rendell is
17 specifically supposed to be for police and fire
18 protection, for public service protection.
19 So, my opinion is that when
20 Mayor Doherty vetoed the '05 amended budget and when he
21 did not include the new emergency and municipal
22 services tax, that he voted against public safety, not
23 me.
24 So, I feel as though I voted in
25 favor of public safety. I didn't vote against not
0142
01 having new police cars or not allowing for fire
02 apparatus.
03 I think it's him that voted
04 against new police cars and fire apparatus, if I might
05 say so myself.
06 So, the bottom line is that, and,
07 you know, everybody knows that there's bad
08 communication between Council and the mayor, and I

09 think this is a good example of that. That was the
10 mayor's budget that he presents to Council, and if
11 there's one meeting that I think the mayor should
12 attend, it's when he presents his budget to
13 City Council.

14 So, if there's only one meeting, I
15 think that would be it, to come and explain exactly
16 what's going to be included in the mayor's budget. So,
17 I think that if you're not going to tell the truth,
18 don't tell anything at all.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. DiBileo, I agree
20 with what you just said about a mayor, any mayor,
21 coming before Council at budget time to explain his
22 proposed budget, I also believe, though, for any mayor
23 would wishes to borrow millions of dollars or float
24 bond issues at that times, he or she should also come
25 before City Council to explain why this is necessary
0143

01 and what provisions he or she intends to make for that;
02 in other words, since that's going to increase a debt
03 service, how then does he or she intend to increase
04 revenue to the city to make those debt payments so that
05 the taxpayers aren't going to have to incur a tax
06 increase in the future. So, I'd just like to, I guess,
07 see a mayor more than once.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. And I'm not
09 saying we should see a mayor just once, but if we were
10 to see a mayor once, I think that would be it, that
11 would be a good reason to see a mayor. It would be
12 good to see a mayor more than once, also. That's all I
13 have under fifth order.

14 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR
15 INTRODUCTION - AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CITY OWNED
16 PROPERTY BY SEALED BIDS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER PROPERTY
17 LOCATED AT REAR 1217 BLAIR AVENUE, AND RECORDED AT
18 RECORD BOOK 1071, PG. 333.

19 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
20 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its
21 proper committee.

22 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

24 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

25 MR. POCIUS: Just to answer

0144

01 Mrs. Krake's question from before, this is not a tax
02 delinquent property. The city obtained title of this
03 by quit claim deed back in 2001, so we have whatever
04 interest in it, so it should be -- does not have to go

05 through the tax or it'd be auctioned off. I was
06 reading the ordinance as I sat here.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Anyone
08 else on the question? All those in favor of
09 introduction, signify by saying aye.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MR. WALSH: Sixth order, there is
17 no business at this time under sixth order.

18 Seventh order. 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE
19 ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 130, 2005
20 - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE
21 IN THE NAME OF CATHERINE DELROSSO, BOROUGH OF DUNMORE,
22 LICENSE NO. R-14777 CURRENTLY HELD BY THE PLCB TO
23 CHARLIE BROWN'S OF SCRANTON, LLC FOR USE AT 941
24 VIEWMONT DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS
25 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.
0145

01 MR. DIBILEO: As chairman for the
02 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item
03 7-A.

04 MS. EVANS: Second.

05 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

06 Roll call, please, Kay.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

09 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
17 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 131, 2005 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
21 PROPERTY ON LAFAYETTE STREET AND NEWTON RANSOM
22 BOULEVARD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO FORREST AND GAIL
23 JANES, 309 NEWTON ROAD, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504,
24 FOR THE SUM OF \$1,500.00.

25 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
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01 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
02 finance?

03 MS. EVANS: As chair for the
04 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of
05 Item 7-B.

06 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

07 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

08 Roll call, please, Kay.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

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

20 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, excuse

21 me, before Mr. Walsh reads this, I'd like just to say I

22 forwarded you all a letter today saying to Mr. Saunders

23 with copies to you saying I will be abstaining on 7-C

24 and 7-D.

25 Mr. Walsh had advised me in the

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01 past both of these projects my firm has an affiliation

02 with, so rather than create the appearance of a

03 conflict of interest, I will abstain on the voting for

04 the both of them. I'll state that for the record.

05 Thank you.

06 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

07 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

08 NO. 138, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

09 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO

10 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

11 NO. 048401A WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

12 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) TO ALLOW FOR AN

13 INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE

14 EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD PROJECT.

15 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

16 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

17 finance?

18 MS. EVANS: As chair for the

19 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of

20 Item 7-C.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

23 Just on the question, if I could, Mr. Pocius, are you
24 able to talk about some of the things happening on
25 East Mountain Road?

