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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS (Not present.)

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection  
2 observed.)

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 (Mrs. Evans not present.)

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Let the record  
14 reflect that Mrs. Evans called before and  
15 indicated that she will not be at tonight's  
16 meeting due to illness. Dispense with the  
17 reading of the minutes.

18 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER. NO  
19 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Garvey.  
21 Any announcements?

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I have some,  
23 Mr. McGoff. On Sunday, March 29, from one  
24 to eight at Novak's Food and Spirits on  
25 Boulevard Avenue in Dickson City there will

1 a pasta dinner. All proceeds will benefit  
2 Ryan's Memorial Fund. Ryan Mason Mehalchick  
3 died unexpectedly in his sleep after his  
4 first birthday. His grandmother, Dolly, was  
5 one of the directors at the Lackawanna  
6 County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
7 for the county, so we would like to see  
8 everyone support this effort.

9 The spring festival of St. Francis  
10 of Assisi Church will also be Sunday,  
11 March 29 from noon to four. There will be  
12 polenta and meatballs or rigatoni and  
13 meatballs, and adults is \$8.50.

14 I would just like to compliment the  
15 Scranton Police Department and also the  
16 District Attorney's Office for their  
17 expeditious arrest of the vandals in South  
18 Scranton that have sprayed graffiti  
19 throughout the courts in lower South Side.  
20 They also were up in the Connell Park area  
21 and the district attorney was up in that  
22 area, also, so we would like to praise their  
23 efforts for attacking that in an expeditious  
24 manner.

25 I would also like to comment on the

1                   arrest of Darak Williams and Kashema  
2                   Reddish. The people that were accused of  
3                   beating the three-year-old Kavannah Salvador  
4                   to death last year. I reported last meeting  
5                   that District Attorney Gene Talerico had  
6                   asked us to watch America's Most Wanted on  
7                   Saturday night. I hope you watched it, it  
8                   was an excellent show, and lo and behold on  
9                   Sunday they were arrested in Buffalo, New  
10                  York, so it pays to have things on America's  
11                  Most Wanted.

12                                The St. Patrick's Day parade is this  
13                                Saturday at 11:45. It starts at the 200  
14                                block of Wyoming Avenue. I would just  
15                                encourage everyone who is attending to  
16                                please watch your open containers and I hope  
17                                that the bars will do what they did last  
18                                year and open a little later. It's very  
19                                disconcerting when you have your children  
20                                and grandchildren there and people are  
21                                drinking and vomiting, you know, around your  
22                                children.

23                                        So, please, if all of the bars abide  
24                                        by what they did last year, and I believe it  
25                                        was the district attorney that asked them

1 and council to do that, not to open very  
2 early in the morning like they had in the  
3 previous years, and you know, several years  
4 ago we did have a death as a result of the  
5 parade and the drinking, so I would like to  
6 caution everyone to please, please watch  
7 your alcohol intake and stay away from the  
8 parade if you are in that condition.

9 The Actor's Circle is starting the  
10 play "You Can't Take It With You." It's on  
11 March 20 to the 22n, and the 27th to the  
12 29th, Friday and Sunday at 8:00, Sunday at  
13 2:00 at the Providence Playhouse.

14 And the last thing I have to  
15 announce is I don't know if too many of you  
16 have heard about it, but there is plans to  
17 put an Ethanol plant in Taylor. They have  
18 been meeting in Taylor for several meetings  
19 now with the planning commission and Taylor  
20 Council. The South Side Residents  
21 Association has also met concerning that  
22 issue because it will be right across the  
23 river from South Scranton. At our last  
24 meeting we did have people from Taylor and  
25 people from West Scranton attend our

1 meeting. We are keeping our eyes open for

2 what is going to happen and I can assure you  
3 that anything that's going to happen in  
4 South Scranton will be fought vigorously by  
5 our neighborhood association and we are  
6 working with several people in West  
7 Scranton, also, because it is going to  
8 effect our two neighborhoods directly, so  
9 I'll keep you posted on that. And that's  
10 all I have. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Two things  
12 before we go to citizen's participation. I  
13 would like to recognize in attendance  
14 members of Boy Scout Troop Seven from the  
15 Valley View Terrace apartments who are here  
16 this evening with this us I believe gaining  
17 their citizenship in the community badge.  
18 Thank you for your attendance.

19 Also, an announcement that next  
20 week's meeting has been rescheduled to  
21 Monday evening, the 16th, at 6:30. Please  
22 mark it down. Next week's meeting will be  
23 on Monday evening rather than Tuesday.

24 I'd also like to mention that during  
25 our caucus Mrs. Darcy and Mr. Migliorie were

1 here and showed us the new equipment that

2 has been purchased for the chamber. The  
3 cameras and the equipment that operates it,  
4 I have no idea how it works, but it was  
5 pretty impressive state of the art for  
6 cameras and remotely controlled from in  
7 there somewhere.

8 If there is anyone that at some  
9 point in time would like to look at the  
10 equipment, please, you know, just at the end  
11 of the meeting or whatever check with the  
12 people from ECTV and I'm sure they would be  
13 happy to show you what it has been purchased  
14 and what is being utilized in the city hall  
15 and council chambers, and that's all, and  
16 fourth order. Citizens' participation.  
17 Bill Jackowitz.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, Council  
19 President, council members. Bill Jackowitz,  
20 South Scranton resident, member of the  
21 Scranton Taxpayers' Association. Well, it's  
22 been a long hard nine months with ECTV.  
23 Let's hope they finally got everything in  
24 order now and let's hope that the cameras  
25 work and let's press on with the public

9

1 meetings.

2 Okay, unemployment, a favorite



3 subject as you all know. Unemployment, 8  
4 percent locally, 8.1 percent nationally.  
5 Finally, the nation has a higher  
6 unemployment rate than the  
7 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton metropolitan  
8 area. Although our region had a full 1  
9 percent higher unemployment rate than the  
10 State of Pennsylvania, I would like to thank  
11 James Haggerty of the Scranton Times-Tribune  
12 for his front page article Sunday, 8 March  
13 2009, "Northeast Pennsylvania no stranger to  
14 hard times."

15 I've been speaking about the  
16 horrible economic conditions for five years.  
17 On many occasions I have stated that this  
18 has been an ongoing situation for over five  
19 decades. Mr. Haggerty points that out in  
20 his article, several examples. He points  
21 out an old adage about the Scranton area.  
22 When the national economy catches a cold  
23 Scranton gets pneumonia.

24 In 1978 the national unemployment  
25 rate, and please, I hope everyone pays

10

1 attention to these figures, in 1978 the  
2 national unemployment rate was 6.3 percent,

3 the local rate 8 percent. In 1982 the  
4 national unemployment rate was 9 percent,  
5 the local rate 12 percent. In 1949 the  
6 national unemployment rate was 7 percent,  
7 the local rate 18 percent. In 1940 the  
8 national unemployment rate was 14.6 percent,  
9 the local rate was 32 percent.

10 During the Great Depression the  
11 national unemployment rate was 24 percent,  
12 the local unemployment rate was 48 percent.  
13 The Times-Tribune also provided a graph, a  
14 monthly chart, seasonally adjusted  
15 unemployment rates from January 1970 to  
16 December 2008. I have asked council on  
17 numerous occasions to invite Mr. Austin  
18 Burke and the Scranton Chamber of Commerce  
19 to attend the Scranton City Council meeting  
20 to address these serious economic and  
21 work-related issues. Again, my request has  
22 fallen on deaf ears. Marching orders again  
23 got in the way. Mr. Burke states in  
24 Mr. Haggerty's article, and I quote, "I am  
25 hopeful that we won't be some multiple of

11

1 the national average."

2 My interpretation, and only my  
3 interpretation, I really am not concerned.

4 I make a six figure salary every year and  
5 have for over 28 years. We need more KOZ's  
6 and tax exempt businesses and property in  
7 Scranton.

8 Also, it is not my fault that we  
9 have no work or high wages in the area. The  
10 fault lies with the speakers at Scranton  
11 City Council. They drive potential  
12 employers away from the area. Way to go,  
13 Legion of Doom.

14 Don't let the facts get in the way  
15 of a good story. My hope is that more  
16 factual and actual stories will be reported  
17 by the two local newspapers, the  
18 Times-Tribune and the Times Leader Scranton  
19 Edition. Investigative reporting is what is  
20 needed, not just writing quotes down and  
21 reporting them as facts. For those  
22 Scrantonians who have never lived anywhere  
23 else except Scranton, Scranton is a good  
24 city to raise your kids and live after  
25 retirement. Not a good place to earn a

12

1 living and support yourself and your family  
2 unless you are politically connected. The  
3 local elected officials in chamber take care

4 of themselves and their own with little or  
5 no regard for anyone else. Remember, the  
6 Doherty will people and the Fanucci my  
7 people, quotes from the mayor and council  
8 woman, not on my words, just repeating them.

9 Finally, I would like to thank  
10 Captain Paul Tarino and Captain Bob Seda and  
11 all the Scranton firefighters and police  
12 officers who are willing to risk their lives  
13 on a daily basis to save someone else's  
14 life. Captain Tarino and Captain Seda saved  
15 a person in South Side in the 1200 block of  
16 South Webster Avenue two blocks away from my  
17 house. And also the United States military  
18 and all honorably discharged veterans that  
19 protect this country every day of the year.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Jackowitz. Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
24 remember when Scranton Today I believe  
25 wanted to use that room and they were

13

1 evicted from it. Now, ECTV has all of the  
2 rights to that room. Is there a politics  
3 involved? You better believe it.

4 Okay, let's get onto 5-B. I'm not

5                   criticizing about them I'm just wondering  
6                   what is it for, is it going to be a  
7                   restaurant or what? It's the 225,000 loan?

8                   MR. MCGOFF: Danielle and Company.

9                   MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, it's not a  
10                  restaurant. She makes products like soaps  
11                  with different scents and products --

12                 MR. SBARAGLIA: Is that what it's  
13                  doing?

14                 MS. FANUCCI: -- like that. Yeah.

15                 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Let's get down  
16                  to 7-A, my favorite. Does anyone know what  
17                  the citizens of Scranton are going to  
18                  receive for the 11 1/2 million dollars we  
19                  are putting into the Connell building plus a  
20                  garage which is probably another eight or  
21                  nine? It comes out to be about 20 million.  
22                  What are we going to get for this 20  
23                  million, a viable building? Who is going to  
24                  make more on this deal, the people had own  
25                  the Connell building or the citizens of

14

1                   Scranton? And better yet, how much did they  
2                   pay to get that building? I don't think it  
3                   was that much if I remember right. We got  
4                   ten times probably more than they pay for

5 the building into it, the public at large.