0148

01 I'm hearing that some pipes have
02 to be enlarged. Is this involving that?

03 MR. POCIUS: No. I can give you
04 the gist. If you want to know why the pipes are being
05 relocated, I can tell you that. I'll give you the
06 short version, not the big long hydraulic engineering
07 version.

08 Basically down on Wintermantle
09 Avenue there's an existing ditch that comes in between
10 the houses. We had designed a 30-inch pipe with a
11 30-inch end section, which is a big -- we call it a
12 whistle in engineering language, to collect this water
13 coming down there.

14 That's also the same place where
15 this 42-inch water main comes down from East Mountain
16 from Lake Scranton. The information we were given and
17 designed by the Pennsylvania American Water Company was
18 inaccurate. The pipe was not shown, was not exactly in
19 the same position in the ground, both horizontally and
20 vertically, as it was given to us.

21 There was a conflict with
22 installing this -- when the state upgraded the end
23 section, they made it a little bigger just for whatever
24 reason.

25 So what had to be done was a
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01 substantial amount of water that comes out of an
02 existing rock tunnel that runs for 2600, 2800 feet all
03 the way up to Lake Scranton, so rather than let --
04 that's where this water traverses into this ditch, so
05 rather than have an inadequate situation at the bottom
06 trying to collect this water, we were authorized and we
07 sent a letter to the department explaining all the
08 flows and what have you, intercepting this water up on
09 top, all right, on the property of the, I guess it's
10 actually on PAWC's property, but then a portion
11 collected up there, but then take it down Waldorf Park
12 Drive, for lack of a better term, out to and reconnect
13 it into the existing system.

14 However, by putting this water
15 upstream from where it was eventually coming in, the
16 pipes had to be enlarged.

17 If the pipes could be taken out
18 and salvaged, because it was a -- we call it -- it's an

19 ADS, we call it black pipe, it's that corrugated which
20 can be used as a parallel pipe, they will be
21 reinstalled going up Waldorf Park.
22 Council will be getting
23 legislation down from the law department allowing for
24 the easements for both the Waldorf Park and the PAWC to
25 install this line up there.

0150

01 And then we also designed in,
02 besides this, we designed in an overflow situation to
03 better protect this whole thing. Once this additional
04 flow was discovered that's coming out of this tunnel,
05 it's a bizarre thing, and we had many field meetings
06 with the city engineers, Pennsylvania American Water
07 and engineers and so on and so forth, and we feel that
08 because of that conflict down below, which we weren't
09 aware of, this is as good or probably better situation
10 than was previously put in the ground.

11 MR. DIBILEO: And will it extend
12 the length of the project much?

13 MR. POCIUS: Not really,
14 Mr. DiBileo. It's still on track for this year, you
15 know, it's still on track for this year, and hopefully
16 we'll see that road open by the end of this year.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

18 MR. POCIUS: And, Mark, it's okay
19 to talk on the engineering, as long as I don't vote
20 on the finances.

21 Because I think what this does is
22 this just, you know, this type of agreement, it just --
23 as more money is needed for the project, like, because
24 there was a lot of things added and put up there, it
25 just balances the reimbursement so the amounts of
0151

01 monies in all the categories match up more accurately
02 with what is actually happening.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

04 Appreciate that information.

05 MR. POCIUS: Thank you,
06 Mr. DiBileo, for allowing me to explain it.

07 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further
08 questions, roll call, please, Kay.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

14 MR. POCIUS: Abstain.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.
20 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION
22 NO. 139, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
24 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 040928-D WITH
25 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
0152
01 TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING
02 THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST
03 MARKET STREET BRIDGE PROJECT.
04 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
05 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
06 finance?
07 MS. EVANS: As chair for the
08 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of
09 Item 7-D.
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
12 Roll call, please, Kay.
13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.
14 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
15 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.
16 MS. EVANS: Yes.
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.
18 MR. POCIUS: Abstain.
19 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.
24 MR. WALSH: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR ADOPTION
0153
01 RESOLUTION NO. 140, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
02 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
03 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN
04 FROM THE COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM,
05 PROJECT NO. 03-150 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
06 \$150,000.00 TO DTK VENTURES, L.P. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE
07 PROJECT.
08 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
09 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
10 community development?

11 MR. McTIERNAN: As chair for the
12 committee on community development, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-E.

14 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

15 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

16 Roll call, please, Kay.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

18 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

19 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

22 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
02 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

03 Seeing no further business on the agenda, I'll
04 entertain a motion to adjourn.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

06 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

07 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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09 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

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02 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

03 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

03 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

04 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to
04 the best of my ability.

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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