6 Jesus, something is wrong somewhere.

7 Really something is wrong. Every time you  
8 pick up the paper people are losing their  
9 homes, but yet we have millions of dollars  
10 put into one building or five or six  
11 buildings. We got -- if you add it all up  
12 we got 30 plus another 20, about \$50 million  
13 we invested in a few buildings in Scranton.  
14 You really think that is smart to really put  
15 that much money into a few buildings? No.  
16 Unless somebody is getting something out of  
17 it there is certainly no big financial  
18 status.

19 Okay. You know what I think about  
20 subordinate loans. I get tired of you  
21 subordinates, subordinates, subordinates.  
22 What good is giving a loan if you are going  
23 to subordinate it? Really, really, really,  
24 if you take -- you tell us that we are going  
25 to have prime -- if anything goes wrong we

15

1 are going to get our money because we get  
2 all of the equipment and building and this  
3 and that and whatever, you subordinate it  
4 and we get nothing. Surely the Hilton must  
5 have thought something. When we subordinate

6 our loan for the Hilton, we took bed sheets,  
7 fixtures on the wall and what do we get for  
8 it? Nothing. And that deal stunk from the  
9 very beginning. I know most of you weren't  
10 sitting on council when that happened. I  
11 told Gary that time when they said we are  
12 going to close the building, I said let him  
13 close it. I'm sure somebody would have  
14 bought it, there is no question about it.  
15 That man got a \$33 million building for 13.  
16 How do you like that for bargaining? I  
17 guess the only place that's really better is  
18 in Detroit. I guess they got good bargains  
19 out there now.

20 But this is what I mean about the  
21 city. You got to take care of the people  
22 inside of the city, the people who are  
23 paying that wage tax, 3.4 percent we are  
24 paying. Of course, the city I know only  
25 pays 2.4. But we are paying 3.4. Everyone

16

1 else around us is paying one and still what  
2 are we doing to the people? You are really  
3 sticking their heads into the mud. I'm  
4 surprised at you really that you don't look  
5 at the city in a different light. You don't

6 and I don't understand why.

7 Some people said this or that, but I  
8 love the city, that's why I stayed in it. I  
9 paid that 3.2 percent as a construction  
10 worker and they are quite high, but I paid  
11 it because I love the city and I believe you  
12 should give something back to the city.  
13 They gave me the opportunity to grow up here  
14 and it was wonderful time to grow up in  
15 Scranton at that time. You didn't have what  
16 you have now. You weren't afraid to walk  
17 the streets. The streets were even in  
18 better shape, but there weren't that many  
19 cars to go over them, but that's how it was  
20 back then. I go way back. I was born in  
21 the 30's, and like I say, it was a good  
22 time, in fact, it was a real good time to be  
23 born because the world was about going to  
24 begin. Of course, the people that fought it  
25 don't think so, but as a kid it was. Thank

17

1 you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ozzie Quinn.

4 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'  
5 Association. The administration's lack of  
6 spending on infrastructure maintenance, that



7 is, the potholes, sidewalks and the curbs  
8 that are deteriorated along with no home  
9 improvement and repair for homeowners are  
10 seriously short of what is required to  
11 maintain neighborhoods. Anyone can confirm  
12 this by taking a drive or walk around some  
13 of the neighborhoods. Yet, we all at the  
14 end of the 2008, the taxpayers owe  
15 \$170 million principle only, and the mayor  
16 has spent over \$50 million in CDBG funds  
17 since he took over using the buckshot  
18 approach.

19 Since a speaker last week said that  
20 all cities are financially suffering, let it  
21 be clear that the administration's debt  
22 occurred long before the recession. What  
23 has happened to all of the money? We know  
24 for one thing that it is a result of poor  
25 fiscal and physical planning and has to be

18

1 stopped. The taxpayers cannot afford this  
2 debt. What about the firefighters and the  
3 police, how are they going to be paid?  
4 Their mayor wants to eliminate fire stations  
5 and yet build a new library in South Side  
6 with taxpayers' money. Where are we going

7 to stop? Enough is enough. I just want to  
8 point out also the fact that the mayor has  
9 expended \$2,062,302 on lawyers to fight the  
10 unions at city hall. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.  
12 Stephanie Gawel.

13 MS. GAWEL: Good evening, Council.  
14 It's been very long 17-years since PEL paid  
15 by Harrisburg arrived here to recover this  
16 city from distressed status, it appears that  
17 after 17 long years in ain't working, and  
18 they simply say the unions got to go. This  
19 is the same time of thinking that was  
20 present around the early 20th century when  
21 greedy business owners and politicians  
22 treated people like they shouldn't exist.  
23 The unsafe working conditions, the low and  
24 menial paid, long working hours, and if you  
25 don't like if just quit attitude, that's

19

1 just the way it was. If you are a union  
2 member you know these are the same people  
3 back in those days had to fight to organize  
4 unions. These workers and their families  
5 were harassed, injured and in some cases  
6 killed all for the right to form unions that  
7 now provide safe working conditions, better

8 wages and paid overtime.

9 This administration would like  
10 everyone to believe that the police and  
11 firefighters' unions are the reasons we are  
12 still distressed status. There are many  
13 unions out there that have a right to call  
14 in sick, work slowdowns and strike. Both  
15 the fraternal order of police and the fire  
16 unions gave up their rights to strike for  
17 fair arbitration that was voted into law.  
18 So it makes you wonder why this  
19 administration continues to waste taxpayers'  
20 money.

21 We voted for the unions to have fair  
22 arbitration. This administration is  
23 arrogant, ignorant and incompetent when it  
24 continues to give NCC business. We have a  
25 tax office, all we need to do is hire one or

20

1 two more other employees that would do  
2 exactly what NCC is doing except we would  
3 get all of the money collected. The fact  
4 that this administration doesn't care to  
5 speak to it's citizens of Scranton, but to  
6 the people of the Chamber of Commerce which  
7 is basically businessmen and women from

8 outside of the area, whether it's Dunmore,  
9 the Abingtons, etcetera.

10 This administration doesn't care  
11 about the safety of the citizens because the  
12 only thing the police cars -- in the police  
13 cars are a First Aid kit. They used to have  
14 oxygen, defibrillators, flares, etcetera.  
15 We still don't have these and I know we have  
16 talked about it and stuff, but truly this --  
17 he just doesn't worry about our safety  
18 issues. He has talked about closing the  
19 more fire companies and stuff like that and  
20 it's just not right. It's just not.

21 And, you know, Mrs. Gatelli, you  
22 stated once that, well, I can sit and talk  
23 to my union. Well, yeah, because you have  
24 the power to strike. It puts a little more  
25 pressure on them. First off, nothing

21

1 against, you know, but most parents don't  
2 want to be home all day with the kids. You  
3 know, there is a lot of them are going, no,  
4 they are supposed to be in school, and these  
5 gentleman and women who put their lives on  
6 the lines don't have that option. They just  
7 don't have it. It's not right.

8 And I'd like to just make one more

9 comment, I realize that we seem to have the  
10 same speakers week after week, but these  
11 people truly do look into their information  
12 for the most part. You have one or two that  
13 don't, and to pick on them is unfair. I  
14 know I have been up here and I'm trying to  
15 encourage other people to put fresh faces on  
16 all the issues, but truly we need not to  
17 pick on the ten that do take their time,  
18 like Marie and Andy and Ozzie that, you  
19 know, look up their information before they  
20 come up and speak. Thank you. Have a nice  
21 night.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Gawel.  
23 Marie Schumacher.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
25 Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and

22

1 member of the Taxpayers' Association.  
2 First, I know I'm wasting my breath, but I  
3 also am against 7-C. I don't think the  
4 citizens and the taxpayers' equity should be  
5 subordinated to the banks.

6 Second, I would like to ask Mrs.  
7 Gatelli what the status is of the Single Tax  
8 Office audit report. I thought by now we

9 would have that. We seem to have nothing  
10 but excuses and delays.

11 MS. GATELLI: Would you like me to  
12 answer now or in motions?

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, please, because  
14 last week I asked and you didn't do it in  
15 motions so I'll give some of my time.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I made a report  
17 about the tax report in motions.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Not what I asked.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, I'm sorry, I  
20 apologize if I didn't answer you completely.  
21 I spoke to Mr. McGovern last night and he  
22 told me that they there setting up the dates  
23 for the meeting. The audit is done, the  
24 Treasury Department has looked over the  
25 audit and now they are just waiting to set

23

1 the meeting.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,  
3 I'll continue with the letter I wrote to  
4 Mr. Cornelius, the head of the State  
5 Department of Community and Economic  
6 Development with the concerns I have  
7 regarding the variances from the Recovery  
8 Plan. "The 27th payroll issue is  
9 highlighted, noting resolution should be

10 reviewed with the auditors. A scant two  
11 years later it became apparent the issue was  
12 not properly addressed resulting in wasted  
13 arbitration and legal fees.

14 Next, city pension funding was  
15 premised to trend upward, but remained well  
16 below the 2000 actual. 2005 was 86 percent  
17 of 2000 which I don't consider well below.

18 Another premise was Nay Aug Park  
19 expenditure is assumed to bear a one-time  
20 cost which is not carried forward from 2005  
21 through -- excuse me, from 2003 through  
22 2007. Nay Aug Park has continued to be a  
23 money pit which is bottomless.

24 PEL was concerned about an action  
25 that would have eliminated the cash payments

24

1 to the city for the DPW land. This cash  
2 payment of \$600,000 has yet to be received  
3 by the city.

4 In 1998, a formal certification was  
5 issued which called on the city to develop a  
6 balanced budget. Identify and adopt a  
7 course of action to correct it's structural  
8 financial imbalances. Ten years later there  
9 has not been a budget balanced without

10 incurring debt or utilizing a one-time  
11 revenue item.

12 The current administration incurred  
13 a \$5.5 million termination fee when they  
14 chose not to renew their contract with  
15 American Anglican Environmental  
16 Technologies.

17 DCED's fourth amendatory order  
18 directed the mayor and city council to  
19 achieve consensus on the principal of a  
20 revised Recovery Plan for 2001 and beyond.  
21 The adopted Recovery Plan ran through 2005  
22 without a similar order for 2006 and beyond  
23 and here we are in 2009.

24 The figures outlined in Chapter 1-B  
25 of the Recovery Plan serve as the keystone

25

1 leading to a reasonable realistic and  
2 achievable course of action to address the  
3 continuing long-term issues. How close did  
4 the city come to meeting these projections?

5 Chapter 1-B assumed that TAN-B would  
6 remain at about \$3,200,000 but has been more  
7 in the neighborhood of \$10 million annually.

8 The 27th payroll issue is  
9 highlighted."

10 No, no, I'm sorry. I did that one.



11 "The city pension --" I have two of the  
12 wrong pages. I'm sorry. I will have to  
13 conclude it next week. I copied -- I  
14 brought two page two's and no page three,  
15 I'm sorry, and my glasses are falling apart.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Did you receive an  
17 answer from them as of yet?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: I received an  
19 unanswered letter which I will -- I received  
20 a letter which said nothing but it's all  
21 like firemen and policeman's fault  
22 addressing none of the specific items where  
23 council and the mayor have strayed from the  
24 Recovery Plan, and I will write to  
25 Mr. Cornelius as soon as I get my taxes

26

1 done.

2 And one while we on -- we talked  
3 about Nay Aug and the money that has been  
4 wasted there is just pitiful. Recently we  
5 had the problems with the fish. That  
6 pavilion, there was no reason for that  
7 pavilion to collapse except for neglected  
8 maintenance which seems to be the keystone  
9 at Nay Aug and every place. Put the money  
10 into doing something, make a capital expense

11 and then forget about it and leave it. That  
12 pavilion should have been taken down or  
13 heated.

14 The wildlife center is another  
15 issue. Now, the mayor took 175 million --  
16 or, excuse me, I wish \$175,000 from the  
17 state to -- I'll finish this and then leave,  
18 for the Wildlife Center when they moved in,  
19 and that whole \$175,000 went guess where, to  
20 architects to come up with a design for a  
21 new zoo, and now what do we want to build, a  
22 library in South Scranton. Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.  
24 Schumacher. Les Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

27

1 Les Spindler, city resident and taxpayer and  
2 homeowner. The traffic light that council  
3 is voting on Linden Street for the office  
4 park, I think council should think twice  
5 about passing that. I think it's on public  
6 safety issue.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les, can I interrupt  
8 one second? We are going to table that  
9 tonight because there is some issues.

10 MS. GATELLI: And I voted "no" last  
11 week, Mr. Spindler. I agree with you.

12 MR. SPINDLER: In the winter going up  
13 the hill in people are stuck, they are going  
14 to get stuck.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: We discussed that.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Coming down around the  
17 corner where you got bridges, I think it's a  
18 safety issue.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's exactly what  
20 we discussed in caucus so we are going to  
21 table it.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Last  
23 week, Mrs. Gatelli, you asked about why some  
24 speakers just pick on Mrs. Fanucci and  
25 Mr. Minora about the parking tickets, well,

28

1 as a matter of fact, myself and  
2 Mr. Jackowitz were the only two had spoken,  
3 neither one of us mentioned Mr. Minora, so  
4 thank you for bringing that to light.

5 MR. GATELLI: I believe Mr. Minora  
6 was questioned about his parking tickets.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Look at the -- go back  
8 and look at the tapes. I know for a fact I  
9 didn't and Mr. Jackowitz didn't.

10 MS. GATELLI: Well, someone did,  
11 because he answered the question.

12 MR. SPINDLER: The reason I asked  
13 Mrs. Fanucci because she is an elected  
14 official and she should be held to a higher  
15 standard.

16 MS. GATELLI: I agree, but I think  
17 all elected officials should be looked at.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Mrs. Fanucci, if this  
19 hadn't been brought to light would you have  
20 paid those parking tickets?

21 MS. FANUCCI: The two I had? The  
22 two I had?

23 MR. SPINDLER: Would you have?

24 MS. FANUCCI: Yes. I pay my parking  
25 tickets all the time.

29

1 MR. SPINDLER: I highly doubt. Why  
2 did it take you eight years to do it?

3 MS. FANUCCI: Les, why don't you go  
4 down and find out how many parking tickets I  
5 have paid in the past and then come back  
6 here.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, well, I don't --  
8 here is 15 you didn't pay. Here is 15 you  
9 didn't pay.

10 MS. FANUCCI: That's not true.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Right here, black and  
12 white. Right here.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, I'd love to see  
14 that. Bring that to one to me, too, Les.

15 MR. SPINDLER: You know where they  
16 can be found. Moving on. Last week,  
17 Mrs. Gatelli, you also said in the past  
18 there was a three to two majority and you  
19 said they couldn't get things done.

20 MS. GATELLI: No, I said they didn't  
21 stop the mayor from doing anything.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Well, you know why  
23 they couldn't stop the mayor --

24 MS. GATELLI: Why?

25 MR. SPINDLER: -- Mrs. Gatelli,

30

1 because every time they voted to do  
2 something with the 3/2 majority the mayor  
3 would veto it and they didn't have a four to  
4 one majority to override it either.

5 MS. GATELLI: Well, Mrs. Spindler,  
6 are you aware that the president puts things  
7 on the agenda? So the president could have  
8 kept everything off that agenda.

9 MR. SPINDLER: But the mayor --

10 MS. GATELLI: And stopped the mayor  
11 right in his tracks. Nothing would have  
12 been put on that agenda.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Council made motions  
14 to do things. I know, I was here.

15 MS. GATELLI: I disagree with you.

16 MR. SPINDLER: You weren't here. I  
17 was here.

18 MS. GATELLI: Well, it's up to the  
19 president to put things on the agenda.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Council wanted to do  
21 this for the taxpayers, the mayor vetoed it  
22 and they didn't -- the mayor had his two  
23 puppets there to go along with him so they  
24 couldn't override the veto.

25 MS. GATELLI: I'll talk more about

31

1 that in motions because you are wrong,  
2 Mr. Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: No, I'm not.

4 MS. GATELLI: Yes, you are.

5 MR. SPINDLER: And I think there is a  
6 lot of witnesses here. Okay, CDTV or ECTV,  
7 elect Chris TV, got booted out of their  
8 building now, I'd like to know what's going  
9 to happen to all of the money that was put  
10 into there, all of the thousands and  
11 thousands of dollars and are they going to  
12 come back and ask for more money for the new  
13 building they will have to move into?

14                   Next thing, I hear Molly Branigan's  
15                   is closing after the St. Patrick's Day  
16                   parade, I don't know when after, but they  
17                   are closing after the parade, and I hear the  
18                   Banshee is for sale, so we can add those  
19                   couple of buildings to the list of  
20                   unoccupied buildings.

21                   Mr. Courtright, last week you were  
22                   talking about parking tickets that you got  
23                   and you paid them and you said you'd love to  
24                   know how you can get them fixed, well, just  
25                   ask Mrs. Fanucci, she got 15 of them fixed.

32

1                   MS. GATELLI: That's unfair.

2                   MR. MCGOFF: Please, that's wrong.

3                   MR. SPINDLER: No, it isn't. It's a  
4                   fact.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: That's out of order.

6                   MR. SPINDLER: It's a fact.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: It's out of order.

8                   MR. SPINDLER: There's 15 she got  
9                   dismissed.

10                  MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Spindler, it's out  
11                  of order.

12                  MR. SPINDLER: No, it's freedom of  
13                  speech.

14 MR. MCGOFF: No, it's not.

15 MS. FANUCCI: It's wrong freedom of  
16 speech, but it's freedom of speech.

17 MR. MCGOFF: You made an accusation  
18 of a criminal activity. That is it not  
19 freedom of speech.

20 MS. FANUCCI: The big scandal,  
21 parking tickets, Les. That's what it was  
22 all about.

23 MR. SPINDLER: A 16-year-old boy was  
24 arrested Saturday, he attempted to rape a  
25 University of Scranton student then he was

33

1 caught following other students into her  
2 dorm, and they think that -- the police  
3 think it's a the same person that attacked  
4 two people in West Scranton last week. That  
5 can't be true because Mayor Doherty says we  
6 don't have crime in this city.

7 Lastly, I have spoken about and  
8 other people have spoken about what's going  
9 on with North Scranton Junior High School.  
10 I think it would be a good idea for council  
11 to ask Mr. Langan to come in for a caucus so  
12 he could be asked a lot of questions the  
13 citizens have. Would that be a possibility?  
14 Mr. McGoff?



15 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure the invitation  
16 could be extended.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Well, could you look  
18 into that, please?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. SUETTA: Why is everybody  
22 smiling. Good evening, Jean Suetta. Judy,  
23 I'm glad you come out of the closet.

24 MS. GATELLI: I did?

25 MS. SUETTA: Didn't you just come out

34

1 of that one before? All right. Question  
2 number one --

3 MS. GATELLI: Don't tell my husband  
4 that, Jeannie.

5 MS. SUETTA: I don't know. You just  
6 told me you were in the closet before. Did  
7 we get recycling bins up at Nay Aug?

8 MS. FANUCCI: No, I don't think yet  
9 we did. I don't think --

10 MS. SUETTA: What's the holdup. I  
11 mean, they have a lot of them down the DPW,  
12 it won't hurt to put them by all the  
13 containers. Bill, what about Jerry Langan?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: What about him?

15 MS. SUETTA: I asked you last week  
16 to find out why they blocked that monument  
17 that nobody goes to.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I haven't  
19 found out yet, Jean.

20 MS. SUETTA: Why?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I did not get a  
22 chance.

23 MS. SUETTA: I gave you a whole  
24 week. Judy, he got a week, you got two.  
25 How many cars run through Nay Aug.

35

1 MS. GATELLI: 200,000 I was told.

2 MS. SUETTA: 200,000. That's almost  
3 a quarter of a million. If everybody gave a  
4 donation --

5 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, but everybody  
6 doesn't give a donation unfortunately.

7 MS. SUETTA: There is few and far  
8 apart. Where did all of the money go?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Goes to the  
10 conservatory.

11 MS. GATELLI: It goes to the Nay Aug  
12 Conservancy the money.

13 MS. SUETTA: But where did it go?  
14 They only --

15 MS. GATELLI: \$47,000 they paid.

16 MS. SUETTA: Right, 200,000 cars went  
17 through, a lot of people go through. I gave  
18 ten, my friend gave ten.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Some people don't give  
20 any.

21 MS. GATELLI: Yes. It's not  
22 required.

23 MS. SUETTA: So the other ones  
24 compensate what they didn't give. 200,000  
25 cars, come on. That's a lot of cars.

36

1 MS. GATELLI: Yes, it is.

2 MS. SUETTA: There is a lot of money  
3 and somebody was dipping into the till.

4 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I don't think so.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Don't say that.

6 MS. SUETTA: Oh, yeah. And, yes, I  
7 will say it. And, Sherry, if you need money  
8 for your parking tickets I'll give it to  
9 you. I'll be a good person.

10 MS. FANUCCI: I'll be okay. They are  
11 paid, Jean.

12 MS. SUETTA: I'm only busting you.

13 MS. FANUCCI: I know.

14 MS. SUETTA: When are we getting the  
15 Christmas decorations out of the front.

16 Stupid question. I, mean it's March 10.

17 MS. FANUCCI: I thought that myself.

18 MS. GATELLI: They are probably in  
19 for St. Patrick's Day. They must be green.

20 MS. SUETTA: No, there is white  
21 sticks out there, too. So we only collected  
22 47,000.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah.

24 MS. SUETTA: There is a rotten egg.

25 MS. FANUCCI: It was tough Christmas

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1 for everybody.

2 MS. SUETTA: I want to know about the  
3 memorial.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will find out for  
5 you. You call me enough, you should have  
6 asked me again.

7 MS. SUETTA: Well, I did, but now you  
8 didn't return my call.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think you dialed  
10 the wrong number.

11 MS. SUETTA: No, no, no. I know your  
12 phone number. Amil, I got rollover minutes.  
13 All right. That's it. Sherry, nothing  
14 doing over the Radison?

15 MS. FANUCCI: No. No.

16 MS. SUETTA: I hear he died, too.

17 MS. FANUCCI: I don't know. I will  
18 check on that.

19 MS. SUETTA: And I want to know, you  
20 work for the governor, do me a favor, tell  
21 him thank you.

22 MS. FANUCCI: For?

23 MS. SUETTA: Raising the price of  
24 cigarettes because after today I quit.

25 MS. FANUCCI: You did?

38

1 MS. SUETTA: I'm going to. I bought  
2 my last pack of cigarettes.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Good for you. I'm very  
4 proud of you. Congratulations.

5 MS. SUETTA: I won't have no  
6 friends.

7 MS. FANUCCI: There is a rough  
8 spot -- there a rough spot there for awhile,  
9 but good luck.

10 MS. SUETTA: But he raised the price  
11 and that's it. I'm done.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Good luck.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thanks, Jean. Doug  
14 Miller.

15 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
16 Doug Miller, Scranton. It's truly nice to

17 see the students here this evening to take  
18 part in our meeting. I think it just goes  
19 back to show us what Junior Council did here  
20 for students and it's sparked an interest  
21 and I think you are going to see it continue  
22 because students have become interested and  
23 they want to take part in our government, so  
24 it's great to see you here. We take a look  
25 at the agenda tonight 7-A and 7-B, and again

39

1 we have the Connell building. We want to go  
2 and squander some more grant money away, and  
3 I have raised the issue several weeks ago  
4 that I was hopeful council would vote  
5 against this legislation, but it seems  
6 tonight we know it's going to pass.

7 And I believe the developer of this  
8 property has other properties in the area  
9 that are worth \$1 million and could  
10 certainly cover the cost of this project. I  
11 think it's truly time that this council  
12 becomes more responsible with our grant  
13 money and put it to better use because I  
14 truly don't see what the taxpayers are  
15 getting out of this project.

16 Regarding ECTV we saw that today  
17 they lost their zoning agreement. They were

18                   housed in the church basement in the Hill  
19                   Section, and this is a station which council  
20                   approved \$90,000 for and now they are a  
21                   station that's look for a home and has yet  
22                   to live up to it's promises that were made  
23                   in it's proposal. I guess now we can find a  
24                   piece of property that we own and just give  
25                   it to them and let them build a home there

40

1                   because we seem to be good at giving things  
2                   away. I do have to give you credit for  
3                   that.

4                                 Several weeks ago I raised the issue  
5                   of council finding grants to save some of  
6                   these churches in the city, and I believe  
7                   somebody on council -- I had left, but  
8                   somebody responded by saying you don't have  
9                   a say in that matter. Well, that's where I  
10                  disagree because as elected officials and  
11                  people that do have power you do have the  
12                  authority to send a letter to Martino  
13                  objecting to his actions.

14                                 And the same is with the issue of  
15                  the School of the Deaf I had. There was a  
16                  comment made well you have to take it up  
17                  with higher powers, Senator Mellow, Murphy,

18 and so on, but there is no reason that  
19 council can't send a letter to the governor  
20 objecting to the fact that he wants to pull  
21 funding to the school.

22 MS. GATELLI: We did, Douglas.

23 MR. MILLER: Okay.

24 MS. GATELLI: We did do that. We  
25 made a motion.

41

1 MR. MILLER: Okay, I missed that.

2 THE COURT: And for the medical  
3 school.

4 MR. MILLER: Good. I apologize. I  
5 missed that.

6 MS. GATELLI: And I believe that all  
7 of us did attend the State School for the  
8 Deaf rally, all of council members were  
9 there.

10 MR. MILLER: Yeah, I didn't mean to  
11 through any shots at you.

12 MS. GATELLI: No, I just wanted to  
13 clarify.

14 MR. MILLER: Okay. That's good. I'm  
15 glad to see that. You know, in times like  
16 these council does have the power just  
17 shows, you know, all the times you got to  
18 put some effort and I'm pleased to see that



19                   took place. Thank you.

20                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

21                   I cannot read the next name. Mr. Morgan?

22                   You are going to have to do some penmanship  
23                   classes or something.

24                   MS. GATELLI: Dr. Morgan. You could  
25                   be a doctor, Lee.

42

1                   MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I don't think I  
2                   would like to be a doctor though. You know,  
3                   I'd like to agree with a couple of the  
4                   speakers who came up prior to myself. Andy  
5                   Sbaraglia, I agree with every statement he  
6                   made from this podium. Ozzie Quinn the same  
7                   thing, and the same with Marie. And to be  
8                   honest with you, there is -- there is a lot  
9                   of people who have come up here and if the  
10                  people who watch this may think that these  
11                  things are repetitive, and you know  
12                  something, they most certainly are because  
13                  none these problems have within solved, and  
14                  we are still spending out of control in  
15                  debt.

16                  I also agree that we should table  
17                  7-A to 7-C, but I think that what we really  
18                  need to take a look at is the file of

19 council that I have -- well, Neil was nice  
20 enough to pull it out and I had a chance to  
21 read it once again, File of Council 82-2007  
22 with all of the fees that we are putting on  
23 people that are delinquent. When you listen  
24 to Bill Jackowitz who came up here and spoke  
25 about unemployment, you know, that's the

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1 greatest thing about belonging to the tax  
2 group is that we are all a committed group  
3 of people who have a very great love for  
4 this city and the county, and it may sound  
5 like a crazy thing for somebody to say, but  
6 we are invested here, and I'd just like to  
7 speak for myself and say that we have no  
8 intentions of going away and we intend to  
9 learn as much as we can and try to get  
10 this council and any government bodies that  
11 we can interact with to make changes for the  
12 benefits of the people which seems to be  
13 particularly very hard for this city to do,  
14 but I would like to see the city revisit  
15 this issue, and I would like to see the city  
16 do something with this legislation  
17 considering the kind of situation this  
18 country find itself in now with the economic  
19 catastrophe that we are facing, I mean with

20 the banks and the stock market and  
21 everything else that's going on.

22 But the one thing that I have really  
23 noticed is that, and other speakers have  
24 spoken about this from the podium, and it's  
25 the amount of blight in this city. It's not

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1 just in South Side, it's through an awful  
2 large section of this city, and it's not  
3 that people don't want it repair their  
4 properties, but they have been so overtaxed  
5 for so long that they have nothing left.

6 I drive through the 17th corridor  
7 through New York almost every day and the  
8 people in New York are debating why their  
9 property taxes are so high and they can't  
10 maintain their property or even go out for a  
11 night of entertainment because all their  
12 disposal income is being eaten by taxation,  
13 and I just like to say that we see an awful  
14 lot of grants for special interest come  
15 through council, and there is something  
16 really wrong with that.

17 And now we talk about a library and  
18 going to pump \$16 million allegedly over  
19 into South Side for this library, and my

20 question is don't you think if we had a  
21 shovel ready project it would something to  
22 with infrastructures? I mean, start small,  
23 curbs, sidewalks, something. Generally a  
24 regenerative program to make some small  
25 loans to people to repair their properties?

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1 I mean, that would benefit the community. I  
2 mean, there is no doubt that quite possibly  
3 the library is overutilized, but at this  
4 time with the economic instability we find  
5 in this city for a multitude of reasons  
6 don't you think it's time to try to move  
7 some of this grant money into the  
8 neighborhoods?

9 I mean, we need neighborhood groups  
10 to become strong again and try to help the  
11 residents of their neighborhoods. We have a  
12 lot of problems, I just hope that maybe we  
13 could do something. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
15 David Dobson.

16 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.  
17 Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton,  
18 Taxpayers' Association associate. I just  
19 came up, a few things tonight. One thing I  
20 would like to say, I had an idea a couple of

21 weeks ago on this Recovery Plan that nobody  
22 seemed to vote for but it just keeps hanging  
23 and around or whatever, it's time to maybe  
24 mend the fences and put this up for a  
25 reconsideration by the public, and from the

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1 mayor's point of view that would get it off  
2 of his back. He wouldn't have to stick to a  
3 plan that nobody seems to like, so it might  
4 be a little better in his cabinet in the  
5 fares place.

6 On the development, we have five  
7 taverns now on the block between Molly  
8 Branigan's and the Trax tavern. We have  
9 Rocky's, we are going to have Kildaire's,  
10 how much drinking can we do?

11 MS. FANUCCI: That's the wrong  
12 weekend to ask that question.

13 MR. DOBSON: Yeah. I'm not allowed  
14 to have any more, so --

15 MS. FANUCCI: I know.

16 MR. DOBSON: -- that sucks. And I  
17 read something in the paper today with  
18 Matthew Avenue up on the Hill Section up in  
19 that neighborhood that our power company is  
20 planning on spraying from herbicides, and I

21 was wondering if they had any plans on  
22 coming through the section at Nay Aug Park  
23 where they just happen to locate their lines  
24 years ago because it was unused, but now  
25 that section of the park was open and we are

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1 blessed with the wonderful power line  
2 through it, and then on top of it would they  
3 like to come in and poison all the trees  
4 that we have left, so I'd really appreciate  
5 if I hear something about that and get in  
6 touch with the mayor and whoever is  
7 involved. I think the people up on Matthew  
8 Avenue are raising some issues with it and  
9 they may force them to bring in tree  
10 surgeons instead of spraying herbicide  
11 around, and if they do it up at Nay Aug  
12 Park, I mean, shame on them.

13 Also, on that particular section it  
14 would be nice some day if they took their  
15 power lines and located them across the  
16 road. It could done. There is no Erie  
17 railroad track on the other side and it's  
18 mostly brownfield and they could run the  
19 lines up over the hill before Nay Aug Park  
20 and maybe we have something that we could  
21 appreciate instead of constantly

22                   criticizing, but whatever was done to it the  
23                   money was spent and we are certainly not --  
24                   it certainly shouldn't be degraded by a  
25                   power company coming through and doing

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1                   things to keep away. Thank you and have a  
2                   good night.

3                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobson.  
4                   Liz Hubbard.

5                   MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council,  
6                   Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident and taxpayer.  
7                   Okay, a couple of things. I understand  
8                   according to the city website that the city  
9                   inspector for lower Greenridge, Park Place  
10                  and Pine Brook, is being moved to South Side  
11                  to replace Todd Cortez who got another job.  
12                  Judy, I understand your concern for your  
13                  neighborhood, but you already have an  
14                  inspector.

15                  MS. GATELLI: That's not true. What  
16                  you are saying isn't true.

17                  MS. HUBBARD: What's not true?

18                  MS. GATELLI: That they are not being  
19                  moved. Carol Gillette is our inspector in  
20                  South Scranton.

21                  MS. HUBBARD: And you only have one

22 over there?

23 MS. GATELLI: So far as I know.

24 MS. HUBBARD: Well, the way the  
25 website reads you are going to have two.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Who is the other one?

2 MS. HUBBARD: I thought it was Patty  
3 Fowler or Patty Jones.

4 MS. GATELLI: She is here, are you  
5 coming to South Scranton?

6 MS. FOWLER: That's news no me.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, see.

8 MS. HUBBARD: Oh, well, then, I'm  
9 sorry.

10 MS. FOWLER: That's how the website  
11 reads.

12 MS. GATELLI: Pardon?

13 MS. FOWLER: That is how the website  
14 reads.

15 MS. HUBBARD: Well, okay, fine then.

16 MS. GATELLI: I wish she were coming.

17 She is a great inspector just by the way,  
18 she does a wonderful job.

19 MS. HUBBARD: Well, if she goes over  
20 there we don't have an inspector at all in  
21 our neighborhood.

22 MS. GATELLI: Well, right now there



23 was only one on each side of the river, so  
24 you had an inspector. You must have had  
25 Donny McKeon or Jack Liptai, one of those

50

1 two, and Todd did this whole side of the  
2 river before two new inspectors were put on.

3 MS. HUBBARD: Okay.

4 MS. GATELLI: There was only one for  
5 each side of the river.

6 MS. HUBBARD: We need way more.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I agree with you.  
8 We need ten more inspectors.

9 MS. HUBBARD: Yeah, we do. Now, I'm  
10 onto skunks and other critters. Judy, you  
11 stated --

12 MS. GATELLI: Are they out yet?

13 MS. HUBBARD: Oh, yeah. You stated  
14 at a previous meeting that money was being  
15 budgeted for skunk removal; is that correct?

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. That was my hope  
17 that the part-time animal office --

18 MS. HUBBARD: A part-time animal  
19 control officer was hired in addition to a  
20 full-time animal control, do you know if  
21 either one or both of them are authorized or  
22 sanctioned by the state to trap wild

23 animals?

24 MS. GATELLI: I will find out.

25 MS. HUBBARD: Because a friend of

51

1 mine called about skunks under her front  
2 porch and they told her that they only do  
3 dogs and cats, and that she should call the  
4 game commission and the game commission gave  
5 her the same name.

6 MS. GATELLI: That same guy?

7 MS. HUBBARD: That they gave me when  
8 I had the skunk problem. So, I mean, when  
9 are we going to contract this out to get rid  
10 of these skunks? They are disgusting.

11 MS. GATELLI: My intent was for that  
12 to be -- to remove the skunks.

13 MS. HUBBARD: Well, apparently then  
14 it's not.

15 MS. GATELLI: Well, I will try to  
16 straighten that out.

17 MS. HUBBARD: I'd appreciate it.

18 MS. GATELLI: Thank you for bringing  
19 it to my attention.

20 MS. HUBBARD: We have all of this  
21 money for all these grants and loans and  
22 everything else that we should hire a couple  
23 of these state guys, whoever they are

24 certified by the state, to clean this city  
25 out. And another thing, I saw something on

52

1 television a few weeks ago about a town, I  
2 believe it was in Maryland, that had a  
3 really big skunk problem. They also had lot  
4 of feral cats, and the people thinking they  
5 were doing a good thing were putting out cat  
6 food for all of these stray cats. Well, the  
7 cat food was drawing the skunks, so I'd like  
8 to say to the people out there watching this  
9 please don't feed cats outside. I know  
10 garbage is a problem, too, but they seem to  
11 like cat food, and it's like you are putting  
12 lunch out for them. So, I mean,  
13 it's terrible.

14 You know, we shouldn't have to live  
15 like prisoners in our homes, so let's get on  
16 that do something about it.

17 MS. GATELLI: I will ask -- -

18 MS. HUBBARD: It's an election year  
19 so we might get some -- something done.

20 MS. GATELLI: Well, that was the  
21 intent was so that they would address the  
22 skunk issue.

23 MS. HUBBARD: What?

24 MS. GATELLI: The extra inspector.

25 MS. HUBBARD: Oh, right. Then they

53

1 should have known whoever hired --

2 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

3 MS. HUBBARD: Because it's the animal  
4 control people themselves that are saying we  
5 can't do that, so then the game commission  
6 tell you to call a private person.

7 MS. GATELLI: All right. Thanks for  
8 letting me know this, Mrs. Hubbard.

9 MS. HUBBARD: Sorry I was confused on  
10 the inspector.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Hubbard.  
12 The last name on the list is another one  
13 that I'm not sure is a Sayesha --

14 MS. GATELLI: Taisha.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Taisha. I'm sorry.

16 MS. PHARR: Hello. This is from my  
17 heart what I am speaking here, but what I  
18 wanted to bring up here was more youth  
19 programs in Scranton. I know there are the  
20 Progressive Center and the Bellevue Center  
21 that's down here, but not a lot of teenagers  
22 go there because they are not really active  
23 in the in zone, and I feel like if they were  
24 more youth programs like and where hands on

25

and more things in the community more

54

1 teenagers will participate. Now, teenagers  
2 -- I know they only have school activities  
3 such as sports and like clubs and anything  
4 like that, but not every teenager has a job  
5 and is not really interested in sports and I  
6 know they have drug and alcohol programs,  
7 and not every teenager is on drugs and  
8 alcohol, but for them to go to the youth  
9 program and have this program, like, it  
10 would be more hands on. It would be more  
11 things to do and not a lot of their parents  
12 care.

13 So I said teenagers and not young  
14 adults because they are not a lot of adults  
15 out here. To me, a young adult is a  
16 responsible young person and a lot of  
17 teenagers out here are not responsible  
18 because their are things that happen in  
19 front of the mall and anywhere else out here  
20 because of what they do out here.

21 And I think it would be a good thing  
22 if like they are in high school, it would be  
23 a good thing if they would like to look at  
24 college because whatever they are doing if

25

there was different areas and things like

55

1

that they would look into college and want

2

to do that for their future, so that was

3

just basically what I wanted to bring.

4

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. What was

5

your last name, I'm sorry.

6

MS. PHARR: Pharr, P-H-A-R-R.

7

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8

MS. PHARR: You're welcome.

9

MS. GATELLI: Taisha was a West

10

Scranton High School student, just for the

11

record.

12

MR. MCGOFF: Any other speakers?

13

MS. ROYCE: Hi. Good evening.

14

Bernadette Royce, West Scranton. You can

15

love your city and still recognize the

16

problem it faces. Last week a woman berated

17

many of us for questioning the mayor. I do

18

not agree with many of the mayor's policies

19

and will speak out against them. I will try

20

to do it respectfully and I suggest that we

21

all do the same. However, I will not be

22

silent on his policies that put the life and

23

safety of my brothers at risk by closing

24

fire stations and cutting firefighters. As

25

a career firefighter/paramedic, I suffered a

1 permanent injury which ended by firefighting  
2 career. Because of my injury, I am even  
3 more passionate in my desire to prevent  
4 needless injuries in my brothers. If this  
5 passion ever gets the better of me at this  
6 or any political forum, I will apologize in  
7 advance, but I will come in here as often as  
8 I can with the statistics and information  
9 from fire science experts to substantiate  
10 what I saw. Why? I am defending the health  
11 and safety of my brothers. If this happens  
12 to offend the sense and sensibilities of  
13 some, so be it.

14 Currently, fire science experts with  
15 the National Institute of Standards and  
16 Technology, are conducting research  
17 concerning optimal staffing for fire  
18 apparatus. This includes possible five man  
19 engines to reduce injuries and the effects  
20 of this increased manning on heart rate  
21 variability for firefighters. It's  
22 difficult to know what this latest research  
23 in fire science will have on the effects of  
24 firefighters. It's also difficult to know  
25 if the mayor and the public safety director

1 of Scranton has considered this in his plans  
2 since to the best of my knowledge they have  
3 never released these plans to the public.  
4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

6 MR. STUCKER: I was walking up  
7 towards the hospital today up and down the  
8 hill, there are two houses right across the  
9 street from Moses Hospital, there is two  
10 damaged. There is nobody living in them.  
11 The front door is open and there is nobody  
12 living in it, it's an abandoned house, two  
13 abandons. One has stone in front of it,  
14 that's one of them, and the one on the top  
15 of the hill, a wood one is damaged.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim.

17 MS. STUCKER: And mental health is  
18 going to give me another scooter. Mental  
19 heath.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

21 MR. STUCKER: They're giving me the  
22 money for it, \$200.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Don't ride it on the  
24 street.

25 MR. STUCKER: No. All right. I got



1 a letter for you.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: A letter for me?  
3 You have to stand back here. Okay, Jim,  
4 I'll call her.

5 MR. STUCKER: There's a lot of rats  
6 and snakes in there she said, there are  
7 skunks.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Rats and snakes and  
9 skunks. Al right. I'll call her.

10 MR. STUCKER: And what about that  
11 house in Greenridge?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Which one, Jim, on  
13 Greenridge Street?

14 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know. They  
16 boarded it up --

17 MR. STUCKER: I know they did.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's boarded up now  
19 and I have to see if it's on the list to be  
20 torn down. It does need to be torn down.

21 MR. STUCKER: Yes.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. Absolutely. I  
23 was trying to get the address of that  
24 building. There is address on it.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is that the 1700

1 block?

2 MS. HUBBARD: 600 block.

3 MR. STUCKER: Right across from  
4 McGinty's.

5 MR. HUBBARD: The corner of Dickson  
6 and Greenridge.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: The city is aware of  
8 it. I believe that's who boarded up was the  
9 city. I guess it's got to wait it's turn to  
10 be torn down. We'll get it down, Jim.

11 MR. STUCKER: Okay. I live in a nice  
12 building. I live in a high rise now. I  
13 feel better.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Very good.

15 MR. STUCKER: And I seen you the  
16 other day with a white car.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: The what?

18 MR. STUCKER: I seen you last week  
19 with a white car.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, yeah. I beeped  
21 at you, didn't I?

22 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. I help Andy  
23 Shirley once in awhile.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who is --

25 MR. STUCKER: Andy.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, good.

2 MR. STUCKER: I help him once in  
3 awhile. I was back in the hospital again.  
4 I pneumonia.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, you okay now?

6 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Jim.

9 MR. STUCKER: My buddy Pat told me  
10 to tells you hello.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Drive slow?

12 MR. STUCKER: Pat, my buddy from  
13 Parrot Avenue, told me to tell you all  
14 hello.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, hello. Okay.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thanks, Jim.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Tell him we said  
18 hello.

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
20 council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky, and I'm a  
21 member of the Scranton Lackawanna County  
22 Taxpayers'. I have a great difficulty  
23 trying to figure out who this council  
24 represents. For over a year now I have  
25 heard excuses as to why NCC can impose fines

1 and penalties on people who are having  
2 difficulty paying their property tax. Two  
3 weeks ago Kevin Mitchell appeared here and  
4 asked for your support, nothing more, just  
5 your support in limiting how much taxes can  
6 be imposed on the people of Scranton and  
7 Lackawanna County. It seems as though this  
8 council seems to represent KOZ's, wealthy  
9 developers such as the 500 block of  
10 Lackawanna Avenue, the Connell building and  
11 all of the other grants. I think it's time  
12 city council started supporting the people  
13 who elected them, the taxpayers of the city  
14 of Scranton.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Ungvarsky.

17 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name  
18 is Brett McCloe, homeowner, taxpayer. I'd  
19 like what was said before with one of our  
20 citizens last week came up and here and  
21 complained and was angry about people who  
22 come up here and complain, and I think it's  
23 great that citizens voice their opinion  
24 about how Scranton is made such progress,  
25 but it's great also that people live a

1 life-style that they don't have to worry  
2 about the long-term debt of the city, and I  
3 guess she must have all of the numbers that  
4 prove that our city is, in fact, moving  
5 forward.

6 I'm not trying to be sarcastic or to  
7 speak for anyone else, and I'm not ashamed  
8 to say and very proud to say that I do have  
9 an agenda. My livelihood depends on the  
10 development of downtown Scranton. I'm a  
11 waiter and my business is hospitality. I  
12 depend on the people's ability to spend  
13 hour-to-hour, table-to-table, tip-to-tip. I  
14 see firsthand affects of this economy.

15 I have great hope that things will  
16 turn around in the downtown area, but very  
17 little faith in the process that it will  
18 take to be truly progressive and  
19 self-sustaining sustains given the realities  
20 of today's economy. Like optimists say, the  
21 glass is half full, pessimists say the glass  
22 is half-empty, I say that depend on what's  
23 in it, but I just wanted to pretty much keep  
24 it short today.

25 I really didn't have much to say,

1 but I would like to ask any of you as to if

2 any of the economic stimulus package that  
3 Scranton is getting, are there any  
4 provisions to stop the exodus of businesses  
5 downtown? What I'm talking about is the  
6 businesses who rent, who pay rent or lease  
7 to a building owner. I'm not talking about  
8 giving anything to the business itself, but  
9 to the building owner so he can lower the  
10 rent or leases? I mean, because people are  
11 coming in here and getting their KOZ's and  
12 getting a sweet deal, but what about the  
13 previous existing businesses that have to  
14 get up and go because they cannot?  
15 Businesses is slow, that's the way it is,  
16 but I'm not going to have anybody shrug my  
17 shoulders for me and give up, we have to try  
18 another remedy. Is there anything in the  
19 economic stimulus package that Scranton  
20 receives that can lower rents for businesses  
21 downtown so they don't have to leave?

22 Like I said, everybody is getting  
23 KOZ except for the people who have been  
24 here, and I'm not talking about giving  
25 anybody a break, but guess what, we can't

1 show off our city if we put up another paper

2 over windows. We cannot show up off our  
3 city. One of my jobs I have -- I was -- I  
4 drove people back and forth from the airport  
5 to Scranton, and I have met hundreds and  
6 hundreds of people that way, newcomers to  
7 Scranton, and a lot of times they say,  
8 "Well, it looks like you guys are doing so  
9 well downtown? It looks like you are doing  
10 so well."

11 And the next thing they do, "Well,  
12 why are the buildings empty?"

13 I said, "Well, we are under  
14 construction," and I said, "It will another  
15 six, seven, maybe ten years before you see  
16 this place jump."

17 I do have faith. I mean, I do have  
18 hope that this will come around, but unless  
19 there is a remedy to stop the bleeding now  
20 future investors are just going to come in  
21 here and say, you know, it was a great  
22 opportunity but it looks like nobody is  
23 spending any money.

24 So, I was wondering if any at point  
25 in time if anyone could give me an answer if

1 anything in the economic stimulus package  
2 could help previous existing businesses not

3 KOZ's to -- well, building owners, so  
4 building owners can lower the rents and  
5 leases so some of these businesses can stay  
6 in the town. All right. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. McCloe.  
8 Anyone else?

9 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
10 My name is Nancy Krake. I'm going to read  
11 from an article that appeared in the Times  
12 in June of 2007, this is the tax penalty law  
13 passed by council as written by Stacy Brown  
14 stating that city council approved the  
15 legislation that I have been asking you to  
16 amend, just about every meeting that I am  
17 here.

18 It outlines what those things are:  
19 \$25 per lien; 160 for file opening and  
20 review by a collector; 35 for preparation  
21 and mailing; 175 each for preparing and  
22 filing a lien; \$800 for the preparation and  
23 filing of sheriff's sale notices; \$400 if  
24 the collector or city uses a lawyer or  
25 sheriff.

66

1 Quoting the mayor he says, "Tax  
2 collection has been a problem in the city



3 and needs to be firmly addressed."

4 The only delinquent taxes this mayor  
5 is interested in are the delinquent tax  
6 houses, not your wage. In fact, he wasn't  
7 the least bit concerned nor did he notice we  
8 were shy at least \$6 million in current wage  
9 and I would venture to say at least another  
10 six in delinquent, adamant though about our  
11 house tax.

12 I also would like to read from an  
13 actual bill: "Review and confirmation of  
14 lien, \$75," this is, by the way, from Edwin  
15 N. Abrahamsen and Associates. That's the  
16 law firm that these people are forced to  
17 pay. He is also the owner of Northeast  
18 Credit and Collection.

19 "Open file and issue legal demand  
20 letter, \$480. Prepare and filing of lien,  
21 \$525. \$7.00 for certified mail. The base  
22 tax was \$309. Contrast that to the legal  
23 fees of \$1,087. This is fact.

24 I do not know what the  
25 administration is telling council people,

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1 but it is not true. I heard a taxpayer say  
2 today they were very concerned and they were  
3 trying to pay up to NCC and that they were

4           doing their best, they had medical problems  
5           and so forth, only they were horrified to  
6           find out that after they had paid the tax  
7           they still owed several thousand in legal  
8           fees. NCC had recommended that they pay the  
9           tax first so they wouldn't lose their home.  
10          No, that has not been done yet, but you have  
11          passed a law that allows them to do that.

12                        I have also got to let you know if  
13           they are taking away penalties and interest  
14           I don't know what they are taking away. I  
15           know the treasurer can lower the penalty  
16           that comes to the city, but all of the other  
17           amounts that go to NCC is anyone taking  
18           these one? Is it legal for them to take  
19           them on? Because of your resolution can now  
20           Abrahamsen come back and collect these  
21           monies from the city if this city abates  
22           them to taxpayers? Does anybody even  
23           consider that before they voted for this? I  
24           know Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright did not  
25           and they have been trying to get it amended,

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1           but the other three council persons the  
2           longer we do this the more these questions  
3           are going to arise and the more hurt you are

4 putting upon people. And these monies, no  
5 matter how you look at it, are not coming  
6 into the city. They are going to a law  
7 firm. The same law firm whose name is on  
8 here that owns Northeast Credit and  
9 Collection. It simply is not right. It may  
10 not be exactly legal, but that hasn't been  
11 tested yet and I have a great faith in many  
12 our citizens who have been taking lawsuit to  
13 Commonwealth Court, maybe this will be the  
14 next one.

15 I'd also like to say that I asked  
16 several weeks in a row for what the break  
17 down was for the -- Mrs. Fanucci is telling  
18 me she has been asking, and I'm not -- I'm  
19 glad you are doing that, I'd like to say  
20 that everything else you have asked for you  
21 have gotten immediately, so this leads me to  
22 believe that the city does not want to tell  
23 you why they put that number in the budget.  
24 I'm sorry to say, I believe it's false or it  
25 was based on false amounts, so I'm going to

69

1 do a Right-to-Know on that.

2 Also, I was curious a couple of  
3 weeks in a row to find out what our current  
4 contract is with NCC and when that was voted

5 on.

6 MS. FANUCCI: It wasn't.

7 MS. KRAKE: So we have -- either I'm  
8 assuming we don't have a contract with NCC  
9 and it was not voted on.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Nancy, I think what  
11 happens is if we -- if we didn't act on  
12 their contract within a certain period of  
13 time it automatically continues; am I  
14 correct on that, Kay, or you don't know?

15 MS. KRAKE: So therefore --

16 MS. GARVEY: I believe that's what it  
17 says in there.

18 MS. KRAKE: The mayor did not bring  
19 that legislation to council.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Correct.

21 MS. KRAKE: So this firmly, once  
22 again, Mayor Doherty these people give much  
23 money to his campaign so he conveniently  
24 forgot to give you that legislation to vote  
25 on and, therefore, they just waltzed right

70

1 in. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

3 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
4 Ancherani. First Amendment Rights. This

5 past Thursday at the Taxpayers' Association  
6 meeting Ozzie Quinn read a letter from Fred  
7 Ruddy of the infamous Pennsylvania Economy  
8 League. In the letter, Ruddy stated the  
9 police and fire take up 49 percent of the  
10 city budget. If Ruddy can say that, we  
11 would have to assume that he read the budget  
12 to get the figures. Yeah, right. The only  
13 thing PEL is good for is to keep this city  
14 distressed so they can keep their paychecks  
15 coming in, and now more importantly in these  
16 tough economic times. Without the city  
17 continuing in distressed status they are out  
18 of jobs.

19 I checked the pie chart for  
20 expenditures for 2009, in doing the math for  
21 the police and fire 49 percent of the budget  
22 like Ruddy says is \$38,500,000. According  
23 to the police and fire budgets on page 56  
24 and 59 respectively, the percentage from the  
25 police and fire is 35 percent or

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1 \$27,195,000, a difference of \$11,310,000.

2 Just for your information, in case  
3 some of you did not read the budget before  
4 you voted on it, the pie chart is done  
5 differently this year from previous years.

6 One of the differences it no longer says:  
7 "Excluding tax anticipation notes."

8 The big difference is that the  
9 expenditure pie chart is broken down into  
10 departments, and includes all city  
11 individual departments as slices, 12 slices  
12 in all. No more trying to figure out how  
13 much the total department cost by figuring  
14 wages, pensions, compensation, etcetera.  
15 The total of each department is on the  
16 particular page for that department, but  
17 then you all would know that because you all  
18 read it.

19 One item not included in the pie  
20 slices and is noticeably missing is  
21 nondepartmental expenditures. I wondered  
22 why they are not included in the pie chart,  
23 especially since for this year non  
24 departmental expenditures are 24 million,  
25 close to 1/3 of the budget. I say they are

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1 not included in the pie chart because if you  
2 look at them they don't fall into any of the  
3 individual departments. Examples of what  
4 doesn't fall into any department are zoning  
5 board, Everhart Museum, Genesis Wildlife

6 Refuge to name a few.

7 How about this one, can anyone tell  
8 me about the operating -- TSF to debt  
9 service sale leaseback of the DPW? In 2005,  
10 the pay back was \$150,000. In 2006, it was  
11 430,000. In 2007, they were two leaseback  
12 payments totaling 835,000. In 2008, there  
13 were two leaseback payments totaling  
14 6,358,000. This year the budgeted amount is  
15 480,000 for a grand total of 8,253,000. The  
16 cost of the DPW building was 3,500,000. We  
17 must remember that Scranton Authority is now  
18 leasing the DPW back to us to us the city.  
19 This was in exchange for the Scranton Sewer  
20 Authority bailing out the city with the \$5.5  
21 million loan because the city violated their  
22 contract with the American Anglican. The  
23 city lost the ensuing arbitration and had to  
24 pay 5.5 million to American Anglican.

25 Think about this then, for the loan

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1 of 5.5 million the 8,253,000 payback  
2 includes 2,758,00 more than the 5.5 million.  
3 2,758,000 is a nice interest payment. So  
4 taxpayers, since 2005 we, the taxpayers, are  
5 paying 2,758,000 plus, plus the taxpayers  
6 are getting hit with a 56 million -- I'm

7                   sorry, 56 percent rate hike that the sewer  
8                   authority imposed on us for the loan of the  
9                   5.5 million. The taxpayers are getting hit  
10                  twice, actually three times.

11                   Losing the paid for DPW, the  
12                   56 percent rate hike, plus 2,758,000  
13                   interest all to the Scranton Sewer Authority  
14                   for the DPW. Thank you.

15                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
16                   Ancherani. Come on, Chris.

17                   MR. SLEDZENSKI: I'm coming. Up a  
18                   little, Bill?

19                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, Chris, pick it  
20                   up. Go ahead.

21                   MR. SLEDZENSKI: Billy, this year  
22                   there is a girl's softball team, my  
23                   brother-in-law is coaching the softball  
24                   league this year. Good luck to the softball  
25                   league this year. Good luck.

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1                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Chris.

2                   MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.  
3                   Gatelli?

4                   MS. GATELLI: The first thing I  
5                   forgot to congratulate the students and the  
6                   teachers at Scranton High School who did a



7 wonderful job this past weekend on the show  
8 that they presented called "Honk."

9 Kay, if we could send a letter about  
10 that skunk inspector, you know, if indeed  
11 the part-time one or the full-time one were  
12 hired or certified to the mayor. Also,  
13 to --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli.

15 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry. I thought  
16 there wasn't anyone else.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I did, too.

18 MS. GATELLI: I apologize.

19 MR. MCGOFF: We did not know you  
20 were going to speak and we had started  
21 through the council motions.

22 MS. HUMPHRIES: I have --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Briefly?

24 MS. HUMPHRIES: Briefly. Okay, in  
25 1994 in honor of Cardinal O'Connor and St.

75

1 Patrick's Church may he be canonized and  
2 sainted, I went there on a mission and I  
3 bring this forward just to pass around, and  
4 this is the Hibernians. I received a new  
5 coin, I'm in the Hibernians and the coin has  
6 been held by Bishop Timlin. People don't  
7 know everything, but the World Trade Center

8 is in here. On that day I went there for  
9 the intercession for the protection of our  
10 country.

11 I have what they call posttraumatic  
12 stress, people don't understand what it is,  
13 but when a trauma happens whether it's  
14 mental, physical, psychological, sexual  
15 abuse or trauma or trauma through any form,  
16 even the military just spoke on it, the  
17 thing is you are treated, you get flashbacks  
18 like if you are in the service and truly you  
19 never want to forget what actually happened.  
20 This man had lost his -- this military man  
21 who is on the news he lost 69 in his  
22 platoon.

23 So, I am treated by a wonderful  
24 doctor, Dr. Biancarelli for mental,  
25 physical, psychological, sex abuse she deals

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1 in, and I am survivor of multiple attacks  
2 since I have been a young girl until now  
3 which many people are now in high places and  
4 they will be exposed.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Phyllis.  
6 Phyllis.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: What I want to say,

8 Abraham Lincoln --

9 MR. MCGOFF: It's inappropriate.

10 MS. HUMPHRIES: It's appropriate when  
11 it's about crime, crime is the center of  
12 evilness and immorality and or fire  
13 department and our police department and our  
14 judges they are put in place to protect us.  
15 In a way they say separation of state and  
16 church, but the truth is that the  
17 commandments abide also with the police  
18 department and help grab these people and  
19 put them in their proper place, get them  
20 where they need to go for their mental,  
21 whatever they have to do, and try to forgive  
22 them, reconcile them and do the best that  
23 they could.

24 President Lincoln had told about the  
25 immoral's, I want to read this: Today the

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1 United States of America is faced with the  
2 most serious national crises in it's history  
3 coming as Abraham Lincoln predicted for  
4 within our country itself. Throughout our  
5 land there is increased lack and disregard  
6 and practice and a mockery for fundamental  
7 moral principals enshrined in our country's  
8 founding documents.

9                                   The Declaration of Independence, the  
10                                   Constitution and Bill of Rights while a  
11                                   direct attack from communism, the crisis in  
12                                   it is in the line with the errors of Russian  
13                                   spread all over the world during the 70  
14                                   years of pompous control. There is most  
15                                   evidence in the spirit of secular humanism,  
16                                   aggressive and actively promoted in our  
17                                   country, schools and universities and  
18                                   throughout the news media for many years,  
19                                   and now almost parody the very air that we  
20                                   breathe.

21                                   As with Portugal, the solution to  
22                                   our national crises can be found in the  
23                                   message of Fatima. Central to the message  
24                                   of Fatima is our Lord's desire to have  
25                                   immaculate heart with the blessed mother on

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1                                   them, alongside sacred heart according to  
2                                   Sister Lucia.

3                                   On December 10, 1925, what is now  
4                                   the Blue Arm Shrine of Ponte Verdi, Our Lady  
5                                   of Child from Sister Lucia, she has asked  
6                                   for prayer, the rosary, reading the bible,  
7                                   eucharistic prayer. Without justice there  
8                                   is no peace. We got to fight for peace and

9 we got to fight for love and we got to fight  
10 for reconciliation, the end of abortion,  
11 euthanasia, capital punishment.

12 Lincoln had children, they died, but  
13 he supported life, our forefathers supported  
14 life, and the constitution of the United  
15 States has been desecrated, has been put for  
16 political arenas, we got to take the right  
17 constitution of the United States back.  
18 When we put our hand on the Bible we are in  
19 the realm of the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit  
20 --

21 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis --

22 MS. HUMPHRIES: And we're going to  
23 support life, inside and outside of the  
24 world.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

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1 MS. HUMPHRIES: Pray for peace, pray  
2 for reconciliation and pray to get the  
3 proper people, and Hillary Clinton is Pro  
4 Choice --

5 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis.

6 MS. HUMPHRIES: I'm praying for her  
7 for her reconciliation.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis.

9 MS. HUMPHRIES: I have no fear of no

10 one. I'm not of this world. I'm of heaven.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis. Thank you.

12 MS. HUMPHRIES: God Bless and Happy  
13 St. Patrick's Day.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

15 MS. HUMPHRIES: Oh, and these pills  
16 were given and there is orange things that  
17 there is poison in --

18 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis --

19 MS. HUMPHRIES: And they gave me the  
20 wrong medicine that I could have died. I  
21 ask the elderly to check for medicine when  
22 it's coming in from the drug stores. I want  
23 to protect the people and the elderly.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mrs.  
25 Gatelli, I'm sorry.

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1 MS. GATELLI: I'm going to be  
2 sending a letter to the mayor to find out  
3 about the animal control officer as was  
4 stated here this evening whether they are  
5 certified or not. It was my intent when I  
6 put them in the budget for them to address  
7 the skunk issue, and I'm sure that was  
8 mentioned at the time.

9 Also, a letter to Mark Seitzinger

10 requesting demolition for the corner of  
11 Greenridge and Dickson, 1111 Blair Avenue,  
12 and 1107 Meade Avenue. These properties  
13 have been condemned for over five years and  
14 are certainly ready for demolition.

15 Also, I was speaking of some of the  
16 things that Phyllis mentioned, I received a  
17 e-mail from a constituent today who sent me  
18 Senate Bill 404, it was introduced on  
19 March 5th of 2009, and it is a bill for  
20 procedures regarding the request for the  
21 dispensation of lethal medication to  
22 patients seeking to die in a dignified  
23 manner, so Pennsylvania has before it's  
24 Senate a bill for euthanasia, and I am going  
25 to make a motion this evening that we send a

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1 letter to them opposing that bill.

2 MS. HUMPHRIES: God bless you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

4 MS. HUBBARD: Everyone should have  
5 the right to decide when they die.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

7 MS. GATELLI: Is anybody going to  
8 second my motion? No?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I'll second it.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli --

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Unfortunately I was  
13 talking to Mr. McGoff and I don't know what  
14 you said, could you repeat it?

15 MS. GATELLI: A bill was introduced  
16 in the Senate of Pennsylvania to allow  
17 patients to take medication to die, you  
18 know, like Kevorkian did years ago. In the  
19 State of Pennsylvania euthanasia would be  
20 allowed and I am saying that I'd like to  
21 send -- make a motion that we oppose that  
22 Bill. You know, like sometimes we send  
23 letters to support them and I'm saying that  
24 I don't think that this should be a part of  
25 what we are doing in the United States

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1 people killing themselves when they have a  
2 terminal illness. I just don't agree with  
3 it as a nurse and as a human being I just  
4 don't think it's right.

5 It's only legal in two states,  
6 Oregon and another one, and I think once we  
7 start doing these type of things we are on  
8 the road to who is going to decide if we are  
9 terminally ill. It's just very bad, and I'm  
10 going to -- if you don't agree I'm going to



11 send my own letter as a council  
12 vice-president that I oppose it and as a  
13 citizen I oppose it and as a human being and  
14 as a nurse I oppose euthanasia.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I agree with what you  
16 have just said. I seconded it, I'm sorry,  
17 your motion simply so that we could talk  
18 about it. I think it might be more  
19 appropriate that we send it as individuals  
20 rather than as council. When we send a  
21 letter as council I believe we are speaking  
22 on behalf of the public, and I don't know  
23 that in this case we have the I don't want  
24 to say the authority or you know the right  
25 to, but it may be more appropriate that -- I

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1 would be more than happy to affix my  
2 signature to, you know, a personal letter on  
3 behalf me as an individual. I don't know  
4 how anyone else feels about that?

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I agree with you,  
6 Mr. McGoff. I think if we were to do it, it  
7 would be more appropriate to do it as  
8 individuals.

9 MS. FANUCCI: I agree.

10 MS. GATELLI: Well, I'm going to be  
11 sending it as an individual and as

12 vice-president of Scranton City Council. It  
13 is before the government, so obviously it's  
14 a government issue, and that's how I feel.  
15 So I will be sending it and under my name as  
16 vice-president of city council and as a  
17 private citizen.

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I will sign it.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis, please.

20 MS. GATELLI: I have been getting  
21 some complaints about the people that live  
22 in the Tripp Park section where the KOZ  
23 homes are, and apparently Judge Minora  
24 issued in December an order that the  
25 retention pond be corrected by the

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1 developer, Mr. Speicher, and in his order he  
2 also stated that the City of Scranton is  
3 enjoined from issuing any subdivision and/or  
4 lot development permits of any nature for  
5 the continued development of the Village at  
6 Tripp Park, and the people that I have  
7 spoken to are not going to be doing any land  
8 movement such as driveways or things of that  
9 nature that would effect runoff. They are  
10 putting back porches on and one is putting  
11 an above-ground swimming pool and things of

12 that nature.

13 I am not sure where the issue stands  
14 because Mr. Speicher, from what I understand  
15 has fled the area or fled the project, so I  
16 don't know that he is going to be completing  
17 what he is supposed to complete, and there  
18 are people that want to do some improvements  
19 to their property that will not effect water  
20 runoff, so I am going to ask my council  
21 members if we can send a letter to Judge  
22 Minora asking him to revisit his order and  
23 to see if he can't make some exceptions for  
24 certain repairs to homes that will not  
25 effect water runoff because I'm getting a

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1 tremendous amount of phone calls that  
2 permits are being denied in their particular  
3 area.

4 I don't know when this issue will be  
5 resolved, and I think the people up there  
6 have suffered long enough with that  
7 developer with the things they had to  
8 tolerate with no snow removal and things of  
9 that nature and now they are being punished  
10 from making improvements to their property  
11 and I don't think that that's fair, so I'm  
12 going to ask my colleagues if they will

13 agree to send a letter to Judge Minora to  
14 reconsider this and maybe just issue certain  
15 permits that wouldn't effect storm water.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Any opposition?

17 MS. FANUCCI: No.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Please do so.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Also, if we  
20 can write a letter to PPL and ask them where  
21 else they intend to spray in the City of  
22 Scranton other than Matthew Avenue. I agree  
23 with Mr. Dobson and the people on Matthew  
24 Avenue that that certainly is not the way to  
25 go especially if they are asking people to

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1 sign waivers, the herbicides must be toxic  
2 of some nature if they are asking for  
3 releases from the people, so see if we can't  
4 some information from PPL just as to exactly  
5 where they are going to spray and what type  
6 of herbicide they are using. And that's all  
7 I have. Thank you very much.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Gatelli.  
9 Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. FANUCCI: I only have two things,  
11 Mr. Dobson had brought up about the Recovery  
12 Plan and bringing it back on the bat ballot.

13 I'm not sure that can be done. I believe  
14 that now the state is in charge and that's  
15 the problem, and I will look into see if  
16 that is an option. I don't believe I don't  
17 believe so, but I could be wrong. It  
18 certainly would be, you know, a good option  
19 if it could be, you know, approved by the  
20 state to let us do that again, so I  
21 definitely will check into that.

22 Also, on the Connell building, I  
23 understand that people feel that we are  
24 using these grants and this money in places,  
25 but they don't realize that if we don't use

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1 them somebody else is getting them and  
2 that's the problem, that's the problem I  
3 have. I know it's hard to understand, but  
4 if we don't use that money or make use of  
5 these projects they go somewhere else, so it  
6 will be Reading and you still will be paying  
7 for it, but it will be in Reading and it  
8 will be in other areas and other cities and  
9 other parts of the state, so you still will  
10 be paying that money for these projects.

11 So when you are saying, "What am I  
12 getting out of it," you are getting the fact  
13 that at least it is in your own city and

14 that maybe when that happens that will be  
15 job creation and there will be benefits for  
16 you. You will not get anything out of it if  
17 it goes somewhere else, so that is why I  
18 will always vote to make sure that we get as  
19 many grants as we can get and as much as any  
20 part of economic development we can get our  
21 hands on I will be part of it and certainly  
22 will want to happen for our city.

23 I understand that it's a lot of  
24 money, and it is a lot of money when you  
25 look at this building, in fact, I was there

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1 today. When you see that building it is an  
2 absolutely beautiful building and it could  
3 be a beautiful building again. It is going  
4 to take a lot of money, and it's  
5 unfortunate, but it is not as unfortunate as  
6 a building sitting there like it is now.  
7 That is a waste and in ten more years it  
8 will take six times the amount of money as  
9 it's taking now to redo the building.

10 So, you know, I would rather the  
11 money here and I will take the money as much  
12 as we can get it because if we don't someone  
13 else will. And that is all I have.

14                   Oh, no, one more thing, I'm sorry,  
15                   on Danielle and Company, it is a small  
16                   business she has in town and she is  
17                   expanding. She does soaps and things of  
18                   that nature, lotions and creams and all her  
19                   own products. She is selling them currently  
20                   I believe it's like over 100 stores right  
21                   now. She is currently trying to expand her  
22                   business and she is looking to bring on  
23                   eventually salespeople, consultants, more  
24                   business people and try to expand it to even  
25                   I think sell to hotels and things of that

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1                   nature, so that is it a very nice project  
2                   and it's going to see her growing because  
3                   she hasn't really been out there that long  
4                   and it seems to be taking off and that to me  
5                   is a good thing. So that is all I have.  
6                   Thank you.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright.

8                   MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd just like to  
9                   congratulate the law enforcement officers  
10                  that captured this 16-year-old that appears  
11                  to be the one that was reeking havoc  
12                  throughout this city and possibly the one  
13                  that raped an individual in West Scranton.  
14                  I know this individual had a lot of people

15 concerned and upset, so I don't know all of  
16 the officers involved so I don't want to  
17 mention any names, I might miss somebody.

18 And just one other thing, I had an  
19 opportunity for the first time ever to be in  
20 the Southern Union building, I had to go  
21 down there this week for something, and I  
22 had never been in there before, it's an  
23 unbelievably beautiful building inside and  
24 everything in there appears to be state of  
25 the art, but the interesting think I found

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1 out when I was in there is Merrill Lynch is  
2 occupying the one floor, and I am being told  
3 that they are not taking advantage of the  
4 KOZ. They do not take advantage of the fact  
5 that they are in a KOZ which to me, I was  
6 very surprised at that, so I know a lot of  
7 times when we hear people not for the  
8 Southern Union building what I would like to  
9 say, you know, Mr. Donahue that bought, he  
10 did not but that from the city, we didn't  
11 sell it to him, Southern Union sold it to  
12 him, if he got a good deal more power to  
13 him, but I just wanted to make that known  
14 and I was told that Merrill Lynch did not



15 take advantage of the KOZ down there, and  
16 that's all I have. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Courtright. Fifth order, Mrs. Garvey.

19 MS. GARVEY: FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND  
23 MAKE A LOAN FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL  
24 REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.21  
25 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 TO

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1 DANIELLE AND COMPANY, INC. TO ASSIST AN  
2 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

3 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
5 introduced into it's proper committee.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
9 in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO

16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
17 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION -  
19 RESOLUTION NO. 109, 2009 -  
20 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 55, 2008 ENTITLED "  
21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND  
23 EXECUTE A GRANT FOR HOUSING AND  
24 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (HRA) IN THE AMOUNT  
25 OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS \$500,000.00

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1 THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
3 DEVELOPMENT (DCED); AND IF THE APPLICATION  
4 IS SUCCESSFUL TO COORDINATE THE USE OF THE  
5 GRANT FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED AS  
6 THE "CONNELL BUILDING" WITH  
7 "JEFFERSON-WERNER, LLC", THE DEVELOPER, OR  
8 ITS DESIGNEE TO REFLECT THE CHANGE OF THE  
9 DEVELOPER AND RECIPIENT OF THE GRANT FROM  
10 JEFFERSON-WERNER, LLC TO SCRANTON-CONNELL,  
11 LP.

12 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
13 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the

16 Committee on Community Development, I  
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
20 call, please?

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
22 Gatelli.

23 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
5 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. GARVEY: FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
7 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 110, 2009 -  
9 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.56, 2008 ENTITLED "A  
10 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND  
12 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR MIXED USE  
13 FACILITY FINANCING INITIATIVE (MUFFI) IN THE  
14 AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS \$1,000,000.00  
15 THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE  
16 AGENCY (PHFA); ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE

17 GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND  
18 TO COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS  
19 WITH "JEFFERSON- WERNER, LLC", THE  
20 DEVELOPER, OR ITS DESIGNEE FOR THE PROJECT  
21 NAMED AS "THE CONNELL BUILDING," TO REFLECT  
22 THE CHANGE OF THE DEVELOPER AND RECIPIENT OF  
23 THE GRANT FROM JEFFERSON-WERNER, LLC TO  
24 SCRANTON-CONNELL, LP.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

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1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Community Development?

3 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Community Development, I  
5 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
8 call, please?

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
10 Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

19 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
21 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 111, 2009 -  
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
23 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
24 ENTER INTO A SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT TO  
25 SUBORDINATE ITS RECORDED MORTGAGE DATED MAY

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1 27, 2004 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF  
2 \$250,000.00, SECURED UPON PROPERTIES LOCATED  
3 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON MORE COMMONLY KNOWN  
4 AS 119 JEFFERSON AVENUE AND 617-619  
5 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, TO A MORTGAGE IN THE  
6 AMOUNT OF \$1,850,000.00 THAT 119 JEFFERSON  
7 ASSOCIATES, LLC INTENDS TO GRANT ON SAID  
8 PROPERTY TO PENN SECURITY BANK AND TRUST  
9 COMPANY.

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11 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Community Development?

14 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
15 Committee on Community Development, I  
16 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
19 call, please?

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
21 Gatelli.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
4 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Before Mrs. Garvey  
6 reads 7-D, I'd like to make a motion to  
7 table.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second. On the  
9 question?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,  
11 some of us had taken a look up there and it  
12 appears that there would be some difficulty  
13 if, in fact, the traffic light was put in  
14 there, so we are going to talk to some  
15 people and see if there can be an  
16 alternative possibility, stop-signs or  
17 something else, so we are going to table it

18                   until we can look into that a little bit  
19                   further.

20                   MR. MCGOFF: All in favor of a motion  
21                   to table Item 7-D signify by saying aye.

22                   MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

25                   MS. GATELLI: No.

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1                   MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so  
2                   moved. Motion to adjourn.

3                   MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for your  
5                   participation.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER



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